



Rookie eNews



2022 January Vol 5 Issue 1

Editor: Kevin Davies

Contents

Editor Comments	1
Rookie Challenge Hand 1 (Bid and Play).....	1
Rookie Challenge Hand 2 (Bid and Play).....	1
Rookie Challenge Hand 3 (Bid and Play).....	1
◆ PO -Ruffing Finesse.....	2
◆ PH - Find a Major	3
◆ JD -Trick 2 is too late.....	4
◆ EK -Take your Chances.....	5

Editor Comments

This revised Newsletter format (eMail & PDF's triggered from the email) is designed to ease the big PDF files that used to be delivered. It also allows more focused content for user groups.

Kevin

Rookie Challenge Hand 1 (Bid and Play)

North	Nil Vul, Dealer: South
♠ KQ5	
♥ AQ3	
♦ QJT3	
♣ 532	
South (D)	
♠ A76432	Assuming you can reach a 4♣ contract, West leads the ♣K. How do you plan to make your game contract?
♥ 652	
♦ A	
♣ A86	

Rookie Challenge Hand 2 (Bid and Play)

North	You open 1♦. The auction proceeds:			
♠ K864				
♥ AJ95				
♦ AQ8				
♣ 53				
South (D)				
♠ 9				
♥ KQT4				
♦ T952				
♣ AKQT				
Standard Bidding				
West	North	East	you	
			1♦	
1♠	X	Pass	3♥	
X	4♥	All Pass		
West leads the ♦4, and your partner puts down the dummy What is your plan at trick one?				

Rookie Challenge Hand 3 (Bid and Play)

North	You open 1♦, partner responds 1♠, East joins in with 2♥ overcall, you make a support double showing three spades (a raise to 2♠ shows four) and suddenly you find yourself playing 6♦!	
♠ AK93		
♥ 9		
♦ KT962		
♣ AJT		
South (D)		
♠ JT2	West leads the ♥5 How do you plan to make your slam contract?	
♥ K732		
♦ AQJ8		
♣ Q9		

North Shore Bridge Club: Contacts		
President:	David Fryda	0418 427 458 david@frydas.com
Secretary	Maryann Russett	maryann@tremara.com.au
VP & Tournament Chairman	John McIlrath	0437 274343 john@johnmcilrath.com.au
Online Operations Manager	Gary Barwick	0413 884 805 garybarwick@outlook.com
NSBC Face-to-Face Club Manager	Liam Milne	0478 626 393 manager@bridgeclub.com.au
Bridge Teaching & Training	Kay Moyes	0416 002 701 moyes_kay@hotmail.com
NSBC Office Administrator	Margaret Owen	0410 657 048
Newsletter Editors:	Kevin Davies	0403 018 979 kdav1951@gmail.com
	Ian Maclaren	0418 680 879 imhmaclaren@bigpond.com
Web Master	Leo Goorevich	0410 490 123 leo.goorevich@iinet.net.au
RB Venue	Gary Barwick	0413 884 805
EL Venue	East Lindfield	02 9415 8344
WS Venue	Willis	0478 626 393
CW/NR Venues	Closed	0478 626 393

♦ PO -Ruffing Finesse



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

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ KQ5	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ AQ3				1♠
♦ QJT3	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
♣ 532	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ A76432	1♠	5+♠, Opening hand		
♥ 652	2♦	4+♦, 10+ Hcp		
♦ A	2♠	6+♠, min hand		
♣ A86	4♠	to play		

West leads the ♣K.

What is your plan?

Analysis

You have four losers. You could eliminate one of them if the heart finesse works.

Is there a better plan?

The Full Deal

	North	
	♠ KQ5	
West	♥ AQ3	East
♠ 8	♦ QJT3	♠ JT9
♥ 974	♣ 532	♥ KJT8
♦ K874		♦ 9652
♣ KQJ74	South (D)	♣ T9
	♠ A76432	
4♠/S	♥ 652	Vul Nil
Lead ♠K	♦ A	Dir: South
	♣ A86	

If you draw trumps and try the heart finesse, you have a **50%** chance of success. However, there is a line that is a lot closer to **100%**. There is a bit of work to do, but the diamonds can be set up via a ruffing finesse.

Win the opening lead with the ♣A then cash the ♠A and the ♦A. Then lead a spade to the ♠K and cash the ♠Q, which draws trumps.

You now have no diamonds in your hand and ♦QJT in dummy. Play the ♦Q.

If East plays a small diamond, discard a club, continuing with the ♦J if West ducks. If West wins the ♦Q with the ♦K and cashes a club, win the continuation and go to dummy with the ♥A and discard your heart losers on the ♦JT.

If East covers the ♦Q with the ♦K, ruff it in hand, go to dummy with the ♥A and discard two clubs on the ♦JT. Then you can lead towards the ♥Q for a possible overtrick.

Whatever happens you make ten or eleven tricks.

Key Point

A ruffing finesse can be used to establish a suit.

◆ PH - Find a Major



This article was based on a Bridge feed article "[Finding a Major](#)"

Compare your decision as East in each of these two auctions. Your 1NT opening shows 15–17.

West	East
1NT	??

In auction No. 1, you are the responder to a 1NT opening bid. Your point count tells you how high to bid. Most partnerships use Stayman and Jacoby transfers to help find a major suit fit here.

West	East
1♦	1♠
1NT	??

Your decision in auction No. 2 is similar. Partner has shown a balanced hand and about 12–14 points. You still have slam-going, game-going, invitational, and partscore hands, but your point ranges will be higher because partner's point range is lower than in auction 1. In some ways, your thinking when choosing a rebid in No. 2 is similar to your thinking when choosing your first response in No. 1. Let's look at some responding hands to rebid.

♠KQ9752 ♥Q76 ♦73 ♣72

With 9 total points (two extra for the fifth and sixth spades), there is no game opposite the balanced 12–14 high-card points shown by partner. Opener's 1NT rebid tends to show balanced distribution, so you should have at least an eight-card spade fit. Sign off in 2♠. Thus compares to a standard 2♠ signoff response to a 1NT opening bid.

♠AQT752 ♥76 ♦Q7 ♣A42

With 12 HCP and two length points, you have a game-going hand. You expect a fit opposite opener's balanced hand. Sign off in 4♠. Again, you

can compare this rebid with a standard 4♠ response that places the contract after a 1NT opening bid.

♠AJ9752 ♥J6 ♦73 ♣A42

Your 10 HCP plus two length points gives you invitational strength. How does your partnership show this hand? A reasonable agreement to have is that a jump rebid of responder's suit is invitational. Jump to 3♠. Partner can pass 3♠ with the bottom of his bid and only two spades, so you should have a six-card suit.

This bid is not comparable to responses to 1NT. Jumps to three of a major suit by responder are forcing over a 1NT opening bid but only invitational over opener's 1NT rebid.

♠KQ972 ♥QJ76 ♦63 ♣72

Again, you wish to sign off in a partscore opposite partner's balanced 12–14 points. One way to do this is to pass 1NT, but I hope you are considering the possibility of a better spot. You could have an eight-card spade fit. Remember, your first response of 1♠ guaranteed only four cards. You could also have a 4–4 heart fit. Opener cannot afford to rebid 2♥ with a minimum hand. There is an important bidding guideline for a minimum opener after a one level response. Unless opener can raise responder's suit, a minimum opener should rebid at or below two of his original suit. When opener's rebid is higher than two of his first suit, opener has **reversed**. Opener's reverse requires more than minimum strength (at least 16 HCP).

That guideline means that it is entirely possible for opener to have four hearts. Can you afford to rebid 2♥ as responder? Usually, a new suit by responder is forcing. However, standard bidding treats auction No. 2 more like auction No. 1 than many players realize.

In No. 1, a new suit by responder would not be forcing. Responder's new suit bid is not forcing in No. 2 either. (In standard bidding, most new suit bids are not forcing after opener bids 1NT at his first or second turn.) You can make a non-forcing rebid of 2♥. Opener can pass 2♥ or correct to 2♠, depending on which major he prefers. Your 2♥ rebid promises only four hearts but it definitely shows five spades. Why? With 4–4 in the majors, we bid up the line (hearts first), so your first response would have been 1♥, not 1♠.

♦ JD -Trick 2 is too late



This article was based on a Bridge feed article "Trick Two is too late to start thinking" [Link to full article](#)

You hold the following hand:

♠9 ♥KQT4 ♦T952 ♣AKQT

You open 1♦. The auction proceeds:

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K864	West	North	East	you
♥ AJ95				1♦
♦ AQ8	1♠	X	Pass	3♥
♣ 53	X	4♥	All Pass	
South (D)				
♠ 9				
♥ KQT4				
♦ T952				
♣ AKQT				

West leads the ♦4, and your partner puts down the dummy

T1 West Leads ♦4. What is your plan at trick one?

The bidding and the cards guide your plan. Because West has bid spades and made a takeout double on the three level, you expect hearts will not break evenly. In addition, the ♠K in dummy should be a good way to discard one of the losers from your hand. The bidding should guide your thoughts.

Now the cards. Notice that you hold all the high hearts in the two hands. Also notice that your hand contains one possible club loser, because your West is marked with long clubs from the bidding. And because West almost certainly holds the ♠A for his bidding, the dummy contains a spade winner, the ♠K. Together, these facts suggest that you should plan to crossruff the hand.

Before crossruffing, however, the guiding principle is to first play your side winners before one of the opponents can discard in these suits. So, your very first play should be getting to your hand as soon as possible to lead a spade toward dummy's king. Then you will cash your winners in each suit, and cross ruff the remaining cards.

- T1 West Leads ♦4, you call for dummy's ♦Q, and as expected, it wins. West was an overwhelming favourite. to hold the ♦K, based on the auction.
- T2 Next you play the ♣3 to the ♠A in your hand
- T3 Then play ♠9 towards dummy's ♠K. but West wins the ♠A so you play low.
- T4 West returns another low diamond as you win the ♦A in dummy, with East playing the ♦J
- T5 You then cash the ♠K, discarding a diamond from your hand.
- T6 Next, you trump the ♠6 in your hand
- T78 Now cash the ♠KQ (both opponents following low), discarding the remaining diamond ♦8 from the dummy.
- T9 Then you can ruff your last diamond ♦T with dummy's ♥9,
- T10 Trump the last spade ♠8 from dummy,
- T11 Ruff your last club with dummy's high ♥J.
- T12 For the last two tricks, play the ♥A in dummy and then a heart to your ♥K. Meanwhile, East will be forced to play low hearts under your high hearts. You made 12 tricks even though East had five trumps.

You can made two overtricks on this deal by listening to the bidding and playing accordingly. Remember the principle that establishing and playing your winners in your side suits should proceed before crossruffing the hand so that your opponent's cannot discard the suits before you cash your winners!

Here is the full deal:

	North	
	♠ K864	
West	♥ AJ95	East
♠ AQ754	♦ AQ8	♠ JT4
♥ -	♣ 53	♥ 87632
♦ K764		♦ J3
♣ J974	South (D)	♣ 862
	♠ 9	
4♥/S	♥ KQT4	Vul Nil
Lead ♦4	♦ T952	Dir: S
	♣ AKQT	

♦ EK -Take your Chances



Eddie Kantar

This article was based [“Take your chances”](#) series article in the ACBL “Bridge Feed” website.

You open 1♦, partner responds 1♠, East joins in with 2♥ overcall, you make a support double showing three spades (a raise to 2♠ shows four) and suddenly you find yourself playing 6♦!

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ AK93	West	North	East	you
♥ 9				1♦
♦ KT962	Pass	1♠	2♥	X
♠ AJT	Pass	6♦	All Pass	
Bidding Notes				
South (D)	1♦	4+♠, opening hand		
♠ JT2	1♠	4+♠, 6+hcp		
♥ K732	2♥	5+♥ overcall		
♦ AQJ8	X	Support Double - 3♠		
♣ Q9	6♦	to Play		

- T1 West leads the ♥5, East wins the ♥A
- T2 East returns the ♥Q. You have no convenient discard from dummy on the ♥K, so you do yourself a favour and ruff the second heart, on table ♦2, noticing West’s second heart is higher than the ♥5 indicating three hearts.
- T3 You cash ♦A, as both follow to the first diamond.

How do you proceed?

The play now revolves around the best way to tackle the black suits for **no losers**. Clearly, if either finesse works you make your slam, but which one to take? Surely you are not going to fall for that question any longer?.

T4/5 Start by drawing two more rounds of trumps ♦QJ, finishing in hand, as they break 3-1

T6 Then you lead the ♠J hoping for a cover. West may cover hoping partner has the ♠T. If the ♠J isn’t covered, you win the ♠A

T7 Then cash the ♠K hoping to drop the ♠Q. If you do, you won’t need the club finesse as you have 4 spade tricks. If you have no luck in spades, return to your hand with a trump and run the ♣Q, your last chance.

Congrats. You didn’t put all of your eggs in either the ♠Q or the ♣K finesse basket. You worked with spades hoping to drop the queen not to mention giving West a chance to err by covering the ♠J. And all the while you had the club finesse in reserve.

Did you notice the lead of the ♥5 from the 865 in an unsupported suit? Had West supported hearts, the ♥8 would have been the proper lead. After supporting, the lead of the ♥8 should not be confused with a doubleton.

Not everyone plays support doubles, but if you do and don’t double 2♥ or raise to 2♠, the inference is that you have fewer than three spades.

		North		
		♠ AK93		
West	♥ 9	♦ KT962	East	♠ Q6
♠ 8754	♣ AJT		♥ AQJT4	
♥ 865			♦ 5	
♦ 743		South (D)	♣ K7532	
♣ 864	♠ JT2	♥ K732	Vul Nil	
	♦ AQJ8	♣ Q9	Dir: S	
6♦/S				
Lead ♥5				

Tip: Pay attention to the spot card that is led so when a second card is played in the suit you will know whether it is higher or lower than the first.