



NSBC Newsletter



2020 MAY Vol 3. Issue 5

Editors: Kevin Davies and Ian Maclaren

NSBC - BBO Tournament Schedules

BBO weekly Schedule of NSBC Tournaments				Max
Day of week	Event	Registration	Play Start	Table
Monday	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Restricted	11:15 AM	1:15 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
Tuesday	Supervised	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	40
	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
	Rookie evening	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	40
Wednesday	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Restricted	11:15 AM	1:15 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
	Open evening	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	40
Thursday	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
	Teams Night	club web	7:00 PM	
Friday	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Restricted	11:15 AM	1:15 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
Saturday	Open	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	40
	Rookie	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	40
Sunday				

More sessions are being added all the time, and the NSBC website shows the latest updated schedule.

Note The registration to these events are controlled by three separate lists of NSBC BBO Usernames,

- One list for the Open/Restricted events
- One list for Rookie and Supervised events.
- You can ask the NSBC office for your BBO Username to be included in both lists if you're a rookie.
- Teams trial are run separately on a 3rd list, using the NSBC bridge website for team entries.

Message from our president

Greetings members of the North Shore Bridge Club. This article is by way of a summary of what has been happening at the Club in recent times.

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It goes without saying that we have, like most businesses, been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the ABF advised, about a month ago, that affiliated bridge clubs should cease operating, we immediately followed their advice. Unlike some other clubs, we did not stand down our staff (office, directors, teachers), but we ensured that they all received income for the first 4 weeks, during which time we could make plans for later, in particular the means by which the Club could continue to offer a viable bridge service.

What has happened since that first day can be attributed primarily to the ingenuity and dedication of **Mike Prescott**, our Manager, who has been able to use his knowledge of, and contacts within, the bridge world to create what can be referred to as a 'virtual' bridge club. The club was already at the forefront of clubs using modern technology for day to day operations.

At this point I will not to be specific, because we are using a facility from outside the club, namely **Bridge Base Online (BBO)**. Many members have availed themselves of this service, but its operation has been subject to change, and will continue to change in the future, and we are indebted to Mike, along with **Nick Fahrer** (who members will associate with the Bridge Shop), for setting up our daily BBO duplicate sessions. Other directors are now helping with these sessions, helping to improve the presentations, with reports containing real names rather than BBO usernames.

For technical reasons, we have not been charging 'table fees', but have been looking to fund our operations via donations. To date, the response has been tremendous. BBO has been subject to changes quite frequently, and Mike and Nick have had to react quickly to keep the operation running smoothly.

The club now has a licence to use the 'Zoom' conference system. We hold our meetings via this facility, and it is already being used by Anita Curtis and Jessica Brake for on-line lessons. We are charging for these, and we can do this because they are completely under our control. Rookie and Supervised sessions will be added shortly. So, there is income from these ventures which, along with the Government's contributions via "Job keeper", we believe will enable the club to stay operational without having to use much, if any, of our financial reserves.

This brings me to the question of future premises. This has taken a back seat in recent times, although prior to the Club closure we had looked at a number of potential locations to add to our present venue. We had planned to have a presentation/discussion prior to the AGM, but this has obviously been impossible. The many variables to be considered have been suitability, ambience, price (we have basically discounted the possibility of purchase, so we are talking about a long term lease similar to our current leases at CW and EL), proximity to public transport, proximity to car parking. We have examined several possibilities but are deferring any decision for the time being. To be borne in mind is that the concept of unlimited (free) parking is a thing of the past, wherever we go, and our final decision will be determined by how well all the variables are best satisfied.

About the AGM, this notionally must be held by June 30th, but we have applied for a possible deferral until the end of the year. We can't hold the meeting using teleconferencing, because there is no provision in our constitution for this to occur, and it needs a general meeting to change the constitution!

For now, our intention is to retain our financial reserves as much as possible, while positioning the club for the post pandemic future; this means looking after our staff financially, while keeping them employed, as well as providing our members with 'virtual' facilities.

Kind regards

John Mottram NSBC President

Bidding and Play Challenges

Challenge Hand 1

West	v	East	v
♠ Q J 10 3		♠ A K 9 5	
♥ K 6 5 3 2		♥ A Q 10 9 8	
♦ Q 10 6		♦ A K 2	
♣ 5		♣ A	

Matchpoints, North dealer, All vulnerable.
North opens 3♣, South supports slowly to 5♣
Or North passes, free bidding to your best spot.

Challenge Hand 2

West	NV	East	NV
♠ K 10 7		♠ A 8 5 4 3	
♥ A K 8 7 2		♥ J 9 6 4	
♦ A K		♦ Q J 8 2	
♣ A 8 7		♣	

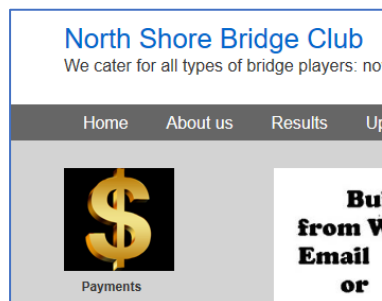
Matchpoints, NS Vul, Dealer South
South passes, can you bid these cards freely to your best contract?

CLUB'S AGM Delayed.

As earlier advised the Club's 2020 AGM had been postponed until 30th June. Obviously, the Meeting will be unable to be held at that time and it is now therefore delayed until further notice.

Club Donations

You can make a donation using this [link](#) or via the Club website



using the  payments function

The following link is directly to the payments function page to donate:

[Payments to NSBC](#)

Scroll to the bottom of the payments screen and you will see the section “Donations”.

Select the amount you wish to donate from the drop-down list under “Select Amount” and then enter your ABF number in the following box. The facility supports the use of credit cards and PayPal or you will also find our bank details here if you prefer to make a bank transfer (please use your ABF number as the reference).

Alternatively, for members registered for Pre-Paid you can simply email to the club with your ABF number and how much you wish to donate, and this will be debited from your Pre-Paid account.

ABF – Red Point Sessions for 2021

The ABF has decided that the number of B4c certificates (Club Red point sessions) for 2021

will be the same as the number to which a club was entitled in 2020.

Club	ABF Number	2020 Allocation		2021
		2019 Home Members	Red point sessions	Red point
NSBC @ Club Willoughby	2-120	1083	94	94
NSBC @ East Lindfield	2-074	395	48	48

ABF and NSWBA - Capitation Fees

The ABF per head capitation fee is increasing by 1.9%, is charged to the NSBC in April, based on Home Club membership numbers at the end of March. The club has actively managed our home club members (i.e. delinking all players who are no longer a financial member of NSBC, in the ABF database) to minimise this annual bill.

NSBC Membership (@ Apr 2020)	NSBC Home Club	Alternate another home	Total
CW Membership	1086	174	1260
EL Membership	393	45	438
Total Memberships			1698
ABF Bill @ \$16.10 per "Home Club" member	\$23,812	Issued April 2020	
ABF Bill @ \$8.05 per "new Home Club" member	\$11,980	Issued October 2020	
NSWBA Bill @ \$10 per "home club" member	\$14,790	Issued October 2020	

The **second ABF item (above) was an error** as these discounted capitation fees apply to new members only. The NSWBA per head capitation fees are due in November based on home club membership at 31st Oct.

Note: Actual Masterpoints awards (Green points, Red points and Gold points) are charged per point by the ABF, each month as the club submits Masterpoint winner data from NSBC events and sessions to the ABF Masterpoint Centre. These are also being raised by 1.9% this year.

BBO Platform

Please be aware that the BBO platform is experiencing **unprecedented volumes**. So far, their technology has coped but they have

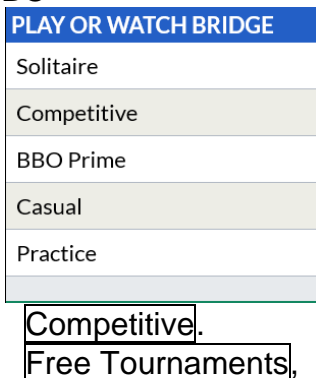
had to make major investments to support this growing demand. We may well see them change their business model and introduce charges to play in tournaments (like the ones we run). This is obviously outside our control so please be understanding if we write to you again soon advising of further changes.

NSBC BBO Tournaments

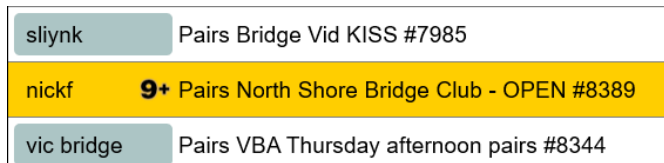


NSBC has registered as an online bridge club within the **BBO environment**. For members to be able to play in our club BBO tournaments:

1. Create a BBO login (Alias) if you do not have one.
2. Let the NSBC office know your BBO login, and it will be added to the list of **"Allowed Players"** (BBO logins) in our club BBO events. Note: There are two control lists, one is for open and restricted, the other for rookie & supervised. You can ask to be included in both.
3. To register for a tournament, you may have to login very early with your partner. Likely 2 hours before to book your seat in our Open events. BBO is heavily loaded and has constrained our tournaments to only 40 tables max.
4. To navigate to our tournaments area within BBO

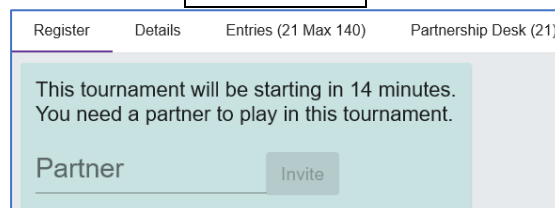


5. The list of free tournaments (pending) is displayed, ours will only appear 2hrs before start time.

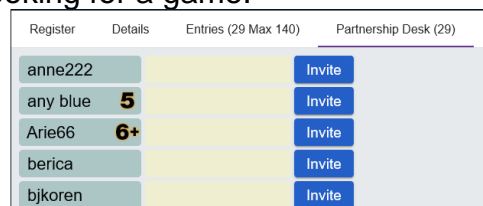


6.

Click the **NSBC Event**



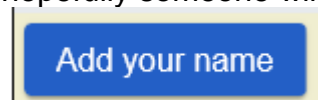
7. Enter the tournament, usually with your partner. Here enter your partner's BBO login (Alias) and you will gain a place at a tournament table. **Note: your partner must also be online for a registration.**
8. You can pick up a casual partner at the tournament registration point. Above BBO is showing 29 players looking for a partner in our NSBC tournament event.
9. Clicking the Partnership Desk lists people looking for a game.



10. If you click on a name in the list, details will be displayed on the right.



11. When you have found someone you like, click the invite button. They may decline as waiting for their regular partner. You can always ask someone else.
12. Alternately you can press 'Add your Name' which will place yourself onto the list and hopefully someone will ask you!



13. **To play**, log into BBO, about 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. You will be automatically placed at a table with your partner when the tournament starts.

14. **Note:** You can go and watch a game being played elsewhere on BBO while you wait, the tournament will automatically grab you as the tournament starts.
15. **Have a good game!**

BBO Chat function


You can talk to other bridge players by using the text messages “Chat facility” at the bottom of your BBO screen



Some Terms

- Lobby talk to everybody in the lobby
- Table **talk to just your table of 4**
- Tournament talk to **all** Tournament players
- Private (mprescott) Talk to just Mike
- Private (Partner) Talk to just your partner

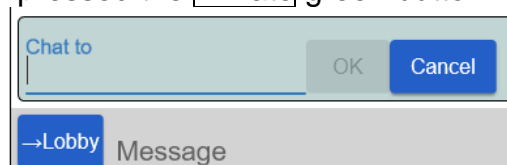
When you start a session on BBO, the default

setting on Chat is 

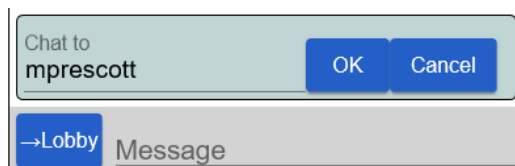
How to setup for a **private talk**



Above, I pressed the Blue button →Lobby, then I pressed the Private green button.



and it pops the “chat to” request for me to key in a BBO username that I want to talk privately to.



I keyed “mprescott” and pressed OK



The message line is now set for you to talk privately to your partner. Any text message will go to only your partner as a private message.

Note: During tournaments BBO will stop private messages whilst playing at the table.

You must SELF ALERT on BBO



There is a major difference when playing online on **BBO** and at the club. When it your turn to bid it is the **bidder's responsibility** to "**Self Alert**" any conventional bid that your opponents may not understand or may mislead them.

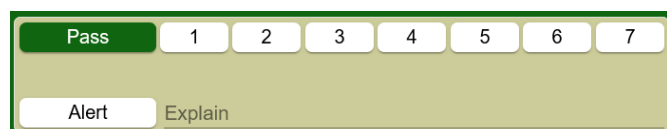
You have alerting functions available

Pass 2♦ Pass 2♥

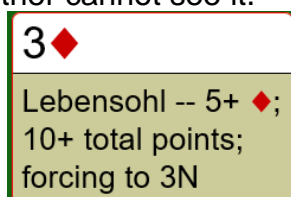
- a) **Just make a Bid.** Your bid shows on the bidding screen and opponents will assume normal bridge meanings.



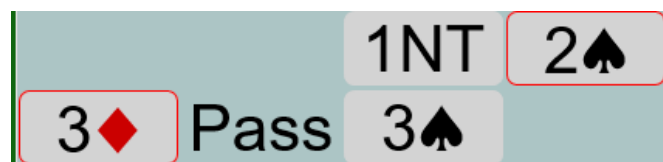
- b) **Press just the white Alert (above) – then make your bid.** BBO will highlight your bid (with a red border) on your and the opponent screen views only. **Your partner cannot see an alerted bid by you.** The opponents can click on the displayed bid to ask if they want to know.



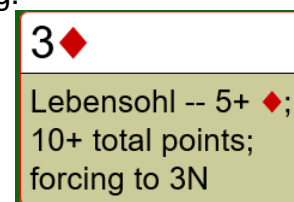
- c) **Key in an explanation of the bid in the text area "Explain" – and then bid.** This will force the pop of the explanation box, again to you and just the opponents only. Your partner cannot see it.



- d) **Late alerts** – You forgot to alert a bid that is unusual. You can recover a little by clicking your bid. It will be changed and highlighted with a red border around the bid to just your opponents. They can then ask if they want to know. May stop a director adjusting a score.



- e) The Opponents can then ask about any alerted bid by clicking your bid on their screens. An explanation box will pop for you to describe the bid on your screen.
- f) You can always ask a meaning of by any opponents bid by clicking on a bid. They will be asked to explain by typing in a meaning.



At our bridge club, **you can warn opponents before they lead**, to review and ask about the auction. This cannot be done in the online environment, and the lead will hit the table very quickly.

To reiterate, on BBO you **Self Alert** and explain if asked. This is visible to everybody but your partner (until the end of the hand)



BBO APRIL

NSBC - BBO April Pairs Results

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Winner	Score
30-Mar-20	M Open 10am	55	Alicia Mercer & Prue Siemsglues	73%
1-Apr-20	W Open 1pm	40	Frank Dreyer & Lee Dreyer	67%
2-Apr-20	T Open 1pm	25	John Jongkind & Renate Lincoln	67%
	Open 1:15pm	8	Fran Campbell & Sallie Quarles	63%
3-Apr-20	F Open 1pm	39	Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	73%
	Open 1pm	20	Judy Osie & David Osie	74%
4-Apr-20	S Open 1:15pm	15	Kay O'Connor & Pat O'Connor	66%
	Sunday			
6-Apr-20	M Open 1pm	18	Frank Dreyer & Lee Dreyer	69%
	Open 1:15pm	17	Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	66%
	Rookie 2pm	20	David Craig & Anne Craig	68%
7-Apr-20	T Open 1pm	20	Fiona Russell & Sue Morgan	67%
	Open 1:15pm	12	Frank Budai & Dominic Kwok	70%
	Rookie 2pm	13	Douglas Leigh & Catherine McReady	65%
8-Apr-20	W Open 1pm	19	Catherine Else & Jenny Barnes	73%
	Open 1:15pm	19	John Rogers & Peter Robinson	66%
	Rookie 2pm	18	Don Mullineux & Mary Harrington	75%
9-Apr-20	T Open 1pm	20	Tim Waygood & Ian MacLaren	67%
	Open 1:15pm SP	17	Dennis Watkins & Roger Conway	65%
10-Apr-20	F Open 1pm	20	Virginia Cohen & Winston Horne	63%
	Open 1:15pm SP	20	Margi Kindl & Kate McRae	64%
11-Apr-20	S Open 1pm	21	Fiona Lavery & Leo Goorevich	75%
	Open 1:15pm SP	19	George Finikiotis & Liz Fanos	65%
12-Apr-20	Easter Sunday		No event scheduled	

13-Apr-20	M Open 1pm	40	Kerry McKay & Ian Plummer	68%
	Rookie 2pm	19	Ian Satill & Robyn Satill	64%
14-Apr-20	Supervised 10am		Eve Draper & Meryl Greaves	
	T Open 1pm	35	Tamra Bowman & Bijan Assaee	72%
15-Apr-20	W Open 1pm	40	Derek Maltz & Linda Aubusson	71%
	Rookie 2pm	23	Richard Ames & Deborah Burt	71%
	Open 7:30 pm	12	Jeanette Abrams & Margaret Foster	70%
16-Apr-20	T Open 1pm	40	Rachael Loomes & Maurice Loomes	64%
	Rookie 2pm	11	Garry White & John Hill	73%
17-Apr-20	F Open 1pm	40	Jeanette Reitzer & Julia Connor	66%
	Rookie 2pm	10	Don Chisaolm & Chris Lewis	66%
18-Apr-20	S Open 1pm	40	Judy Osie & David Osie	73%
	Rookie 2pm	8	Yeung Cheung & Sue Gordon	73%
19-Apr-20	Sunday			

BBO Monthly individual – Open

	BBO Name	Player	Sum of Points - up to April 18
1	Alicia M	Alicia Mercer	76
2	Ian MacL	Ian MacLaren	60
3	Prue	Prue Siemsglues	57
4	fortian	William Westwood	53
5	tomclaire	Tom Goodyer	53
6	lacey1	Trish Mann	52
7	gemma12cat	Frank Dreyer	48
8	leegoldi	Lee Dreyer	48
9	ManlyMoz	Maurice Loomes	47
10	rloomes	Rachael Loomes	47
11	jmott07	John Mottram	46
12	Mountjoy01	Tim Mountjoy	46

BBO Monthly individual – Rookie

	BBO Name	Player	Sum of Points - up to April 18
1	Sueg3	Sue Gordon	44
2	Ykcheung	Yeung Kwan Cheung	34
3	Franster	Saras Brookes	32
4	dimlimlama	Peter Skor	31
5	effemia	Eva Skor	31
6	monkeymia1	Dedora Hilder	25
7	monkeymia2	Graeme Hilder	25
8	jamesmcdon	James McDonnell	22
9	donmull	Don Mullineux	20
10	maryahar	Mary Harrington	20
11	yamin1	Anne Craig	20
12	zadiac	David Craig	20

Club Championships

All Championship events are **postponed** until further notice

2020 Club Champion Progress

We have completed just 5/18 CC events by the time the club was forced to close. Leaders were:

Rank	Player	Championship Points
1=	David Weston	20
1=	Leo Goorevich	20
3	Kevin Davies	13
4	Sunny Pang	11

Link to [Full CC Results](#) to date

2020 McCutcheon

The 2020 first quarter McCutcheon national leaders have been published in the ABF Masterpoint centre newsletter. NSBC members that gained a mention in leaders lists include:

MP grade	Members Doing well
Graduate	Kerry Barling
Club	Karen Doecke
Local	
*Local	Jo Ampherlaw
**Local	
Regional	
*Regional	Peter Koorey
State	
*State	Colin Clifford, Robbie Feyder
National	Peter Robinson
*National	John Rogers
**National	Margaret Stevens
Life	
Bronze Life	Neil Williams
Silver Life	Liz Sylvestor, Jane Beeby, Hans Van Weeren
Gold Life	Axel Johannsson
Grand	Jessica Brake, Karen McCallum
> Grand Master	Peter Gill

Masterpoint Promotions

The numbers of members being promoted at the end of March has dropped as the club has now stopped sending session masterpoint awards to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

From East Lindfield:

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of Mar
Bardone, Judy	EL	National
Cummins, Anne	Turra	Regional
Drinan, Marjorie	Turra	Regional
Westgarth, Marie	EL	Local
Oaten, Kathryn	EL	Local

And from Club Willoughby:

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of Mar
Bailey, Ian	CW	Gold Life
Banner, Freda	CW	Silver Life
Davis, Sophie	Bal	National
Bardone, Judy	EL	National
Rees, Howard	CW	*State
Cover, Andrew	ARV	State
Ampherlaw, Jo	CW	**Local
Morell, Liz	CW	Local
Weissenbelg, Patrick	CW	Club
Cross, Kerry	HBV	Club

Nick Fahrer (Instrumental in helping NSBC setup and operate the **BBO** Sessions) owns and runs the bridge shop located in Penshurst street at Willoughby.



The Bridge Shop has partnered with the North Shore Bridge Club and we are delighted to offer all club members a 15% discount.

We welcome you to drop into our store at 182 Penshurst Street Willoughby or redeem your discount by using the code **NS15** at checkout on our web site.

<https://www.facebook.com/bridgeshop>

Website: <https://www.bridgeshop.com.au/>

Address: 182 Penshurst street, Willoughby.



North Shore Bridge Club: Contacts		
Manager:	Mike Prescott	0435 528 872
Newsletter Editor:	Kevin Davies	0403 018 979
Newsletter Editor:	Ian Maclaren	
Web Master	Leo Goorevich	0410 490 123
CW Venue	Club Willoughby	02 9411 3527
EL Venue	East lindfield	02 9415 8344



Visit the NSBC club Website

Leo Goorevich
NSBC Web Master

Have you visited our club website? **Come and explore!**

<http://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/>

See the picture of website below

The screenshot shows the North Shore Bridge Club website with various annotations:

- Our web address:** <https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/>
- Main Menu:** Home, About us, Results, Upcoming Events, Sessions, Club Events, Club Documents, Lessons, Contact Us
- Money Payments Function:** Payments (indicated by a dollar sign icon)
- Library books:** LIBRARY (indicated by a book icon)
- Thursday night complex Tournament results:** Multi Sess Results
- Current Club News items:** SMS Notification, Next Major Events (listing East Lindfield Swiss Pairs, Club Willoughby GNOT Direct Q, and Club Willoughby State Open Pairs Q), BBO Results Thursday 9th April, Bridge Lessons.
- Major Ad display:** Morgans IN ALLIANCE WITH CIMB (Retail stockbroking and wealth management)
- Club Sponsors Logo display:** Learn to Play Bridge
- Annotations:**
 - leads to Pianola for club session results
 - How to enter club Tournament events
 - Club sessions, times & directors
 - Lists of club event winners
 - Minutes, forms, etc

Menu Bar – 9 sub menus

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Home | This is the home page |
| 2. About Us | About us, Our Team, Venues, Club Fees, Honour Boards |
| 3. Results | Access to BBO and Pianola session results and hands |
| 4. Upcoming events | This is where you enter club competitions |
| 5. Sessions | Club Session times at both venues. |
| 6. Club Events | Lists event winners for the year, club champion, monthly results |
| 7. Club Documents | Various constitution, minutes, forms, tournament rules etc. |
| 8. Lessons | Link to Lessons website |
| 9. Contract Us | Online Messaging back to the office |

If you haven't been and had a look (explore), then please do.



Promoting a Stopper

By Pat O'Connor

North
♠ Q975
♥ J3
♦ A3
♣ KJT63
South (D)
♠ AK3
♥ AT4
♦ K86
♣ Q872

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1NT	Standard 15-17 Bal		
2♣	Stayman		
2♦	No 4card Major		
3NT	To play 11+ (15-17) = Game Values!		

North's 2♣ bid is the Stayman convention looking for a spade fit. South's 2♦ bid denied any four-card major held.

West leads the ♥5.

How will you make your contract?

Analysis

You play low from dummy and East plays the ♥Q. The usual thing to do with five cards between your hand and dummy in the opening leader's suit is to hold up your ace until the third round.

Is that the best thing to do here?

Contract 3NT/S		North		
West		♠ Q975	East	
♠ T82	♥ K9752	♥ J3	♠ J64	
♦ 752	♣ A4	♦ A3	♥ Q86	
		♣ KJT63	♦ QJT94	
			♣ 95	
Lead ♥5		South (D)	Full Deal	
		♠ AK3		
		♥ AT4		
		♦ K86		
		♣ Q872		

If you hold up your ♥A until the third round, West will get in with the ♣A when you establish clubs and take two more heart tricks, setting the contract.

If instead you capture the ♥Q with the ♥A, your ♥J opposite the ♥T4 will become a second stopper. When you knock out their ♣A they can take their ♥K but your ♥T will then be high.

If you hold up your ♥A, you will make eight tricks. If you capture the ♥Q with the ♥A, you will make 11 tricks.

That's a huge difference, especially at Match Points!

Key Point

Don't hold up at Trick 1 if winning the trick will promote lower cards in the suit.



Have you heard the expression "Eight Ever, Nine Never"?

"**Eight Ever, Nine Never**" is an adage for handling 8- and 9-card suit combinations missing the queen.

It is an adage for handling the situations where you have the Ace, King and Jack in an 8 or 9-card suit but are missing the Queen.

When you have 8 cards in the suit, the adage says that you should finesse for the Queen (**Eight Ever**), but when you have 9 cards in the suit you should "go for the drop", that is to say play the Ace and The King and hope that the Queen drops (**Nine Never**). Some examples:

Holding an 8-card combination like this, you have a 50% chance that the Queen is in the West hand and so can be finessed:

	North	
West	♥ AJ98	East
♥ ???		♥ ???
	South	
	♥ KT76	

However, when holding a 9-card combination, it's better to cash the Ace and King and hope the Queen drops. You have a 52% chance of success, as opposed to only a 50% chance on the finesse.

	North	
West	♥ AK987	East
♥ ???		♥ ???
	South	
	♥ JT52	

Note that "**Eight Ever, Nine Never**" is not an absolute rule. The auction and the defenders' play may also provide clues about the whereabouts of the missing Queen

How does this work?

Some clever people worked out all the probabilities, but let's leave all that calculation to them and just remember the rule!

The Probabilities

# of Missing Cards	Possible Distr	Probability %	Comments
4	2-2	49.74%	9% More likely to be 2-2 than 3-1, Adage: " Nine Never " try for drop
	3-1	40.70%	
	4-0	9.57%	
5	2-3	67.83%	67% likely to be a 3-2 break, Adage : Eight Ever - best to finesse
	4-1	28.26%	
	5-0	3.91%	

BBO Sessions for newer players

There has been an excellent response to the idea of online bridge from our newer players, both for playing and for improving their bridge with lessons. It has been a big learning curve for many of our players and they have certainly risen to the challenge. The club has received many positive emails, here are just two examples:

"We really enjoyed our first foray into the rookie comp today. Thank you to the NSBC team for all the hard work in getting this going for the Rookies."

"We all very much appreciate the hard work undertaken by the NSBC directors and staff to get us up and running..."

Using BBO to play: Approximately 250 Rookie and Supervised members have played at least one BBO game in the first two weeks of operation.

Using Zoom to continue learning: Anita and Jess have now completed two weeks of online lessons, with approximately 200 players attending Zoom lessons. Sue, Kim and Liz are starting pre-game short lessons before the Rookie games on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Liz is preparing to resume lessons for her beginners' class, after it was rudely interrupted at week 6 by this virus. All in all, a great deal is happening on the newer player front and the opportunities offered seem to be very much appreciated by our newer players.

Count Signals

A **count signal** indicates the number of cards that a defender holds in a given suit. Playing standard signals, high-low in a suit indicates an even number of cards in that suit, while playing low-high indicates an odd number. Count signals may be used when either partner or declarer leads the suit.

Of the three types of defensive signals, count signals have the second-highest priority:

1. Attitude
2. **Count**
3. Suit-preference

By default, a signal is for **attitude** unless it's clear that a count signal (or suit-preference signal) is necessary.

Following Declarer's Lead

Count signals are most used when declarer leads a suit and it's important for the defenders to show count.

For example, suppose partner leads the ♦Q against South's 3NT contract:

North			
♠ 85			
♥ J43			
♦ 963			
♣ KQJT9			
Lead ♦Q Vs 3NT/S			
		You	
		♠ AJ92	
		♥ 8752	
		♦ 872	
		♣ 84	

You follow suit with the ♦2 (**Attitude - discouraging**) and declarer wins the ♦A. Declarer now leads a club to dummy's ♣K. You should play high-low in clubs to indicate an even number of clubs. This is not an attitude situation because of dummy's obvious club strength. If partner has the ♣A, it's important to help him determine when to take it.

The full Deal		North			
		♠ 85			
		♥ J43			
		♦ 963			
		♣ KQJT9			
		South			
		♠ K763			
		♥ AK9			
		♦ AK9			
		♣ 532			
		East			
		♠ AJ92			
		♥ 8752			
		♦ 872			
		♣ 84			

When declarer leads to dummy's ♣K, you play the ♣8. When declarer continues with dummy's ♣Q, you complete your signal by playing the ♣4. Partner knows that you must have started with a club doubleton, so he holds up his ♣A for a second time. Declarer only gets two club tricks and is fated to go down.

If instead partner won his ♣A at trick three, declarer could later lead his third club to dummy and collect four club tricks in total. The high-low signal in clubs makes all the difference.

Following Partner's Lead at No-Trumps

Count signals should also be used by third hand when the following conditions are present:

- Partner makes an opening lead against a no-trump contract
- Dummy covers partner's lead with a higher card
- Third hand does not have a higher card than dummy

Against South's no-trumps contract, partner leads the ♥7:

North			
♠ AK876			
♥ Q43			
♦ 93			
♣ A32			
Lead ♥7 Vs 3NT/S			
		You	
		♠ JT9	
		♥ J652	
		♦ 8762	
		♣ 64	

When declarer plays dummy's ♥Q you should follow suit with the ♥6. This can't be an encouraging attitude signal since you'd cover the ♥Q with an honor if you had one. Partner should read you for an even number of hearts.



Anita



Jessica

In 2020, our development teachers are Anita Curtis and Jessica Brake.

Build on the Basics is for people who are returning to bridge after a long break or who have completed Beginners and have played for 3-6 months. The normal Build on the Basics lessons are now split into 2: the new material is introduced on Wednesdays at 10am for approximately 1 hour using **Zoom** sessions and hands are played on Thursdays at 10am (approximately 1.5 hours) on Zoom/BBO

Dates / Presenter	Build on Basics - Lesson Topic Wed 10am AND Thurs 10am
Wed Apr 15 Lesson Thur Apr 16 Hands	I can't support you!
Wed Apr 22 Lesson Thur Apr 23 Hands	Responder's NT bids Bidding - responder bids NTs
Wed Apr 29 Lesson Thur Apr 30 Hands	Focus on Defence - leads against suits Defence - leads
Wed May 6 Lesson Thur May 7 Hands	Let's get in the way! Weak Twos & responses
Wed May 13 Lesson Thur May 14 Hands	Hand Analysis 1 Consolidate all skills
Wed May 20 Lesson Thur May 21 Hands	They hate it when I interfere! 3 level pre-empts; responses
Wed May 27 Lesson Thur May 28 Hands	I can't count that high! 2C Opening & 2D response

Improver Program with Anita is for players who have completed the "Build on the Basics" course or who have been playing for approximately one year. These lessons extend knowledge in bidding and play and prepare players to move to the Rookie level. They are held via Zoom/BBO sessions on Thursday afternoons at 2pm. Bid and play 8 hands with Anita:

Date	Anita Curtis Thursday afternoon @ 2:00pm Improver Program - Lesson Topic
Thu April 16	BonB end of course hand analysis 3
Thu April 23	DYS end of course hand analysis 2
Thu April 30	No lesson
Thu May 7	DYS end of course hand analysis 3
Thu May 14	BonB end of course hand analysis 4
Thu May 21	DYS end of course hand analysis 4
Thu May 28	No lesson

Broaden Your Game/Intermediate with Anita is a set of lessons for intermediate players with typically 3+ years of Bridge experience. It follows on from Develop Your Skills.

The lessons are held over Zoom video on **Friday mornings** at 10am.

Date	Anita Curtis Friday @ 10am Broaden your game/Intermediate - Lesson Topic
Fri April 17	I hate NTs - Improve your NT declarer play. Discover how to get tricks out of poor suits! Broaden Your Game
Fri April 24	Eddie Kantar Hand Analysis – challenging hands from an expert. Intermediate+
Fri May 1	Myths & Truths in defence - Broaden Your Game/Intermediate. 2nd hand low? 3rd hand high in defence? Are you sure?
Fri May 8	Gentle Hand Analysis for anyone who wants to improve all their skills
Fri May 15	Competitive bidding: negative Xs & how they can work for you - Broaden Your Game. Bidding only session with pairwork
Fri May 22	Eddie Kantar Hand Analysis – challenging hands from an expert. Intermediate+
Fri May 29	Jacoby 2NT raise - how to show 4 card support with an opening hand & what happens after that. How to evaluate your hand for slam! BYG/Intermediate. Bidding only with pair work.



THINK ABOUT THE SPOTS

By Barbara Travis

The auction:

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
Pass	3♥	X	4♥
All Pass			
Bidding Notes			
1♥	Normal 1♥, 13 hcp		
3♥	Limit Raise in ♥		
X	Takeout of ♥		
4♥	To play		

You are on lead as West, choosing to lead your singleton club, and you see this dummy:

		North
		♠ QT9
West		♥ KT42
♠ K762		♦ 7
♥ J63		♣ QJ765
♦ KJ963		
♣ 4		

Your partner wins the ♠A: (♣4, ♣5, ♣A, ♣3). Partner returns a ♣; you ruff: (♠8, ♠2, ♥6, ♠6)
What will you lead at trick 3?

Playing **suit preference signals**, partner's ♣8 should be indicating what suit to return. Traditionally, bridge players consider 2's, 3's and 4's to be low (asking for the lower suit) and 9's, 8's and 7's to be high (asking for the higher suit to be led). I usually tell my students that you also must consider the spot cards that you can see. On this hand, you led the 4, dummy holds the 5-6-7 and declarer has played the 3 and 2. Therefore, you must stay alert and realise that the ♣8 is, in fact, a low card, asking for a diamond return!

Full deal	North	East
	♠ QT9	♠ J543
West	♥ KT42	♥ 8
♠ K762	♦ 7	♦ AQT82
♥ J63	♣ QJ765	♣ A98
♦ KJ963		
♣ 4	South (D)	
	♠ A8	
	♥ AQ975	
	♦ 54	
	♣ KT32	

If you return a diamond, you will defeat the contract via another club ruff. If you return a spade, declarer will make – being able to discard his spade loser on the long club in dummy.

Regarding **declarer's play** on the clubs, playing the 3 then the 2 was **unwise**. It would be far more challenging to play the 3 then the 10, leaving the 2 outstanding, and leaving some doubt in West's hand. So, as well as watching the spot cards when defending, think about your play of spot cards as declarer. There is no need to be '**honest**', making life easy for the defence.

During the Spring Nationals, most of the Women declarers made 4♥, with declarer's deceptive carding succeeding in creating enough doubt that a spade was returned. In the Seniors' field, most declarers in one section made their game, but just about all declarers in the other field failed in 4♥!

As declarer, learn to give the opponents enough rope.

As defenders, ensure you make life as easy as possible for partner; and use suit preference signals.

From a bridge playing family in Sydney, Barbara Travis (Nee Gill) has played bridge from the age of about 7, firstly at home with her parents and brothers, then making her debut at our old Lindfield Bridge Club (in 1973!). During her playing career she has been successful in youth, state, national and international tournaments, winning the Gold Coast Pairs in 1979 at the age of 20.

Now based in South Australia, Barbara has been a bridge teacher and director since 2005. She is also the author of some very popular articles in the ABF Daily Bridge Column, one of which is included above. Barbara has kindly **donated several of her teaching notebooks to the North Shore Bridge Club**. These books contain a wealth of information including elementary bidding, second round bidding, when to alert, how to score without a Bridgemate, forcing and non-forcing bids and opener's rebids, in easy-to-follow tables. There are four titles:

- **Barbara's Bridge Book for Beginners**
- **Barbara's Bridge Continuation Topics** (with more information about No Trump Bidding, Pre-empts, Strong Opening Bids etc)
- **Barbara's Second Round Bidding Guide** (all about the second round of bidding - the 'black hole')
- **Barbara's Favourite Conventions** (those that she swears by)

The books are in the Novice section in our Club Willoughby library. (Look for the spiral binding.)

Her teaching material is also for sale through her website at a very reasonable \$20 per book. You can find more details on her website .bridgewithbarbara.com

She has also recently published a compilation of her articles, A Game at the Club, containing 24 articles about playing a session - discussing both good and bad things that happened, teaching in her chatty but educational style. In other good news she has started her own 'Weekly Column'. Check her website.

If you are visiting Adelaide you may also like to pop in for a game or some extra coaching at her friendly club, **Bridge at Beaumont**:
www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

How do you play this hand?

North ♠ K732 ♥ AQ7 ♦ 854 ♣ QT6	Contract: 4♠ / South Lead: ♥4 by West How do you plan to play this hand? Which card will you play from dummy on the first trick and why? a) ♥7 b) ♥Q c) ♥A
South ♠ AQJ986 ♥ T6 ♦ AK7 ♣ J3	

Planning:

Count your winning Tricks:

Winners: 6♠ + 1♥ +2♦ + Deep 1♣ after losing the ace and king. Total: 10 OK

Count your Losers:

But be careful not to lose **four tricks!**
If you lose the first heart trick, East will play back a diamond and you could lose the race, as you will lose one diamond, two clubs and a heart before you can enjoy the 3rd Club.

The suggested Play:

1. Win with the ♥A
2. Cash the ♠A
3. Cash the ♠Q
4. Play ♣J and force a club trick

If you play this way, nothing can bad happen to you!

You will lose a heart trick, but you will always enjoy a pitch your deep Diamond loser on the 3rd Club for 10 tricks.



DUMMY REVERSAL

By Pat O'Connor

The usual way of planning the play of a suit contract as declarer is to count losers in the long hand, that is the hand which has more trumps. For convenience we will assume this is declarer's hand.

Sometimes though it is better to count the losers in the shorthand. Here is an example:

Contract 4♥/S		North	
		♠ T65	
West		♥ QT9	East
♠ KQ94		♦ Q32	♠ A87
♥ 54		♣ A742	♥ 876
♦ JT74			♦ 98
♣ 963		South	♣ KQT85
		♠ J32	
Lead ♠K		♥ AKJ32	
		♦ AK65	
		♣ J	

You are South. The contract is 4♥ on the lead of the ♠K.

You have three spade losers and one diamond loser. The opponents cash the first three spade tricks and switch to a club which you win with the ♠A in dummy. How do you continue?

You can draw trumps and hope that the diamonds are split 3 – 3. This is only a 36% line. What else can you do?

Let us look at losers from dummy's point of view. There are three spade losers, no heart losers and three club losers. But if you can ruff the three club losers you will only have three losers. Is this possible? Let's see. We

need the dummy's trumps as entries, so we need to ruff high in our own hand. After capturing the club switch, the play proceeds as follows:

Ruff the ♣2 with the ♥A

Return to dummy with the ♥2 to the ♥Q

Ruff the ♣4 with the ♥K

Return to dummy with the ♥3 to the ♥10

Ruff the ♣7 with the ♥J

You have no trumps left in your hand, so lead a diamond to dummy's ♦Q and draw the last trump with the ♥9! Magic!

Note that it worked because the opponents' trumps split 3-2. This is a 68% chance, better than the 36% with the traditional method.

There are certain requirements for a dummy reversal to work. They are:

- The shorter trumps in dummy must be strong enough to draw the opponents' trumps.
- There must be sufficient entries in dummy to ruff the losers and draw the remaining enemy trumps.
- The short side suit must be in declarer's hand. After you ruff dummy's losers in your hand, there will be more trumps in dummy than in your hand, so dummy in fact becomes the long hand!

Try this one:

Contract 7♦/S		North	
		♠ A543	
West		♥ QJ43	East
♠ QJT9		♦ KT8	♠ K876
♥ K95		♣ Q4	♥ T876
♦ 742			♦ 65
♣ 732		South	♣ 864
		♠ 2	
Lead ♠Q		♥ A2	
		♦ AQJ94	
		♣ AKJT9	

You are South, playing 7♦ with no opposition bidding. The lead is the ♠Q.

The fly in the ointment is the heart loser. You could hope that the ♥K is with East and try a finesse. That is not a nice thought in a grand slam. Is there another way?

Yes! Try a dummy reversal. The plan is to trump the three small spades in your hand, draw the remaining trumps and throw three hearts from dummy on the long clubs in your hand. The steps are:


Win the ♠A in dummy
 Ruff the ♠3 with the ♦A
 Return to dummy with the ♦4 to the ♦8
 Ruff the ♠4 with the ♦Q
 Return to dummy with the ♦9 to the ♦10
 Ruff the ♠5 with the ♦J

You have no trumps left in your hand, so lead a club to the ♣Q and draw the last trump with the ♦K, discarding the ♥2.

It all worked because dummy's trumps were strong enough to draw the opponents' trumps, you had sufficient entries to dummy and trumps split 3-2 which was a better chance than East having the ♥K.

Our Club Sponsors

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	<h2>Defence Against Transfers</h2> <p>By Mark Guthrie</p>
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When I was asked to write a column for the newsletter, I didn't expect bridge would suddenly be made illegal. It does make it slightly tricky to find new material. For this article, imagine it is 2019 again...

The good thing about playing bridge at Club Willoughby on a Saturday afternoon is that the bar is open. The bad thing is that you need to play quickly enough to be able to get there and back between rounds and there are three other people at the table who clearly missed the memo on this.

So, with 7 minutes on the clock and only the smallest gulp of Chardonnay left in my glass, I picked up the last hand of the round.

♠ 863	♥ K986	♦ A96	♣ AKQ
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Sitting in fourth seat there were three passes to me. Playing a 15-17 no trump range, it seemed obvious what to do. I should pass it in and head to the bar. Unfortunately, I have one of those annoying partners who likes to go through the hand records, and I couldn't see her letting me get away with a claim of miscounting my points on this one.

6 minutes to go.

I had taken the time previously to look at the room and gauge what was coming our way. For the next two rounds we would be facing very pleasant, but slow pairs. By which I mean, they play to the bridge clock, not my clock, which needs three minutes left at the end of play for refills. My only chance of getting to the bar for the foreseeable future was this round, and this hand was basically make or break for my afternoon's bridge.

Plan A was to finish this hand, and the round, with enough time left over, but I have noticed that proper bridge players always seem to have a Plan B as well. When the trumps break 5-nil they look for a trump coup or an end play in order to bring the hand home. I usually just happily go two off in these situations, but like most of us I aspire to be a real bridge player one day. Expecting the time equivalent of a bad trump break I had already come up with a Plan B. Although rarely used, Plan B is devilishly simple. If I could arrange to be dummy on this hand, then I could go to the bar without needing the hand finished with time to spare.

I looked at my opponents and knew they wouldn't mind if I enacted Plan B, just this once. I was sure that when I asked if anyone wanted anything from the bar, that at least one of them would be keen. In fact, I suspected my left-hand opponent would bite my hand off.

5 minutes to go.

Reluctantly I opened 1NT. With the opponents passing throughout, my partner responded 2♦, a transfer to hearts. Although not unexpected this did make it increasingly unlikely that I would get to be dummy. I considered my options. Did 5♦ have any chance? It looked unlikely. No, if I responded 2♥ then I was going to be playing this in NT or hearts. The bored look on both of my opponents faces made game seem likely, which offered me a small chance.

The likely bidding sequence was 1NT – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3NT – 4♥. This was not what I needed so I had to quickly come up with a **Defence Against Transfers** that I could use on my opponent, I mean partner.

Firstly, I couldn't possibly accept the transfer. Thanks, but no thanks. Instead I bid 2NT. We play this as a **super accept**, showing a good hand with heart support. Specifically, I should have a maximum hand with either 4 ♥s or 3 ♥s with an honour or two. Instead of 2NT we used to bid the cheapest ace that we had, so

for example 1NT – 2♦ – 3♣ would show a good hand that likes hearts and has the ace of clubs, denying the ace of spades. Unfortunately, among the benefits of this system is that it is a great way to tell the opponents what to lead. But I digress.

My partner was a passed hand, who despite my assumption that we were going to game, could equally well have intended to pass 2♥. She now bid 3♦. This isn't a diamond suit, it is another transfer, forcing me to bid 3♥. This was still something that I had no intention of doing. What were my options? I reluctantly reached for the pass card in my bidding box, but we weren't using bidding boxes, so I took another few seconds to drink, I mean think. Well actually I did both making the situation now critical.

4 minutes to go.

If I couldn't bid hearts or no trump and if the consequences of passing weren't worth thinking about, then it looked like I would have to bid a suit, but which one? I considered an insufficient bid, but they always take ages to sort out. Any bid other than 3 or 4 hearts here would be bizarre. What would my partner think? She'd think "Why is he cue bidding with a 17 count opposite a passed hand? The only answer could be that he's opened 1NT with a void again."

In my defence, clubs and spades do look rather similar and finding that instead of being 2-2 in the black suits for your 1NT opening, you are actually 4-0 does make a slam all the more likely, however you end up getting there.

If I bid 4♣ that would show the ace of clubs and (quite unreasonable) slam interest. She would think for a while (not the outcome I was after!) and decide that the bidding smelt too much of a mis-sort or a mis-count. She might well conclude that I had a spade void and push on to the slam which would surely fail. But with a spade void, wouldn't I have cued spades instead? No, it was too risky.

She might be 4-5 in the majors and take it as another place to play, she might even pass, so with a mis-sorted hand I would have to cue the A♣ not the spade void. I bid 4♦. I transferred my partner instead!

Whatever 4♦ meant, I had already agreed hearts as trumps, and she had no option but to sign off in 4♥. But what if she thought 4♦ was slam interest with a void in spades as before? No problem, lacking a top honour in clubs herself, and with me having denied the ace, she wouldn't be looking for the slam anyway.

Here was the full hand:

Contract 4♥ / S			
West (D)		North	East
♠ KJ92		♠ A4	♠ QT75
♥ T2		♥ AJ753	♥ Q4
♦ J753		♦ 843	♦ KQT
♣ JT3		♣ 754	♣ 9862
		South	
		♠ 863	
		♥ K986	
		♦ A94	
		♣ AKQ	

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West (D)	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1NT	15-17 Bal		
2♦	Transfer to Hearts		
2NT	Super Accept (Max & 4 Heats)		
3♦	Re-transfer to Hearts		
4♦	NO Agrees Diamonds?		
4♥	No Now Hearts played from wrong hand!		

With more than 3 minutes still on the clock, I prepared to put dummy down, take the orders from the table and head to the bar.

I picked up my glass and checked the round clock again just to make sure. When I looked back at the table, I saw something quite disturbing...

There were 14 face up playing cards there. One that my **left-hand opponent** had led out of turn and my partner's hand that had been put down as dummy. It was a reasonable

enough assumption that I would be declarer and now I was. I choked back a tear as it dawned on me that there is in actual fact no workable defence to transfers which can be employed against both your partner and the opponents if they work together against you.



HELP US ALL STAY HEALTHY THIS VIRUS SEASON

A guideline for good hygiene in bridge sessions
Minimise the chance of infection from colds, influenza or the corona virus



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY AND THOROUGHLY
USE SOAP AND SCRUB FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS ESPECIALLY AFTER GOING TO THE TOILET



WASH YOUR HANDS PRIOR TO AND AFTER EVERY SESSION THAT YOU ATTEND



USE THE HAND SANITISER PROVIDED



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH
AVOID SHAKING HANDS, HUGGING OR KISSING



COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO THE CROOK OF YOUR ELBOW RATHER THAN INTO YOUR HAND



STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK. SNIFFLES AND COUGHS ARE NOT WELCOME AT THE BRIDGE TABLE



ANY CHANCE YOU HAVE BEEN NEAR SOMEONE WHO IS INFECTED? SELF ISOLATE FOR TWO WEEKS THEN WE WILL WELCOME YOU BACK

Good Defence

This hand occurred in a recent club evening.

Pairs:											
Dlr: South		♠ AKQ108									
Vul: None		♥ 1097									
		♦ 106									
		♣ KQJ									
♠ 7		♠ J9632									
♥ AK2		♥ QJ									
♦ AQ743		♦ J952									
♣ 8743		♣ 96									
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S	
N											
W	E										
	S										
		♠ 54									
		♥ 86543									
		♦ K8									
		♣ A1052									

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	1♠	3♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
Bidding Notes			
1♦	Normal opening		
1♠	Normal Overcall (10-15 hcp)		
3♦	Pre-emptive Raise		
5♦	Pre-emptive blockout bid		

Partner (East) raise to 3♦ is known to be pre-emptive since a cue raise bid of 2♠ would have shown an invitational, or better, raise of diamonds **was not used!**

West was unclear whether they could beat any spade contract and decided to bid an immediate tactical 5♦ before anyone bid 3♠ or 4♠ and that ended the auction.

This is often the best way to bid, as to bid 4♦ and again save in 5♦ over a 4♠ bid, is **asking NS to double you!** The direct 5♦ bid could be based on sound values and will often go unpunished.

As North led the ♠K (asking for count), declarer realised that EW were probably too high. South played the ♠5 (start of high low) to the first trick and West the ♠7

North: was unsure who had the doubleton spade. So, at trick two, switched to the ♣K (again asking for count) and South contributed a count spot card ♣5, and West the ♣3. This looks like an even number, probably 4.

North now decided to try to cash a second spade. Declarer ruffed this and played three rounds of hearts discarding dummy's second club. Now a club was ruffed, and the diamond queen was successfully finessed. After the ♦A dropped the king, it was simple for declarer to ruff the last two clubs on table and **claim the contract**.

This bad defence contains an important lesson. **North rushed** to cash the ♠A because declarer might discard his last spade and it seems safe even if declarer ruffed.

When a defender thinks this might happen, they should ask themselves on which side suit declarer's last spade can be discarded? Since dummy has only two cards in each side suit, it is obvious that there is no discard for the spade if declarer has the last one. Thus, there is **no hurry to try and cash the spade trick** and it can be taken at any time.

What should worry North is whether the hearts from dummy can be discarded on clubs or the clubs discarded on hearts. With North's good club holding and South's count card (likely even number), declarer cannot have a good club on which to discard hearts. The opposite is not true. Dummy's club loser might, and will, disappear on a heart winner. It is crucial, and obvious, that West **must cash the second club** winner and not the 'safe' second spade.

Good defenders routinely use this kind of consideration to find crucial and timely switches to suits which declarer might be discarding.

Solution: Challenge Hand 1

West	East
♠ Q J 10 3	♠ A K 9 5
♥ K 6 5 3 2	♥ A Q 10 9 8
♦ Q 10 6	♦ A K 2
♣ 5	♣ A

Matchpoints, North dealer, All vulnerable.
North opens 3♣, South supports slowly to 5♣
Or
North Passes, Free bidding to your best spot

This hand occurred at CW on Sat 25/Jan

January 25 CW Sat 1:00 pm Dup - Open

Link to [Pianola Results](#)

The full hand

North	West	East	South
♠ 7 6	♠ Q J 10 3	♠ A K 9 5	♠ 8 4 2
♥ 7	♥ K 6 5 3 2	♥ A Q 10 9 8	♥ J 4
♦ J 9 8	♦ Q 10 6	♦ A K 2	♦ 7 5 4 3
♣ K J 10 9 6 4 2	♣ 5	♣ A	♣ Q 8 7 3

Computer predicted results

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	-
East	1	3	7	7	7
West	1	3	7	7	7

First, the heavy ♣ interference by NS: But you need a Tool agreement for dealing with the 5♣ interference over your Keycard (♥).

System Tool: DOPI over the 5♣ interference

Double = First Step (0 or 3 Keycards)

Pass = Second Step (1 or 4 key cards)

5♦ = 2 without the Q

5♥ = 2 with the Q

The 4♣ extends the pre-empt, but West bid 4♥. East, who has 24 HCP, is keen on slam and tries Keycard, but then South interferes again with 5♣...

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	3♣	X	4♣
4♥	Pass	4NT	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass or 7♥	
Bidding Notes			
3♣	Aggressive Vul Pre-empt		
X	Too strong to bid, Takeout		
4♣	EW Must be a cold Game		
4♥	Some values & Shape		
4NT	Keycard (♥)		
5♣	Tries to muck up the keycard		
Pass	DOPI (X=0, Pass=1)		
5♣	Kings?		
6♥	No outside Kings		
Pass	6♥ is enough for >Avr score		
7♥	Risky, W must have Q's & Shape		
7NT	Outright Gamble for a Top		

At the end, you must guess to play in 6♥ or 6NT, or 7♥. since partner made a free bid over the 4♣ interference, I would try the 7♥ contract.

Without any NS bidding:

The Game force 2♣, and East's 2♥ positive allows West to set hearts as trumps in a forcing context 3♥ and requesting a cue. The best he can do is 4♣, thence to Keycard and the same decision after ♥K, and no outside Kings. More likely now to bid in 7♥ as West has singleton (Cued second round and did not have the King!)

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
Bidding Notes			
Pass	Not really a Vul Pre-emp		
2♣	Game Force Hand		
2♥	Positive 5H		
3♥	GF sets H as trumps - Asks for Cue		
4♣	Best he can do		
4NT	Keycard (♥)		
5♦	4 or 1 Keycards. (HK)		
5NT	Kings?		
6♥	No outside Kings		
Pass	6♥ is enough for >Avr score		
7♥	Risky, but W must have Q's & Shape		
7NT	Outright Gamble for a pairs Top		

The actual results on this board were

B13 CW Open 25/Jan				Freque	EW Matchpoints		
Contract/Tricks/Lead					Score	MP	%
4♥	E	13	3♣	8x	710	7	25%
5♣X	N	6	A♠	1x	1400	16	57%
6♥	E	13	3♣	5x	1460	22	79%
7NT	W	13	J♣	1x	2220	28	100%
Played 15 Tables				Max MP = 14x2 = 28 = 100%			

There is nothing special in the play, a lay down grand slam in 7♥ or 7NT

Solution: Challenge Hand 2

West	NV	East	NV
♠ K 10 7		♠ A 8 5 4 3	
♥ A K 8 7 2		♥ J 9 6 4	
♦ A K		♦ Q J 8 2	
♣ A 8 7		♣	

Matchpoints, NS Vul, Dealer South
South passes, can you bid these cards freely to your best contract?

January 27 EL Mon 1.00pm Red Dup Open

Full deal

North				V			
♠ Q J 9							
♥ Q 10 3							
♦ 7 5 3							
♣ K 9 6 4							
West				NV			
♠ K 10 7				♠ A 8 5 4 3			
♥ A K 8 7 2				♥ J 9 6 4			
♦ A K				♦ Q J 8 2			
♣ A 8 7				♣			
South				D V			
♠ 6 2							
♥ 5							
♦ 10 9 6 4							
♣ Q J 10 5 3 2							
				HCPs			
				8			
				21 8			
				3			

Computer Predictions

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	-
East	1	4	6	6	4
West	1	4	6	6	4

Actual results:

12 out of 26 Tables bid slams, both 6♥ (easy) and 6♠ (via a Throw-in) can be made, 6NT on 29 hcp cannot! You do not get a good score unless you make 12 tricks.

B15 EL Open 27/Jan				Freque	EW Matchpoints		
Contract/Tricks/Lead					Score	MP	%
6NT	E	9	Q♣	1x	-150	1	2%
6♣	W	9	4♣	1x	-150	1	2%
6♣	W	11	4♣	3x	-50	6	12%
3NT	W	9	4♣	2x	400	11	22%
3NT	W	10	6♣	1x	430	18	36%
4♥	W	10	Q♣	2x	420	15	30%
4♣	E	11	Q♣	1x	450	20	40%
3NT	W	11	Q♣	1x	460	22	44%
4♥	W	12	Q♣	5x	480	30	60%
4♣	W	12	4♣	2x	480	30	60%
6♥	W	12	4♣	4x	980	44	88%
6♣	E	12	5♥	3x	980	44	88%
Played 26 Tables				Max MP = 25x2 = 50 = 100%			

Link to [Pianola](#)

Just using simple 3c puppet

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass
Bidding Notes			
2NT	Strong Bal 20-21		
3♣	Puppet Stayman		
3♥	5♥ partner		
4♣	Cue suggesting strong hand or shape		
4NT	Keycard (♥)		
5♦	4 or 1 Keycards - must be ♠A		
5♠	Do you have ♥Q?		
6♥	No ♥Q		

Almost all would open the West hand with a 2NT (20-21 Bal, may have 5 card Major) and most play Puppet Stayman to find the best spot. You have 9 hcp and great shape with a ♣ void - slam material.

Using the better 3♣ option (showing 5♠/4♥), West usually chooses the 5/4 heart fit rather than the 5/3 spade fit.

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass
Bidding Notes			
2NT	Strong Bal 20-21		
3♣	GF hand 5♠+4♥		
4♥	Preference 5/4 ♥ fit		
4♣	Cue suggesting strong hand or shape		
4NT	Keycard (♥)		
5♦	4 or 1 Keycards - must be ♠A		
5♠	Do you have ♥Q?		
6♥	No ♥Q		

Card by Card in 6♥ by West

Best Lead by North?

A ♠Q (sequence lead) or the ♦7 (top of nothing). I would try ♠Q as I have a likely ♠K winner over the 2NT hand.

Planning by West in 6♥ on ♠Q lead

Looks a good contract

Winners: 4♥+2♠+4♦+1♣ + ruffs

Losers: No top losers. Likely ♠ and maybe ♥

Strategy:

Plan to ruff 2 x ♣ in dummy, throw ♠7 away on a top ♦ setting up the west hand to be high; this should make 12 tricks.

Card by Card					6♥ by West	CNT
T1 N	♠Q	♠3	♠6	♠K	Win first♠ in hand with ♠K	1-0
T2 W	♣7	♣4	♥4	♣Q	Ruff, ♠ in short hearts	2-0
T3 E	♥6	♥5	♥A	♥3	Return on Top ♥ A	3-0
T4 W	♣8	♣6	♥9	♣2	Ruff last ♣ in short hearts	4-0
T5 E	♥J	♣2	♥K	♥T	Return on Top ♥ K, North has ♥Q!	5-0
T6 W	♦A	♦3	♦2	♦6	Unblock ♦	6-0
T7 W	♦K	♦5	♦8	♦4	Unblock ♦	7-0
T8 W	♠7	♠9	♠A	♠2	Cross to ♠A (preseved entry to ♦Q)	8-0
T8 E	♦Q	♦9	♠10	♦7	Discard west's ♠ loser on Top ♦	9-0
Claim 12 tricks, have 9 tricks + West hand is high except ♥Q						12-1