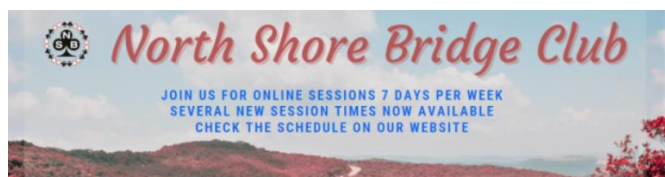


# NSBC Mid-July Update



2021 Mid-August Update Vol 4 Issue 08b Editor: Kevin Davies



## NSW Lockdown Continues

NSW lockdown will still extend for **many weeks at least!** Hence the closure of our F2F venues at East Lindfield and North Ryde RSL will continue.

**NSBC has expanded RealBridge playing sessions by extra sessions.**

[link to the weekly RB schedule page:](#)

## Editors' Comments

The **Mid Month Update** will focus more on articles for **Rookie** players, whilst the Newsletter (start of month) will focus more on **Open** player articles.

## Links to other Newsletters

NSWBA's [eCongress Newsletter](#)

ABF's [ABF Newsletter](#)

## Links to Our Club Session Results

These are updated regularly on our website.

- [Pianola](#)
- [RB results](#)
- [Monthly Full Winners List](#)

## Rookie Challenge hand 1 (Play)

North	Matchpoints
♠ 765	Uncontested Auction
♥ AQ65	
♦ AQ8	You get to a 5c Contract instead of 3NT
♣ T98	
South	West leads 2S
♠ K43	How are you going to make this contract?
♥ 3	
♦ 42	
♣ AKQJ765	

## Inside this Update:

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## Rookie Challenge Hand 2 (play)

North	
♠ 92	
♥ JT3	
♦ AK6	
♣ QT974	
South	
♠ AJ3	
♥ A94	
♦ Q53	
♣ AJ63	

The contract is 3NT by you (South)  
West leads ♠6.  
East plays the ♠Q.

How are you going to make this contract?

## Open Challenge Hand (Bid and Play)

North	Matchpoints
♠ AQ875	Nil Vul
♥ 64	
♦ A	
♣ AKT93	
South (S)	
♠ KJ942	
♥ AQ9	
♦ Q9872	
♣ -	

West will overcall your 1♠ opening with 2♠ (Michael's Cue showing 55 H+minor)

How do you bid to your best spot?  
Assuming you get to 7♠, West leads ♠6. What is the best line?



## NSBC Online Operations Manager

Mobile 0413 884805  
garybarwick@outlook.com  
**Gary Barwick**

♠ **Record Numbers Again!** So many of you are escaping the lockdown and isolation blues by playing on RealBridge and our session sizes are exploding. Weekends and mornings have become immensely popular. Please visit our [RealBridge Sessions](#) page on the NSBC website.

Covid Daily "NSBC Online" Expanded RealBridge Sessions				
Day	Session	Play Start	Session Size	Director
Mon	Open	10.00 AM	15 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Restricted+Rookie	10.00 AM	5 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Open	1.30 PM	25 Tables	Malcolm Martin
	Rookie	2.00 PM	25 Tables	Alan Pike
	Supervised	7.00 PM	5 Tables	Jenny Barnes
Tue	Open (Mini Duplicate)	7.30 PM	6 tables	Sue Crompton
	Open	10.00 AM	17 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Rookie	10.30 AM	5 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Supervised	10.30 AM	6 Tables	Kay Moyes
	Open	1.30 PM	25 Tables	Sue Crompton
Wed	Rookie	2.00 PM	20 Tables	Kim Neale
	Rookie	7.00 PM	10 Tables	Kim Neale
	Open	10.00 AM	18 Tables	Ronnie Ng
	Rookie	10.30 AM	5 Tables	Ronnie Ng
	Open	1.30 PM	25 Tables	Ronnie Ng
Thur	Rookie	2.00 PM	28 Tables	Ronnie Ng
	Open	7.00 PM	15 Tables	Craig Mietzke
	Open	10.00 AM	15 Tables	Brian Soutter
	Rookie	10.30 AM	7 Tables	Brian Soutter
	Open	1.30 PM	20 Tables	Angie Boulton
Fri	Restricted+Rookie	1.30 PM	15 Tables	Angie Boulton
	Supervised	2.00 PM	6 Tables	Allan Pike
	Open Competition	7.00 PM	30 Tables	Ronnie Ng
	Open	10.00 AM	15 Tables	Brian Soutter
	Rookie	10.30 AM	7 Tables	Brian Soutter
Sat	Open	1.30 PM	22 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Restricted+Rookie	1.30 PM	12 Tables	Sue Crompton
	Rookie	10.30 AM	New Trial	
	Supervised	10.30 AM	6 Tables	Jenny Barnes
	Open	1.30 PM	40 Tables	Brian Soutter
Sun	Restricted+Rookie	1.30 PM	16 Tables	Brian Soutter
	Open	1.30 PM	16 Tables	Brian Soutter
	Rookie	2.00 PM	8 Tables	Brian Soutter
New & Special Daytime Events on RealBridge				
Thursday Open Competition Nights – Booking required via website				
<u>Underway</u> – July 8th, 15th & 22nd Thursday Night – <b>Club Open Teams Championship</b> " 4 Nights red points & Good cash prizes.				
Aug 26th, 2nd 9th September Thursday Night – <b>Club Open BAM Teams Championship</b> " 3 Nights red points & Good cash prizes.				
Aug 11th, 18th 25th – <b>RB Open Pairs Championship</b> " 3 Wednesday Afternoons red points & Good cash prizes.				

## Major Competition Night Events

[Club Teams Championships](#) is underway, and no new entries are allowed. This runs till 19/Aug Starting on Thursday 26/Aug the [Club Board a Match Teams](#) 3 Nights of teams' bridge, but with

a Matchpoint flavour. These dates have been changed.



### 7th Club BAM (Board a Match) Teams Championship

RealBridge in 2021

1st \$600, 2nd \$300 3rd \$150, 4th \$80,

3 Thursday Night Sessions: 7:00pm

26th Aug, 2nd 9th September



Information about all Thursday night events can be found on our new [Thursday Night Events](#) page on the website.

## Major Daytime Competitions

The [RB Open Pairs Championship](#) has started, but you can still join in and play. 3x Wednesday 1:30pm Open session results count for the title.



### RB Open Pairs Championship

Prizes 1st \$100 + SOP, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60

3 Wednesday Sessions: 1:30pm

11th, 18th, 25th Aug



Information about all daytime competition events can be found on our new [Daytime and Congress Events](#) page on the website.

## Require a Partner?

If you are looking for someone to play with on RealBridge please login to the session about 30 minutes before start and type into the chat window "**Director I would like a partner today, please**" and wait in the lobby. The director will do their best to find you a partner. There is rarely a time we cannot accommodate those looking for a game.

## Visitors and Guests are always Welcome

Visitors and guests are welcome, members can pay for a guest via the PP system **just let the director know at the start of the session, that you will accept charge on your PP account for your guest.** Guests and visitors can also pay directly online see **Visitor Payments** below.



## NSBC Face-to-Face Club Manager

Mobile 0478 626 393  
manager@bridgeclub.com.au  
**Liam Milne**

With Gary super busy managing our record table numbers on RealBridge, I took the lead in organising and promoting our Online Winter Congress over 7-8 August. We had a HUGE turnout with 137 tables playing over the two days, including a sizeable Rookie and Restricted contingent.

Many of these players were playing their first congress and I had a lot of very nice feedback afterwards – thank you. NSBC was also happy to award \$3000 in cash prizes to those who did well. Well done to our directors Matthew McManus, Ronnie Ng, as well as a huge thanks to John McIlrath who stepped in to help on Sunday.

If you enjoyed our Online Winter Congress, or if you missed out and would like to make up for it, have a look at our Online Swiss Teams Congress coming up on Sunday 22 August.

### ◆ Online Teams Congress

The [NSBC \(EL\) Online Teams](#) congress has been moved online on Sunday Aug 22. Entry via [NSWBA website](#). This will be held on RealBridge with six nine-board rounds over two session. The host club for our congress is NSBC@Lindfield as this is replacing EL's usual annual teams congress in August.



## Online Swiss Teams

### Now on RealBridge

Host Club: [NSBC@Lindfield](#)

**Guaranteed Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> \$400, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200 3<sup>rd</sup> \$140**  
Best Restricted Team <300MP    Best Rookie Team <100MP  
 Other Prizes are dependent on Entries

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

## 2 Session Event: 10am Start

Director: **Ronnie Ng**

Complex Yellow Systems  
are not permitted

Convenor: **Liam Milne**

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA.  
 The ABF has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4  
 All players are subject to the NSWBA's Disciplinary Regulations

2019 Winners: George Fleischer, Anthony Burke, Ron Speiser, Andrew Peake

At the time of writing we have almost 30 teams entered! This will be a fantastic day of teams bridge and I encourage you to get your entry in. As face-to-face club manager, I would love for us to get back to playing bridge at the club, but for now we have to deal with the lockdown situation as best we can.

If you are one of those 'holdouts' who has stayed away from online bridge, this is great time to try something new. Gary and I are both able to help you make the change to online bridge. Trust me – it can be very rewarding and is a great way to fill your time and see familiar faces while we are stuck at home.

See you online soon,

Liam Milne,  
Face-to-Face Club Manager

## Club Administration

### ✦ New NSBC Memberships

Please contact Margaret Owen on 0410 657 048 for membership enquiries. NSBC is currently offering a promotional membership rate:

- You can join NSBC as a full member for a discounted rate of \$15 which will give you membership from now until 31 December 2021.

Do you have friends who are playing as non-members? Encourage them to sign up - this is a great-value offer.

NSBC membership allows you to create and manage your own PP credit account, thus enabling easy "play & pay" in all our sessions. Membership also entitles you to lower table fees in each session you play.

✦ **Online PP credit Top-ups** You can pay for topping up your credit PP Account via our [Online Payments](#) page. (Please make sure you are always in credit; this saves Margaret a lot of work).

✦ **Offline PP credit Top-ups.** Please contact Margaret Owen on 0410 657 048 for topping up your PP (Prepayments) credit by phone.

✦ **Visitor Payments** They can pay for one off events on our [Online Payments](#) page (the \$ sign on our homepage). Or over the phone with Margaret.



## NSBC Winter Restricted Congress Restricted Swiss Pairs

NSBC Online Winter Restricted Pairs Congress			
Matchpointed Pairs		Aug 8th 14Tables	%
1	##	Hui Li & Patrick Jiang	124%
2	##	Paul Stebbing & John Watson	117%
3	\$80	Felix Shteyman & Janice Olevson	115%
Nov 1	##	Tien Chey - Vera Cranston	
Nov 2	\$90	Sharon Thompson & Lorna Davies	
Nov 3	\$60	Phil Cocks & Kathy Bock	

## Restricted Swiss Pairs

NSBC Online Winter Restricted Pairs Congress			
Swiss Pairs (imps)		Aug 9th 20 Tables	VPs
1	\$200	Ramish Karnani & Nurani Krishnan	83
2	\$120	Wei Zhang & Sherlock Shao	80
3	\$80	Nerida Gillies & Sandy Carter	79
Nov 1	\$150	Wenjie Liu & Ming Xie	
Nov 2	\$90	Sharon Thompson & Deborah Burt	
Nov 3	\$60	Barry Feyder & Anthony Smuts	





Jessica

## Not So Basic

Want to brush up on your fundamentals? North Shore's **Build on the Basics** lessons might be perfect for you. **Jessica Brake** takes you through a range of essential topics in a way that everyone can understand.

♠ Q6  
♥ K954  
♦ A9753  
♣ AQ

Here is a hand from a recent lesson. Partner opens 1♦.

**What do you respond?**

A few options look tempting. Should I support partner's diamonds? I am quite strong – should I bid 3NT?

The best bid by far is 1♥!  
This simply shows 4+ hearts and 6+ points.

Although we have a great diamond fit, our priority is to look for a fit in the Major first. If we do not find a fit in hearts, we may show our diamonds, or go straight to 3NT with our next bid. 1♥ is forcing, so we can always show our strength next.

## How Do Zoom Lessons Work?



South

♠ QJ7642

♥ 7

♦ AK8

♣ K53

1♥ 1♠

1NT 4♠

What if South doesn't want to play NTs?

South knows they have enough points for **GAME** and a **FIT** – so jumps to 4S.

**WHOEVER KNOWS GOES!**

In the Zoom lesson, Jessica first teaches new concepts and shows examples. A few volunteers are then chosen to “play” through example hands on BBO. Many students love the flexibility of watching the recordings and trying the quizzes in their own time. We are getting a lot of very positive feedback about this online lesson format.

Try another **Build on the Basics** hand:

♠ K52  
♥ 763  
♦ AQ852  
♣ 105

Partner opens 2S – showing a weak hand with 6 good spades. What do you do?

Partner has around 5-9 HCP, so we certainly don't have the points for game. However, we do have a great fit!

We should raise partner to 3S, based on the “Law of Total Trumps”. This is not invitational, but it will hopefully make the bidding difficult for the opponents.

The full hand:

4

♠ J8

♥ AJ105

♦ J96

♣ A873

♠ AQ10976

♥ 2

♦ 743

♣ K64

♠ K52

♥ 763

♦ AQ852

♣ 105

♠ 43

♥ KQ984

♦ K10

♣ QJ92

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East-West won't make 3♠, but their crafty bidding has prevented North-South from finding and bidding their 4♥ game!

## Build on the Basics – with Jessica Brake



Join "live" on Zoom – **Wed & Thurs 10am**  
OR watch in your own time!

You will be sent:

- 1) Recording of the lesson
- 2) Lesson notes
- 3) Quiz

Wk.	DATE	TOPIC
6	August 18-19	Managing Entries & Review
7	August 25-26	Opener's Rebids - "I can't support you!"
8	September 1-2	Responder's NT Bids
9	September 8-9	Leads against suit contracts

For information or to sign up email [jessicabrakebridge@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabrakebridge@gmail.com)

[Link to Jessica's Build on the Basics schedule](#)

## Lessons Team



In 2021, our teachers are **Liz Wilkinson, Jessica Brake, Anita Curtis, and Emma Barnes.**

## Introduction to Bridge

Have any of your friends or family been curious about your Bridge? Satisfy their curiosity and get them into the wonderful game that is bridge, with **online lessons** now starting **13<sup>th</sup> September.**

Contact Kay Moyes, on  
[moyes\\_kay@hotmail.com](mailto:moyes_kay@hotmail.com)

## Anita – Develop Your Skills

**NSBC ONLINE Develop Your Skills July - October 2021 Program**  
**WEDNESDAYS at 2pm with Anita Curtis**



**Develop Your Skills (DYS)** is aimed at players who have completed the Build on the Basics course or who have been playing for at least one year. Bidding, declarer play & defence are all targeted, as well as hand analysis to consolidate skills learnt. These lessons will be held **on-line** until we are able to return to **face to face** at our East Lindfield venue **or** you can watch the video from last year's zoom course. The course will continue until January, 2022.

Wed Aug 11	Managing Entries – declarer play
Wed Aug 18	Let's get into the bidding – Weak Jump Overcalls
Wed Aug 25	Whose hand is it? One more for the road? (Competitive bidding)
Wed Sep 1	DYS Hand analysis 1 – practise what you have learnt
Wed Sep 8	Signalling is Legal (defence)

[Link to Anita's Develop Your Skills schedule](#)

## Anita – Intermediate

[Link to Anita's Intermediate Schedule](#)

**NSBC Intermediate schedule – July-Oct 2021:**  
**10am on Fridays currently ON-LINE**

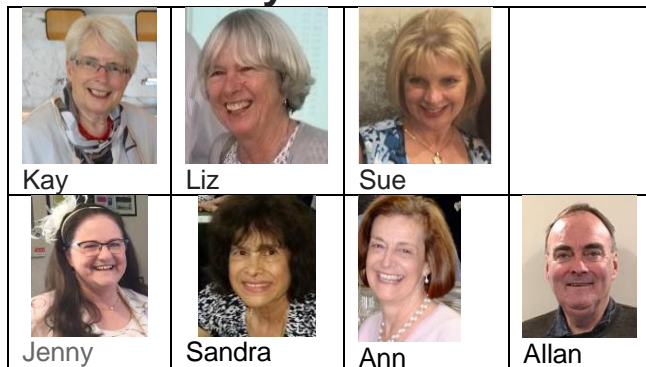
**Hand analysis** is the best way to improve ALL your skills at bridge. Bid & play 8 different hands, focusing on bidding, declarer play & defensive techniques. The level of the session can be seen via the number after it (ascending order).

**Broaden Your Game (BYG):** aspiring intermediate players who play in Rookies/Restricted.

**Intermediate:** aspiring open players or those with considerable experience in Restricted.

Aug 12 Thu 10am	Make more suit contracts	Declarer play for <b>BYG/intermediate</b> players
Aug 20	Make the pressure bid	<b>BYG/Intermediate</b> competitive bidding
Aug 27	Opener's strong 2 suiters: reverses & jump shifts	<b>BYG/Intermediate</b> bidding
Sep 3	Gentle Hand Analysis 20	8 hands for <b>BYG/intermediate</b> players
Sep 10	Get back into the bidding: balancing & re-opening doubles	A must to succeed in <b>competitive bidding</b> for <b>intermediate/BYG</b> players

## Our Newer Player Team



[Monthly Full Winners List](#)

## Supervised Sessions (on RealBridge):

- Mondays at 7pm
- Tuesdays at 10:30am
- Thursdays at 2pm
- Saturdays at 10:30am

## Rookie Sessions (on RealBridge):

- Mondays at 2pm
- Tuesdays at 10:30am, 2pm and 7pm
- Wednesdays at 10:30am and 2pm
- Thursdays at 10:30am
- Fridays at 10:30am
- Saturdays at 10:30am
- Sundays at 10:30am and 2pm

## Restricted Sessions (on RealBridge):

- Mondays at 10am
- Thursdays at 1:30pm
- Fridays at 1:30pm
- Saturdays at 1:30pm

New playing sessions are being added all the time, so for the latest, check the website or head [to the weekly RB schedule page.](#)



## Free Bridge Lesson on RealBridge

**SIMON COCHEMÉ**, BRIDGE AUTHOR AND ENGLAND SENIOR TEAM CAPTAIN AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH REALBRIDGE



We have been offered an opportunity to take part in a **FREE event** arranged by Simon Cochemé in conjunction with RealBridge.

Simon is the captain of the England Seniors' team. We will be playing four boards selected by Simon to cover a specific topic, *a card play theme*

This will be followed by viewing a video, where he gives his insight into three of the boards, and then access to his analysis of all four boards.

Put these dates in your diary,

1. Monday 16th August at 5:00pm or
2. Wednesday 18th August at 5:00pm or
3. Friday 20th August at 5:00pm on the day,

Grab a cup of coffee and join us for half an hour to have some fun and hear Simon's unique perspective on bridge.

<https://tinyurl.com/3tnvy79v>

Go on the link ... and "buy" a ticket - for **FREE**. maximum tickets are 16

## Vale Margaret Bourke

7 August, 2021

Australia has lost one of its jewels in the passing of Margaret Bourke. One of our finest players, Margaret was successful in both Open and Women's competitions. She represented Australia on numerous occasions including winning the APBF women's teams in 1985 and 1995.

When Margi became our 4th Emerald Grand Master in 2014 Tim wrote about her achievements here

[www.abf.com.au/masterpoints-and-pqps/masterpoints/margaret-bourke-emerald-master/](http://www.abf.com.au/masterpoints-and-pqps/masterpoints/margaret-bourke-emerald-master/)

Condolences to Tim Bourke, family, friends, partners and team mates.

## Vale Ian Dixon



Ian Dixon, a director and teacher at Gordon Bridge Club, passed away last Saturday. Many members from the Gordon years will remember Ian fondly. As well as being a well-known face of the club, Ian was the winner of the Stirling Shaw Open Pairs at Gordon Bridge Club with partner Bob Lygo in 2014.

June Straw contributed these memories of Ian:

"Ian was a stalwart of the team at Gordon Bridge Centre for many years. He prepared and delivered talks before the many sessions where he was the director, and was a great help to new directors as we began to run sessions. Those were the days before CompScore2 and Bridgemates, and we used to sit at the computer at the end of the session and enter the results, then put them onto a memory stick and upload them from home.

Ian was a very caring soul and was interested in getting to know all the players. He was also responsible for starting the habit of stopping briefly for afternoon tea on Saturday sessions. He would bring in a delicious slab cake, made by Ann I believe, and after a while many of us joined in and the afternoon tea became the highlight of Saturday bridge for many. I am sure his aim was to encourage players to get to know each other. We were sorry when his health declined, and he no longer was able to come to bridge. Our best wishes go to Ann and the extended family."

Farewell Ian – we will miss you.



## Safety First

*By Pat O'Connor*

Extract from Pat's Book –  
"A "Second Book of Bridge Problems".

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K4	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ 986				1♠
♦ 752	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
♣ AQJ54	Pass	4♣	All Pass	
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ A98532	1♠	5+♠ Opening hand		
♥ A5	2♣	4+♣ 10+Hcp		
♦ AJ4	3♣	6+♣, GF		
♣ K2	4♣	To Play		

West leads the ♥K. Plan the play.

## Analysis

If the trumps split 3-2 you have four losers – one spade, one heart and two diamonds.

You win the ♥A and play the ♠K and ♠A, both opponents following suit. The only outstanding trump is the ♠Q, which is high.

What now?

North Shore Bridge Club: Contacts		
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EL Venue	East Lindfield	02 9415 8344
NR Venue	North Ryde RSL	0478 626 393

## The Full Deal

	North	
	♠ K4	
	♥ 986	
	♦ 752	
	♣ AQJ54	
West		East
♠ T7		♠ QJ6
♥ KQ74		♥ JT32
♦ K9		♦ QT863
♣ T9863		♣ 7
	South (D)	
	♠ A98532	
	♥ A5	
	♦ AJ4	
	♣ K2	
4♠/S		Vul Nil
Lead ♥K		Dir: S

The club suit offers a home for two or three losers.

It is normal to leave the master trump at large, but it would be wrong here because, after drawing two rounds of trumps, your only way of accessing the good clubs in dummy is via the club suit itself. If you start on the clubs now, East will ruff the second round and you will have no further access to dummy's good clubs. The contract will be lost and gone forever. Dreadful sorry, partner.

The safe way is to play a third round of trumps which will lose to the ♠Q. The opponents can cash a heart trick, but you will then have access to dummy's clubs on which to discard your diamond losers. You will make eleven tricks.

## Key Point

**Force out the master trump if you require uninterrupted access to winners**


## Club Sponsors

Two Men and a Truck



Removalists for the Eastern Seaboard

Hyegrove Willoughby



The new luxury retirement living community at the Club Willoughby location





## Power of shape

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

	North	
West	♠ J84 ♥ T ♦ 8742 ♣ KT984	East (D) ♠ AK652 ♥ AK643 ♦ Q ♣ 63
♠ QT972 ♥ J2 ♦ KJT96 ♣ Q	South ♠ - ♥ Q9875 ♦ A52 ♣ AJ752	Vul NS Dir: E
5♣X /S Lead ♠7		

On this deal from the club duplicate (match points), the most common score was 4♠ by East making plus two for +480.

South invariably led a heart, enabling declarer to rise with dummy's ♥J winning, and then declarer drew all trumps in three rounds, and then cashed ♥AK. Allowing the shedding dummy's club loser and merely concede a trick to the ♦A for 12 tricks.

North		Standard Bidding			
		West	North	East (D)	South
♠ J84 ♥ T ♦ 8742 ♣ KT984				1♠	2♠
		4♠	4NT	Pass	5♠
		Pass	Pass	X	All Pass
South		Bidding Notes			
♠ - ♥ Q9875 ♦ A52 ♣ AJ752		1♠	5+♠ Opening hand		
		2♠	Michaels Cue 5♥+5 minor		
		4♠	to Play		
		4NT	Please bid your minor		
		5♠	Ok		
		X	Penalty, they are Vul		

But one pair, found the unfavourable vulnerability "sacrifice" in 5♣ (doubled).

### The bidding:

East opened a normal 1♠, then the aggressive south bid 2♠ (a Michaels Cue bid showing 5♥+5 of a minor). West bid 4♠ to play, but North backed in with a 4NT bid (please bid your minor), East passed and south dutifully bid 5♠. This was passed round for a double by East, hoping for a big vulnerable 2/3 off penalty.

West started the defence with the ♠7 (4<sup>th</sup> highest) lead.

### Preliminary analysis

Top Winners: 5♠+1♦ + lots of X-Ruff options

Top Losers: ♥A, + 2 deep ♦

One off X (-200) is a good save as 5♠/East looks a make for (-450), but 2 off will be a disaster (-500) at match point scoring.

Strategies for 10 tricks (1-off)

- Ruff all 3 Spades in South hand
- Ruff Hearts in North hand.
- Draw 1 round of trumps & lead ♥T towards the ♥Q9 (East has strength)

### Solution

Down one would have been a good save. But South was to do better!

- T1 West ♠7 lead ♠4, West ♠K, Declarers winning low ruff ♠2
- T2 Declarer then crossed to dummy, ♠5, West's ♠Q falling, ♠K & ♠3.
- T3 Declarer then led dummy's singleton ♥T towards his closed hand. East rose with the ♥K, as he knows about south's 5 hearts. Declarer ♥5 & West ♥2
- T4 West switched to his singleton ♦Q hoping to get a ♦ ruff or setup Partners diamonds, but declarer won the ♦A and East signalling encouragement with the ♦9. **Editor: Better defence would be to continue trumps trying to limit the cross ruff.**
- T5 Declarer now led low heart ♥7, to West's ♥J, and ruffed low ♠8, East's ♥3. Noting West's ♥J with great interest as he held ♥Q98
- T6 Declarer then led ♠9 & returned to his hand with ♠J, drawing the last trump from East ♠6, whilst West dropped ♠2.
- T8 Then led the ♥Q. When West discarded ♠9, he could count East for his exact shape 5♠-5♥-1♦-2♣ and discarded a losing ♦4 from dummy as East won the ♥A
- T9 East with no more diamonds, led a ♠5 which. Declarer ruffed in hand ♠7
- T10-11 Declarer then cashed the high ♥98 discarding dummy's remaining 2 diamonds ♦87
- T12-13 Declarer then cross-ruffed. ♦5 & ♠J for 11 tricks and a doubled game made!

The game made on just 15 hcp, but excellent fitting shape for a match point top.



This article was based on a **Eddie Kantar** 'Take your chances' series article in the ACBL "Bridge Feed" website.

[Link to article](#)

## Rookie Challenge hand 1 Solution

North
♠ 765
♥ AQ65
♦ AQ8
♣ T98
South
♠ K43
♥ 3
♦ 42
♣ AKQJ765

Sometimes things go awry, and you get to the wrong contract. Here you wind up in 5♣ instead of 3NT (partner's fault, again).

- T1 Wests' opening lead is the ♠2. ♠5 and East wins the ♠A, as you play ♠3  
T2 East returns the ♠J to your ♠K winning.

Any clever thoughts?

### Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 1♠+1♥+1♦+7♣ = 10 one Trick short!

Top Losers: ♠A, Deep ♠ & Deep ♦.

### Strategies for 11 Tricks:

- If either red suit finesse works, you make your contract, but which one to take?
- Why not give yourself two chances? Trump a couple of hearts hoping that a short ♥K appears. It will actually appear about 22% of the time. Not too shabby for a staying alive freebie. If the ♥K does not drop, take the diamond finesse. When dealing with two possible finesse suits, each missing a king, one having a singleton (hearts), first try to ruff out the king of that suit. If that does not work, take the other finesse. (22%+50% Finesse= 72% chance).
- You could draw 2 rounds of trumps & put the opponents on lead with the spade, but you cannot control who you can

endplay (Likely West will win), who can then choose the red suit to lead) and your back to the same decision.

West	North	East
♠ QT82	♠ 765	♠ AJ9
♥ KT7	♥ AQ65	♥ J9842
♦ J965	♦ AQ8	♦ KT73
♣ 43	♣ T98	♣ 2
5♣/S Lead S2	South	Vul Nil Dir: -
	♠ K43	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 42	
	♣ AKQJ765	

It is hard to construct a bidding sequence on this layout that does not end up in 3NT. Nonetheless, it will be easier to forgive your partner for getting you into this mess if you make the contract.

- T3 Enter Dummy ♥3 to ♥A  
T4 Ruff a heart ♥5 to ♠A  
T6 Re-enter dummy ♠5 to ♠T  
T7 Ruff a heart ♥6 to ♠K ♥K drops 22% you make!  
T8 Draw trumps & claim ♦2 ♦A  
T9 cash the ♥Q throwing your loser diamond ♦4

Claim as you only have a spade loser, Making 11 tricks.

A reasonable sequence to get to 3NT would be 1♣-1♥, 3♣-3♦, 3NT-P

If that is not your cup of tea, maybe this is: 1♣-1♥, 2♣-2♦, 3NT-P.

Notice that the 'third suit', 3♦ in this sequence, after opener rebids the first suit, is not always a true suit. It is often a stopper showing bid looking for a stopper in the unbid suit for notrump. Typically, the third suit by the responder after having made a one level shows 11+ HCP assuming opener has made a non-forcing rebid of his original suit, (2♣).



This article was based on a Bridge feed article "**They are out to get you**" by

**Pat Harrington.**

[Link to full article](#)

When you are declarer, you aren't being paranoid if you think the opponents are out to get you. They are! It's their job. Your job is to foil them. Take a look at this deal and decide how the opponents might get you and what you can do about it.

North	
♠ 92	
♥ JT3	
♦ AK6	
♣ QT974	
South	
♠ AJ3	
♥ A94	
♦ Q53	
♣ AJ63	

The contract is 3NT by you (South)  
West leads ♠6.  
East plays the ♠Q.

How are you going to make this contract?

## Rookie Challenge hand 2 Solution

### Preliminary Analysis

Count winners 1♠+1♥+3♦+1♣. 3 short

Count losers: 2+♠, maybe ♣K, 2♥

Strategy for 9 Tricks

- The only hope for all those tricks is in clubs, but you might have to lose the lead.
- How are your opponent's trying to get you? They want to run spades when they win that club trick. How many spade stoppers do you have? It depends. If you win the first spade, you are left with ♠J 3. Your ♠J might be a second stopper.
- The ♠J could be captured by the ♠K if East gains the lead to lead *through* your jack.
- East is your dangerous opponent. If West gains the lead, he will be leading **up to your jack** and it is protected from attack. West is your safe opponent.

- Which opponent is going to gain the lead on this deal? With all the high clubs except the ♠K, you will finesse. Only West (Mr. Safe) can gain the lead if the finesse fails. You have all the other aces so West cannot reach East's hand to attack your ♠J.
- Your plan is to win the ♠A at trick one, and trot over to dummy with a high diamond to finesse in clubs.
- If the club finesse works, you want to repeat it, so you should lead a high club from dummy (the queen, 10 or 9). That way, you can save the remaining high diamond as an entry to dummy's fifth club in case East holds all four missing clubs.

Some declarers hold up on winning an ace when they shouldn't. If declarer had not played the ♠A at trick one, East might return a spade and West's spades could be ready to run when the club finesse loses. Declarer's spade holding (♠A J 3) is a tricky holding to play.

Look at our next deal.

North	
♠ A54	
♥ 82	
♦ AQT95	
♣ QT5	
South	
♠ QT3	
♥ AJ3	
♦ J74	
♣ AKJ3	

Again, you are declarer in 3NT and this time the ♥5 lead comes up to your ♥AJ3 with East playing the ♥K.

### Preliminary Analysis

Count winners 1♠+1♥+1♦+4♣. 2 short

Count losers: 2+♠, maybe ♦K, 2+♥

Strategy for 9 Tricks

- You will work on diamonds to get the two needed tricks and, again, a finesse is available.
- How do the opponents hope to get you? They want to run hearts if they can get in with the ♦K.
- If you win the ♥A at trick one, will you have a second heart stopper? This time, it is Mr. Danger, East, who will gain the lead if the diamond finesse fails. East will







**Brent Manley**

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article "**Going to the Fences**". Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website.

· [Link to the original Article](#)

## Open Challenge Hand - Solution

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ AQ875	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ 64				1♠
♦ A	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	PASS	4♠
♣ AKT93	PASS	5♣	PASS	5♥
	PASS	7♠	ALL PASS	
South (S)	Bidding Notes			
♠ KJ942	1♠	5+♠, opening hand		
♥ AQ9	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Michaels Cue 55 H+minor		
♦ Q9872	3♥ <sup>(2)</sup>	Cue - Good raise ♠		
♣ -	4♣	To play		
	5♣	Cue - ♣ control		
	5♥	Cue - ♥ control		
	7♣	To play (gamble)		

## The Bidding:

This board occurred in a team match where you and partner felt you were in desperate need of a positive swing. You (South) opened with a normal 1♠, and West interposed with a Michaels cue bid 2♠ (this showed 5/5 shape in ♥ + minor). You partner cued 3♥ (there known suit) showing a good raise in spades. This encouraged you to bid the game in 4♠. Partner advanced with a 5♣ Cue bid, and you cooperated with a 5♥ Cue. Accordingly, North, your partner, punted the grand slam 7♣!

West starts the defence with a lead if the ♠6. What is your plan to take every trick?

## Preliminary Analysis

Winners 5♠+1♥+1♦+2♣ = 9 + cross ruffing tricks

Top Losers none

Strategy for 12 Tricks?

- The ♠T is out, could cause Problems?
- Draw 2 Trumps, Ruff 3♦, Ruff 3♣ + 5 tops = 12 one short
- Clubs may work ♠QJ may fall

## Your Solution

- T1 West starts the defence with a lead if the ♠6, you took the opening lead with the ♠J in hand, as East followed ♠3.
- T2 You then drew the remaining trump with a ♠2, West ♥3 to dummy's ♠A, East plays ♠T.
- T3 Next, you cashed the ♦A with everybody following, ♦4, ♦3, ♦2.
- T45 You followed by cashing ♣AK, throwing the ♥Q9 from hand. EW following.
- T6 You lead a small club ♣3, covered by East, ruff ♠4, West playing another small ♥. This confirmed that West had started with 1=5=5=2 shape.
- T7 You decided you needed to establish a diamond trick. So, you led the ♦Q. West covering this with the ♦K, which cheered you up, because otherwise he would have been in the rather nervous position of having to discard a club or a heart. You ruffed this in dummy ♠7
- T8 You ruffed a club ♣9, covered by East ♣J, back into hand ♠9
- T9 You led a confident ♦9. West covered with the ♦T and this was ruffed in dummy ♠8.
- T10 You ruffed a club ♣T covered by East ♣Q, back into hand ♠K.
- T11 You led the ♦8. West covered this with the ♦J and ruffing this in dummy ♠Q.
- T12 You claimed your contract as you still had the ♥A & the high ♦7 in hand.

You made five trumps, one heart, two diamonds, three diamond ruffs and two clubs. The full deal:

	North	
West	♠ AQ875	East
♠ 6	♥ 64	♠ T3
♥ KJT83	♦ A	♥ 752
♦ KJT62	♣ AKT93	♦ 54
♣ 52	South (S)	♣ QJ8764
7♣/S	♠ KJ942	Vul Nil Dir: South
Lead ♠6	♥ AQ9	
	♦ Q9873	
	♣ -	














## NSBC Winter Open Congress Results

### Winter Open Teams – Qualifying

NSBC Online Winter Congress				
Open Teams Qualifier - 32 teams			VP	W-D-L
1	Qual	Tony Hutton & Malcolm Carter, Richard Ward & Ralph Parker	91VP	6-0-0
2	Qual	Sophie Ashton & James Coutts, Liam Milne, Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Andre Korenhof, David	90VP	5-0-1
3	Qual	Helena Dawson & Helene Pitt, George Fleischer & Mathew Vadas	84VP	4-0-2
4	Qual	George Kozakos & George Smolanko, Arjuna De Livera, Ian Thomson, Andrew Braithwaite	79VP	3-1-2
5	Qual	Kim Morrison & David Weston, Bruce Neill & Julian Foster	78VP	4-0-2
6	Qual	Nicoleta Giura & Nick Hughes, Catherine Zhang & Cevat Emul	76VP	5-0-1

### Open Teams Final “Dash for Cash”

NSBC Online Winter Congress				
Teams "Dash for Cash" Final Series 8/Aug			VP	W-D-L
1	\$600	Kim Morrison & David Weston, Bruce Neill & Julian Foster	57.16	2-0-3
2	\$300	George Kozakos & George Smolanko, Arjuna De Livera, Ian Thomson, Andrew Braithwaite	56.58	4-0-1
3	\$200	Nicoleta Giura & Nick Hughes, Catherine Zhang & Cevat Emul	52.59	3-0-2
4		Sophie Ashton & James Coutts, Liam Milne, Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Andre Korenhof, David	51.32	3-0-2
5		Tony Hutton & Malcolm Carter, Richard Ward & Ralph Parker	47.87	2-0-3
6		Helena Dawson & Helene Pitt, George Fleischer & Mathew Vadas	34.48	1-0-4

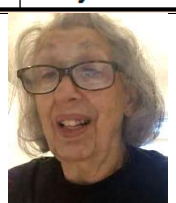

				
Kim	David	Bruce	Julian	
				
George	George	Arjuna	Ian	Andrew
				
Nicoleta	Nick	Catherine	Cevat	

## Winter Open Swiss Pairs

NSBC Online Winter Congress				
Open Swiss Pairs (6x9B) 8/Aug				Vps
1	\$250	Leo Goorevich & Elli Urbach		90VP
2	\$150	Kate McCallum & Jane Dawson		88VP
3	\$100	Barbara Abraham & Jeff Carberry		87VP
				
Elli		Leo		
				
Kate	Jane	Barbara	Jeff	

## Congress Scene

### Members Congress Successes

MasterBridge BBO Open Swiss Pairs			
		VP	W-L-D
1	Elli Urbach & Kevin Davies	89.1	5-0-1
2	Paul Dalley & Tony Nunn	62.42	4-2-0
3	Sally Clarke & Garry Clarke	62.16	5-0-1
			
Elli		Kevin	

Coffs Harbour Pairs Congress (46T)		
3 Session Swiss Pairs (9x9B Matches)		Vps
1	Neil Ewart & David Smoth	132
2	Yumin Li & Peter Jeffery	126
3	Tony Nunn & Martin Bloom	122
4	Andrew Peake & Ron Speiser	121

Coffs Harbour Teams Congress 52 Teams			
3 Session Swiss Teams			W-D-L
		Vps	
1	Pam Crichton - Ross Crichton - Niek Van Vucht - Graham Wakefield	128.00	7-0-2
2	Paul Dalley - James Coutts - Liam Milne - Andy Hung - Jessica Brake	126.00	7-0-2
3	Sandra Richman - Nicoleta Giura - Nick Hughes - Andrew Richman	121.00	7-0-2

## Congress Calendars

NSWBA – [Link to Calendar](#)

ABF – [Link to Calendar](#)