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## Open Challenge Hand 1

North	NS Vul, South dealer
♠ K754	West will overcall your 1♣ opening with 2NT (5/5 Red Suits)
♥ AQ632	
♦ A	
♣ KQ2	
South (D)	Assuming you can reach the 6♣ contract, West leads ♦K.
♠ AQ32	
♥ -	
♦ 7642	How do you plan to make this contract?
♣ AJT95	

## Open Challenge Hand 2

North (D)	Nil Vul, Dealer: North, MP Scoring
♠ JT9	
♥ 952	
♦ 7653	
♣ K83	
South	
♠ 653	
♥ A8	
♦ AKQT98	
♣ JT	

West	North	East (D)	South
		1NT	2♣
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

You use a single suiter takeout. And eventually arrive in a 3♦ contract. West leads ♥6

How do you plan to play this contract for min loss?

### 14<sup>th</sup> EL Open Swiss Teams

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Aug back F2F @ East Lindfield**  
**10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Swiss Teams (IMP) Event**  
**Prize Pool: Generous - dependant on entries**

Results will count towards 2022 NSBC Club Champion (Brownie Cup)

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Mike Prescott M: 0435 528 872  
 Director: Ronnie Ng  
 Entry Management: Enter by MyABF  
 Pre-Payments: Visitors MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to select "Club PP System"

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

Previous 2021 Winners (RB based in 2021)  
 13<sup>th</sup> Teams Champions : David Hoffman, Julia Hoffman, Christopher Quail, Richard Brightling

**Player Fees (pp) \$45 (Light lunch and snacks provided)**

### Sunday IMP Pairs on RB

**Sundays: 1:30pm**  
**Open Imp Pairs**

We guarantee a game, just come along and we will find you a partner  
 A chance to learn to play IMP scoring methods.  
 Swiss Pairs & Swiss Teams are popular congress & tournament type events.

**SUNDAYS ARE BACK!**

**RED Point IMP Pairs**

**Normal RB table fees (\$11 Members & \$14 Visitors welcome)**

### 8<sup>th</sup> EL Open Pairs Championship

**Prize : 3 SOP entries & Honour Board**  
**3 Monday Sessions: 1:00pm EL**  
**1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> August**

This event will decide the 2021 EL Open Pairs Champion  
Entry is casual, you turn up and play in the 1:30 RB Monday sessions  
 But you must play in all 3 sessions (subs are allowed) to win  
 Your percentage scores are cumulative  
 This is a qualifying Event to represent NSBC in the State Open Pairs (SOP) at the NSWBA clubrooms on 19/20th November.

Director: David Hagley We welcome all players who are financial  
 Convenor: Mike Prescott members of the ABF to play in this event

Winner 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 EL (RB) Open Pairs: Michael Seldon & Chris Dibley  
**Red Points** Yellow complex Systems are not permitted

**Normal F2F Table fees apply**

### 11<sup>th</sup> Willis Open Pairs Championship

**Prize : 2 SOP entries & Honour Board**  
**3 Tuesday Sessions: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> Aug**  
**12:45pm at WS**

This event will decide the 2022 WS Open Pairs Champion  
Entry is casual, you turn up and play in the 12:45 Tuesday sessions  
 But you must play in all 3 sessions (subs are allowed) to win  
 Your percentage scores are cumulative  
 This is a qualifying Event to represent NSBC in the State Open Pairs (SOP) at the NSWBA clubrooms on 19/20th November.

Director: Ronnie Ng We welcome all players who are financial  
 Convenor: Mike Prescott members of the ABF to play in this event

Winner 2019 10<sup>th</sup> CW Open Pairs: Derek Maltz & David Smee  
**Red Points** Yellow complex Systems are not permitted

**Normal F2F Table fees apply**

## ♦ LM – Defence in Detail 3



Back again in 2022, Defence in Detail looks at real-life hands from the last six months with a focus on practical plays, counting the hand and logical thinking.

When declarer makes an unusual looking play, pause, and reflect before following the normal line of defence. There may be some clues about what is going on. You are the dealer in a Swiss teams match and hold this moderate balanced hand:

♠7542 ♥KQ6 ♦76 ♣KT43

Your opponent's conduct a brief and cheerful auction.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With 18-19 points and a balanced hand, South would have rebid 2NT, so you expect that they have based their jump to 3NT on a long running diamond suit. Your partner leads the ♠5 and dummy is not particularly noteworthy:

South Deals	♠ QJ3
E-W Vul	♥ J9652
	♦ J52
	♣ Q7
	♠ 7542
	♥ KQ3
	♦ 76
	♣ KT43

Declarer selects the ♣7 from the dummy and it's your decision at trick one. Should you play the ♠K or the ♠T?

Frequently it is right to 'finesse against dummy' in situations like this, inserting the ten in order to later play the king on the queen. If partner has the jack and declarer has the ace, playing the king will cost a trick.

On the other hand, declarer's play from dummy seems slightly suspicious to you for some reason. What card do you choose?

**Solution:**

Partner's low club lead marks them with an honour in clubs, so declarer does not have both the ace and jack. If partner has both, either of your top two clubs will work, so assume that

declarer has one honour and partner has the other.

On the strong bidding, declarer is surely more likely than partner to hold the ace of clubs. But this is only half the story.

If declarer has ♠Ax or ♠Axx of clubs, why did they not try the queen from dummy? This would be a good chance (and their only chance) of a second stopper.

Declarer's decision to play low strongly suggests that they do not have the ace unless they have misplayed the hand. If you play your ♠T, you risk losing to the jack when you could have run the whole suit.

You should play the king and be confident that it will win the trick.

Your choice of play makes six tricks difference as you can see from the full deal:

South Deals	♠ QJ3	
E-W Vul	♥ J9652	
	♦ J52	
	♣ Q7	
♠ T96		♠ 7542
♥ AT87		♥ KQ3
♦ T		♦ 76
♣ A9652		♣ KT43
	♠ AK8	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AKQ9843	
	♣ J8	

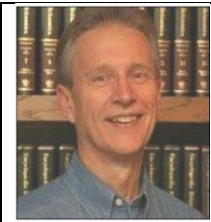
If you find the play of the king of clubs at trick one, the defence can take five clubs and three hearts to set 3NT down four. If you instead play the ten, declarer claims 3NT +2.

You can see that if the ace and jack of clubs were switched, declarer certainly would have tried the queen at trick one.

Most defenders put to this decision in a recent national Swiss Teams event failed the test despite the simplicity of the inference. It is much easier if you have seen the situation before!

**Point to remember: Inference from declarer's line of play is often more reliable than assumptions you may have made during the bidding. If declarer's play looks strange, stop and think.**

◆ BM – Accept the Challenge



Brent Manley

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article “[Accept the Challenge](#)”. Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

## Solution Challenge Hand 1

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K754	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ AQ632				1♣
♦ A	2NT <sup>(1)</sup>	X	3♥	PASS
♣ KQ2	PASS	X	PASS	3♣
	PASS	4NT	PASS	5♣
South (D)	PASS	6♣	ALL PASS	
♠ AQ32	Bidding Notes			
♥ -	1♣	Light shapely opening		
♦ 7642	2NT <sup>(1)</sup>	2 suiter 55 D/H		
♣ AJT95	X	Promises Penalty in one suit		
	3♥	Prefers Hearts		
	X	Penalty		
	3♣	Run as you are light		
	4NT	Keycard (S)		
	5♣	2+QS		
	6♣	To play		

## The Bidding:

You probably didn't expect to be in slam after your light opener, but here you are. Your partner made two penalty-oriented doubles, but you didn't like your void in hearts, so you bid 3♠ and quickly found yourself in a 12-trick 6♠ contract.

You get the lead of the **♦K**, which you win in dummy.

### Preliminary analysis

Winners: 4♠+1♥, 1♦, 5♣ = 11 tricks 1 short!

Top Losers      None

### Strategies for 12 tricks?

- The long trumps must be with East, unlikely to make if he has 5!
- Could ruff ♦ on Table till East over ruffs
- Could eliminate Diamonds & clubs from East, then give him his winner to lead hearts

So, what now?

## Your Solution

- T1 West leads the **♦K**, as usual, you could count 11 tricks against any distribution and 12 if the trumps were a very unlikely 2-3 break. You win the first trick with dummy's **♦A**, East playing **♦T** a likely doubleton count card?
- T2 You (declarer) cashed the **♠K**, East **♠6**, West **♠T**. At least they are not 5-0.

- T3 You cash the ♠A of trumps, getting the bad news that East had a trump trick.
- T4 You played ♦4 and ruffed in dummy ♠5, West playing ♦5
- T5 You then cashed the high ♣K. East ♣3, West ♣6
- T6 You played the ♣Q was overtaken with the ♣A. When West discarded a diamond, declarer paused to think.
- T7 It was clear from the auction that East had longer hearts than diamonds; otherwise, he would have bid 3♦ instead of 3♥. You surmised that West began with a likely 1=5=6=1 shape and East with 4=3=2=4 distribution. So, you cashed the ♠Q trumps West ♦, East ♠9
- T8-9 You then played two more rounds of top clubs ♣JT, reducing everyone to just four cards.
- T10 You now played your last high club ♣9. East threw a heart because he saw that there was no point in ruffing. If he did ruff, he would have had to lead a heart into dummy, allowing declarer to take the last three tricks with two hearts and a trump.
- T11 However, the heart discard served only to delay his fate, because you now led your last trump ♠3, throwing dummy's remaining low heart. East had to win his high trump trick ♠J
- T12+East had to lead to dummy's ♥AQ and you had to take the last two tricks.

Of course, if West had followed to the second club, he would have been marked with 1=5=5=2 shape, so a second diamond could then have been ruffed safely in dummy. The ♥A would have taken care of declarer's last diamond and all declarer would have lost would have been a trump trick.

The full deal:

		North			
		♠ K754			
West		♥ AQ632		East	
♠ T		♦ A		♠ J986	
♥ KJT97		♣ KQ2		♥ 854	
♦ KQJ983				♦ T5	
♣ 6		South (D)		♣ 8743	
6♠/S		♠ AQ32		Vul NS	
Lead ♦K		♥ -		Dir: South	
		♦ 7642			
		♣ AJT95			

## ♦ JM – Barrage Bidding



Our ex-president provides insights on bidding

## The pros and cons of barrage bidding

There are various views on what constitutes a barrage bid. In some minds, an opening 3-level pre-empt or game level opening bid both constitute barrage bids, as does a raise of a weak 2 before opponents have had a chance to bid. Such bidding can be very effective, particularly when opponent's assets are evenly divided and neither has a clear-cut bid.

My first example involved such a situation. My RHO opened 2 Spades (weak, 6 card suit). I had 12 points, including 4 Hearts, but also 4 Spades, and 3-2 in the minors – not an ideal doubling hand and I chose to pass.

LHO bid 3 Spades (weak). Partner also had 12 points with 4 Hearts, no 5-card suit, and also chose to pass.

Most pairs had played in a Heart contract our way (game or part score) making 10 tricks, but with most RHO's passing originally (too weak) life was made more difficult.

The time to tread carefully is when both opponents have been able to bid, and barrage bidding may be counterproductive unless used as a prelude to a sacrifice.

## INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE

- Face-to-face, Monday mornings at 10am, starting 15th August 2022 at East Lindfield.
- Online, Tuesday mornings at 9:30am, starting 13th September 2022, with a recording that can be watched and re-watched for re-inforcement.

The following hand from the Seniors NOT in Canberra some 25 years ago illustrates this latter point. My partner and I held:

Partner (N)	Me (S)
♠A10xxx	♠K
♥A10xxx	♥KJxx
♦Qxx	♦AJ10xx
♣-	♣xxx

We were playing ACOL. The bidding proceeded:

Acol Bidding			
West	Partner	East	JM
	1♣	2♣	X
4♣	4♥	Pass <sup>1</sup>	6♥
All Pass			
Bidding Notes			
1♣	4+♣, Opening Hand		
2♣	5+♣ Overcall		
X	Takeout Neg X (44 reds)		
4♣	♣ Barrage		
4♥	4♥		
Pass <sup>1</sup>	After some thought		
6♥	To Play, I think partner is short in Clubs, based on East, contemplating a 5♣ bid after the barrage		

Thus 6 Hearts was duly bid and made on minimum values. This is usually a good score in pairs, since not all pairs will bid the slam. It is a very good score in teams provided your opponents don't bid it as well.

In the score-up, we discovered that North had passed in first seat. Very few players would pass these days, the choice being between a 1-level opening or some 2-suited bid. Our East-West teammates had bid and made 3 Clubs in an uncontested auction!

## ♦ AB – Bridge Puzzles



[Bridge Puzzles 2](#)  
Augie Boehm



Bridge is primarily a game of language and logic. Of course, judgment and empathy play large roles, as does luck, at least in the short term. These puzzles feature language and logic. The idea is to deduce a significant amount of information from the bidding and opening lead.

### Problem 1

You are South:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♠	DBL
PASS	2NT	PASS	?

- a. How many diamonds does North hold?  
b. As South, you hold:  
♠7 ♥T8432 ♦AK84 ♣J76.  
What's your call?

### SOLUTION Problem 1

A relevant question is what N–S tend to open holding 3–3 in the minors, they answer 1♣.

- a. North holds four or five diamonds. North has at most three hearts — no 3♥ response to your negative double. The greatest major suit length All North can have is a 4–3, and with 4–3–3–3 North usually opens 1♣.  
b. Bid 3♦, non-forcing. In general, whenever you take partner out of a notrump partial into his first suit, it should be a correction of contract.

### Problem 2

You are sitting East:

NORTH	SOUTH
	1NT
3NT	PASS

Partner's opening lead is the ♥4.

North  
♥Q3

West  
♥4

East (you)  
♥KT852

Declarer plays dummy's ♥3

- a. Can you locate the missing heart honours?  
b. What do you play to trick one?

### SOLUTION Problem 2

- a. South holds either the ♥AJ, or the ♥Jx, but not ♥Ax. With ♥Ax, declarer would have tried dummy's queen at trick one. If declarer has no heart honours, he would also try the queen, hoping the lead was away from ♥AK.  
b. Play the ♥K, catering to declarer's ♥Jx. If declarer holds both high hearts, it probably doesn't matter which heart you play, unless it is a specific situation where the defence must prevent the ♥Q from becoming a late entry.

### Problem 3

You are sitting South

North (Dummy)
♠ 963
♥ 875
♦ K42
♣ 9862
South (You)
♠ AKJ872
♥ J9
♦ A6
♣ 754

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1NT	2♠
ALL PASS			

East opens 1NT (15–17 high-card points), you overcall 2♠, and all pass.

- T1 West leads the ♦J. You win your ♦A  
T2 You cash a high spade ♠A, collecting the ♠4 and ♠5,  
T3 You cross to the ♦K  
T4 You lead a second spade. South follows with the ♠T.

**What questions should you be asking?**  
**Do you finesse or play for the drop?**

### SOLUTION Problem 3

Find out if the opponents are using negative doubles at the two-level. While you're at it, see if they are also playing lebensohl or a similar convention that allows them to compete at the three-level without forcing to game.

If they are using **negative doubles**, play for the drop. The reasoning: their side has 24 HCP, giving West at least 7 hcp. Why didn't West compete? If he had a singleton spade, he would presumably double with four hearts or compete in a long minor. A spade holding of Qx, however, would discourage competition.

If they are using **penalty doubles**, the decision is closer. West may have been prevented from competing if his distribution is 1=4=4=4. Because he would likely have bid with any other distribution and a singleton spade, the finesse still seems like the percentage play.

At first glance this looks easy. If spades behave, you have 10 tricks: 6♠+2♥+2♣. But what if trumps divide poorly?

If West holds trump length, you can't do anything about it, but if East holds trump length, you can still bring home your contract. Say this is the layout:

		North		
		♠ K2		
West		♥ 8764	East	
♠ 5		♦ K83	♠ J976	
♥ QT3		♣ T93	♥ J9	
♦ QJT96			♦ A52	
♣ J865		South (D)	♣ Q742	
4♠/S		♠ AQT843	Vul NS Dir: S	
Lead ♦Q		♥ AK5		
		♦ 74		
		♣ AK		


To succeed in picking up a long trump holding on your right, you must **reduce your trump length to that of your opponent** (you'll see why in a minute). You've already ruffed once, so you must do so again.

- T4 Cash the ♠A, both EW following
- T5/6 Cash the top clubs in hand ♠AK.
- T7 When you cross to the trump ♠K in dummy, West showing out!.
- T8 Ruff the last club ♣T in hand ♠8, (making your trump length equal to East)
- T9/10 Cash the top hearts ♥AK
- T11 Then exit with the last ♥.

As long as East follows to two rounds of hearts, it doesn't matter who wins the third round because your last two cards are the ♠QT trumps, poised to capture East's ♠J9.

This technique is called a **trump coup**. To see the importance of reducing your trump length, try the play without eliminating clubs (ruffing the last club) and see what happens.

### ♦ Bridgefeed "Puzzle this 27"

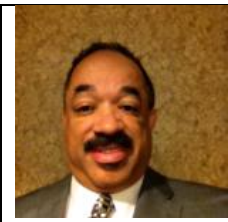
	This article was derived from Bridgefeed, " <a href="#">Puzzle This no 27</a> "				
North		Standard Bidding			
♠ K2	West	North	East	South (D)	
♥ 8764				1♠	
♦ K83	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠	
♣ T93	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
South (D)		Bidding Notes			
♠ AQT843	1♠	5+S, Opening Hand			
♥ AK5	1NT	6-9, Not 3S			
♦ 74	3♠	GF 6+spades			
♣ AK	4♠	To Play			

You, South, are declarer in 4♠.

- T1 West leads the ♦Q, which you duck in dummy,
- T2 West continues the ♦J, which you also duck. East may have had just Ax
- T3 West plays a third diamond to dummy's ♦K and East's ♦A, you ruff ♠3.

How do you play from here?

♦ VW – Let defenders do the work



Vince Wilmont

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Vice Wilmont article. "Let the defenders do the work". Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

Solution to Challenge 2.

North (D)	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ JT9	West	North	East (D)	South
♥ 952			1NT	2♣
♦ 7653	2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
♣ K83	All Pass			
	Bidding Notes			
South	1NT	15-17 Bal		
♠ 653	2♣	Takeout - Single Suiter		
♥ A8	2♣	Transfer to 3♣		
♦ AKQT98	3♣	Accept (2N=Super Accept)		
♣ JT	3♦	Good hand 6+♦		

The Bidding

You are playing in a Pairs tournament with Matchpoint scoring.

East opens 1NT (15-17), you (South) have a good hand, so you bid 2♣ (showing a takeout with a single suited hand)

West has system agreements for interference bids like 2♣ (X=stayman & other bids are system-on). West chooses to bid 2♣ (a transfer to clubs), planning to play in his long club suit. Your Partner passes and East accepts with a 3♣ bid (a 2NT bid would have been a super accept with good clubs).

You consider they will likely make 3♣ contract (they have at least a 6-2 minimum fit, and you have just 2 clubs, so for a score of 9 tricks, at least -110 is expected). So, you choose to compete again and bid 3♦ (you do have 7 top playing tricks in your own hand). This is passed out.

West starts the defence by leading ♥6 (normal leads, likely 4<sup>th</sup> Highest) Plan your contract play.

Initial Analysis

Top Winners: 1♥+6♦=7 tricks

Top Losers 3♠+1♥+1♣ Maybe 2♣

Strategy thoughts

- **Looks a good contract**, partner even has 4 little trumps! But no entry. Shame if the north hand had ♦J, we could fully eliminate hearts.
- We are not even **doubled!** Likely they can make a part score or perhaps even game in hearts, so you should get a good pairs score (even a top) if you can manage to go down just one trick.
- You have 7 top tricks, but you need to pick the club position to go just one off (your target on the hand is 8 tricks). Either the finesse of the ♣Q with my ♠JT or just lead up and play ♣K. But which play is correct?
- Probably the best line is to initially duck the heart lead, win the next, draw trumps, and exit spades for EW to eventually lead clubs for you or at least give you a clue about the location of the club honour cards. Hopefully, we should get some clearer idea for the right play in clubs.

The solution

- T1 West leads ♥6, ♥2, ♥Q You duck the opening lead ♥8. You are trying to make just 8 tricks, and this is a loser anyway.
- T2 East returns a low heart ♥3, which you now win with the ♥A, West ♥7 Dummy ♥5 The hearts look like being 4-4 distribution.
- T345 You draw trumps in three rounds cashing the ♦AKQ, West showing out and pitching ♣2, 4♠, and 4♣. East following suit. The West diamond void makes an EW game or high scoring part-score much more likely. Good news!
- T6 You need to know where the Spade honours are, to determine the best club play. So, you now exit a spade from your hand ♠3, West ♠7, ♠J, East winning with the ♠Q
- T78 East now cashes the ♠AK, NS following, while West plays ♠8 and a small club.
- T9 West now exits ♥K smothering table's ♥9. This you ruff in hand with the ♦8. As West follows ♥T.
- T10 We are back in and must make the **critical club decision**. East has shown up with ♥KQ & ♠AKQ (14 points) so the

♣A is likely to be with West, else East would have had an 18 hcp opening hand. So, you lead ♣J, West plays ♣6 smoothly, but you rise in dummy with the ♣K confidently (assured by your hcp counting) as East plays ♣7.

**Editor:** It is much better defence for East to hide ( i.e. not play ♥K) and just play a 3<sup>rd</sup> small ♥ back as partner's lead was clearly 4<sup>th</sup> highest. You know south has no more hearts and will ruff. Better to not show declarer all your high cards when you have limited your hand with a 15-17 opening bid. Partner will still know about your ♥K.

You have scored in your 3♦ contract, **1 off** for **-50**, but this will convert well into match points against other tables where EW heart contracts will be played, making about 11 tricks for **-200** or even **-650**

Full deal

3♦/S	North (D)	
West	♠ JT9	East
♠ 874	♥ 952	♠ AKQ2
♥ JT76	♦ J653	♥ KQ43
♦ -	♣ K83	♦ 742
♣ A96542	South	♣ Q7
Lead ♥6	♠ 653	Vul: Nil
	♥ A8	Dealer: E
	♦ AKQT98	
	♣ JT	

**Editor comment** EW bidding: EW would be in a better contract if she **X** the 2♣ bid (either showing a Club suit, or as a substitute **Stayman Convention** bid planning to pass any Major suit bid by partner)

### ♦ JF – Hand Analysis 4441



**Julian Foster** (many times NSW representative) analysing (bidding & play) on an interesting hand from a club session. Sourced SBC Wisdom articles.

	North (D)	Dealer: North Vul: None
West	♠ AKJ	East
♠ 32	♥ 75	♠ 6
♥ QJT963	♦ K983	♥ AK84
♦ 764	♣ 9763	♦ QJ52
♣ K4	South	♣ AQ85
11	♠ QT98754	♣♦♥♠NT
6 16	♥ 2	N - - - 3 -
7	♦ AT	S - - - 3 -
	♣ JT2	E - 2 3 - -
		W - 2 3 - -

This Board in a club game, is a classic example of spades vs hearts. Both sides are close to game in their suits. Accurate defence beats both game contracts but, as often happens, both 4♥ and 4♠ were made at some tables.

North has a pretty bad flat 11 count and all tables chose to pass. You might open a weak NT though playing an ACOL system.

East's choice of opening bid was split almost equally between 1♣ (7 tables) or 1♦ (6 tables). 4441 hands are not easy to bid, and you often have to tell a lie of some sort, it's just a question of which one!

The most important thing to do is to think ahead – imagine partner responding in your singleton and decide what your rebid will be.

What to do may depend on how strong your hand is and whether you are prepared to reverse. Remember a “reverse” after a 1 level response is a rebid in a suit HIGHER than the one you originally opened – which forces your partner to give preference back to your first suit at the 3 level. So, opening 1 of either minor and rebidding 2♥ over 1♠ is a reverse here but opening 1♦ and rebidding 2♣ is not. To reverse you need a good hand – at least 16 points because partner might only have 6 points, so



you don't want to force to the 3 level with a minimum hand.

On this hand if you think it is not good enough to reverse, you should open 1♦ so that you have a rebid of 2♣ over 1♠. If you think it is good enough, you should open 1□ (the minor you would prefer partner to lead) and then bid 2♥ over 1♠. Either way partner will think you are at least 54 when you open one suit and rebid another. But the alternative of bidding no-trumps isn't appealing either – especially with a small singleton. I would reverse here but it's very minimum for the bid.

As it happens all concerns about rebids go out of the window very quickly on this hand (!) because South should pre-empt 3♠ (North has already passed so it looks like it's the opponents' hand).

Pass	1♣	3♠	?
------	----	----	---

This is too high for West to bid (one or two tables did venture 4♥ which was lucky today, but I wouldn't recommend it with only 6 points – partner doesn't have to have nearly as good a hand as he actually does).

Pass	1♣	3♠	Pass
4♠			

Back to North who should raise to 4♠. Yes you don't expect it to make but you DO expect the opponents to be making 4♥ most of the time – your points are all in spades, so you won't have many defensive tricks there. The way to think about these hands is to imagine how happy you will feel if the opponents DO bid 4♥. Here the answer is surely not very happy – it looks likely to make and we will feel that we want to bid 4♠ over it. Therefore, we should do that immediately – this makes it much harder for the opponents to judge. It will also make it harder for them to defend as they have exchanged less information in the auction.

Pass	1♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	4♥
4♠			

If North does pass, East should re-open with a double and now West has an easy 4♥ bid. Whereupon North will probably bid 4♠ anyway! But West now has the extra information that East is strong enough to re-open at the 4 level.

Let's consider the defence to both 4♥ and 4♠.

**4♥ Contract** will normally be played by West and North will lead a top spade. To beat the contract North must then switch to diamonds so that he can give South a diamond ruff. If he doesn't do that declarer can draw trumps and then cash 3 rounds of clubs to discard a diamond. He will then only lose 1 spade and 2 diamonds other spade being ruffed in East). There are signalling methods that will allow South to signal diamonds in this situation – see advanced section.

**4♠ Contract** will be played by South will most likely receive the ♥Q lead. One or two tables led a diamond (presumably because their partner had opened 1♦) which was disastrous because East had to put in a diamond honour and then their other honour could be picked up via a ruffing finesse (see advanced section). Even if partner has opened 1♦ I'd probably still lead the ♥Q as it's so much safer to lead from a solid sequence.

Technically the defence do need to switch to clubs to be sure of taking it off because declarer can make the same play in diamonds himself. In practice the South hand is hidden, and East West may be tempted to just play a "safe" 2nd heart. West should certainly consider the ♠K though – see advanced section for why.

The traveller shows a typical range of scores for a board like this.

3 NS pairs made 4♠,
2 made a ♠ part score,
3 beat 4♥ heart contracts,
3 went off in 4♠,
2 allowed 4♥ to make.

Although in theory passing 4♥ out was correct, in practice 4♠ was still usually a winning action. Either it was allowed to make or in 2 cases the opponents went onto 5♥ which can never be made. The moral of the story is that it's right to bid 4♠ over 4♥ an amazing proportion of the time in a competitive auction!

**Key points to note**

- 4441 hands are awkward to bid. Before opening, decide what your rebid will be if partner responds your singleton (**they usually do!**). Also consider what opening might be most helpful to partner if they later end up on lead.
- It is almost always right to bid 4♠ over 4♥ in a competitive auction – especially when not vulnerable.
- If you think you will want to bid over their likely contract, it is better to do it immediately rather than wait for them to bid it, and then bid again (the opponents get to exchange more information that way which could help them judge whether to bid more, Double or how to defend).
- Defensive signals are critical – playing suit preference when there is a singleton in dummy is a useful method (see advanced section).

**More advanced**

The Acol weak NT (11-14) is often quite an effective pre-empt as it removes the entire 1 level from the opponents, and I would be happy to try it from North.

1NT	X (Pen)	?
-----	---------	---

East will probably double for penalties and South will run to spades – they might even gamble 4♠. They should certainly compete to that if the opponents do reach 4♥ but there's no guarantee they will after 1NT X 2♠.

If North South do sell out to 4♥ they need to be able to beat it! A good signalling method in suit contracts is to play **suit preference** when dummy has a singleton of the suit led and opening leader is likely to hold the trick. You obviously aren't making any more tricks in that suit so attitude or count in that suit (the usual signals) aren't much use. What is more important is to know which of the other two side suits the defence should attack. Here South can play the ♠T to show a preference for diamonds instead of clubs. This should allow North to find the diamond switch and the defence can take their ruff to beat the contract before declarer's 3rd diamond can be discarded on a club.

**4♠ Contract by South** is harder to defend against. Technically it can only be beaten if West finds the switch to the ♣K and the defence cash their 3 club tricks. The reason is that declarer can build an extra trick in diamonds to discard one of their clubs on if they are careful. Declarer needs to cross to a spade and lead a low diamond towards the ♦AT. If East plays low declarer can win the ♦T, cash the ♦A, complete drawing trumps in dummy and discard a loser on the ♦K. If East puts in the ♦J declarer wins the ♦A, draws the last trump and plays the ♦K then the ♦9 using the ♦98 to take a ruffing finesse through East. If East doesn't cover the loser is discarded immediately; if he does cover, declarer ruffs, crosses back to dummy with a 3rd trump to take the discard on the established ♦8. Of course, in practice declarer doesn't know that East has both the ♦Q and ♦J and he will lose an extra trick if East plays low and he plays the ♦T and loses to the ♦J or ♦Q. So, he might not risk doing that (in which case he should go a quiet one off unless the defenders make a mess of the club suit!). But he might consider the risk of losing an extra 50 points is a good gamble for the chance to make 420 on a hand with 4 top losers.

Declarer might also choose to just play ♦AK and a ruff hoping that either defender has an initial holding of ♦QJx (that may be influenced by East's original opening bid – if East opened 1♦ the ruffing finesse will be far better). Of course, if East had opened 1♣ initially it will be much more reasonable for West to try switching to ♣K! But he should think about it anyway – the only time it's wrong is if South has ♣AQ. That's possible, but it's pretty unlikely for a hand that has pre-empted in spades. If East has chosen to double 4♠ it's almost certain that he has something in clubs so the ♣K will be safe to play. It could also be essential if East has ♣A but not ♣Q as now West can get a club ruff.

		North (D)	Dealer: North Vul: None
West		♠ AKJ ♥ 75 ♦ K983 ♣ 9763	East
♠ 32	♥ QJT963		♠ 6 ♥ AK84
♦ 764	♣ K4		♦ QJ52
		South	♣ AQ85
11		♠ QT98754 ♥ 2 ♦ AT ♣ JT2	♠♦♥♣NT N - - - 3 - S - - - 3 - E - 2 3 - - W - 2 3 - -
6 16			
7			

## ◆ Thursday Competition Nights

After the Coffs one week break


**"Watermark" – 62<sup>nd</sup> Open Club Teams Championship**


**5 Thursday nights: 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> Sep**  
**7pm Start 5 Sessions – Club Teams Championship**


**Generous Sponsor Prize Pool: \$2500 .. More dependant on entries**

This event incorporates the 62<sup>nd</sup> running of the NSBC Club Open Teams Championships. Results (x2) will count towards 2022 NSBC Club Champion (Brownie Cup)

Director: **Ronnie Ng**  
 Convenor: **Gary Barwick** M: 0413 884 805  
 Entry Management: Enter Via NSBC website "Upcoming Events"

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

Previous 2021 61st Teams Champions : **Tony Hutton, Malcolm Carter, Jill Magee, Terry Strong**

**Player Fees pp Members: \$85 (5x\$17) Visitors \$100 (5x\$20)**

Then


**58<sup>th</sup> Club Open MP Pairs Championship (State)**


**4x Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep -13<sup>th</sup> Oct on RealBridge**  
**7pm Start 4 Sessions – Match Pointed Pairs Event**  
**Prize Pool: Generous - dependant on entries**

This event incorporates the clubs State Pairs Qualifying

• Results will count towards 2022 NSBC Club Champion (Brownie Cup)

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick** M: 0413 884 805  
 Director: **Ronnie Ng**  
 Entry Management: Enter via NSBC website  
 Pre-Payments: NSBC Members use PP System, & Visitors use website payment app  
 Previous 2021 champions:  
 57th Open Pairs Champions : **Dennis Wan & Henry Chu**

**Members (pp) \$56 (4x\$14) Non Members \$68 (4x\$17)**

Then


**The Falls Estate**  
 OXFORD FALLS



3<sup>rd</sup> Nov  
 10<sup>th</sup> Nov  
 17<sup>th</sup> Nov  
 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Nov  
 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

**MIXED TEAMS**

@7p

**\$2500 PRIZES**

Then

17	2x	10	3-Oct	Monday	EL	MP	Labour Day Pairs Congress
			20-Oct				Sydney Spring Nationals
			27-Oct				Sydney Spring Nationals
	2x		30-Oct	Sunday	EL	IMP	Metro North - Inter-Club Teams
	1/5		3-Nov	Thursday Night			
	2/5		10-Nov	Thursday Night			
	3/5	20	17-Nov	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	The Falls Estate Mixed Teams Championship
	4/5		24-Nov	Thursday Night			
	5/5		1-Dec	Thursday Night			
	2x		27-Nov	Sunday	EL	MP	Metro North - Inter-Club Pairs
	1/3		8-Dec	Thursday Night			
	2/3	10	15-Dec	Thursday Night	RB	IMP	Club XMAS Teams Championship
	3/3		22-Dec	Thursday Night			

## ◆ CW – How to improve your bridge



**Chris Willenken** is one of the world's top bridge players. In 2022, he won the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams and earned a silver medal in the World Mixed Teams.  
Source: **BBO Newsletter**

### Avoid the convention trap - count and review instead

I've been around the bridge world for long enough to be asked a lot of questions. One that gets repeated time and again is, "**How can an average player work to become a really good player?**" My answer may surprise you.

First and foremost, it's important for aspiring players to avoid the trap of memorizing conventions. Because top players generally play more conventions than average players, it's tempting to associate knowledge of more conventions with bridge skill. And it's true that discreet use of extra conventions beyond Stayman, Blackwood, and the like does make an expert pair more effective. I estimate that added effectiveness is about 1%!

If you're an expert competing against other experts, that 1% might matter. However, if you're not an expert player, you can improve a lot faster by ignoring extra conventions and focusing on other aspects of the game. And remember that if you or your partner frequently misunderstand each other's conventions, it'll inevitably cost you points in the long run.

Once you've avoided the convention trap, you'll have time to focus on developing the most important bridge skill: **counting the opponents' hands**. There are so many things to count in bridge. Top players count high card points, shape, and tricks. They use both the bidding and the play to help them get a complete picture of each deal. Obviously, when they figure out what everybody holds, they're going to get great results.

If you're not used to counting, counting **everything** might seem hopelessly out of reach. However, if you assign yourself small short-term goals, you can make reliable long-term progress. If you aren't counting anything currently, first work on counting the outstanding trumps. Once you can reliably count trumps, try also to count the opponents' remaining high card points based on what they showed in the bidding. When you have succeeded at those tasks, you can work on counting other suits as well, and eventually you will be counting everyone's entire distribution!

But the key is to **achieve true mastery of each task** before you move to the next. If you continue to assign yourself realistic short-term counting goals, you'll improve slowly but surely over time. (And not having a bunch of conventions distracting you will definitely help.)

After counting, the next most important skill is **reviewing your past results impartially**. This process enables you to stick with winning strategies and abandon losing ones. For example, perhaps you like opening weak two bids in third position with five card suits. In that case, keep track of your scores when you do it.

- Are you showing a profit overall?
- Does the vulnerability factor in?
- How about suit quality?

For many players, this analysis is challenging because they develop an emotional investment in their current strategies. If you want to win more, objectivity is the key. In my experience, most players long remember their successes and quickly forget their failures. With the best players, the opposite is true, because they're constantly looking for opportunities to improve their own games. It's liberating to know that even the best players in the world are constantly making and learning from their mistakes. When we acknowledge that bridge is a lifetime learning process, **it's easier to own past errors as a first step towards avoiding future ones**.

The NSBC stores all your results in **Pianola**, Bidding and hand records are readily reviewable

Show scorecard for Kevin Davies & Peter Robinson											
Board ▲	Versus	Bid	By	Making	Score	Bidding	Card play	MPs	Top MPs	Percentage	▼
1	<a href="#">Janie Russ &amp; Julia Connor</a>	4♠	N	7	-150	🔒	🔒	0	18	0%	☆☆☆☆☆
2	<a href="#">Janie Russ &amp; Julia Connor</a>	3♦	W	10	-130	🔒	🔒	4	18	22%	★☆☆☆☆
3	<a href="#">Heather Lane &amp; Sandra Da Silva</a>	4♥	N	11	-450	🔒	🔒	2	18	11%	★☆☆☆☆
4	<a href="#">Heather Lane &amp; Sandra Da Silva</a>	3NT	S	5	+400	🔒	🔒	18	18	100%	★★★★★
5	<a href="#">Elaine Dignan &amp; Ian MacLaren</a>	2♣	W	8	-90	🔒	🔒	7	18	39%	★★★☆☆
6	<a href="#">Elaine Dignan &amp; Ian MacLaren</a>	2♠	W	10	-170	🔒	🔒	7	18	39%	★★★☆☆

Additionally, can be viewed in **RB results**.

Pair 9 - KEVIN DAVIES / PETER ROBINSON								
Place: 3, Percentage: 60.19%								
Board No	vs Pr	Contract	Lead	Result	Score	Matchpoints	%	
Board 1	10: JANIE RUSS / JULIA CONNOR	4♠ N	CJ	7	-150	0	0%	👤
Board 2	10: JANIE RUSS / JULIA CONNOR	3♦ W	S2	10	-130	4	22%	👤
Board 3	14: HEATHER LANE / SANDRA DA SILVA	4♥ N	D4	11	-450	2	11%	👤
Board 4	14: HEATHER LANE / SANDRA DA SILVA	3NT S	C9	5	400	18	100%	👤 😊
Board 5	17: ELAINE DIGGAN / IAN MACLAREN	2♣ W	SA	8	-90	7	39%	👤
Board 6	17: ELAINE DIGGAN / IAN MACLAREN	2♠ W	HK	10	-170	7	39%	👤
Board 7	21: ARLENE NORMAND / HELENE JACOBSON	3NT W	S6	7	-200	4	22%	👤
Board 8	21: ARLENE NORMAND / HELENE JACOBSON	4♣ N	H3	10	-130	12	67%	👤
Board 9	20: RICHARD CROSS / GRAHAM JAMES	3NT N	H2	9	-400	14	78%	👤



◆ Advanced: Lessons with Andy Hung



# BRIDGE LESSONS ONLINE (ZOOM)

With Andy Hung



*Three online lessons*

Andy is teaming up with the North Shore Bridge Club as a guest teacher to run a few online Zoom lessons! You have the advantage of enjoying the learning environment in your own homes.

Andy will cover a series of interesting lessons, focusing on all aspects of the game; bidding, declarer play, and defensive play.

You don't need to be a member to join, everyone is welcome!



## 3 Online Zoom Lessons with Andy Hung

<b>Time:</b>	11:00am – 1:00pm AEST (Australian Eastern states) 10:30am – 12:30pm ACST (Adelaide) 9:00am – 11:00am AWST (Perth)	
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Bidding:</b> Defence vs. Opp's 2-Level Opening Bids
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Declarer Play:</b> How to Read the Opponent's Lead
<b>Lesson 3</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Defence:</b> Counting and Visualising the Suit Distribution



<b>Register:</b>	Via <a href="https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/bridge/lbc/upcoming-events">https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/bridge/lbc/upcoming-events</a>
<b>Cost:</b>	\$20pp per lesson (no need to commit to all, you can join any one or all). <b>NSBC members:</b> Can pay through their prepaid account <b>Non-members:</b> Pay online via <a href="https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/node/1565">https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/node/1565</a>
<b>Format:</b>	2 hours, using Zoom (Andy will give a Presentation talk, then he will have a BBO table where we look at hands with discussion and analysis). There are also lesson notes for everyone to receive.
<b>Instruction:</b>	A link to the Zoom seminar room will be emailed out in advance. You do not need a Zoom account, but if you would like to participate in the discussion, please familiarise yourself with a microphone, and how to mute.
<b>Lesson Material:</b>	The lessons will be recorded, so if you are unavailable, you can pay for the lesson and there will be a link of the video to watch at a later time plus notes.

**Contact:** For any other queries – Email is [hung.andyp@gmail.com](mailto:hung.andyp@gmail.com)