



# NSBC Newsletter



2020 October Vol 3 Issue 10

Editors: Kevin Davies and Ian Maclaren

## NSBC - BBO Tournament Schedules

Weekly Schedule of BBO Sessions						
Schedule starting Aug 6						
BBO weekly Schedule of NSBC Tournaments				Max	Changes	
Day	Event		Rego	Play Start	Tables	
Mon	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20 C	Combined
	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	
	Supervised	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM		
Tues	Supervised	M	8:30 AM	10:30 AM		
	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	Pre-Game talk
	Rookie (<100MP)	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	20 C	
Wed	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20 C	Combined
	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	Pre-Game talk
	Open	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	20 C	
Thurs	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
	Comp Night	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	20 C	24B Red points
	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
Fri	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
	Open	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20	6m/B Unlocked
Sat	Open	A	11:30 AM	1.30 PM	20 C	Reg Time
	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
	Open	A	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	20 C	27B Red Points
Sun	Open	A	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	20 C	27B Red Points
Code M = morning, A = Afternoon, E = Evening, C = Clocked, m = mins						
*Pre-Game Talk \$10.00 - contact Kay Moyes moyes_kay@hotmail.com						

Our latest website club schedule can be viewed on this link:

<https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/node/1231>

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## Challenge Hand 2

North	
♠ A6	
♥ Q74	
♦ AKQ4	
♣ K732	
South (D)	
♠ J754	
♥ AK652	
♦ 86	
♣ A5	

Matchpoints  
All: Nil Vul

South the dealer

West will overcall 2♠ (weak 2 style), then EW will remain silent as you bid to get to your best spot

## Challenge Hand 3

North	
♠ 65	
♥ KQJT2	
♦ 752	
♣ 542	
South (D)	
♠ AKQJT4	
♥ 63	
♦ AK6	
♣ AK	

Matchpoints  
NS Vulnerable  
Dealer S

West will overcall 2NT (minors) and then EW will remain silent as you bid the hand to your best spot

## Challenge Hand 1

East	
♠ 9	
♥ A98432	
♦ A762	
♣ J8	
West	
♠ K4	
♥ KT65	
♦ KJ53	
♣ A95	

Matchpoints  
Dealer N who passes  
EW Vulnerable

South will bid 2♠ and if room North will compete to 3♠

These cards rotated for convenience



## Profile of our new NSBC Committee Member

**Maryann Russett**



## NSBC Manager's Message

0435 528 872

[mikeprescott7@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeprescott7@hotmail.com)

**Mike Prescott**

### Bridge Club experience

I have been a member of the bridge club since 2013. I started with Liz's beginners' lessons then progressed to Anita and Kay's transition classes. Thanks to the excellent lessons by these educators, the hook was set!! Pre-COVID-19, I played twice a week: Restricted session at CW on Wednesday mornings and Open session at EL on Thursday afternoons. The intellectual stimulation is fabulous, but I very much enjoy the people at NSBC.

### Career history

I am a retired Chartered Accountant Australia and New Zealand. For 30+ years I held several finance and risk management roles with the following organisations: KPMG, Wormald International, ICL Australia and finally Westpac. At Westpac, my roles included Head of Finance, roles for several divisions in the group, the General Manager Group Finance and General Manager Group Audit and Credit Audit. Corporate governance as well as financial control were important features in my career.

### Not-for-profit experience

As well as the above corporate career, I have experience with non-profit organisations. Currently I am the Treasurer of Easy Care Gardening Inc. Through 300+ very capable volunteers, this organisation on the upper north shore provides gardening services to older and disabled people to help them stay in their homes.

In the past 15 years I have also been the Treasurer then President of Relationships Australia NSW from 2004 to 2008; and a Lifeline telephone counsellor.

### **Donations keep the club going**

We (NSBC) decided to continue to run "Free BBO Sessions" with ABF Masterpoints for members, with financial support being obtained by asking for donations to keep the club running.

The alternative that has not been used, was to use the ABF user pays virtual club system. Here BBO charges are paid by you on entry (fees are in \$BBO dollars (equivalent to 1 \$US), which you must pre-buy prior to any session you play in), but with a percentage of these entry fees being returned to club coffers via the BBO/ABF arrangement.

### **Links for Donations**

Please continue to donate to the club as we have many costs to keep things running. Pre-Paid players can email to the club, with ABF number and how much you wish to donate. Or click link below to donate.

<https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/payments-with-cart>

Kind regards

Mike and the NSBC team 0435 528 872

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EL Venue	East lindfield	02 9415 8344
NSBC Office	Margaret Owen	0410 657 048



**Editor's Column**  
We have released our October congress date to the NSWBA



We have given up our **5<sup>th</sup> October Monday Labour Day congress date** to the NSWBA to allow them to run a BBO online congress on what was our established date.



Mike is looking for another date, before we can run an online congress event.

## Current October Online Congresses

Date	Cost	Event Name - Entry via NSWBA Website
26-Sep	\$12 BBO	Central Coast - Online Pairs
27-Sep	\$6 BBO	Illawarra Bridge Association - Swiss Pairs
27-Sep	\$6 BBO	Metro North - Interclub Pairs
4-Oct	\$10 BBO	Wollstonecraft BBO Pairs
5-Oct	\$12 BBO	SBC Labour Day Swiss Pairs
11-Oct	\$12 BBO	Pennant Hills - Online Swiss Pairs
31-Oct	\$11 BBO	Mudgee BC - Online Pairs
1-Nov	\$11 BBO	Mudgee BC - Online Swiss Pairs

## 2020 Sydney Spring Nationals Cancelled

Considering the present situation of community transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the 2020 Spring Nationals have been cancelled.

## 2020 Metro North - Interclub Pairs

The club needs pairs to play for our club on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September in the interclub Pairs on BBO.

4 pairs required in each Grade, where the average MP for the pair must match the graded section category. (Open, Under 300, Under 100 and Under 15 Masterpoints). Whilst most are now filled (see table opposite) If you are interested in being a reserve/sub, contact Mike.

## 2020 Metro North Interclub Online Pairs

**B5i Event!**



Sunday 27 September 2020  
9.30am for 10am start  
Played on BBO, with Zoom  
Hosted by Peninsula Bridge Club

### Join the fun and the challenge!

- One day friendly online pairs event for rookies up
- Play on BBO, chat on Zoom
- B\$6 per player, BYO lunch, nibbles, wine & cheese
- Director - Ronnie Ng
- Four fields: Open, U300, U100 & U15 (pair average)
- Pairs in top half of all categories earn club points whether rookie or open
- Bonus point for best photo
- Smaller club entries combined into "All Stars"
- Red points - and perpetual Trophy records winning club
- Instructions emailed to entered players

These interclub events bring clubs and players across our region together.

### How to Enter:

- Metro North ABF affiliated clubs can enter in each field up to 4 pairs plus two reserve pairs of - reserves may play depending on entries
- We recommend clubs reimburse entry fees
- Entry spreadsheet sent to clubs for digital input
- Entry deadline 20 Sep
- Inquiries to Vivien Eldridge, 0407 206 105 vivbridge@bigpond.com

Coordinated by a committee of club representatives

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations  
Check the latest details, entry forms and supplementary regulations for the different Metro North interclub events at <http://bridge-game.info/whats-on/interclub.html>



Bridge-Game.Info  
for bridge players by bridge players

Entries as we go to print:

Field	Pair	Player Names	
U15	1	Frances Leadbeter	Jackie Coles
	2	Bruce Davis	Sharon Davis
	3	Deborah Burt	Phillip Howes
	4	Stephanie Gay	Carol Wakelin
	Res1	David Boyle	Leo Vilensky
	Res2	Pam Rawson	John Mitchell
U100	1	Michael Bishop	Robyn Rogers
	2	Liz Morell	Sasha Bennett
	3	Russell Drake	Giles Drake
	4	Felix Shteyman	Tien Chey
	Res1		
U300	1	Kit Meyers	Kerry Rymer
	2	Mary Atkinson	Janis Grauds
	3	Owen Aubrey	John Bartrop
	4	Mary Carter	Kathryn Brien
	Res1		
Open	1	Margaret Owen	Sunny Pang
	2	Ceiny Maybury	Lydis Gibbs
	3	John Mottram	Neil Perry
	4	Mark Guthrie	Juie Guthrie
	Res1	Bev Peters	Lynn Baker
	Res2		



# NSBC BBO Swiss Pairs (Imp)

pos	BBO Pairs Movement (IMP scoring) (20T limit) 1/3 Session Results Thursday 27/August	Imps
1	Ming Xie & Wenjie Liu	38.38
2	George Finikiotis & Kevin Davies	33.38
3	Michael Bishop & Robyn Rogers	26.23
4	David Smee & Alexis Ngan	23.85
	BBO Pairs Movement (IMP scoring) (20T limit) 1/3 Session Results Thursday 3/Sep	Imps
1	Prue & Thomas Siemsgluess	57.32
2	John Mottram & Helen Christie	32.90
3	Julie & Mark Guthrie	32.69
4	Dennis Watkins & Roger Conway	31.26
	BBO Pairs Movement (IMP scoring) (20T limit) 1/3 Session Results Thursday 10/Sep	Imps
1	Louise & Tony Leibowitz	78.28
2	Michael Bishop & Robyn Rogers	31.55
3	David Burton & Felix Shteyman	31.27
4	Prue & Thomas Siemsgluess	26.00
Final Rank	BBO Pairs Movement (IMP scoring) Overall Winners	Total Imps
1	Prue & Thomas Siemsgluess	92.01
2	George Finikiotis & Kevin Davies	76.15
3	Ming Xie & Wenjie Liu	49.24
4	David Burton & Felix Shteyman	36.44



Winners: Thomas and Prue



George



Kevin



Ming



Wenjie

# NSBC BBO Pairs (MP scoring)

	BBO Pairs Movement (IMP scoring) (20T limit) 1/3 Session Results Thursday 17 September	Imps
1 NS	Linda King & Nick Fahrer	58.00
2 NS	George Finikiotis & Kevin Davies	34.00
1 EW	Jane Beeby & Philip Beeby	33.90
2 EW	Prue & Thomas Siemsgluess	33.50

## Online Congress Results

2020 Blue Mountains Bendigo Bank Online Congress	
Open Swiss Pairs	
1st	Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill
2nd	Mathew Vadas - George Fleischer
3rd	Kay O'Connor - Pat O'Connor
Novice Swiss Pairs	
=1st	Richard Lindsay - Heath Henn
=1st	Richard Sheldrake - Paula Nigem
3rd	Gayle Calvert - Steve English

## DOWN UNDER 3 Day Bridge Online Tournament

Enjoy playing online but missing the Swiss Teams format? Sophie Ashton has scheduled a 3-day Swiss Teams Tournament from 25th-27th September. (\$85/Team). She is hosting this event with Vigfus Palsson, who has successfully organised several online Swiss Teams events for the US/Europe time zone. For more information go to

[goulburnhealthhub.com/bridge](http://goulburnhealthhub.com/bridge)

## MONDAY NIGHT BRIDGE AT NSWBA IS RESTARTING!!

These sessions will take place on a new platform called RealBridge, which can be described as a fusion between Zoom and BBO. Yes, it's online bridge, but you get to see and talk to your partner and the opponents. Importantly, the NSWBA will be able to run multi-session events with sensible movements.

We are planning to run a number of single session events to give people a chance to try out the experience. The first is this Monday, 21st September at 7.15pm

## August Masterpoint Promotions

Due to lock down and limited masterpoint files processed by the ABF Masterpoint Centre by the **end of August**, there have been limited promotions in Masterpoint ranks. This has improved with NSBC issuing masterpoint awards for all BBO sessions.

### From East Lindfield:

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of August
Colhoun, Carol	EL	*Local
Fendel, Michele	EL	*Local
Mayes, Rosemary	EL	Local
Ames, Richard	EL	Graduate

### And from Club Willoughby

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of August
Biscoe, Jane	SBC	Life
Xie, Ming	CW	State
Liu, Wenjie	CW	State
Callaghan, Eva	CW	Regional
Muller, Judy	CW	**Local
Morgan, Sue	CW	Local
Brooks, Saras	CW	Local
Finlayson, Kay	CW	Local
Winning, Judy	CW	Local
Craig, Anne	CW	Club
Craig, David	CW	Club
Reilly, Denise	CW	Club
Rogers, Carol	CW	Club
Thompson, Sharon	CW	Graduate
Abrams, Leesa	CW	Graduate
Cassin, Peter	CW	Graduate
Marks, Rosemary	CW	Graduate
Parker, Margaret	CW	Graduate

### Most Improved NSBC players, based on the Masterpoint Centre, analysis

Member	HOME CLUB	Most Improved
Robinson, Peter	CW	*National
Siemsgluess, Thomas	CW	**Local
Beeby, Jane	CW	Silver Life
Ampherlaw, Jo	CW	**Local

Member	HOME CLUB	Most Improved
Shteyman, Felix	EL	Regional
Halse, Tony	EL	Regional
Fendel, Michele	EL	*Local
Cummins, Anne	Turra	Regional

## BBO Open Session Results

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Late August Open Winners	Score
24-Aug	Open 10am	14	1 Ed Truscott & David Smee	68%
		2	2 Hymie Osie & Judy Osie	64%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Linda Aubusson & Derek Maltz	67%
		EW	Margaret Foster & Robbie Feyder	64%
25-Aug	Open 10am	15	1 John Mottram & Lorraine Schaap	65%
		2	2 Lauren Ehrlich & Jenny Narunsky	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Michele Fendel & Janice Olevson	62%
		EW	David Owen & Jim Stewart	61%
26-Aug	Open 10am	13	1 Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	64%
		2	2 Judy Marks & Adam Rutkowski	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Hymie Osie & David Osie	66%
		EW	George Bilski & Jennifer Rothwell	59%
27-Aug	Open 10am	11	1 Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	66%
		2	2 Denzil Seldon & Tina Osie	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	16	NS Elliot Kaplan & Peter Bendelstein	69%
		EW	Jillian & David Hagley	65%
28-Aug	Open 10am	16	1 Bijan Assae & Alexis Ngan	65%
		2	2 Tim Mountjoy & Richard Phillips	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	16	NS Janie Russ & Jeanette Reitzer	64%
		EW	Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	62%
29-Aug	Open 10am	7	1 Allan Pike & Robin Devries	64%
		2	2 Ian MacLaren & Malcolm Martin	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Brian Osbourne & Felix Shteyman	64%
		EW	Margaret Foster & Liz Fanos	56%
30-Aug	Open 1pm	19	NS Tony & Louise Leibowitz	60%
		EW	John Mottram & De Mitty	65%
	Open 1:30 pm	15	1 Eva Shand & Les Varadi	58%
		2	2 Brian Osbourne & Felix Shteyman	58%
31-Aug	Open 10am	15	1 Kay & Pat O'Connor	64%
		2	2 Maurice & Rachael Loomes	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Mischa Solar & Jeanette Reitzer	60%
		EW	Bob Lygo & David Burton	62%

## August BBO Open Monthly winners

OPEN	Open Winners (August)	MP Rank	Sess	Pts
1=	Bill Westwood	Silver Grand	27	149
1=	Tom Goodyer	Silver Grand	27	149
3=	Eva Shand	Bronze Life	18	147
3=	Les Varadi	Silver Grand	18	147
5	Tim Mountjoy	Life	20	130
6	John Mottram	Silver Grand	31	117
7	Ian MacLaren	Silver Life	26	112



1=: Bill



1=: Tom:



=3 Eva and Les

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Early September Open Winners	Score
1-Sep	Open 10am	15	1 Barry Shine & Donald Cartwright	69%
		2	2 Thomas Fischer & Barbara Temple	66%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Eva Shand & Les Varadi	61%
2-Sep	Open 10am	14	EW Margaret Foster & Jenette Abrams	60%
		2	1 Elli Urbach & Kevin Davies	66%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Jenny Genocchio & Jan Winn	59%
		2	EW Ron Speiser & Bernard Edelstein	59%
	Open 7pm	17	NS Elliot Kaplan & Arlene Normand	64%
3-Sep	Open 10am	10	EW Ramesh Karnani & Nurani Krishnan	67%
		2	EW David Wurth & Nick Fahrer	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Ron Speiser & Joe Barda	63%
		2	EW Barbara Abraham & Keith Walker	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Neil Williams & Lydia Gibbs	66%
4-Sep	Open 10am	11	EW Marika Lorsch & Peter Boulton	63%
		2	EW Elli Urbach & Judy Osie	70%
	Open 1:30 pm	17	NS Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	67%
5-Sep	Open 10am	7	NS Brett Slater & Tony Halse	62%
		2	EW Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	64%
		2	EW David Hagley & Janet Crocker	59%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Eva Shand & Les Varadi	73%
6-Sep	Open 1pm	12	EW Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	59%
		2	NS Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	60%
	Open 1pm	12	EW Eva Shand & Les Varadi	64%
7-Sep	Open 10am	16	NS Rachael & Maurice Loomes	62%
		2	EW Elli Urbach & Adam Rutkowski	60%
	Open 1:30 pm	20	NS Ariene Normand & Gloria Simmons	61%
			EW Roslyn Hunyor & Helen Jeffery	71%

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Mid September Open Winners	Score
14-Sep	Open 10am	14	1 Joe Barda & Ron Speiser	65%
		2	2 Catherine Else & Jenny Barnes	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Margaret Foster & Robbie Feyder	66%
15-Sep	Open 10am	16	EW Felix Shteyman & Brian Osbourne	65%
		2	1 Joan Polivnick & Peter Bendelstein	67%
	Open 1:30 pm	18	NS Ron Speiser & George Bilski	66%
		2	EW Ceiny Maybury & Lydia Gibbs	59%
	Open 7pm	18	NS Maria Remedios & Lois Chambers	67%
16-Sep	Open 10am	16	EW Robyn Noach & Sandra Milner	68%
		2	NS Stacey Gardiner & Peter Boulton	63%
	Open 1:30 pm	18	EW Judy Osie & Peter Jeffery	72%
		2	NS Jennifer Rothwell & George Bilski	59%
	Open 7pm	18	EW Hymie Osie & David Osie	66%
17-Sep	Open 10am	11	NS Thomas & Pru Siemsglue	62%
		2	EW Marilyn Grass & Barbara Madeley	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	15	NS Sunny Pang & Malcolm Clift	58%
18-Sep	Open 10am	11	NS Narelle Clark & Jann Cathels	61%
		2	EW David Smee & Derek Maltz	67%
	Open 1:30 pm	15	NS Anne Bates & Joe Barda	61%
19-Sep	Open 10am	7	EW Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	63%
		2	NS John Mottram & Helen Christie	60%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	EW Anne Cooper & Fiona Russell	59%
			NS David Hagley & Janet Crocker	57%
			EW Ian Bailey & Peter Robinson	59%
			EW Rachael & Maurice Loomes	61%

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Early September Open Winners	Score
8-Sep	Open 10am	16	1 Ron Speiser & George Bilski	66%
		2	2 Judy Marks & Derek Maltz	60%
	Open 1:30 pm	17	NS Giza Fletcher & Peter Gill	62%
9-Sep	Open 10am	12	EW Eva Shand & Les Varadi	66%
		2	NS Donald Cartwright & Joe Barda	65%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	EW Denise Kavvat & Judy Perl	61%
		2	NS Ron Speiser & George Bilski	61%
	Open 7pm	15	EW Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	64%
10-Sep	Open 10am	11	NS Tim Mountjoy & Patricia Lacey	69%
		2	EW John Mottram & Anne Bates	66%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Arthur Bragg & Alan Pike	62%
		2	EW Julie & Mark Guthrie	62%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	NS Neil Perry & John Mottram	68%
11-Sep	Open 10am	13	EW Andrew Markovics & Tony Bourke	63%
		2	NS Judy Osie & Elli Urbach	68%
	Open 1:30 pm	13	EW Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	66%
		2	NS John Mottram & Helen Christie	59%
	Open 1:30 pm	13	EW Bruce & Joyce Edwards	63%
12-Sep	Open 10am	8	NS Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	62%
		2	EW Kay & Pat O'Connor	61%
	Open 1:30 pm	18	NS Kathryn Brien & Michael Bishop	65%
13-Sep	Open 1pm	16	EW Michele Fendel & Janice Olevson	60%
		2	NS Brian Osbourne & Felix Shteyman	63%
	Open 1pm	16	EW Ruth Tobin & Steven Bock	64%

Date	NSBC BBO Event Name	T	Late September Open Winners	Score
20-Sep	Open 1pm	18	NS Margaret Pussell & Carole Westhoff	62%
		2	EW Margaret Owen & Sunny Pang	62%
	Open 10am	11	NS Elana Sacks & Tina Osie	62%
21-Sep	Open 10am	11	EW Bill Westwood & Tom Goodyer	61%
		2	NS Rachael & Maurice Loomes	67%
	Open 1:30 pm	19	EW Colin Clifford & Jeanette Abrams	69%

## BBO September Current Open Monthly leaders (to Sep 19)

Pos	Leaders SEP Open	MP Rank	Sess	MPs
1	Ron Speiser	Grand	11	4.49
2	Tim Mountjoy	Life	18	4.10
3	John Mottram	Silver Grand	22	3.61
4	Patricia Lacey	Grand	14	3.52
5	Elli Urbach	Silver Grand	6	3.43
6=	Eva Shand	Bronze Life	10	3.26
6=	Les Varadi	Silver Grand	10	3.26
6=	Bill Westwood	Silver Grand	16	3.26
6=	Tom Goodyer	Silver Grand	16	3.26

**Note:** Process has been changed to Masterpoint accumulation for September BBO sessions

ABF MASTER RANKINGS				
Rank	Minimum Requirements			
	Total	Green	Red &	Gold
Graduate	2	2		
Club	5	5		
Local	15	15		
*Local	25	25		
**Local	35	35		
Regional	50	50		
*Regional	100	100		
State	50	25	25	
*State	100	50	50	
National	150	75	75	
*National	200	100	100	
**National	300	150	150	
Life	300	120	180	30
Bronze Life	400	160	240	40
Silver Life	500	200	300	50
Gold Life	750	300	450	75
Grand	1000	300	700	200
Silver Grand	2500	600	1900	600
Gold Grand	5000	1000	4000	1400
Emerald Grand	10000	1500	8500	3000
Diamond Grand	15000	2000	13000	5000





## Defence – Counting Points and Tricks

*By Pat O'Connor*

East
♠ QJT9
♥ A3
♦ T32
♣ 9752

We are sitting East. South opens 1NT, West passes and North raises to 3NT. This is an auction that reveals minimal information to the defenders. All pass, partner leads the ♥2 and dummy comes down.

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1NT	15-17 Balanced		
3NT	To Play (no Majors)		

Partners Lead: ♥2

North		East	
♠ 62		♠ QJT9	
♥ 964		♥ A3	
♦ KQ54		♦ T32	
♣ AK63		♣ 9752	

On partner's lead dummy plays small ♥4 and we win with the ♥A.

### Q1 How many HCP does partner have?

Declarer has 15-17 and in Dummy we can see 12 hcp. We have 7hcp in your hand. That leaves only 4-6 hcp for partner, not a lot.

### Q2 How are the hearts distributed around the table?

Partner's ♥2 is probably from a four-card suit. Dummy has three hearts and we have two, so declarer will have four. So, with seven cards

between declarer and dummy, this is their suit. We need partner to have started with ♥KQ102 or ♥KQJ2 to score four tricks there, and he would have led the ♥K from those holdings. And even if somehow, we have four heart tricks, where is the setting trick coming from?

### Q3 Which suit should we switch to?

Dummy's diamonds and clubs look strong. So, the only feasible switch is to spades.

### Q4 Which card should we play?

We have an attractive sequence headed by the ♠Q, so it is the card to play. If declarer ducks, we will continue with the ♠J.

It turns out there is no way for declarer to avoid losing four spade tricks and the contract is defeated.

Full Deal.

North		East	
♠ 62		♠ QJT9	
♥ 964		♥ A3	
♦ KQ54		♦ T32	
♣ AK63		♣ 9752	

West	South (D)	
♠ A543	♠ K87	3NT/S Lead ♥ 2
♥ QT82	♥ KJ75	
♦ 876	♦ AJ9	
♣ 84	♣ QJT	

Vul nil	
Dir: S	

If we had continued hearts at Trick 2, declarer would have made the contract, nine tricks: one heart, four diamonds and four clubs.

### Postmortem

Do not return partner's suit if it cannot provide the tricks you need.

## Our Newer Player Team



## For our supervised players

The Monday evening and Tuesday morning BBO games are going well, and we are now playing 15 boards per session.

## BBO Supervised Session Results

Date	NSBC Event	T	Late August Supervised Winners	Score
24-Aug	M Supervised 7pm	5	Des Cohen & Hilton Rosenthal	67%
25-Aug	T Supervised 10:30am	5	Trish Dunncliff & Beverley Piper	64%
31-Aug	M Supervised 7pm	4	Louise James & Bev Caruana	60%
Date	NSBC Event	T	Early September Supervised Winners	Score
1-Sep	T Supervised 10:30am	6	Mary Ferris & Lynne Bulloch	72%
7-Sep	M Supervised 7pm	4	Hilton Rosenthal & Des Gordon	69%
8-Sep	T Supervised 10:30am	4	Debbie Seidler & Jacinta Lidbetter	63%
14-Sep	M Supervised 7pm	3	Des Cohen & Hilton Rosenthal	54%
15-Sep	T Supervised 10:30am	5	Trish Dunncliff & Beverley Piper	57%
21-Sep	M Supervised 7pm	4	Judy Andrews & Louise James	64%

## For our rookie players

We now have BBO games available Monday through Saturday during the day, and an evening game on a Tuesday.

Weekly Rookie Schedule Sessions						
BBO weekly Schedule of NSBC Tournaments					Max	Changes
Day	Event		Rego	Play Start	Tables	
Mon	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20 C	Combined
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	
	Supervised	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	20 C	
Tues	Supervised	M	8:30 AM	10:30 AM		
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	Pre-Game talk
	Rookie (<100MP)	E	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	20 C	
Wed	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	M	8.00 AM	10.00 AM	20 C	Combined
	Rookie (<100MP)	A	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	20 C	Pre-Game talk
Thurs	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
Fri	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
Sat	Rookie + Restr (<300MP)	A	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	20 C	Combined
Code M = morning, A = Afternoon, E = Evening, C = Clock, m = mins						
*Pre-Game Talk \$10.00 - contact Kay Moyes moyes_kay@hotmail.com						

We have pregame talks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Kim Neale and Liz Wilkinson, and full lessons with Jessica Brake and Anita Curtis Wednesday to Friday.

## Understanding Pairs scoring:

You may have noticed your teachers mentioning "playing Pairs" or "Playing teams". The bridge is the same, but the scoring – and hence the tactics – are a bit different. The games that we play each day use "Pairs" or "Matchpoint" scoring. How does it work?

The computer awards you 2 MPs for each pair your score betters, and 1 MP for each pair your score equals. The computer then adds up your MPs and generally shows it as a **percentage of the maximum available Matchpoint** score on the board. This is best understood by looking the example below:

You were sitting **NS**, defending 4♠, but EW made 11 tricks for your score of **-450** at the table (**your score shown in Yellow below**).

2 scores were **worse** (-480,-460) = 2x2 = 4  
 You **equalled** with 3 more (-450) = 3x1 = 3  
 3 NS scores were better (+50) = 3x0 = 0

-----  
 Your total Match Points on the board = 7  
 Max MP on the board (T-1) x2 = 8x2 = 16  
 (where T is the number of Tables)  
 Your percentage board score = 7/16 = **44%**

						MP'S		Percentages	
Contract/Tricks/Lead			NS Scores			NS	EW	NS	EW
6♣	W	11	♥A	50		14	2	88%	13%
6♣	W	11	♥A	50		14	2	88%	13%
6♣	E	11	♥Q	50		14	2	88%	13%
5♣	E	11	♥Q		-450	7	9	44%	56%
5♣	W	11	♥A		-450	7	9	44%	56%
4♣	W	11	♥A		-450	7	9	44%	56%
4♣	W	11	♥A		-450	7	9	44%	56%
3NT	E	11	♥Q		-460	2	14	13%	88%
5♣	W	12	♥A		-480	0	16	0%	100%
9 Tables = Max MP = (9-1) x 2 = 16 = 100%									

Or from **EW pair** perspective:

2 EW scores **bettered** (460,480) 2x0 = 0  
 3 EW scores **equalled** your 450 3x1 = 3  
 3 EW scores were **worse** (-50) 3x2 = 6

-----  
 Your EW Matchpoints = 9  
 Max MP on the board (T-1) x2 = 8x2 = 16  
 EW Percentage = 9/16 = **56%**

Note: **EW %** = 100% - **NS%** on any board





**Anita**



**Jessica**

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

**Build on the Basics** with **Jessica Brake** 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 on Zoom on **Wednesdays at 10am** for approximately 1 hour & **Thursdays at 10am** (approximately 1 hour).

Dates	<b>Build on Basics - Lesson Topic</b> <b>Wed 10am AND Thurs 10am</b>
Wed Sep 30	<b>Week 9 Responder's NT Bids</b>
Thur Oct 1	
Wed Oct 7	<b>Week 10 Focus on Defence - leads against suit contracts</b>
Thur Oct 8	
Wed Oct 14	<b>Week 11 Weak Twos</b>
Thur Oct 15	
Wed Oct 21	<b>Hand Analysis 1</b>
Thur Oct 22	
Wed Oct 28	<b>Week 12 Pre-empts</b>
Thur Oct 29	

**Develop Your Skills (DYS)** with **Anita Curtis** 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.



Date	Anita Curtis Thursday afternoon @ 2:00pm <b>Develop your skills - Lesson Topic</b>
Thur Sep 24	<b>Hand analysis 1</b>
Thur Oct 1	<b>Signalling is Legal - How do you tell partner you like/don't like the suit they led?</b>
Thur Oct 8	<b>Brilliant switches in defence. When shouldn't you return your partner's suit?</b>
Thur Oct 15	<b>Double or nothing – find out about penalty doubles</b>
Thur Oct 22	<b>You CAN bid slams in No Trumps</b>
Thur Oct 29	<b>Forcing or not? Improve your bidding by understanding what is forcing and what isn't.</b>

**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 morning @ 10am <b>Broaden your game/Intermediate - Lesson Topic</b>
Fri Sep 25	<b>Gentle Hand Analysis 21</b> for intermediate players to improve all skills
Fri Oct 2	<b>Fourth Suit Forcing part 2</b> – going to slam (Continues from part 1). 4SF is a wonderful tool if you are interested in slam. Bidding only session.
Fri Oct 9	<b>Gentle Hand Analysis 12</b> for players moving towards intermediate level to consolidate skills and learn new techniques.
Fri Oct 16	<b>Bergen</b> – a convention to help you bid games & slams. Distinguishing between 3 card support & 4 card support for partner's major suit opening.
Fri Oct 23	<b>Gentle Hand Analysis 22</b> for intermediate players & above to improve all skills
Fri Oct 30	<b>Plan the Play</b> How do you recognise what techniques are needed to make your contract?

## BBO Combined Rookie/Restricted Results

Date	NSBC Event	T		Rookie & Restricted Combined late August Winners	Score
24-Aug	M 10am Rookie & Restricted	3	1	Pauline Beckton & Jane Loveday	61%
			2	Owen Aubrey & John Bartrop	60%
26-Aug	W 10am Rookie & Restricted	4	1	Felix Shteyman & Lorna Davies	68%
			2	Jane Loveday & Karen Doecke	59%
27-Aug	T Rookie & Restricted 2pm	14	NS	Judy Chapple & Noni Glew	63%
			EW	Fiona Russell & Sue Morgan	69%
28-Aug	F Rookie & Restricted 2pm	11	NS	Fiona Russell & Sue Morgan	61%
			EW	Catherine Versi & Elizabeth Platt	70%
29-Aug	S Rookie & Restricted 2pm	6	NS	Liz & Bob Way	77%
			EW	Lynne Bulloch & Fiona Russell	63%
31-Aug	M Rookie & Restricted 2pm	5	1	Elizabeth Platt & Glenys Nice	62%
			2	Pauline Beckton & Jane Loveday	60%

## August Combined BBO Monthly winners

Pos	August Winners Combined Rookie & Restricted <300 MP < **National	MP Rank	Ses	Pts
1	Tien Chey	Regional	15	63
2	Felix Shteyman	Regional	14	58
3=	Don Mullineux	*Regional	13	40
3=	Mary Harrington	*Regional	13	40
5	Fiona Russell	State	7	34
6=	Jane Loveday	Regional	8	30
6=	Sharon Thompson	No rank	10	30



Date	NSBC Event	T	Rookie & Restricted Combined Early Sep Winners	Score
2-Sep	W 10am Rookie & Restricted	3	1 Glenys Nice & Catherine Versi	60%
			2 Alice Wood & Elana Kohn	57%
3-Sep	T Rookie & Restricted 2pm	11	1 Susan Holgate & Tricia Higgins	67%
			2 Tamra Brown & Yeung Cheung	60%
4-Sep	F Rookie & Restricted 2pm	12	1 Mary Craven & Jo Ampherlaw	66%
			2 Carol Colhoun & Margaret Easton	65%
5-Sep	S Rookie & Restricted 2pm	7	1 Fiona Russell & Vera Cranston	57%
			2 Philip Howes & Deborah Burt	57%
8-Sep	M Rookie & Restricted 2pm	4	1 Felix Shteyman & Lorna Davies	69%
			2 Pauline Beckton & Jane Loveday	62%
10-Sep	W 10am Rookie & Restricted	5	1 Felix and Marina Shteyman	67%
			2 Alice Wood & Liz Morell	55%
11-Sep	T Rookie & Restricted 2pm	13	NS Fiona Russell & Geraldine Newbegin	62%
			EW John Boyd & Penny Boyd	67%
12-Sep	F Rookie & Restricted 2pm	13	NS Felix Shteyman & Tien Chey	65%
			EW Yeung Cheung & Sue Gordon	69%
13-Sep	S Rookie & Restricted 2pm	8	NS Fiona Russell & Vera Cranston	61%
			EW Felix Shteyman & Tien Chey	60%
15-Sep	M Rookie & Restricted 2pm	6	1 Owen Aubrey & John Bartrop	67%
			2 Elizabeth Platt & Glenys Nice	65%

Date	NSBC Event	T	Rookie & Restricted Combined Mid-late Sep Winners	Score
17-Sep	W 10am Rookie & Restricted	1	1 Not Run	
18-Sep	T Rookie & Restricted 2pm	10	1 Don Mullineux & Mary Harrington	63%
			2 Penny Boyd & John Boyd	60%
19-Sep	F Rookie & Restricted 2pm	13	1 Lay-Yung Chu & Rosemary Stevens	65%
			2 Mary Harrington & Don Mullineux	65%
20-Sep	S Rookie & Restricted 2pm	5	1 Felix Shteyman & Tien Chey	70%
			2 Sue Gordon & Tricia Higgins	60%
22-Sep	M Rookie & Restricted 2pm	5	1 Owen Aubrey & John Bartrop	66%
			2 Elizabeth Platt & Glenys Nice	57%

## BBO September Current Combined Monthly leaders (to Sep 19)

Pos	Leaders SEP Combined Rookie & Restricted <300 MP < **National	MP Rank	Sess	MPs
1	Felix Shteyman	Regional	11	2.00
2=	Don Mullineux	*Regional	9	1.37
2=	Mary Harrington	*Regional	9	1.37
4	Fiona Russell	State	7	1.19
5	Tien Chey	Regional	8	1.12
6	Yeung Cheung	Regional	9	0.98
7=	Jo Ampherlaw	**Local	4	0.87
7=	Tricia Higgins	*Local	4	0.87
9	Mary Craven	Regional	5	0.80

Note: Process changed to Masterpoint accumulation from September BBO Sessions

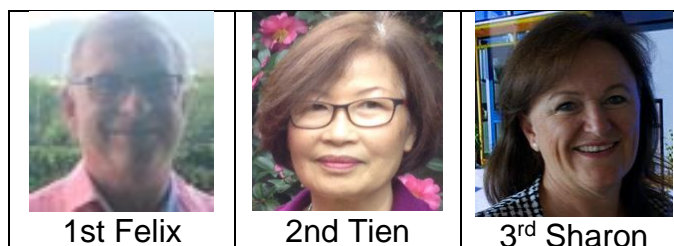
Note: Combined Monthly award is for players <300 MP i.e. < \*\*National Rank

## BBO Rookie Only Session Results

Date	NSBC Event	T	Rookie Only Mid-late August Winners	Score
24-Aug	M Rookie 2pm	18	NS Yeung Cheung & Mary James	65%
			EW Sharon Thompson & David Boyle	68%
25-Aug	T Rookie 2pm	13	NS Judy Bursie & Saras Brooks	60%
			EW Deborah Burt & Felix Shteyman	67%
	Rookie 7pm	7	NS Jack & Leesa Abrams	63%
			EW Yvonne Rawack & Michelle Levy	59%
26-Aug	W Rookie 2pm	20	NS Judy Bursie & Judy Chapple	72%
			EW Sharon Thompson & Caroline Needham	62%
31-Aug	M Rookie 2pm	15	NS Harry Haberlin & Jo Ampherlaw	67%
			EW Robyne Fleming & Sue Gordon	67%

## August Rookie BBO Monthly winners

Pos	Winner August Rookie only (<100 MP < *Regional)	MP Rank	Sess	Pts
1	Felix Shteyman	Regional	24	121
2	Tien Chey	Regional	19	88
3	Sharon Thompson	No Rank	19	84
4	Sue Gordon	Regional	24	83
5	Jo Ampherlaw	**Local	15	76
6	Yeung Cheung	Regional	26	67
7	Deborah Burt	Graduate	15	66



Date	NSBC Event	T		Rookie Only Early September Winners	Score
1-Sep	Rookie 2pm	18	NS	Felix Shteyman & Robyn Walker	74%
	Rookie 7pm	7	EW	Yeung Cheung & Sue Gordon	59%
2-Sep	Rookie 2pm	20	NS	Neil Edwards & Marina Shteyman	61%
			EW	Yvonne Rawack & Michelle Levy	62%
7-Sep	Rookie 2pm	17	NS	Don Mullineux & Mary Harrington	68%
			EW	Marg Daridis & Robyn Walker	62%
8-Sep	Rookie 2pm	12	NS	Karen Doecke & Kerry Barling	59%
	Rookie 7pm	7	EW	Harry Haberlin & Jo Ampherlaw	75%
9-Sep	Rookie 2pm	20	NS	John & Yvonne Buttenshaw	61%
			EW	Brian Emanuel & Jo Ampherlaw	63%
14-Sep	Rookie 2pm	19	NS	Jack & Leesa Abrams	66%
			EW	Yvonne Rawack & Michelle Levy	61%
15-Sep	Rookie 2pm	14	NS	Liz Morell & Kerry Barling	63%
	Rookie 7pm	5	EW	Mary Harrington & Don Mullineux	67%
16-Sep	Rookie 2pm	20	NS	Dianne Cox & Stephen Freeman	58%
			EW	Robyne Fleming & Sue Gordon	62%
21-Sep	Rookie 2pm	19	NS	Peter Walsh & Sharon Thompson	60%
			EW	Deborah Burt & Felix Shteyman	60%
22-Sep	Rookie 2pm	18	NS	Felix & Marina Shteyman	71%
			EW	Jack & Leesa Abrams	59%
23-Sep	Rookie 2pm	17	NS	Douglas Irvin & Mary Ann Irvin	68%
			EW	Judy Winning & Sue Rutkowski	60%
24-Sep	Rookie 2pm	16	NS	Pam Bender & Carol Colhoun	64%
			EW	Karen & Craig Pudig	63%

## BBO September Current Rookie Monthly leaders (to Sep 19)

Pos	Leader SEP Rookie only (<100 MP <*Regional)	MP Rank	Sess	Pts
1	Felix Shteyman	Regional	16	3.11
2	Jo Ampherlaw	**Local	11	1.92
3	Tien Chey	Regional	13	1.77
4	Sue Gordon	Regional	16	1.61
5	Yeung Cheung	Regional	17	1.48
6	Robyn Walker	Local	6	1.29
7	Vera Cranston	Regional	7	1.23
8	Sue Rutkowski	Local	7	1.22

Note a): Rookie Monthly award is for players <100 MP i.e. < \*Regional Rank

Note b): Process changed to Masterpoint accumulation from September BBO sessions onwards



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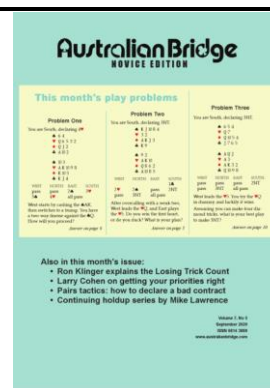
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The following article was published in the magazine Australian Bridge Novice edition.

It is published every 2 months and is full of interesting articles aimed at our Rookie level.



The chosen topic here is the **Losing Trick Count**, an idea that both our Tuesday and Wednesday pregame talks have included recently. Note a slight difference: Ron talks about subtracting from 24 to give the number of tricks you can take, whereas we have been talking about subtracting from 18 to give the safe level of bid - it comes to the same answer.

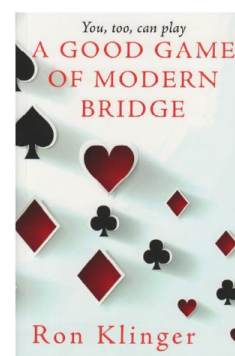
In the full article, Ron gives an alternate method, but to keep it simpler, we have just shown one method here.

Kay Moyes

## WHAT IS THE LOSING TRICK COUNT?



By **Ron Klinger**, author of some excellent and easy to read bridge books



It is a way of estimating the number of tricks your side will take in a trump contract. The great advantage is that it is significantly more accurate than point count.

**WHEN CAN I USE IT?** You need a good trump fit, at least eight cards together OR a self-sufficient trump suit at least six cards long.



### WHAT IS THE LTC FORMULA?

- Count your losers
- Add partner's losers
- Deduct this total from 24

The answer is the number of tricks you and partner will make most of the time in the agreed trump suit.

**COUNTING YOUR LOSERS.** The maximum number of losers in a suit is three. Look at just the top three cards in each suit and count the Ace, King or Queen as a winner. Count a loser for each of the Ace, King or Queen you are missing in a three-card or longer suit. Some examples:

3 Losers	2 Losers	1 loser	No Loser
J87	A54	AK5	AKQ
J874	K762	AK32	AKQJ
5432	K9643	AQ76	AKQ2
97642	QT754*	KQ4	AKQ43
865432	QJ8432*	KQ8432	AKQ542

- Axx is clearly better than Qxx.
- Where your suit is headed by the Queen, count two losers if you have the jack or ten as well, but count 2½ losers for suits headed by Q98 or worse.
- If the suit contains the AQ or KQ, the Queen counts as a full trick.
- If your Qxx or longer is in partner's long suit, you may count the Queen as a full trick.

### COUNTING LOSERS IN SHORT SUITS

Doubletons:

AK = no losers,  
AQ or KQ = 1 loser,  
Ax or Kx = 1 loser,  
others = 2 losers.

Singletons:

Ace = no losers,  
all others = 1 loser.

Void: No losers.

### MORE EXAMPLES

Cards	Losers	
♠ AQ62	1	
♥ J4	2	
♦ K73	2	
♣ K942	2	7
Cards	Losers	
♠ KQ962	1	
♥ A98	2	
♦ K7	1	
♣ 862	3	7
Cards	Losers	
♠ Q843	2x	
♥ Q7542	2x	
♦ AK	0	
♣ J9	2	7

From these example hands you can see that a minimum opening hand without much shape has around **7 losers**.

### ASSESSING PARTNER'S LOSERS

So, count a minimum opening hand (12-15 points) as **7 losers**. For each 3-point range better than this, deduct one loser. For each 3-point range worse than this, add one loser.

Thus:

6-9 points = 9 losers  
10-12 points = 8 losers  
13-15 points = 7 losers  
16-18 points = 6 losers  
19-21 points = 5 losers

If partner has an opening hand or better, play partner for 7 losers or fewer.

If partner does not have opening values, play partner for 8 losers or worse.

If you and partner have a decent trump fit:

- If partner opens and you have seven losers, game should be bid, a good bet.
- If partner has an opening hand and you have five losers, slam should be investigated.

If the LTC indicates that you have 12 or 13 tricks potential, do not bid a slam without making sure first that the opponents cannot cash two quick tricks against a small slam. An LTC of 12, indicating 12 tricks potential, is little comfort if they cash two Aces.

For a grand slam, you need trick potential of 13 (or more!) and all the Aces plus the K-Q of trumps. If all are present, bid the grand slam.

## WHY DEDUCT FROM 24?

Maximum losers in one suit = 3.

Maximum losers in your whole hand therefore = 12.

So, maximum losers in the two hands = 24.

What accounts for the difference between the maximum losers possible and the actual losers? **The tricks you will win.**

The LTC is a quick way of counting tricks, it is quicker than actually counting the Aces, Kings and Queens and cards beyond three in each suit. Some examples follow:

West	East
♠ AQ543	♠ K8762
♥ AQ7	♥ 3
♦ 984	♦ 73
♣ 96	♣ A7542
1♠	4♠

West has a minimum opening 1♠, with 7 losers. East has superb support and again 7 losers.

7 + 7 = 14; 24 - 14 = 10 tricks expected.  
So, raise to game 4♠

West	East
♠ AKQJ43	♠ 62
♥ A8	♥ KQ4
♦ A84	♦ 9632
♣ 96	♣ J732
1♠	1NT
4♠	Pass

Here West has a five loser hand and opened 1♠. East's 1NT response, 6-9 points, figures to hold 9 losers.

5 losers + 9 losers = 14 losers, subtract from 24 = 10 tricks expected. So, bid 4♠


West	East
♠ 3	♠ 8754
♥ AQ753	♥ K862
♦ AQ984	♦ 73
♣ 73	♣ K96
1♥	2♥
4♥	Pass

Here West has a five loser hand and opened 1♥. East's 6-9 point raise will usually be 9 losers.

5 losers + 9 losers = 14; 24 - 14 = 10 tricks.  
So, bid game 4♥

Note that if West bid an invitational bid after the 2♥ raise, East would reject the invitation since they have their full 9 losers and West looks to have only 6 losers for the invite.

One huge benefit is that you can use the Losing Trick Count even if partner has never heard of it. The LTC is not a convention but simply a better means of valuing hands where a trump fit exists. If you know partner's approximate point count, you can apply the LTC.



### Thinking Bridge

Adapted from an **Eddie Kantar** article in the ACBL Bridge feed website.

West		North	East (D)
♠ KQT42		♠ 876	♠ J3
♥ 765		♥ T	♥ AKJ4
♦ AK		♦ Q542	♦ JT98
♣ 832		♣ AQ764	♣ JT9
4♥/S Lead ♥3		South	Vul EW Dir: E
		♠ A95	
		♥ Q9832	
		♦ 763	
		♣ K5	

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East (D)	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass
Bidding Notes			
1♠	5+♠, Opening		
2NT	11-12 Bal, but no 3♠		
Pass	12+(11-12) = <game (26) so Pass		

**Bidding commentary:** East's passed-hand leaps to 2NT showing a balanced 11 or 12 high-card points, usually 11 since most 12-point hands are opened these days. Incidentally, a two-level response in a major, 2♥ in this case, passed hand or not, should guarantee at least **five cards** in the suit.

**Lead commentary:** South leads the ♥3. This is a normal lead choice. How can South know that a heart lead is heading smack into East's strongest suit?

#### Play commentary:

- T1 South leads the fourth highest heart ♥3, west ♥5, partner ♥T, East wins the ♥J
- T2 East then starts on spades by leading the ♠J, the high honour from the short side. There are side entries to dummy (♦AK), so south wins with the ♠A, Partner playing the ♠6

**Defensive commentary:** After winning the second trick, South starts to count declarer's likely winning **tricks** as

- four spades, East must have ♠2
- three hearts, East has ♥AKJ
- at least two diamonds (♦AK on table)

for a total of nine running tricks as soon as declarer or dummy regains the lead.

If South entertains any hope of defeating this contract, it must be in the club suit, and must be right now!

East, a passed hand, has already turned up with 9 HCP (the ♥AKJ and the ♠J) and cannot have the ♠A. If North has the ♠Q as well, a shift to the ♠K might really hit the jackpot and defeat the contract. Go for it!

T3 South switches with an attacking ♠K lead, ♠2, ♠7 (high club encouraging from partner), declarer the ♠9.

T4 South continues ♠2, and as it happens, the defenders can race off five clubs' tricks and defeat the contract by one trick!

**Counting declarer's tricks and points is a must-do. So, try it.**

#### Another Hand:

West		North (D)	East
♠ AKJ94		♠ Q86	♠ T32
♥ 6		♥ K43	♥ AQ
♦ J982		♦ AKT3	♦ 754
♣ T98		♣ AQJ	♣ 76543
4♥/S Lead ♠A		South	Vul NS Dir: N
		♠ 75	
		♥ JT9875	
		♦ Q6	
		♣ K2	

Standard Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1♦	19hcp flat - Open 1D		
2♥	Weak 2 in Hearts 4-7hcp		
4♥	Game try		



**Bidding commentary:** North's opening 1♦, is normal on a balanced hand stronger than our 1NT range 15-17. South's 2♥ bid is pre-emptive, resembling a 2♥ weak 2 opening bid, showing 6 hearts and a 4-7 hcp. North bids on to 4♥ with his 19hcp and 3 hearts in a known 6-3 fit.

### Lead commentary

West leads the ♠A (ace from AK) which is a normal start by West.

### Defensive commentary:

East can see four defensive tricks (as he will win 2 trumps ♥AQ) if West can be persuaded to cash the ♠K as well.

If East plays a low spade at trick one, West is apt to switch to a club, trying to build up a trick in that suit before the declarer can establish the ♠Q for a club discard. East can see that a minor-suit shift could be disastrous. It is up to East to take charge and play the ♠T at trick one, "faking" a doubleton. No matter.

- T1 West leads the ♠A, Dummy ♠6, East plays an encouraging ♠T, and declarer follows with the ♠5
- T2 West now continues with the ♠K, Once West can be tricked into cashing his ♠K, East knows the contract will be defeated.

Every so often, third hand should encourage partner to continue the suit that has been led even though third hand has worthless cards in the suit. Why?

Because third hand can see that if partner continues the suit, the contract will be defeated, but he if shifts, disaster could ensue.

**Yes, little white lies are a part of this game, too.**



### Third Hand High and when to cover

Adapted from an **Andrew Robson** article from his ARBC website

This (**Third Hand High**) is perhaps the single most important motto for defenders. Bridge is the ultimate partnership game. When you are playing the third card to the trick, your partner has already played a card. If your partner has led low and the second card (of dummy's, or declarer's hand during the play) is also low, you must play high, or declarer will win a cheap trick.

	North	
West	♠762	East (you)
♠K953		♠QT4
	South	
	♠AJ8	

After partner west leads ♠3, North plays ♠2, you must play your ♠Q, or declarer will win a cheap trick with ♠J.

	North	
West	♥862	East (you)
♥KT53		♥AJ4
	South	
	♥Q97	

After partner leads ♥3, Dummy plays ♥2, you must play ♥A, not ♥J, to prevent declarer winning ♥Q. After winning ♥A, you should return ♥J, the top of two remaining. In this way the defence can scoop the entire suit without blockage (especially important at notrumps).

### Third Hand Plays High. but cheaper of touching cards (highest card necessary)

	North	
West	♠762	East (you)
♠J953		♠KQ4
	South	
	♠AT8	

After partner leads ♠3, dummy playing the ♠2, you must play ♠Q, the cheaper card. If West sees the trick proceed ♠3, ♠2, ♠K (erroneously), ♠A, he should deduce that declarer holds ♠Q.

	North	
West	♥862	East (you)
♥K753		♥QJT
	South	
	♥A94	

After partner leads ♥3, dummy ♥2, you play ♥T. When West sees this force out declarer's ♥A, West can deduce that you also have ♥QJ – or declarer would have won the trick more cheaply.

	North	
West	♦A52	East (you)
♦Q63		♦JT94
	South	
	♦K87	

West leads ♦3, dummy playing ♦2 and you as East should play ♦9, the cheaper of your highest cards. When West sees this force out declarer's ♦K, he can deduce that you also have ♦J10 – or declarer would have won the trick more cheaply.

It is the beauty of the partnership. It does not matter to you which of the equals you play. But it helps partner hugely to correctly draw the right inferences.

### Defence: When to cover an honour with an honour?

When declarer or dummy leads an honour, the default position is usually to cover the honour with your higher honour, to draw two of declarer's high cards for one of yours:

	North	
West	♠Q42	East (you)
♠T873		♠K95
	South	
	♠AJ6	

If you as East, are too mean to play ♠K on dummy's ♠Q. The ♠Q will win and then the ♠2 to ♠J will follow, enabling declarer to score all three tricks. If instead, cover ♠Q with ♠K and declarer can win ♠A and ♠J, but not ♠Q.

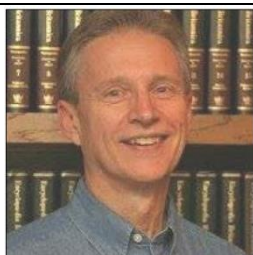
But do not always cover an honour with an honour as a reflex reaction, however. If there is no chance of promoting lower cards for your side (effectively the point of covering an honour with an honour), then do not bother.

	North	
West	♠QJT9	East (you)
♠7532		♠K84
	South	
	♠A6	

If the ♠Q is led, you as East should play ♠4. You can see that covering ♠Q with ♠K declarer will promote ♠J109 and not a spade in your partner's hand.

On this deal, by playing ♠4 on ♠Q, declarer's ♠A will win the second round perforce (because he only has two spades) and your ♠K will be a third-round winner.

**So, cover an honour with an honour if you think you can promote lower cards for your side. Otherwise do not.**



**Brett Manley**

**Brett Manley** was a guest co-editor of the Gold Coast daily bulletin. IPBA executive member and WBF bulletin editor.

Article was adapted from a **Brent Manly** article "With Trumps or Without" in the Bridge feed Website

North		Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ A63		West (D)	North	East	South
♥ KJ86		3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT
♦ QJ65		All Pass			
♣ 75		Bidding Notes			
		3♣	Non Vul Pre-empt 6+♣		
South		3NT	15-18 Bal with ♣ stopped		
♠ KJT84		West (D)	North	East	South
♥ 94		3♣	Pass	Pass	X
♦ AK		Pass	4♣	Pass	4♣
♣ A864		Bidding Notes			
		3♣	Non Vul Pre-empt 6+♣		
		X	Takeout Double		
		4♣	Pick a Major p		
		4♣	To Play		

## Bidding

This hand was played in a Teams' match, and at both tables, West started the bidding with a 3♣ pre-emptive opening.

You (South) choose at the first table, to bid 3NT (15-18) in fourth seat.

At the other table, the person in your seat chose to double (takeout and Values) and partner bid 4♣ (you choose a major suit partner) and so landed in a 4♣ game contract.

The full deal:

West (D)		North		East	
♠ 952		♠ A63		♠ Q7	
♥ 73		♥ KJ86		♥ AQT52	
♦ 84		♦ QJ65		♦ T9732	
♣ KQJT92		♣ 75		♣ 3	
3NT/S		South		Vul NS	
Lead ♠K		♠ KJT84		Dir: W	
		♥ 94			
		♦ AK			
		♣ A864			

At both tables West leads the ♠K. Plan the play to make both your contracts.

## Preliminary Analysis in 3NT/S on ♠K lead

Winners: 2♠+4♦+1♠ = 7

Losers: Clubs after you take ♠A, and ♥A Strategies for making 9 tricks.

- Establish the spade suit avoiding West getting on lead. Assuming ♥A is with east

## Best Solution at 3NT

The play 3NT was routine, once you assume that East has the ♥A (else you have little to no chance).

- T1 Declarer ducked West's ♠K lead, everybody following.
- T2 Declarer won the ♠Q continuation with the ♠A, whilst East discarded a small diamond ♦2.
- T3-4 Declarer then unblocked the diamonds by cashing the both the ♦AK. All following
- T5 Declarer then took the standard avoidance play of running the ♠J to East's ♠Q. The last thing you want is to have to finesse into a short ♠Q into the West hand
- T6 East was endplayed and exited with a diamond ♦T and declarer had the required nine tricks (4x♠+4x♦+1♠ = 9).

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The full deal and alternate bidding repeated:

		North			
		♠ A63			
West (D)		♥ KJ86		East	
♠ 952		♦ QJ65		♠ Q7	
♥ 73		♣ 75		♥ AQT52	
♦ 84				♦ T9732	
♣ KQJT92		South		♣ 3	
		♠ KJT84			
4♠/S		♥ 94		Vul NS	
Lead ♠K		♦ AK		Dir: W	
		♣ A864			
West (D)	North	East	South		
3♣	Pass	Pass	X		
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♣		

### Preliminary Analysis in 4♠/S on ♠K lead

Top Winners: 2♠+4♦+1♣ = 7, + long spades

Top Losers: ♥A, maybe deep ♥Q and ♠Q

Strategies for making 10 tricks.

- Take the ♠A, else East can ruff next
- Need to unblock ♦AK, to enjoy 4 tricks
- Play east for ♠Q and ♥A

### Best Solution in 4S contract

- T1 West leads the ♠K and declarer wins with the ♠A. East must be void in clubs now.
- T2 Declarer plays a trump ♠4, to the ♠A, all following.
- T3 Declarer then leads a trump ♠3 from dummy, intending to finesse. Luckily, the ♠Q appears, so declarer takes this with the ♠K
- T4 Declarer then draws the remaining ♠9 from West with the ♠J
- T5-6 Then, after unblocking the diamonds by cashing the ♦AK, all following.
- T7 Declarer now needs to get to dummy, and plays a low heart ♥4 to the ♥J and East takes the trick with his ♥Q
- T8 East is down to red-suit cards only, he gets off play with a diamond to avoid conceding an overtrick.

Declarer claims and makes 10 tricks – five trumps, four diamonds and the ♠A.

### Note1: Best defence

4♣ can be defeated if West starts by the lead of his doubleton heart.

- T1 West leads the ♥7, and Declarer plays dummy's ♥J and East must take the ♥Q
- T2 East cashes the ♥A, West playing ♥3
- T3 East must exit with the ♣3. Declarer can do no better than win the ♠A
- T4-5 Declarer then unblocks the diamond suit (cashing the ♦AK)
- T6-7 Cashing 2 top spades, ♠K and then followed by the ♠A. Both EW follow, but the ♠Q drops from the East hand
- T8 Declarer now tries to cash the ♦Q but alas, it is West who has the third trump and he ruffs in with the ♠9
- T9 West then quickly cashes a club winner ♠Q for down one.

### Note2: But not if a heart ruff is attempted!

- T3 If East plays a third heart ♥2, instead of the club, declarer ruffs this with the ♠T from hand, as West discards a diamond.
- T4-5 Declarer continues with the unblocking of the diamonds trying to cash the ♦A and ♦K., but West can do no better than ruff the second diamond ♦K with the ♠2
- T6 West then plays the ♣K and Declarer wins this with the ♠A
- T7-8 Declarer now cashes the ♠K and ♠A, thus drawing the outstanding trumps,
- T9+ So, declarer throws his remaining club losers on dummy's top three red-suit winners (♦QJ and ♥K), together with his remaining trumps to make the 4♠ contract.

# Challenge hand 1 Solution

<b>East</b> ♠ 9 ♥ A98432 ♦ A762 ♣ J8	Matchpoints Dealer N who passes EW Vulnerable
<b>West</b> ♠ K4 ♥ KT65 ♦ KJ53 ♣ A95	South will bid 2♣ and if room; North will compete to 3♣  These cards were rotated for convenience

This deal comes from the NSBC BBO open session played on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Board 5 The full deal

	<b>North (D)</b> ♠ Q8765 ♥ QJ ♦ QT9 ♣ 763	
<b>West</b> ♠ K4 ♥ KT65 ♦ KJ53 ♣ A95		<b>East</b> ♠ 9 ♥ A98432 ♦ A762 ♣ J8
	<b>South</b> ♠ AJT32 ♥ 7 ♦ 84 ♣ KQT42	
4♥/W ♠6 lead		Vul EW Dir: N

## Suggested bidding

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	2♦	2♠
2NT	3♣	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠ or Pass
X			
Bidding Notes			
2♦	Multi - Weak M or Big Bal		
2♠	Overcall 5+♠		
2NT	Strong Inquiry		
3♣	Pre-Emption		
Pass	Have weak 2 - <Opening 6♥		
4♥	To Play		
X	If 4♠ (Vul), then Penalty X		

As North passes, East opens the auction with a 2♦ (Multi 2 bid, Either Weak (6 card Major) or a strong balanced hand).

But South overcalls 2♠ vulnerable.

West is sure that East has a Weak 2 but bids a forcing 2NT. North supports with a pre-emptive bid of 3♣. Your partner passes (confirming a weak 6+♥ suit). So, you bid the normal 4♥ game.

If NS advance to a 4♠ save, you would penalty double.

An alternate auction using weak 2 openings.

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	2♥	2♠
4♥	4♠ or Pass	Pass	
X			
Bidding Notes			
2♥	Weak 2 <Opening 6♥		
2♠	Overcall 5+♠		
4♥	To Play		
4♠	I am vul, guess to bid 4♠		
X	If 4♠ (Vul), then Penalty X		

## Play of the hands

### 4♥/West on ♠6 lead by North

#### Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 1♠+5♥+2♦+1♣= 9 tricks

Losers: ♠A, Deep 1♣ + maybe ♦ and ♥Q

Strategies for making 10 tricks

- Toss ♣ loser on the high ♠K
- Make a 3<sup>rd</sup>♦ if the break 3-2. Maybe 4 if ♦Q is onside in the South hand

T1 North leads ♠6 (4<sup>th</sup> from length), and South takes the ♠A.

T2 South then switches to the ♠K, you hop up with the ♠A, north following with ♣3

T3/4 Your draw trumps ♥A the ♥K, finishing in hand. All the trumps come down

T5 You cash the ♠K, discarding the club loser ♣J in dummy.

T6-7 You then cash ♦A (all following) and take the finesse of the ♦Q which loses, but you claim the rest of the tricks make 11 tricks (1♠+6♥+3♦+1♣) EW = +450

	<b>North (D)</b>	
	♠ Q8765	
<b>West</b>	♥ QJ	<b>East</b>
♠ K4	♦ QT9	♠ 9
♥ KT65	♣ 763	♥ A98432
♦ KJ53		♦ A762
♣ A95	<b>South</b>	♣ J8
	♠ AJT32	
4♠X/S	♥ 7	<b>Vul EW</b>
♥5 lead	♦ 84	<b>Dir: N</b>
	♣ KQT42	

Actual results on the hand: [Pianola B5 Link](#)

Contract and Leads				Freque	EW Scores		
					Result	MPs	Precent
4♠X	E	6	7♥	1x	-800	0	0%
4♠	S	10	5♥	1x	-620	2	5%
5♥	E	10	K♣	1x	-50	4	11%
4♠	N	9	A♥	2x	100	7	18%
4♠	S	8	5♥	5x	200	14	37%
4♥	E	10	K♣	1x	420	20	53%
5♥	E	11	K♣	6x	450	27	71%
4♥	E	12	K♣	1x	480	34	89%
4♠X	S	8	5♥	2x	500	37	97%
Played at 20 tables					Max MP = 19x2=38=100%		

The Matchpoint results from the 20 table BBO event are summarised above. To score well EW must reach 4♥ or to double a 4♠ save.

### 4♠X/S on ♥5 lead by West

#### Preliminary Analysis

Top Winners: 4-5♠+0♥+0♦+1♣= 6 tricks

Top Losers: ♥A, 2x♦, ♣A, maybe ♣J and ♠K

Strategy for keeping losses low. EW can surely make 4♥ (-420), so need to keep contract to -1 (-200) Target=9 tricks else will get poor match point Score

- Find ♣J for 4 club tricks
- Hope ♠K onside (unlikely)

- T1 West leads ♥5 (4<sup>th</sup> highest) to East's ♥A, everybody following.
- T2 East can see the next ♥ will be ruffed, so he cashes the ♦A, with West encouraging.
- T3 East continues with ♦2 (count) to West's ♦K
- T4 West now cashes the ♣A to ensure 1 off
- T5 West then continues with the ♣9 which South wins with the ♣K
- T6 South with no entry to North hand, so plays the ♠A and hopes. But the ♠K does not appear

South concedes the ♠K and claims the rest for 2 off doubled for -500, a Matchpoint bottom.

#### Understanding MPs -Matchpoint scoring:

The computer awards you 2 MPs for each pair your score betters, and 1 MP for each pair your score equals. The computer then adds up your MPs and generally shows it as a **percentage of the maximum available Matchpoint** score on the board.

Example from the results table above:

You were EW, and you made 5 in your 4♥ contract for a score of +450 at the table.

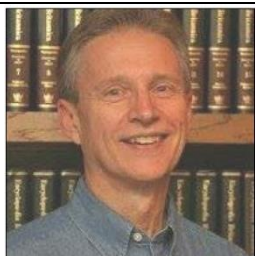
You beat 11 scores	= 11x2	=22
You drew with 5 more	= 5x1	=5
3 bettered your score	= 3x0	=0
		-----
Total Match Points		=27

Max MP on the board = 19x2	=38
Your percentage score = 27/38	=71%





## Solution Challenge Hand 2



**Brett Manley**

Brett Manley was a guest co-editor of the Gold Coast daily bulletin. IPBA executive member and WBF bulletin editor. These articles were adapted from articles by Brent "Go for it" and the next challenge "Silence is golden" from the ACBL bridge feed website.

North	
♠ A6	
♥ Q74	
♦ AKQ4	
♣ K732	
South (D)	
♠ J754	
♥ AK652	
♦ 86	
♣ A5	

Matchpoints

All: Nil Vul

South the dealer

West will overcall 2♠ weak 2 style, then EW will remain silent as you bid get to your best spot

### Suggested Bidding

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
2♠	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1♥	Normal 12hcp, 5♥		
2♠	Weak 2♠ interference		
3♠	Cue Raise, Good raise to game		
4♥	Game, Min no extras		
4♠	Cue, Slam interest, requests cues		
5♣	Cue ♠A is this what you need?		
6♥	To play should OK, I have 18 hcp		
Alternate route by Keycard			
4NT	Keycard (♥)		
5♣	3 or 0 Keycards (♥AK+♠A)		
6♥	To play should OK, I have 18 hcp		

You are South and open the bidding with a bare minimum 12hcp – you do have three quick tricks. West interferes with a weak 2♠ jump (weak long Spades). Your partner cue raises 3♠ (forcing to 4♥), you signoff in 4♥. He again cues 4♠, so you respond with a 5♣ cue and soon find yourself in a somewhat iffy 6♥ slam.

West leads the ♠K. Can you justify your partner's confidence and aggressive bidding? How do you manage to make 12 tricks in your 6♥ contract?

The full deal:

	North	
West	♠ A6	East
♠ KQT982	♥ Q74	♠ 3
♥ 8	♦ AKQ4	♥ JT93
♦ 932	♣ K732	♦ JT75
♣ QT6	South (D)	♣ J984
6♥/S	♠ J754	Vul Nil Dir: S
Lead ♠K (w)	♥ AK652	
	♦ 86	
	♣ A5	

### Preliminary Analysis

After the opening lead, declarer saw that even with trumps 3-2 he would have only 11 top tricks.

Winners: 5x♥+1x♠+3x♦+2x♣ = 11 tricks

Losers: 1♠, maybe 1♥ if they break poorly

Strategies for 12<sup>th</sup> trick

- Will have to win the initial ♠K lead, as east will likely be out of spades after 1 round.
- After rejecting as hopeless the idea of ruffing a spade in dummy, as south's trumps are not good enough to draw all the outstanding trumps, if I ruffed with the ♥Q.
- The likelihood of a squeeze in spades and a minor suit against West is only fractionally better chance.
- Declarer saw a possible answer: a sort of dummy reversal. But ruffing all minor losers in hand. He would need to safely cash all his top minor tricks and to ruff 2 clubs and the last Diamond in hand.

## Solution

1. West led the ♠K and declarer won with the ♠A. To duck was too dangerous. East the ♠3 and south ♠4.
2. Declarer then led a small trump ♥4 to hand to the ♥A. East ♥8 and West ♥3.
3. Declarer then cashed the ♥K, as west discarded a ♠2, he noted that the East now had a sure heart winner as he still held ♥JT after following with ♥9
4. Declarer then starting on his minor suit plan by cashing the ♣A Both EW following ♣6 and ♣4.
5. Then the ♣5 across to dummy's ♣K. Again, both EW following ♣T and ♣8.
6. Now the ♣3 from dummy for a ruff with the ♥2 in hand. Again, both EW following ♣9 and ♣Q.
7. Returning to dummy with ♦6 to ♦A, EW both following ♦2 and ♦5.
8. Now the last club in dummy ♣7, East following ♣J, to a ruff with ♥5 in hand.
9. Returning to dummy again via the ♦8 to ♦K. EW Following ♦3 and ♦7.
10. Declarer then cashed the ♦Q whilst in Dummy. Again, EW following ♦T and ♦9
11. Then the lead of the final ♦4, East following ♦J and ruffed in-hand with the last trump ♥6.

Declarer had made the first 11 tricks: the ♠A, , and five minor-suit top winners (♦AKQ, ♣AK), five trumps in hand (♥AK and 3 minor ruffs ♥652), and still had the master trump ♥Q left in dummy to come for the contract-fulfilling twelfth winner!

Declarer's plan had a little less than a 50-50 chance of succeeding but was his best available chance.

## Challenge Hand 3 Solution

North	Matchpoints
♠ 65	NS Vulnerable
♥ KQJT2	Dealer S
♦ 752	West will overcall 2NT (minors) and then EW will remain silent as you bid the hand to your best spot
♣ 542	
South (D)	
♠ AKQJT4	
♥ 63	
♦ AK6	
♣ AK	

## Silence is Golden

North	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ 65	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ KQJT2				2♣
♦ 752	2NT	3♥	Pass	4NT
♣ 542	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
	All Pass			
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ AKQJT4	2♣	GF, 3 Loser hand		
♥ 63	2NT	Interference, 55 minors		
♦ AK6	3♥	Positive, 5+ ♥ suit		
♣ AK	4NT	Keycard (♥)		
	6♣	To Play		

## The suggested Bidding

You (South) have a strong 3 loser hand, so open a game force 2♣. West interposes with a non-vulnerable 2NT (showing both Minors 55). Partner responds with a 3♥ bid (positive hand with 5+ hearts).

You have an extraordinarily strong spade hand, but have two weak hearts, so you decide to use 4NT (Keycard ask in hearts, to check for heart cover). Partner responds 5♣ (1 or 3 Heart Keycards), so you choose to bid the slam 6♣ in your self-sufficient spade suit.

Against your 6♣ slam, West starts by leading the ♦Q. Do you see a way to 12 tricks?

## Preliminary Analysis

Top Winners: 6♠+2♦+2♣ + force ♥ trick=11

Losers: ♥A and a Deep Diamond

Strategies for the 12<sup>th</sup>

- Force heart tricks for throwing the ♦ loser
- Risks: West has shown 55+ minors, so East will have both majors!

## Solution

Declarer counted 11 winners after dummy appeared. He saw that the only chance for the contract was for East to have the ♥A, and at most two diamonds and three clubs, almost certain on the 2NT bidding.

T1 So, after winning West's ♦Q lead with the ♦K in your hand (East playing ♦3).

T2-6 You as declarer drew five rounds of trumps ♠AKQJT, drawing all East's 5 trumps, throwing a diamond and two hearts from dummy.

T7-8 Next, you cashed the top clubs in your hand, ♣A and ♣K, both EW following.

T9 Then you lead ♥3 towards dummy's ♥J. East correctly withheld the ♥A and played a low heart ♥8.

T10 And now the importance of keeping a small club in dummy became clear when declarer led the ♣5 and ruffed it ♠4 with your last trump, thereby removing East's last minor-suit card.

T11 Declarer continued by cashing the ♦A (in case West had started with 0♠-3♥-5♦-5♣ shape), reducing everyone to just two cards only.

T12 Dummy had the ♥KQ and East the ♥A9. When declarer played a final heart ♥6 to the king, East could only take the ace at his leisure, but dummy would make a heart for declarer's vital 12<sup>th</sup> trick.

East was about to say something about the folly of West's overcall, but West spoke first: "I should have followed Terence Reese's advice of not bidding and showing my hand type pattern, as there was little chance our side would play the hand. All it did was to give declarer a clearer roadmap on how to make 12 tricks. Sorry."

The full deal:

	North	
	♠ 65	
West	♥ KQJT2	East
♠ -	♦ 752	♠ 98732
♥ 75	♣ 542	♥ A984
♦ QJT984		♦ 3
♣ QJT96	South (D)	♣ 873
	♠ AKQJT4	
6♠/S	♥ 63	
Lead ♦Q	♦ AK6	
	♣ AK	
		Vul NS
		Dir: S



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