



◆ 2023 EL Christmas Parties



1st Dec – Full to Capacity.. Extra Party on 8th



8th Dec – New Open/Rookie sections

[2nd Christmas lunch for Members Only](#)



Fri, 08 Dec 23, 10:00

The 1st of December Christmas Party-Lunch is full, so we are adding a second one - **Friday 8th December** at East Lindfield. Separate sections - Open and Restricted-Rookie sections..

Play a duplicate session at 10am - then stay for lunch. Normal table fees for the bridge, followed by free lunch provided by the club. If you are wanting to play in the

For the Restricted/Rookie section please put a R after your name. Bookings are essential in click [here](#) to register.



This article was derived from Bridgefeed, “Puzzle 20” Solution

You (South) are declarer in a 3NT contract after this auction:

North (D)	Standard Bidding			
	West	North(D)	East	South
♠ 9864		1♦	Pass	1NT
♥ A3		2NT	Pass	3NT
♦ AKQ5	Pass			
♣ KQ7	All Pass			
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ K72	1♦	Opening 4+♦		
♥ KJ6	1NT	5-9 No Major		
♦ 87	2NT	18-19 Bal		
♣ JT984	3NT	To Play		

T1 West leads the ♥4.

What’s your plan to make the contract?

◆ 16 Dec RB Festive Congress Swiss Pairs




The December Congress event (Swiss Pairs) has a separate Rookie/Restricted session.



Separate Rookie/Restricted session

♦ PO – Discarding

 Pat O'Connor	Renowned bridge author & club member It is from his book <i>Demystifying Defense</i> .
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We are East. Our hand is

♠T852 ♥7532 ♦87 ♣T53.

Wow!

South opens 1♦, partner passes and North bids 1♠. We pass and start to nod off when South jumps to 2NT, showing 18-19 HCP. North wakes us up with a jump to 7NT! All pass, partner leads the ♥J and dummy comes down.

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1♦	4+♦ opening hand		
1♠	4+♠ 6+hcp		
2NT	18-19 HCP Bal		
7NT	To Play		

Lead: ♥J

North		East	
♠ AK74		♠ T852	
♥ KQ		♥ 7532	
♦ Q94		♦ 76	
♣ A864		♣ T53	

South has 18-19 HCP and North has 18. This leaves three or four for our side, and partner has them all. It is best to lead passively against 6NT and 7NT. Don't lead from a single honour or, worse still, from a suit with two broken honours such as K10xx. It looks like partner has led safely from something like ♥J109x.

- T1 Declarer wins the ♥K in dummy as we play the ♥2 and declarer the ♥4.
- T2 Declarer then plays the ♦Q from dummy
- T3 Then a low diamond to the ♦A
- T4 Then ♦K in hand, partner following suit to all three rounds of diamonds. We have to make a discard on the ♦K and probably more discards on subsequent diamonds. We have an awful hand, but we still need to plan our discards.

What is the general philosophy on discarding?

The message is to 'keep parity with dummy'. This means that if dummy has a four card suit you should keep four cards if possible. In this case dummy has four spades and four clubs.

Which is the key suit from our point of view?

Spades, because we have four of them, whereas we have only three clubs. We discard a heart on the ♦K.

- T5/6 Declarer plays another two diamond winners discarding two clubs from dummy. We should discard two more hearts, keeping our four spades intact.
- T7-9 Declarer then plays the ♥A and ♣AK, leaving the spades until last.
- T10 He plays the ♠Q from hand
- T11-12 Then the ♠AK from dummy,
- T13 but our precious ♠T wins the last trick!

The Full Deal

	North	
	♠ AK74	
West	♥ KQ	East
♠ J9	♦ Q94	♠ T852
♥ JT986	♣ A864	♥ 7532
♦ 832		♦ 76
♣ QJ9	South (D)	♣ T53
	♠ Q64	
7NT/S	♥ A4	Vul Nil
Lead ♥J	♦ AKJT5	Dir: South
	♣ K72	

It was good to stay awake!

South's 2NT bid showed 18-19 HCP. He only had 17 but with he upgraded his hand because of the lovely five card diamond suit.

Post Mortem

Keeping parity with dummy is a vital defensive technique. Of course, it is equally valid to keep parity with declarer's hand, but this is harder because you can't see declarer's cards. However sometimes you know about declarer's hand from the bidding.

♦ JF – Hand Analysis

	Julian Foster (many times NSW representative) analysing (bidding & play) on an interesting hand from a club session. Sourced SBC Wisdom articles.
	Julian Foster

Board 5	North (D)	Dealer: North Vul: NS																											
West	♠ 76	East																											
♠ AJT5	♥ T963	♠ KQ8																											
♥ AQ42	♦ QJT76	♥ J8																											
♦ 98	♣ J7	♦ 53																											
♣ Q53		♣ AK9842																											
4	South																												
13 13	♠ 9432																												
10	♥ K75																												
	♦ AK42																												
	♣ T6																												
		<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	5	-	3	5	2	W	5	-	3	5	2
♠	♦	♥	♣	NT																									
N	-	-	-	-																									
S	-	-	-	-																									
E	5	-	3	5	2																								
W	5	-	3	5	2																								

Board 5 last week in a club game, was a hand that was almost all about the bidding. It's very likely to be uncontested East West.

East has a normal 1♣ opening and West will respond 1♥.

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	?	

East then has a choice between a 1NT or 2♣ rebid. I'd tend towards 2♣ for several reasons:

1. I have a good 6 card suit, no particular reason to hide it
2. I have aces and kings, good for suit play
3. I don't have a diamond stopper
4. I don't have any tenace type holdings that suggest it would be better for me to play the hand (conversely imagine partner had ♦Kx - we definitely now want Partner as declarer so the ♦Kx cannot be led through at trick 1).

After 2♣ West might make a practical jump to 3NT (they know East doesn't have 4 spades when they didn't rebid 1♠).

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A few tables did this - no luck this time as North has an easy ♦Q lead which should lead to the defence taking the first 5 tricks. I have a fair bit of sympathy for 3NT at pairs (see advanced section for more on this) as it nearly always scores more than 5♣, it's the most likely game, partner could have a diamond stop, plus the defence don't know about our spades so might chose to lead those.

If, however, West decides to take a more scientific route their next bid should be 2♠.

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣ or 4♠	

Normally after a simple rebid, subsequent bids are what I call "naturalish" – i.e., usually natural but might be just showing a stopper for NT purposes.

At this stage East will think West has 5 hearts and 4 spades so, unable to bid NT themselves without a diamond stopper, they should bid 3♥ to show some support there. West certainly cannot now play 3NT if partner couldn't bid it so will probably show their club support with 4♣. East could now bid 5♣ but might also suggest 4♠, an offer West should definitely accept this playing pairs.

Let's return to the initial rebid and suppose East chose 1NT. Now what?

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♣ or 4♣	Pass	4♣ or 5♣	
Note 3♣ ¹ = <4♦, <3♥, <4♠			

This depends what methods East/West have agreed. It is common to play some form of **checkback** (see advanced section for more details). This will enable West to find out what East has in the majors. Then they face the same decision about whether to try no trumps or look elsewhere. A few pairs seem to have played in a partscore. However, West holding a decent 13 points opposite an opening bid from partner should definitely be forcing to game, it's merely a question of which one.

There is very little to the play on this hand. Declarer has 11 easy tricks in spades or clubs. However how should you play the club suit? See advanced section for the answer.

Key points to note

1. You should generally rebid decent 6 card suits - only consider opening or rebidding NT if the suit is poor and the hand generally balanced (6322).
2. At pairs tend to only play 5 card minors as a last resort. Look for higher scoring games in NT or majors first.
3. Bidding is often a trade-off between quickly bidding to a plausible contract and giving little information away versus looking more scientifically for the best contract but giving more information to the defence.
4. After two suits have been bid naturally, a 3rd suit is generally natural but may be stopper showing hoping partner can bid NT.
5. When a suit looks easy to cash, stop and think if you can do anything if it breaks badly (see advanced section).

More advanced

Playing pairs, one should tend to try and only play 5 minors as a last resort. Notrump or major suits games score more, even when making fewer tricks. That is why, on this hand, the optimum spot is 4♠ on the 4-3 fit. If the defence tried 3 rounds of diamonds, the ruff can be taken in the East (shorter trump hand) so trumps can still be drawn even when they are 4-2 (this is an 84% chance).

4-3 fits tend to play well when the trump quality of the 4-card suit is good (because it will be needed to draw the opponents trumps), and that hand will not get forced to trump a side suit too early (which could cause loss of trump control). +450 in 4♠ would even outscore 5♣ making all 13 tricks (+440) if the defence somehow managed not to cash their 2 obvious diamond tricks!

Playingimps, it is more important just to play the best game since the difference between +400 and +450 is marginal whereas going -50 would be a disaster. Here 5♣ is marginally safer (spades could be 5-1) but there's very little in it.

What about **checkback** after a 1NT rebid? There are various options.

Just briefly it's quite common nowadays to rebid 1NT as East with any balanced hand even if it has 4 spades as it describes the overall hand better (and allows the inference that when they DO rebid 1♠ they now have an unbalanced hand).

Then West can use checkback to ask whether East had 3 card heart support or 4 spades. Here East would deny either of those holdings by bidding 3♣. Now, West has to decide whether to risk 3NT without a diamond stop or explore with 3♠. This time 3NT is played by East so South might view to lead a spade rather than a diamond - but a top diamond would allow them to see dummy so is probably still best.


Although this hand is nearly all about bidding there is one advanced point in the play of the club suit. It looks trivial doesn't it?

How many people would start with the ♣A though? It is often natural to keep an honour in both hands to keep entries fluid, but it would be wrong here.

It will not matter very often but just suppose clubs split 4-0. You cannot do anything if South has all 4 but you can if North does - PROVIDED you have played low to the ♣Q first! Now your ♣AK98 remain sitting over North's ♣J107 and you can finesse twice through them and avoid losing a club (West needs another entry of course but that is no problem here).

The question to ask is "what could go wrong" and plan the play accordingly. It might only make a difference 5% of the time (a 4-0 split is 10% so 4-0 in one particular hand is half that) but that's the difference between an expert and a good player!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

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♦ 87	2NT	18-19 Bal		
♣ JT984	3NT	To Play		

T1 West leads the ♥4.

What's your plan to make the contract?

Solution

If you got careless and/or greedy by playing low from dummy at trick one, down you will go!

- | | |
|----|--|
| T1 | Say you win the opening ♥4 lead in your hand with the ♥J |
| T2 | Then start to attack clubs to drive out the ace. The defence may hold up to the third round, and you will have no way back to your hand to enjoy the long clubs! |

- | | |
|----|--|
| T1 | It is critical to foresee this danger at trick one and win the opening lead with dummy's ♥A. |
| T2 | Now when you dislodge the ♣A, you can still get to your hand via the ♥K. |

	North (D)	
	♠ 9864	
West	♥ A3	East
♠ A53	♦ AKQ5	♠ QJT
♥ Q9542	♣ KQ7	♥ T87
♦ J42		♦ T963
♣ 63	South	♣ A52
3NT/S	♠ K72	Vul Nil
Lead ♥4	♥ KJ6	Dir: North
	♦ 87	
	♣ JT984	

◆ Comp Night – 2 session opportunity.



Online IMPs

SUMMER PAIRS

28th Dec & 4th Jan @ 7PM

28th Dec 5th Jan @ 7PM

Online IMPs

Separate Rookie/Restricted session

Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner



Fourth suit forcing is the popular term for the idea that a bid by responder of the only unbid suit at his second turn is an artificial force. Most play that it is forcing to game, although some play it is forcing one round only. The bid is made when responder has doubts about strain or level.

Suppose you hold:

♠K2 ♥AKJ42 ♦Q103 ♣853.	
You are South and this is the bidding:	
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♥
1♠	?

You have enough values for game, yet no bid is suitable. You cannot bid 3NT with three low clubs. Many players agree that a jump to 3♥ shows a six-card suit and is invitational. If you have that agreement, you cannot rebid 3♥. In other words, you do not have a convenient rebid. Playing fourth suit forcing, you should bid 2♣, a conventional waiting bid.

Partner's first obligation is to raise hearts with three-card support.

His second obligation is to bid 2NT. You don't promise clubs to bid 2♣ — it is an artificial bid. Your partner needs a club stopper, therefore, to bid notrump.

Partner can rebid his second suit to show extra length. In the sample auction, for example, 2♠ would show six or more diamonds and at least five spades. If partner has neither heart support nor a club stopper, he should rebid his first suit — 2♦ in the previous auction.

Practice hands

Here are some examples to clarify how fourth suit forcing works. What do you call holding:

♠K107 ♥AK874 ♦J104 ♣A2?	
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♥
2♣	?

Answer: This one is easy — bid 2♠. You want to see if your partner has three-card heart support. If not, then you will bid 3NT.

What do you call holding:

♠K1072 ♥AK74 ♦J104 ♣A2?	
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	1♥
1♠	?

Answer: Bid 4♠. Do not bid 2♦, fourth suit forcing. You have four-card spade support and values for game — bid it.

What do you call holding:

♠K1072 ♥AK87 ♦J104 ♣A2?	
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♥
2♣	?

Answer: Bid 3NT. Partner does not have four of either major. You have values for game and stoppers in the unbid suit. You do not need to bid fourth suit forcing. It is only used when you are not sure where to play the contract.

Other matters to discuss

These are related issues to discuss with your partner:

1. Fourth suit forcing is not used if one partner is previously a passed hand. (Other agreements are possible.)
2. Fourth suit forcing is not used after a 2/1 response. It is used only when the one player bids one of a suit and the partner responds at the one level.
3. Fourth suit forcing is not used when opponents intervene in the bidding. You can use the cue bid instead as a forcing probe.
4. A jump in the fourth suit shows a 5–5 hand and is strongly invitational.

Consider this auction:

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♥
1♠	3♣
You might hold:	
♠52 ♥KQJ43 ♦5 ♣AJ1043.	

One auction merits special discussion with your partner:

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	1♦
1♥	?

In this auction, most players treat 1♠ as natural and forcing. A jump to 2♠ denies a four-card spade suit but promises values for game.

Fourth suit forcing is not used after a reverse or after a 2♣ opener. In these cases, you are in a forcing auction, so the artificial bid is not needed.



◆ **Bridge Lessons.**

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<p>Liz Wilkinson</p>	<p>Liz Wilkinson is now teaching “Bridge Basics” on Wednesdays & “5 Essential Conventions” on Tuesdays, both at East Lindfield.</p>
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Bridge Basics completes on Wednesday afternoons on **6th December**.

info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

Bridge Basics - Face-to-Face	Wednesdays 2.00pm @ East Lindfield
Defending well, the hardest part of the game.	6th December

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)

