



Open Hands

2022 April Vol 5 Issue 4

Editor: Kevin Davies

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Open Challenge Hand 1 (Bid and Play)

Open Challenge Hand 1 (2d and 4th)

North ♠ 862 ♥ 92 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ 8742	NS Vul, Dealer: North <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South (D)</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>X</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South (D)				1♥	1♠	X	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
West	North	East	South (D)														
			1♥														
1♠	X	Pass	2♠														
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥														
South (D) ♠ 93 ♥ AKQT5 ♦ K84 ♣ AK5	Assuming you can reach the 4♥ contract, West leads <u>♠AKQ</u> How do you plan to make your game contract?																

Open Challenge Hand 2 (Bid and Play)

North	Nil Vul, Dealer: South																
♠ A75	<table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South (D)</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td></tr></table>	West	North	East	South (D)				1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
West	North	East	South (D)														
			1♥														
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT														
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥														
♥ KQ6																	
♦ J952																	
♣ T95																	
South (D)	Assuming you can reach the 6♥ contract. West leads the ♠Q,																
♠ 8																	
♥ A8743																	
♦ A6																	
♣ AKQ43	Can you see your way to 12 tricks on this deal?																

Open Challenge Hand 3 (Bid and Play)

Open Challenge Hand 5 (2d and 1st)

North	EW Vul, Dealer: South												
♠ J93	<table><tr><td>West (D)</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table>	West (D)	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♠	3NT	All Pass			
West (D)	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	2♠	3NT										
All Pass													
♥ KQJT7													
♦ 76													
♣ 742													

Assuming you reach 3NT
West leads a trump ♠T,

South	Can you see your way to 10 tricks on this deal?
♠ AK54	
♥ 2	
♦ AQT4	
♣ AKJ2	

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
General Manager:	Mike Prescott	0478 626 393 manager@bridgeclub.com.au 0435 528 872 mikeprescott7@hotmail.com
Online Operations Manager	Gary Barwick	0413 884 805 garybarwick@outlook.com
NSBC Office Administrator	Margaret Owen	0410 657 048
Bridge Teaching & Training	Kay Moyes	0416 002 701 moyes_kay@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Kevin Davies	0403 018 979 kdav1951@gmail.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 Venues	Closed	0478 626 393
NR Venues	Closed	0478 626 393

Editor Comments:

This revised Newsletter format (email & PDFs triggered from the email) is designed to ease the big PDF files that used to be delivered. It also allows more focused content.
Kevin



GNOT Direct Qualifying



NSBC on RealBridge

Thursdays: 7:00pm. 5 Sessions - Teams Event
5th 12th, 19th, 26th May, 2nd Jun

Qualifies 1 Team directly to the ABF National GNOT Final in Tweed Heads & 3 teams to the NSWBA GNOT Metro Finals

Other Cash Prizes dependent on entry. This is a NSWBA Metro Zone qualifying Event

Club Results for 2022 NSBC Club Champion (Brownie Cup) – x2

Convener, queries & partnership advice: Gary Barwick M: 0413 884 805

Director: Ronnie Ng

Entry Management: Enter by **MyABF**

Pre-Payments: Visitors MyABF Credits

NSBC Members to select "Club PP System"

Online (Club Gold Point Event)

Yellow Systems are not permitted

2021 14th winner: **Kim Morrison, David Weston, Bruce Neill, Michael Hughes**

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

Note: eligible players (to win Direct entry) must be a member of a Sydney metropolitan bridge club affiliated with the NSWBA and must be bona fide residents of the Sydney metropolitan area or a neighbouring country GNOT region, i.e. Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Illawarra.

Members (pp) \$85 (5x\$17)

Non Members \$100 (5x\$20)

♦ LM – Defence in Detail 9



Liam Milne

Without needing any complex agreements, a discard or two from partner will often point the way to the best defence. A single crucial discard might even provide a blueprint of the whole hand.

Playing a match point pairs tournament, you have to find a lead against a simple auction:

South Deals		♠ 4 2
E-W Vul		♥ A K 8 5
		♦ 10 3
		♣ J 10 7 6 3
♠ J 8 5 3		
♥ Q 4		
♦ K 6 2		
♣ K 9 8 5		
West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 12-14		

- T1 On the grounds that leading a major is preferable, you try the ♠3. Partner wins the ♠A as declarer follows with the ♠T.
- T2 When partner returns the ♠6, declarer wins the ♠K.
- T3-5 Declarer's next card is the ♠A (partner following suit), followed by the ♠Q and ♠2. You win the third round with the ♠K as partner discards the ♥7 (high discouraging) and the ♥2 (low showing an original even number of cards).

Should we return a spade or try something else? In spades, it certainly looks like partner has ♠A976 and declarer ♠KQT. If partner had the ♠Q, declarer's play of the ♠T at trick one would be unlikely. Probably declarer has a second spade stopper and if we let declarer win the lead, they have quite a few tricks set up. It's time to look elsewhere.

- T6 Partner has discouraged hearts, so we switch to the ♦2 (low showing we like the suit). Partner wins the ♦A.
- T7 Then returns the ♦7, declarer playing the ♦Q. We win the ♦K.

The situation now with declarer having taken 3 tricks and our side 4 tricks:

South Deals		♠
E-W Vul		♥ A K 8 5
		♦
		♣ J 10
♠ J 8		
♥ Q 4		
♦ 6		
♣ 9		

Should we continue diamonds or lead a club to try to get a heart trick for partner?

The ♦Q from declarer sure looks like it is from ♦QJ. If we lead a spade or a diamond, declarer might throw dummy's two low hearts on their two winners and claim. On the other hand, if partner has the ♦J, we probably need to take it now.

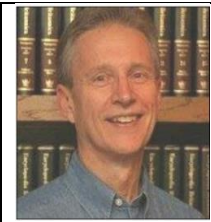
The problem basically boils down to: does declarer hold the ♦J or the ♥J? The answer is a certainty if you think back to partner's discards. How could partner afford to safely throw two hearts if they held the ♥J? For all they knew, declarer had the ♥Q and two discards would unguard the suit. So, declarer has the ♥J, and with all their other high cards there is no room in their 12-14 points for the ♦J.

South Deals		♠ 4 2
E-W Vul		♥ A K 8 5
		♦ 10 3
		♣ J 10 7 6 3
♠ J 8 5 3		
♥ Q 4		
♦ K 6 2		
♣ K 9 8 5		
♠ K Q 10		
♥ J 10 9		
♦ Q 9 5 4		
♣ A Q 2		

As expected, declarer has the spade guard and the ♥J, so there isn't enough room for declarer to also hold the ♦J. If you mistakenly led a heart, declarer cashes two rounds before sneakily throwing his blocking ♥J on the clubs which allows dummy to take the remainder of the tricks. Partner's ♦J never takes a trick unless you return a diamond now.

Point to remember: assuming partner's discards are logical (from their point of view) will often pinpoint key cards in declarer's hand. Combine this with a bit of counting and you are well on the way to knowing the whole hand.

♦ BM – Contingency Planning



Brent Manley

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article "[Contingency Planning](#)". Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

North	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ 862	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ 92				1♥
♦ AQJ5	1♠	X	Pass	2♠
♣ 8742	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
	All Pass			
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ 93	1♥	5+H, Opening hand		
♥ AKQT5	1♠	5+S Overcall		
♦ K84	X	Negative X, Both minors		
♣ AK5	2♠	Cue, asking for stopper		
	3♥	Support (maybe 3D better)		
	4♥	To play		

This somewhat awkward auction has left you in game on a 5-2 fit. West starts with the top three spades. How will you get to your 10 tricks?

Analysis

- T1 West leads ♠A All follow
T2 West ♠K All follow
T3 West ♠Q All follow, as you ruff in hand ♥5

Winners: 4♥+4♦+2♠ = 10 tricks - OK
Losers: 2♠ (lost) + maybe deep ♣ & ♥

After the first three tricks, declarer counted 10 tricks: four in trumps, four in diamonds and two in clubs. He saw that the main danger was West's having only two diamonds and four hearts to the jack. If that were the case, and declarer played three top trumps, West would ruff the third diamond and the contract would go down, declarer being left with a club loser, a diamond winner in dummy, and no way to get to it.

Solution

Declarer's initial idea for catering to that possibility was to lead the ♥T after ruffing the

third spade giving away the ♥J as a team's style safety play.

After a moment's further thought, he decided to keep the prospect of an overtrick alive. This is very important in match point scoring, So;

- T4 Crossing to the dummy with a diamond ♦4 to the ♦J, both EW followed
T5 Then tried leading the ♥2 to his ♥T. If the ♥T had held, he would make an overtrick as long as the trumps were divided no worse than 4-2 break. On this layout, however, West took the ♥T with the ♥J
T6 West played a hopeful fourth round of spades hoping for a promotional ruff by East. But declarer ruffed in dummy with the high ♥9 and discarded his losing ♣5 from hand.
T7 Crossing back to hand via a club ♣2 to his ♣A (safer than via a Diamond),
T8-10 Declarer then drew the outstanding trumps with the ♥AKQ, pitching clubs from dummy.
T11-13 Claimed the remaining high minors for **10 tricks and the contract.**

The full deal:

	North	
West	♠ 862 ♥ 92 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ 8742	East
♠ AKQT7 ♥ J763 ♦ T2 ♣ QT		♠ J54 ♥ 84 ♦ 9763 ♣ J963
	South (D)	
4H/S Lead ♠A	♠ 93 ♥ AKQT5 ♦ K84 ♣ AK5	Vul All Dir: S

◆ ML – A Defensive Hand



Mike Lawrence

Mike Lawrence is well known as a bridge player (World Champion), author, and teacher

This hand is adapted from the ACBL Bridge feed website article ‘[A Defensive Hand](#)’

Some plays can be worked out at the table.
Some cannot. How do you feel about this one?

North (D)	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ K	West	North (D)	East	South
♥ AKT		1♣	1♠	Pass
♦ AQ5	Pass	X	Pass	1NT
♣ QJT97	2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
	All Pass			
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ QJ3	1♣	2+C, Opening hand		
♥ Q54	1♠	5+♠, overall		
♦ JT2	X	Reopening X, big hand		
♣ 6542	1NT	few points, ♠ Stopper		
	2♠	Pushy Support bid		
	2NT	19+ bal, ♠K probably useful		
	3NT	6hcp & some clubs		

Bidding

North opened a short club, and East has overcalled 1♠ (non Vul). You (South) initially passed this, but partner then reopened with a double (big hand support for unbid suits). You show your spade stoppers with a 1NT bid.

West now bid 2♠ & partner 2NT (big 19+ balanced hand & ♠ stopper), so you pushed on into 3NT with your 6hcp.

West leads the ♠T.

Declarers Preliminary analysis

Top Winners: $2x_{\spadesuit} + 3x_{\heartsuit} + 1x_{\diamondsuit} = \text{only } 6$

Loser: ♠A, ♣AK, Maybe ♦K

Strategies for making 9 tricks

- Set up clubs for 3 extra tricks

Here is what happened.

- T1 West led the **♠T**, **♠K** and East grabbed it with the **♠A**. He did not say it, but he thought to himself that aces are meant to take kings. Having won the first trick,
- T2 East now started to think. He returned a small spade **♠2**, implying a low club re-entry. Declarer (South) won with the **♠Q**
- T3 Declarer then started on setting up the club suit, and lead a **♣2**, which West ducked **♣8**, and it ran to East **♣A**.

- T3 East led another small spade $\spadesuit 4$, again implying a minor suit re-entry. South winning $\spadesuit J$. This has setup East spades
- T4 Declarer led another small club $\clubsuit 4$, and West got in with his $\clubsuit K$, East signalling a diamond $\heartsuit 9$
- T5 West switched the $\heartsuit 8$, but declarer took the $\heartsuit A$ and claimed his 9 tricks! NS tricks = $2\spadesuit + 3\clubsuit + 3\heartsuit + 1\diamond = 9$

Full Hand:

	North (D)	
West	♠ K ♥ AKT ♦ AQ5 ♣ QJT97	East
♠ T97		♠ A86542
♥ J9732		♥ 86
♦ 864		♦ K973
♣ K8	South	♣ A
3NT/S	♠ QJ3 ♥ Q54 ♦ JT2 ♣ 6542	Vul NS
Lead ♠T		Dir: N

Did East really do anything wrong here?

Yes, **East got too busy**. The lead of the ♠T and the bidding marked South with the ♠QJx. So, the play should go

- T1 East must let the ♠K win trick one, signal an encouraging card ♠6 using high card encourage signals.
- T2 Declarer will lead ♣Q from dummy & East wins the ♣A
- T3 East must lead back another small spade ♠2, giving South the second of his spade tricks ♠J.
- T4 Now when West gets in with the ♣K
- T5 West still has a third spade left to lead back to East's high spade winners. ♠A854 to beat the contract

East's defence is predicated on hoping West's has the ♣K since 3NT is not likely to go down if South has it.

You can find reasons for East to do differently on defence, for instance winning the spade and leading a diamond. This might work on a different layouts. What is important is that East see the possibility of ducking the first spade trick. Looks like East should have spent more time thinking before playing to trick one, not after.

♦ MH – The Red Dragon



The Red Dragon

Adapted from a hand on the ACBL bridge feed website, "Misplay these hands with me" by bridge Author Mark Horton

In the opening match at an international teams' match, I pick up a decent hand as dealer right at the start (both vulnerable):

♠8, ♥A8743, ♦A6, ♣AKQ43

North	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
	West	North	East	South (D)
♠ A75				1♥
♥ KQ6				
♦ J952	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
♣ T95	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ 8	1♥	5+♥, Opening hand		
♥ A8743	3♥	3+♥, Limit Raise <12hpc		
♦ A6	4NT	Keycard (♥)		
♣ AKQ43	5♠	2 Keycards + ♥Q		
	6♥	To play		

The Bidding

I open the bidding with 1♥, West passes and my partner jumps to 3♥, which we play as an old-fashioned limit raise. (The more technical bid these days, is a bid of 2♠ Bergen limit raise with 3 hearts)

Aiming to keep everyone in the dark about my excellent shape, I bid 4NT to ask for key cards. When partner bids 5♠, promising two key cards plus the trump queen, I can place him with the ♠A and the ♥KQ. He can hardly have anything else of use, so I settle for a 6♥ contract.

West starts the defence with a lead if the ♠Q, and partner puts down a borderline hand limit raise:

Preliminary Analysis

Although I am not convinced by our bidding (I would prefer a fourth trump for a jump raise), our hands fit well, and this should be a straightforward affair.

Top Winners: 1♠+3♥+1♦+3♣

Top losers: none

The secondary club fit looks good

My solution

T1 West leads the ♠Q I take the trick ♠A, as East plays ♠5, ♠8.

T2-3 I cash the ♥KQ, pleased to see both defenders following, East ♥2J & West ♥95.

T4 I draw the last trump ♥6 to ♥A, East ♠2 and West the outstanding trump ♥T

T56 I start on the clubs, cashing the ♣AK, but to my dismay East discards a ♠4 on the second round. Clubs are 4-1!

I now must lose both a club and a diamond tricks, so I am going one down.

The complete deal:

West	North	East
♠ QJ3	♠ A75	♠ KT9542
♥ T95	♥ KQ6	♥ J2
♦ KQ8	♦ J952	♦ T743
♣ J762	♣ T95	♣ 8
6♥/S Lead ♠Q	South (D)	Vul All Dir: S
	♠ 8	
	♥ A8743	
	♦ A6	
	♣ AKQ43	

Post Mortem

A bad break in trumps would have been fatal, but once both defenders followed to dummy's high hearts, I could have taken precautions against a possible 4-1 break in clubs.

I should leave the last trump outstanding and cash two top clubs. If both opponents follow, I can then quickly draw the last trump and claim. If clubs are 4-1 and the player with the singleton club does not have the outstanding trump, I can cash a third club and ruff a club with dummy's remaining trump. I then return to hand via ♦A, to draw the outstanding trump and cash the established club and make my 6♥ contract.

If Clubs are 4-1 and they Ruff, you could not make the contract anyway.

♦ ML – Entries



Adapted from a hand on the ACBL bridge feed website, "Entries" by bridge Author **Mike Lawrence**.

West deals. N-S vulnerable.

North		Standard Bidding			
		West (D)	North	East	South
♠ J93		Pass	Pass	2♣	3NT
♥ KQJT7		All Pass			
♦ 76					
♣ 742					
		Bidding Notes			
South		2♣	Weak 2♣, 6♣ <Opening		
♠ AK54		3NT	To Play		
♥ 2					
♦ AQT4					
♣ AKJ2					

East opened a weak 2♣ bid in third seat non vulnerable, finding South with this very nice hand. South had no good bid to make and chose to bid 3NT. Normally this bid is used to show a hand with a running suit and a stopper in their suit, and perhaps one more high card.

♠ K3
♥ 83
♦ A3
♣ AKQ7654

is typical. That South did not have the typical hand was not his fault. South saw that the alternative bid of double risked North bidding hearts excessively. So, he opted for the 3NT choice. West led the ♠T. How should South play?

Preliminary Analysis

Top Winners: 3♠+1♦+2♣ = 6 tricks

Top losers: ♥A

Strategies for 9 tricks

- The ♠T lead should set up the 3rd Spade trick.
- Knock out the ♥A

Your Solution

You were elated with this lead and immediately covered with dummy's ♠J. His plan was to win East's ♠Q and then knock out the ♥A. South would get to dummy again with the ♠9 and would make an overtrick or two. Or not.

- T1 West leads ♠T, ♠J, ♠2, ♠4. Turned out that the operative word was 'not'. as South found he was in dummy. East had not covered the jack as expected with the ♠Q. So much for speed. South had to slow down and think!
- T2 But, it was too late to think! South tried the club finesse, ♠2, ♠3, ♠J, ♠Q hoping to win that and then steal a few heart tricks. But the club finesse lost to ♠Q, and the hand fell apart.

Much later in the hand, South tried stealing the heart tricks but even that little play failed. When South led the ♥2 West played the ♥9, showing an even number. East knew enough to win the trick ♥A and it all added up a mess, down three.

The full Deal:

		North			
		♠ J93		East	
West (D)		♥ KQJT7		♠ Q8762	
♠ T		♦ 76		♥ A65	
♥ 9843		♣ 742		♦ 952	
♦ KJ83				♣ T3	
♣ Q985		South			
3NT/S		♠ AK54		Vul NS	
Lead ♠T		♥ 2		Dir: W	
		♦ AQT4			
		♣ AKJ2			

Was 3NT always going down? You can see all four hands now. While you are thinking about it, you might wish to note that East's 2♣ bid was one of the ugliest bids of all times. There are authors in the Bulletin who advocate pushy weak two-bids, but I do not imagine any of them would recommend this one. Still, it was effective in

that it caused South problems. What the weak two bid did not do was cause South to play poorly. He did that all by himself.

The correct play?

- T1 South should duck the ♠T in dummy and take the trick in hand with the ♠K.
- T2 Lead hearts to knock out the ♥A
- T After regaining the lead, he has 2 small spades to lead to the ♠J and ♠9. East can win one, but South can still force an entry to dummy in spades.

You will make ♠AK9 +4 hearts + 3 tricks in the minors. You will get 10 tricks. A slightly different assortment of tricks than he originally expected, but 10 tricks.

“Develop Your Skills” (DYS), for our more experienced players

NSBC Develop Your Skills 2022 Program with Anita Curtis Online Wednesdays at 9.30am



Develop Your Skills (DYS) is for 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 targeted, with hand analysis to consolidate skills. Lessons will be held **on-line on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am** There will be a 6 week break from the end of July until mid-September.

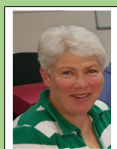
Date	Lesson Topic
Wed Apr 6	Interference over 1NT
Wed Apr 13	We're going to Slam – Blackwood
Wed Apr 20	They aren't going to steal this contract (over pre-empts)
Wed Apr 27	NO LESSON
Wed May 4	I CAN support you but not now! (Delayed raises – the “Canberra convention”)

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

For more information or to register,
email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au

If you have finished the DYS course, or have been playing for at least 1 year:

NSBC ONLINE Intermediate March 2022 Program ONLINE FRIDAYS at 10am with Anita Curtis



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

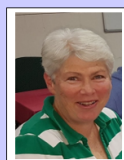
Intermediate: aspiring open players or those with considerable experience in Restricted.

Date	Lesson Topic	Description
4 Mar	Communication – that's the name of the game!	BYG/Intermediate bidding. The first round of the bidding by opener & responder is the easy part. What happens next defines whether you get to the right contract – or not!
11 Mar	Communication 2 – the other side!	BYG/Intermediate bidding. Do you find that, as overcaller & responder, you just don't get to the best contract?
18 Mar	I hate No Trumps!	BYG declarer play. How do you set up poor suits in No Trumps?
25 Mar	Essential Intermediate signals part 2 – attitude or suit preference?	BYG/Intermediate defence. This new lesson gives a recap of attitude/suit preference signals & then you defend 8 intermediate hands, using signals to achieve the best results.
1 Apr	NO LESSON	

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

For more information or to register,
email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au

NSBC Develop Your Skills end of course Hand Analysis April 2022 Program ONLINE WEDNESDAYS at 2pm with Anita Curtis



DYS end of course hand analysis consolidates everything learnt in the Develop Your Skills course for improvers. Defence, declarer play & bidding are all targeted by examining 8 new hands each fortnight. It is an excellent way to revise and also learn new skills.

Date	Lesson Topic
Wed April 6	Hand analysis 3 end of course
Wed Apr 13	NO LESSON
Wed Apr 20	Hand analysis 4 end of course
Wed Apr 27	NO LESSON
Wed May 4	Hand analysis 5 end of course

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

For more information or to register,
email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au