



Trumps Update

Mid-2026

(02) 9969 5959

trumps.net.au

trumps@trumps.net.au

www.facebook.com/trumpsbridgecentre

Lightner strikes twice *by Derrick Browne*

Theodore Lightner (1893-1981) proposed that a double of a freely bid slam should ask for an unusual lead. The theory is that it is important to use the double to tell partner *what* to lead so you defeat the contract, rather than worry about doubling just to win a few extra points because you think you are taking them down.

Typically the doubler has a void and needs partner to lead that suit to score the ruff:

Dealer North, Nil vul. Contract: 6S doubled, declarer South.

NORTH

♠ K Q 5 4
♥ A K 8 7 4 2
♦ A K
♣ 3

WEST

♠ —
♥ J 10 6 5 3
♦ 8 3
♣ J 10 9 8 6 5

EAST

♠ 3 2
♥ —
♦ Q J 10 9 7 6 5 4 2
♣ A 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 9 8 7 6
♥ Q 9
♦ —
♣ K Q 7 4

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1H	5D	5S
Pass	6S	Dble	All pass

After North opened 1H, East with nine diamonds applied maximum pressure with a preempt to 5D. South with an attractive hand including a fine seven-card spade suit and a void in diamonds called 5S, and North with good trump support and good controls ventured to slam.

As mentioned previously, East's double of the freely bid slam is a Lightner Double, asking partner for an unusual lead, not East's bid suit of diamonds (and, incidentally, never a trump). Most commonly, West should lead dummy's first bid suit. West had no trouble finding the heart lead which East ruffed, before quickly cashing the ace of clubs.

Note that if East had been dealer and opened 5D, and South overcalled 5S and North bid 6S, East should still make a Lightner Double. Again this would ask for an unusual lead, therefore not a diamond. It would be up to West to find East's void. Unfortunately, with no clues in the bidding to help, West would probably lead the long club suit, hoping that was partner's void. This time that would be wrong – bad luck.

Double of a notrump slam is also a Lightner or lead-directing double. Again it suggests that partner lead dummy's first bid suit. What if the opponents have not bid any suit? Here is a hand from the State Teams qualifying, held at the NSW Bridge Association during October:

NORTH

♠ A 9 5
♥ J 10
♦ A Q
♣ K Q 9 7 4 3

WEST

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♣ —



EAST

♠ K Q J 2
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ 4
♣ 10 8 6 5

SOUTH

♠ 10 6 3
♥ K Q 9
♦ K J 10 7
♣ A J 2

South opened 1NT showing 15-17, a slight exaggeration. North upgraded for the good six-card suit and also stretched a little, bidding 6NT. What should East do? Where no suit has been bid, double of a notrump slam is normally played as requesting a lead of a spade. Sure enough, this lead holds declarer to 11 tricks. On a diamond lead, however, declarer wins and plays hearts to create an extra trick there, while the spades are still stopped, and makes the pushy slam.

Lightner doubles don't strike often but when they do, can have a devastating effect.



♣ Australia-Wide Novice Prs

On Tuesday morning, 26 May, we held our club heat of the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (AWNPs). This fun national event lets you play at your local club, with your results compared to players all over Australia.

♠♥♦♣ *Congratulations to our winners* ♠♥♦♣

Wendy Bagot and Cheryl Williams came 21st in Australia, and **Neil Sylvester & Ashley Stephenson** came 23rd, and were 11th in the Under 50 MP category!

Our EW winners were: **Andrew Parsons & Nick Debenham**

Players in top 100 claim your online magazine subscription contact mail@australianbridge.com

Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

You are South with the hand shown. Choose a call then compare with the experts. Joining Trumps supremo Derrick Browne on our panel are leading world bridge authority Ron Klinger, former Bridge Shop Owner Nick Fahrer, 2024 Australian Bridge bidding forum top scorer Alexander Cook, International Bridge Journalist Barry Rigal plus NSW representative players Nick Hughes, Nicoleta Giura and Tina Zines.

Dealer East, NS Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	?
	♠ 8 4		
	♥ Q 8 6 4 3		
	♦ 9 4		
	♣ A Q J 7		

Votes by our panellists

CALL	VOTES
Pass	3
Double	3
2♥	2

There's a lot of passing going on. Should we pass it out in 1♠ or push the contract elsewhere?

Klinger: 2♥. In 4th seat, suit quality is not essential. It is a risk, but so is every bid you make. It pays to be a risk-taker.

Rigal: 2♥. Easier on paper than in real life.

Browne: Double. If it was nil vulnerable I would venture 2♥, but vulnerable, that's a bit rich with this moth-eaten suit. Problem is, nothing else suits either. Given my initial pass, partner will not count on me for a lot, however the auction develops.

Hughes: Double. Convert 2♦ to 2♥ to show this. Pass any other reply.

When you double for takeout then correct partner's choice of a suit to another suit, traditionally it shows a "power double" (extra values). As a passed hand, that's not possible, so this correction shows that you doubled spades without any diamond tolerance, hence you have hearts and clubs.

Giura: Double. If partner bids 2♦, I have an easy way out with 2♥ (ELC).

Partners Nick and Nicoleta are on the same page here. ELC stands for "Equal Level Conversion". Here, if you double and then correct a 2♦ reply to 2♥, you are no higher than you would have been had you called your hearts immediately. Given your decision not to overcall initially, partner could surmise that you had the unmentioned suit (clubs here), and if holding really short hearts and four clubs, partner could correct further, from 2♥ to 3♣, to play there.

Fahrer: Pass. Often right when they hold spades, the boss suit.

Cook: Pass. Not quite strong enough hearts for 2♥.

Zines: Pass. Tempted to double if I held only a singleton spade and my meagre values - just in case partner is waiting to pounce (*if partner holds a stack of spades and fair values, which is possible*) but prefer to stay fixed here rather than help them to find a better haven in 2♦.

The hand came from an online forum, and I don't have details of the other hands. There is a reasonable chance that opener holds around 18 points, so bidding won't always work out. ♠♥♦♣

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons (6 wks)

9.30am Saturdays from 1 Aug

6.30pm Mondays from 3 Aug

Weekly -

Improvers bridge

10 for 10.30am Mondays

New! Supervised duplicate

10am Wednesdays

Intermediate bridge

10.30am Wednesdays

Beginners play

1.45pm Thursdays

Improvers' training

7pm Thursdays

Intermediate/open training

10am Fridays

Red (or gold) points

Also, some other times e.g. 7pm some Fridays and Sunday teams and Festival (per schedule)

GNOT gold points

7 for 7.10pm Fridays to 19 Jun

State open prs quals(TR)

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays to 26 Jun

7 for 7.10pm Fridays 3 & 10 Jul

State open teams qual (TR)

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays 3-24 July

♣ Mini Congress ♣

at Peninsula Bridge Club

Sunday 26 July

A new one-day event exclusively for first-time congress players (less than 2 years experience or 50 masterpoints)

[bridgensw.com.au/mini-congress-](http://bridgensw.com.au/mini-congress-2026)

2026

♣ Month winners ♣

To work this out, we take the best three scores by member pairs from the 4 or 5 matchpoint sessions that make up each monthly event. (**Seven pairs** need to have played three or more times for meaningful results)

Ryde Eastwood Monday afternoon

- Martin Stone & Sharon Lovelock (March, April)
- Jim Bean & Jean Williams (May)

Monday afternoon

- Pauline Kingsford-Smith & Roger Raven (March)
- Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson (April, May)

Manly Now Balgowlah Bowling Club Tuesday afternoon

- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (March)
- Joan Wheatley & Russel Wright (April)
- Alan King & Molly King (May)

Tuesday morning

- James Taylor & Warwick Birch (March)
- Neil Sylvester & Ashley Stephenson (April, May)

Tuesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (March, April, May)

Tuesday night

- Nick Scott & Janet Scott (March, April)
- Tony Franklin & Simon Moore (May)

Wednesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (March, April)
- Ann Ashmore & Lindy Major (May)

Wednesday night

- Anne Amos & Linda Haughton (April)
- Stef Savanah & Darryl West (March, May)

Thursday morning

- Kitty Biro & Kerry Boytell (March, April)
- John Green & David Hutchinson (May)

Thursday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (March)
- Tony Franklin & Virstine Yazdanparast (April, May)

Warringah bowling Thursday afternoon

- Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (March, April)
- Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (May)

Friday afternoon reds/gold

- Christine Ingate & Terry Finnegan (May)

Saturday afternoon

- Gail Thompson & Judi Dockrill (March)
- Marika Kruppay & Patricia Gordon (April, May)

Bridge at other venues:

Beside our regular games at Trumps (58 Spit Rd) we also run weekly games at following venues:

Bridge @ Ryde-Eastwood

12:30 for 12:45pm Mondays

Social duplicate @ RAC, Circular Quay

10am Tuesdays

@Balgowlah Bowling Club

1pm Tuesdays (*bookings required*)

@Warringah Bowling(Club Bradley)

1pm Thursdays (*bookings required*)

Balmoral (members only)



Trumps fill-in players

WhatsApp group



Scan or upload this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

♣ Most improved Rating ♣

		Old	New	Gain
1	Francie Rigg	41.25	41.68	0.43
2	Marika Kruppay	60.37	60.71	0.34
3	Pauline Plunkett	47.52	47.85	0.33
3	Andrew Parsons	49.49	49.82	0.33
4	Libby McDonald	58.48	58.8	0.32
5	Debbie McWilliams	48.19	48.5	0.31
6	Warwick Plunkett	48.89	49.2	0.31
7	Nick Debenham	52.08	52.38	0.3
8	Philip Muir	45.83	46.12	0.29
9	Loretta Whiteley	53.62	53.9	0.28

♣ Top Rated ♣

		Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	66.6
2	Eric Lippey	65.87
3	Fay Cooney	64.09
4	Tina Strickland	62
5	Neil Williams	61.99
6	Tony Franklin	61.6
7	Kevin Murray	61.58
8	Tim Rickard	61.41
9	Noreen Armstrong	61.2
10	Virstine Yazdanparast	61.14

(Members with ABF number who have played 13 times in the last six months are rated).

ABF masterpoint promotions

Tony Franklin	National
Merle Payne	National
Nurhan Parker	State
Gay Suters	State
Richard Samuels	State
Sandra Allen	Bronze Regional
Jenny Harley	Regional
Warwick Plunkett	Regional
Nick Debenham	Bronze Local
Nicola Burge	Local
Robyn Peutherer	Local
Sue Mullens	Local
Georgina Napier	Club
Lorraine Golden	Club
Tina Ruygrok	Club



Congratulations!



What to bid?

Choose your call then compare with the experts (published in the next edition).
Standard bidding and Pairs scoring.

Dealer East, NS Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
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1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
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2♥	Dbl	Pass	?
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♠ A 5

♥ 7 5 4 2

♦ K J 8 5 4

♣ Q 3

♣ Bridge holidays 2026 ♣

Canberra Mercure

Sun 20 to Wed 23 Sep



Leura Gardens Resort

Sun 22 to Wed 25 Nov

Trumpsters \$60 off; non-members Trumps sub to 2027. Early bird discount available

Timetable

At Trumps (58 Spit Rd)

Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon	join training	1.20*	
Tues	join other game	1.20*	7pm*
Wed		1.15*	7pm*
Thurs	9.50*	1.20*	
Fri		1.20*	7pm*
Sat		1.30	

*These games start with a short talk.

Red/gold points usually 1.20pm & 7pm Fridays.

Supervised

Mon	9.30/10.30 lessons	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	9.50* 10.30am (lessons)	see p5 lessons	
Thurs		1.45 (lessons)	7pm
Fri	10am (lessons)	see p5 lessons	
Sat	9.50am*		

*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on the previous page for other session times)

Benefits

Of Trumps membership

- A regular update of news, views and tips
- Save \$4 on duplicate sessions at and lessons at Trumps and bridge at other venues
- Discount on prepaid game vouchers.
- Reciprocal membership rights at Club Bradley (Warringah Bowls), Bridge @ Balgowlah Bowling Club & Social Bridge (Ryde-Eastwood).
- Special events for members
- We pay your ABF and Bridge NSW fees if we are your home club.
- Eligibility for the ABF's travel insurance. See abfinsurance.com.au or call (07) 3252 5254

Rights and duties

- We cater for players of all levels
- Use the suggestion box in the main foyer
- Greet your opponents
- Let us know if you are available as a "fill-in" player, to be called in at the last moment (as our guest) if we are short
- Post mortems should never hold up play
- Support those who support bridge! *Australian Bridge* magazine (also in club edition), Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, Baytree Greenwich, The Manly Club, Hotel Mosman, Fourth Village Providore, Tran's Restaurant and Hawkers wok.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣