



Trumps Update

🎉 **Trumps turns 38!** 🎉

Spring 2026

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Viking style

by Derrick Browne

Last newsletter's column mentioned that double of a freely bid slam is a Lightner or lead-directing double, usually asking for a lead of dummy's first bid suit. Double of 3NT is also a Lightner double in much the same way. After North opens in spades and South twice bids hearts, what should you do with the West hand after North settles in 3NT?

WEST

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ A Q J 8 5
♦ 7
♣ 8 7 4

Boye Brogeland made a Lightner double with these cards, asking partner to lead a heart, dummy's suit. This was a dangerous move as the opponents could have points to spare – and so they did, and redoubled then took ten tricks, for 1400 points.

That hand and this other one come from the finals of the 2007 Bermuda Bowl, the premier event in world bridge, which Norway won for the first time. The Norwegians' aggressive style paid off on this hand:

Final, Session 2, Board 20. Dealer West, both vul.

NORTH

♠ K 10 4
♥ 8 6
♦ A Q J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6

WEST

♠ A J 5
♥ A 4
♦ K 9 8 6 2
♣ 5 4 3



EAST

♠ 9 8 6
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A J

SOUTH

♠ Q 7 3 2
♥ K J 7 5
♦ 7 4
♣ K Q 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	?

Develop your Bridge Skills

*Main teacher **Derrick Browne***

Weekly schedule

- 10 for 10.30am Mondays
- 10.30am Wednesdays
- 1.20pm Thursdays
- 7pm Thursdays
- 10am Fridays
- Other sessions available

Walk-ins welcome | All levels welcome

- Learn with set hands
- Improve bidding
- Sharpen play
- Master defence

\$19 (S15 members)

Trumps Bridge Centre

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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 Fahrner, 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 West, NS Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Pass	?
♠ A 5			
♥ 7 5 4 2			
♦ K J 8 5 4			
♣ Q 3			

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
3♦	5
4♦	3

Partner passed and then doubled on the next round. Is that strange or remarkable?

Fahrner: 3♦. North's bidding is consistent with a good hand that could not make a takeout double of spades, often a 3-suiter short in hearts.

Yep, spot-on. Partner has length in spades and shortage elsewhere so couldn't double 1♠ for fear of you replying in hearts. Once partner heard West call 2♥, it was safe to double, knowing that you would now be forced to choose a minor.

Rigal: 3♦. Going very low. There may be time to make up for this.

Hughes: 3♦. Partner sounds like 4-1-4-4 or similar.

Giura: 3♦. Partner seems to be short in hearts, which is great; I'm tempted to bid 4♦.

Zines: 3♦. Partner has some spade length, but I have plenty to bid 3♦ and hearts too poor to pass.

Once we exclude passing 2♥X for penalty, and Tina has just pointed out the problem with that – our hearts are nowhere near good enough, we only have one strain to bid: diamonds. The question is whether bidding only 3♦ is under-selling the hand.

Cook: 4♦. Partner is likely 4-1-4-4. All my points are working so I jump to 4♦.

Four small opposite a very likely singleton is excellent, as there are no wasted values in that suit, like HQ in our hand. Hand evaluation can be greatly helped by a technique called "hand visualisation". This is picturing likely hands for partner's bidding so far and judging how well that hand fits with yours. Ron and Derrick have both done this, and arrived at a jump in diamonds reply:

Klinger: 4♦. Partner will be both minors and short hearts (failure to double 1♠). I have great cards in the minors and 5♦ might easily be on opposite, say: xxxx,x,AQxx,AKxx.

Browne: 4♦. This should make opposite a hand like: Kxxx,X,Axxx,KJTxx (with an overtrick if the queen of diamonds is captured). And partner could have more than this, since passing over West's opening did not deny opening points.

The hand came from an online forum, so I don't have details of the other hands. ♠♥♦♣

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons (6 wks)

9.30am Mondays from 12 Oct

6.30pm Thursdays from 15 Oct

Weekly -

Improvers bridge

10 for 10.30am Mondays

Beginners Play

7pm Mondays from 28 Sep

Intermediate bridge

10.30am Wednesdays

Beginners play

1.20 for 1.30pm 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)

Red/ gold points

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays other days per schedule

Aus-wide Restricted pairs

9.50 for 10am

Tuesday 27 Oct

Under 300MPs event (+\$5)
souvenir booklet plus other prizes

♣Cup day♣

Tuesday 3 Nov

1.20 for 1.30pm

Champagne, juice, bbq, sweets, hats, lots of fun alongside bridge game. Bookings required. (Morning & night normal)

♣ 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

- Anne Tilley & Sid Sitsabesan (June, July)
- Jim Bean & Jean Williams (August)

Monday afternoon

- Haidene Maltz & Sue Williams (June, July, August)

Manly Now Balgowlah Bowling Club Tuesday afternoon

- Alan King & Molly King (June)
- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (July, August)

Tuesday morning

- Pauline Plunkett & Warwick Plunkett (June)
- Anthea Piddington & Bryan Meagher (July)
- James Taylor & Warwick Birch (August)

Tuesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (June)
- Cia Benecke & Kim Dalling (July)
- Terry Finnegan & Jeremy Trahair (August)

Tuesday night

- Meg Cornelius & Timothy Bestelink (June)
- Tim Rickard & Alec Spiller (July)
- Baz Neil & Anthony Pearce (August)

Wednesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (June)
- Barbara Gassmann & Christine Algie (July)
- Meg Cornelius & Barbara Tootill (August)

Wednesday night

- Stef Savanah & Darryl West (July)
- Simon Stevens & Chris Severn (August)

Thursday morning

- Gill Chambers & Yvonne Bartels (July)
- John Green & David Hutchinson (June, August)

Thursday afternoon

- Tony Franklin & Virstine Yazdanparast (June)
- Catherine Turner & Yvonne Bartels (July)
- Megan Donnelly & Jeanette Beaumont (August)

Warringah bowling Thursday afternoon

- Marika Krupp & Patricia Gordon (July, August)
- Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (June)

Saturday afternoon

- Marika Krupp & Patricia Gordon (June)
- Robin Ho & Elizabeth Neil (July)
- Barbara Lane & Susan Salvage (August)

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

Trumps turns 38!

**Free lesson for
members (visitors
\$19) with**

Paul Dalley

bridgechampions.com

Sunday 11 Oct

1.30pm bookings

♣ Most improved Rating ♣

		Old	New	Gain
1	Ken Burke	39.18	40.07	0.89
2	Jenny Small	51.61	52.34	0.73
3	Elaine Pickles	43.96	44.67	0.71
4	Dan McAlany	41.44	41.93	0.49
5	Cheryl Williams	42.79	43.21	0.42
6	Wendy Bagot	51.25	51.66	0.41
7	Cheryl Thomas	46.55	46.94	0.39
8	Judi Dockrill	54.11	54.49	0.38
9	Judy Carroll	46.75	47.12	0.37
10	Ann De mestre	47.28	47.6	0.32

♣ Top Rated ♣

		Rating
1	Elizabeth Neil	65.46
2	Eric Lippey	64.64
3	Kerry Boytell	64.59
4	Tina Strickland	63.08
5	Noreen Armstrong	61.85
6	David Hutchinson	61.64
7	Alec Spiller	61.55
8	Virstine Yazdanparast	60.9
9	Tim Rickard	60.86
10	Tony Franklin	60.86

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

ABF masterpoint promotions

Timothy Bestelink	National
Suzanne Garner	State
Tony Lippey	State
Bob Clayton	Bronze Regional
Marjorie Lehmann	Bronze Regional
Ken Burke	Silver Local
Margaret Campbell	Bronze Local
Cheryl Williams	Local
Darryl West	Local
Margaret Gambley	Local
Roger Raven	Local
Stef Savanah	Local
Megan Pendlebury	Club
Russell Wright	Club
Chris Wright	Club
Ann Bloomfield	Club
Angela Sandford	Graduate
Susan Thirsk	Graduate
Angela Sandford	Graduate
James Blaxland	Graduate



Congratulations!



State-Wide Open Pairs

On Tuesday night, 4 August, we held our club heat of the State-Wide Pairs. This fun national event (organised by **AustralianBridge** magazine) lets you play at your local club, with your results compared to players all over NSW (around 753 participants).

♠♥♦♣ *Congratulations* ♠♥♦♣

Debbie McWilliams & Jennifer McConaghy (5th in the 25-50 MP category!)

What to bid?

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

Dealer West, Nil Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
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2NT	Pass	3♦*	?
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* 3♦ showed 5+ hearts

♠ K Q 9 5 4 2

♥ J

♦ 9

♣ A K 8 6 2

♣ Bridge holiday 2026 ♣



Leura Gardens Resort

Sun 22 to Wed 25 Nov

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

Timetable

Trumps (58 Spit Rd)

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon	10/10.30 lessons	1.20*	7pm* sup
Tues	9.50* sup	1.20*	7pm*
Wed	10/10.30* lessons	1.15*	7pm*
Thurs	9.50*	1.20* open+sup	7pm* sup
Fri	10 lessons	1.20* (red pts)	7pm*
Sat	9.50* sup	1.30	

*These games start with a short talk.
sup – supervised game

Other venues

Bridge @ Ryde-Eastwood

12:30 for 12:45pm Mondays (some red points per schedule)

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)

We run normal sessions on most public holidays, but there is a special program at year end and Good Friday / Easter.

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! ♦♣