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Open Challenge Hand 1

North		All Vul, South dealer			
		Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)		
				1♠	
2♠ ⁽¹⁾	PASS	3♥		3♠	
4♣	4♣	ALL PASS			
South (D)					
♠ AJT9873					
♥ T					
♦ AK8					
♣ K6					

West made a Michaels Cue (H + minor), & east gave weak preference with 3♥. You reach 4♠. West Leads ♥K

How are you going to play this hand?

Open Challenge Hand 2

North		Nil Vul, Dealer: South, MP Scoring			
		Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)		
				2NT	
Pass	3♣	Pass		3♦	
Pass	3NT	All Pass			
South (D)					
♠ K842					
♥ AQ					
♦ A53					
♣ AK86					

A stayman auction to 3NT

West lead is the ♥4, ♥J, East playing the ♥2, standard count (1 or 3) ♥Q. Plan the play.

NSBC Intermediate August 2022 Program

Online Fridays at 9:30am with Anita Curtis



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

Intermediate: for aspiring Open players, or those with considerable experience in Restricted.

The lesson is recorded and can be watched or re-watched at your leisure.

Date	Lesson Topic	Description
Friday, 9 th Sept	Competitive bidding with negative doubles	How do you show a 4-card major at the 2 level when the opponents intervene? What are the follow up bids? Bidding only.

Visitors \$20, Members \$17

For more information, or to register:
Email Anita Curtis at: ac210927@bigpond.net.au

♦ LM – Defence in Detail 4



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.

'Breaking the rules' and playing an abnormal card can often be an effective way to solve a defensive problem – whether it is establishing a suit, knocking out an entry or even simply getting off lead.

Sitting in the West seat in a matchpoints tournament, you hold a smattering of honours:

♠ A974 ♥ QT8 ♦ K94 ♣ Q96

Your opponents have an unusual auction – perhaps even unsound:

West	North	East	South
			1 NT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 15-17			
2. weak, both majors			

South was expected to pass 2♥ or give preference to 2♠. From their 2NT bid, it sounds like declarer has short majors – likely a doubleton in hearts – and strength in the minors, perhaps a 3-2-4-4 shape or possibly a five-card minor.

Not liking your minor-suit holdings, you select the ♠4 for your lead and see this dummy:

South Deals	♠ T853
E-W Vul	♥ AJ95
	♦ T5
	♣ T53
♠ A974	
♥ QT8	
♦ K94	
♣ Q96	

Partner wins the ♠K on the first trick as declarer follows with the ♠2. Partner's spade return ♠6 goes to the ♠Q and your ♠A. It isn't clear who has the ♠J, but you suspect it may be declarer from the assumption that they have short hearts. This looks awkward now. Anything you return could give declarer a trick.

What's the best chance at trick 3?

Solution:

With declarer marked with minor suit length and strength on the auction, neither a club nor a

diamond return appeals. Either suit could be right, but both are risky.

A spade is somewhat passive. If declarer has the ♠J, you give nothing away and get off lead, but you have unblocked the suit while dummy still has an entry in hearts. If partner has it, you have set up a trick for declarer in the dummy – not ideal.

Switching to hearts looks dangerous, but we have theorised that declarer is weak in hearts. If they had ♥Kx, would they not have passed 2♥? With ♥Kxx they certainly should have. If we are going to play a heart to attacks dummy's entry, which card is best? The ♥8 will be covered by the ♥9 and partner's ♥K, leaving a finesse position against us; the same goes for leading the ♥T.

What about the wacky-looking ♥Q? If declarer wins the trick with the ace, that's dummy's only entry gone, while if they duck, we can happily continue the suit towards partner's king.

This is how the full deal looks:

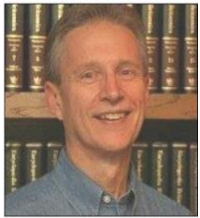
South Deals	♠ T853	
E-W Vul	♥ AJ95	
	♦ T5	
	♣ T53	
♠ A974		♠ K6
♥ QT8		♥ K432
♦ K94		♦ Q876
♣ Q96		♣ J84
	♠ QJ2	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AJ32	
	♣ AK72	

On a spade at trick 3, declarer makes 2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 3 clubs and a trick in the wash in one of the red suits. A minor suit shift also does no harm to declarer. A shift to the heart eight or ten will be covered in dummy and declarer now makes two tricks in the suit. But the ♥Q gives declarer an impossible problem. Ducking only delays the issue and winning destroys dummy's entry to the fourth spade. In fact, the ♥Q is the only card to beat the contract at this point.

Declarer would have done better to begin unblocking their spade honours under partner's king at trick one to ensure two tricks in the suit.

Point to remember: Without much to go on, work out what the best suit to play is first. Then narrow it down to which CARD to play. Consider the effects of all of the options!

♦ BM – Careful handling

	This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article " Careful Handling ". Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website
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Brent Manley

Solution to Challenge 1

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K6	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ A972				1♠
♦ 743	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	PASS	3♥	3♠
♣ 8743	4♣	4♣	ALL PASS	
	Bidding Notes			
South (D)	1♠	5+♠, opening Hand		
♠ AJT9873	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Michaels 5♥+5 minor		
♥ T	3♥	Weak support		
♦ AK8	3♠	6+♠ Good hand		
♣ K6	4♣	5+c Better hand		
	4♠	To play, ♠Kx & ♥A		

This one required very careful handling.
West leads the ♥K.

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 6♠+1♥+2♦ = 9 tricks

Losers: ♠A, likely ♠Q long in east, deep ♦/♣

Strategies to make 10 tricks

On the bidding, you placed the ♠A with West.
This left him with three sure minor-suit losers, so he would have to play the trump suit without loss for 7 tricks.

The bidding suggested that West would be short in trumps. If the trumps were 3-1 (at least an 8 to 3 favourite), then cashing the ♠K and playing ♠6, covering East's card, would be enough to make the contract.

Declarer then considered what he could do if trumps were 4-0. The answer was that he would have to ruff three cards in hand.


Your Solution

- T1 West leads the ♥K, you win ♥A in dummy, east following ♥4 & ♥T from hand
- T2 As it could not cost to ruff a heart at trick two, so, ♥2, ♥3, ♠7, ♥5. You were careful to ruff with the seven of trumps to preserve any options.
- T3 Next, you lead the trump ♠8, ♠2 to the ♠K East ♠2 discovering the 0-4 break
- T4 You then ran the ♠6 when East followed with the ♠4, preserved ♠3 played from hand to remain on table.
- T5 You then ruffed another heart ♥7, ♥8, ♠9, ♥6.
- T67 You then cashed the ♦AK to take advantage of your only hope for the contract – that West had started with 0=5=2=6 shape, as both EW followed
- T8 After that, you lead the ♠K as an exit card, and West took his ♠A, ♠3, ♠T
- T9 West then cashed his high club ♠Q, ♠4, ♦2, ♠6
- T10 But then had to play a card that declarer could ruff. West choose the ♠J, which you ruffed in hand ♠T
- T11 You now had a three-card ending. You had the ♠AJ trumps plus the ♦8 left. You exited ♦8, which East won the trick ♦J.
- T12 East then had to lead a trump from his ♠Q5 and you took the last two tricks with your ♠AJ for your contract.

The full deal:

	North	
West	♠ K6	East
♠ -	♥ A972	♠ Q542
♥ KQJ65	♦ 743	♥ 843
♦ Q5	♣ 8743	♦ JT962
♣ AQJ952	South (D)	♣ T
4♠/S	♠ AJT9873	Vul All Dir: South
Lead ♥K	♥ T	
	♦ AK8	
	♣ K6	

♦ EK – Take all your Chances



This article was based on a Kantar [‘Take all your chances’](#) series article in the ACBL “Bridge Feed” website.

Eddie Kantar

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ A75	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ JT9				2NT
♦ K8642	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
♣ 94	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ K842	2NT	20-22 Bal		
♥ AQ	3♣	Puppet Stayman		
♦ A53	3♦	1 or 2 4 card Majors		
♣ AK86	3NT	to play		

2NT-3♣-3♦-3NT gets you the opening lead of the ♥4, East playing the ♥2, standard count (1 or 3). And now? Plan the play.

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 2♠+2♥+2♦+2♣=8 I trick short
 Top Losers: None, West looks like he has 5♥’s.
 Should be common contract & opening lead

Strategies for 9 tricks:

- Set up diamonds if no worse 4-1
- Set-up Spades if 3-3

It looks very much as if hearts are 5-3 which means you must score nine tricks before they can get in **twice**. The good news is that you start with eight sure tricks. This should be your plan:

- T1 West leads ♥4 you ♥9, ♥2, So you win with the ♥Q
 T2 You cash the ♦A. West D7, D2, DJ
 T3 Cash the ♦3, ♦9, ♦K, ♠2.

If both follow,

- T4 You would just give up a diamond ensuring 10 tricks!

But If diamonds are breaking 4-1, then

- T4 You would duck a spade as you can still make 3NT if spades are 3-3.

If you just duck a diamond too early and diamonds are breaking 4-1, **down you go**. They will play a second heart and you don’t have time to set up a ninth trick in spades even if the suit is divided 3-3.

It is crucial to see how diamonds break **before** conceding a diamond. There are two suits involved here, not just one.

North		East (E)	
♠ A75	♥ JT9	♠ QT6	♥ 652
♦ K8642	♣ 94	♦ J	♣ QT7532
South (D)		Vul Nil	
♠ K842	♥ AQ	Dir: S	
♦ A53	♣ AK86		
♣ J			
West		3NT/S	
♠ J93	♥ K8743	Lead ♥4	
♦ QT97	♣ J		
♣ J			

NSBC Gentle Hand Analysis

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with Anita Curtis




Gentle hand analysis consolidates everything learnt in improvers and introduces new ideas through hand analysis. Defence, declarer play & bidding are all targeted by examining 8 new hands each fortnight.

Date	Lesson Topic
Wed Sept 14	Gentle Hand Analysis 11
Wed Sept 28	Gentle Hand Analysis 12
Wed Oct 12	Gentle Hand Analysis 13

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

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Sep 15 th	Opener’s 2 nd bid – “I can’t support you!”
Sep 22 nd	Leads against suit contracts
Sep 29 th	Responder’s NT bids

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◆ RK – NSBC Falls Estate Teams



Rakesh Kumar

Rakesh Kumar (NSBC remote member) describes himself as an enthusiast who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns. He wrote about or **June Festival Teams Congress** in the July **NSWBA eCongress News**.

“Off shape was on target”

The 2022 North Shore Bridge Club Festival was a mixture of face-to-face and RealBridge events. The Saturday Teams on RealBridge, sponsored by The Falls Estate, was convincingly won by the **BEEBY team** (Nick Jacob - Jane Beeby, Michael Whibley - Mathew Vadas) with the **HOFFMAN team** (Christopher Quail - Julia Hoffman, Peter Grant - Pam Crichton) finishing in second place.

As usual for me, a full day of bridge yielded plenty of interesting tales and even more horror stories.

For the First Problem, you hold:

♠KT
♥KQ
♦KQ976
♣KT64

In first seat, vulnerable against opponents who are not vulnerable, you decide to open an off shape 1NT. Partner transfers to hearts and then bids 3♣, forcing to game. What will you bid now?


This was the board associated with the first problem:

Board 22	♠A9754	
Dealer E	♥T62	
Vul E-W	♦T54	
	♣A8	
♠Q8		♠KT
♥A9754		♥KQ
♦83		♦KQ976
♣QJ97		♣KT64
	♠J632	
	♥J83	
	♦AJ2	
	♣532	

		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	-	-	1	-
9	16	S	-	-	1	-
7		E	4	2	3	1
		W	4	2	3	1

With 5-4 in the minors but honours in both major suit doubletons and appropriate high card strength, an off shape 1NT opening in first seat certainly appealed. However, as the auction developed, East had a problem: 3NT looked like a bad idea with only one likely spade stopper and 5♣ was surely a bridge too far with this aceless hand. The clever rebid was 4♥ – that proved to be the only making game and was of course what Michael Courtney bid against us! Yes, BridgeSolver points out that the contract can be beaten, but that requires a club lead which South was never going to find. Only 3 of 28 were in 4♥ and all were successful.

The off shape 1NT opening reared its head again later in the event. At our table, on the deal below, West chose to start things off with 1NT and East simply raised to 3NT. That had 9 sure tricks without breathing hard, even on the optimal lead of ♥2 by North.

Board 36	♠T	
Dealer W	♥J82	
Vul Both	♦KQ8763	
	♣985	
♠AQ652		♠KJ4
♥T5		♥Q96
♦AJ52		♦94
♣A7		♣KJT32
	♠9873	
	♥AK743	
	♦T	
	♣Q64	

		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-	-
E	4	-	-	4	5	-
W	4	-	-	4	5	-

Most of the field ended up in spades and while 9 made the game, 11 went down; another 4 somehow stopped in making part-score contracts. The 4 who played in 3NT didn't even break a sweat.

The second problem, again vulnerable against not, your RHO as dealer opens 2♠, promising 5 spades and a 4+ minor suit. You pass, LHO raises to 3♠ and partner doubles. RHO passes, of course. This is your hand:

♠K3
♥AK6
♦J7642
♣Q87

What will you do?

In keeping with the trend of the '20s to open lighter-than-air weak 2-level bids, at our table East chose to make a nuisance of himself with a 2♠ opening, which was raised by his partner. No sane person would overcall 3♥ with the North hand, so all that was left was a double.

Board 34	♠97	
Dealer E	♥J7542	
Vul N-S	♦AKQ	
	♣K94	
♠AJ82		♠QT654
♥Q9	N	♥T83
♦T953	W E	♦8
♣A62	S	♣JT53
		♠K3
		♥AK6
		♦J7642
		♣Q87

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	4	3	-	1
S	1	5	3	-	5
E	-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	-	2	-

South pondered for a while and eventually bid 4♥, with obvious reluctance. But as it turned out, the not-so-deadly 2♠ weapon now shot the defending side in the foot, because West was persuaded to lead ♠A. After this start, the contract made because of the favourable position in trumps. However, as the cards lie the best game is in fact 3NT by South – which 5 pairs managed to make.

The third problem, not vulnerable against opponents who are vulnerable, you pass as dealer, LHO opens 1♣ and partner overcalls 2NT showing the red suits. RHO now bids 3NT. When you try 4♥, LHO goes on to 5♣. Partner leads ♥6 and you see this dummy:

♠AQ4
♥QJ2
♦QJT
♣Q984

♠987532
♥A753
♦86
♣3

Declarer plays ♥J from dummy and you win with the ace. What will you do at trick 2?

The board associated with the problem, is now in its correct orientation

Board 41	♠987532	
Dealer N	♥A753	
Vul E-W	♦86	
	♣3	
♠AQ4		♠KJT6
♥QJ2	N	♥8
♦QJT	W — E	♦A9
♣Q984	S	♣AK7652
		♠
		♥KT964
		♦K75432
		♣JT

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	4	-	-
S	-	2	4	-	-
E	4	-	-	2	5
W	4	-	-	2	5

Partner obviously does not have ♦AK, so did you choose to return a spade? If you did, South ruffed and exited with a club, after which the contract had to go down. On any other return, it would have made. Defeating 5♣ turned out not to be such a great result, however, because it was actually a good save against the unbeatable 4♥. Across the field, 5 pairs made 4♥x for +590 to North-South, while 14 made 3NT for +660 or +690 to East-West and another 4 made 5♣ for +600.

♦ BF - Bridge Puzzle 35



This article was derived from Bridgefeed, ["Puzzle This no 35"](#)

North
♠ AJT
♥ JT98
♦ A43
♣ 653
South
♠ KQ98765
♥ -
♦ KQT
♣ A72

Somehow, you arrived in a 6♠ contract as South — it must be your partner's fault, no doubt!

T1 West leads the ♦9.
Is there any hope?

Solution:

You have a chance to make this contract by using dummy's hearts for club discards. **If East has at least two (or all three) top hearts**, you'll be able to establish a heart winner in dummy, but only if you manage your entries properly.
Here's the type of layout you're hoping for:

West	North	East (D)
♠ 42	♠ AJT	♠ 3
♥ K532	♥ JT98	♥ AQ764
♦ 9876	♦ A43	♦ J52
♣ KJ8	♣ 653	♣ QT94
6♠/S	South	Vul NS
Lead ♦9	♠ KQ98765	Dir: E
	♥ -	
	♦ KQT	
	♣ A72	

- T1 West leads the ♦9. You win the opening lead with the ♦K in hand
T2 Cross with a trump ♠5 to ♠T in dummy
T3 You play a heart ♥J.

If East ducks, pitch a club loser from your hand. Later, you will cross to dummy with another trump and continue playing hearts, intending to discard your last low club.

If East covers with a high heart at any point, you ruff and return to dummy to play more hearts through East.

The only catch is that you can't draw two rounds of trump right away

- As you need the trump entries to dummy to set up the hearts.
- You need to win the first trick in hand in case you need 4th entry (♦A) to enjoy the club discard. (ie ♥AKQ in the East hand)

♦ JF - "Protection" in the auction



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

West	North	Dealer: East
♠ 974	♠ KQ	Vul: NS
♥ 8764	♥ T92	East (D)
♦ T52	♦ AKQJ73	♠ AJT852
♣ T43	♣ QJ	♥ KJ
		♦ 4
		♣ K985
		♣♦♥♠NT
18	♠ 63	N 3 6 5 - 6
0 12	♥ AQ53	S 3 6 5 - 6
10	♦ 986	E - - - -
	♣ A762	W - - - -

This hand, from a club game caused problems. Normally when a pair holds a combined 28 points, they bid game quite easily. But on this board only 1 pair managed to get to game. Let's see what went wrong.

The normal start to the auction is to north

1♠ Pass Pass

One South did make a takeout double of 1♠ (this was the pair who did reach game) but I wouldn't recommend it with a fairly balanced 10 count, it's not really strong enough.

The key to the auction is what North does after

1♠ Pass Pass.

Almost everyone at the table bid 2♦. Some Easts then bid 2♠ (but be aware that's very risky because his partner has already passed so he could easily be walking into a bloodbath). Most Souths then raised to 3♦ but that typically ended the auction.

So, **who should have done more?** North in my view. Both initially and also after their partner raises 2♦ to 3♦.

After just bidding 2♦ the first time South could have no idea North was so strong. Once North hears a raise from partner they should definitely be bidding on (most likely to a 3NT game).

So, what should North do initially instead? The answer is to start with a **double**. Yes, initially it's assumed to be takeout of spades but, just like when sitting directly over an opening bid, you also do it with a hand that's too strong to overcall immediately.

This introduces the concept of "**protection**" which often causes a lot of confusion. It applies in a situation like this where an opening bid has been passed by the opponents. The point is if the final hand passes that's the end of the auction so it should try to come back into the auction on hands lighter than usual because partner may have had to pass with some quite reasonable hands. For example, most balanced hands that aren't strong enough to overcall 1NT (i.e., less than 15) can't really bid unless they can make a takeout double. Therefore, the hand in the final seat should try to bid with as few as 9 or 10 points in order to "protect" partner and still allow the pair to reach a decent contract. See advanced section for more on the implications of this.

Imagine for example the North hand being the same shape but without the ♦AK or ♣QJ (so KQ 109x QJxxxx xx). Now they only have 9 points. But North South can still make 3♥ (losing 1 spade, 2 diamonds and 1 club) so they don't want to be passing out 1♠.

What does that mean for the auction here? After a double from North, East might venture 2♠ (risky as I said above). South will now probably bid 3♥ (because they think at that stage partner has made a takeout double of spades and they have a decent hand with 10 points when they might have had nothing).

Over that North might well just try 3NT holding 7 pretty easy tricks and hoping partner has 2 more. Their other option is bidding 4♦ which, after doubling first, now shows you had a hand that was too strong to bid 2♦ the first time. But that will lead South to raise to 5♦ and from North's perspective that could easily be silly losing ♠A and 2 clubs. 3NT looks more practical despite only having only one spade stopper.

The play isn't that interesting and should lead to 12 tricks losing just the ♠A. This is because the club finesse works, and the heart position is also very fortunate. But of course, this is highly likely after the auction - see advanced section for more on this. Most pairs did indeed make 12 tricks, but they were typically only playing in 3♦. Although 6♦ does make it's pretty lucky and, as we can see from the traveller, even bidding and making game would have scored very well today.

Key points to note

- In "protective seat" (after 1x Pass Pass to you) you should strive to come back into the auction to "protect" partner who may have had to pass on some quite reasonable hands, and you'll miss your own contract if you pass it out.
- Mentally add 2-3 points to you hand and bid as if you held that (so that means starting with a double on hands with 16+).
- When responding to bids in protective seat be aware partner is bidding some of your hand for you. Mentally subtract 2-3 points from your hand.

- It's a good idea to play 1NT in protective seat (4th Seat) as 11-14 and 2NT as natural (19-21).
- When one opponent has passed their partner's opening bid they will usually have at most 5 points. That makes it easier to work out where the missing high cards are.

More advanced

It's worth thinking more about protection. If North bids 2♦ with about 9 points (as we've seen is worthwhile) then making the same bid with the 18 points they have here will make it impossible for partner to know what to do - the range is just too wide. That's why in protective seat you should start with double on anything from 16+ points.

A good rule of thumb is for the hand protecting to mentally add about 2 or 3 points to their hand (so here North should bid as if they have about 20-21 points instead of 18). That also means the other hand needs to mentally SUBTRACT the same 2-3 points when responding because their partner has already bid some of their hand for them. So here South should bid as if they have about 7-8 not 10. This is sometimes referred to as the "principle of the transferred King" (or Queen). Opinions differ about how much adjustment both hands should make.

A related question is what a jump overcall means in protective seat. There is no point playing them as weak because weak jump overcalls are intended as a pre-empt. But there's no-one left to pre-empt after 1x Pass Pass. So, they are usually also played as intermediate – about 12-15. This North hand is slightly too strong for that in my view but its close (because the clubs could be worthless). I certainly prefer 3♦ to 2♦ on the hand. After 3♦ South could bid 3♠ to ask for a stopper to play 3NT.

Note the protection concept is often applied to no-trump bids as well. That means 1x P P 1NT is frequently played as 11-14 (in contrast to an immediate overcall which usually shows 15-18). That "protects" partner who could have had to pass with 14 points as well. It's quite embarrassing to have 14 points each and pass the opponents out at the 1 level only to find you

are cold for 3NT! So how should protective seat bid after 1x Pass Pass with different balanced ranges that aren't suitable for a takeout double?

- 11-14 1NT.
- 15-18 Double and then bid NT at the minimum level.
- 19-21 2NT (this is important to note - in protective seat 2NT should NOT be Michaels showing both minors, it should be natural).
- 22+ Double and then jump in NT.

Contrast this to what you do in direct seat:

- 11-14 Pass.
- 15-17(18) 1NT.
- (18)19 -21 Double and rebid NT at the minimum level.
- 22+ Double and jump in NT.

These sorts of auctions have declarer play implications too. When the opponent starts with 1x Pass Pass it tends to be worth bidding quite aggressively. There are 2 reasons for this:

1. Most of the missing big cards are known to be in the opener's hand. The hand that passes their partner's opening bid will have at most 5 points so, once they turn up with a King (say), they can't usually have any other major cards. This makes it easier to place the cards which is often worth a trick when declaring.
2. With almost all the points in one defender's hand, that player will often have to lead away from honours and give away tricks.

Frequently you will find you can make game on fewer values than usual.

Finally, look back to the opening side's perspective. Precisely because passing partner's opening bid does create all these disadvantages, many players nowadays will stretch to respond - even maybe on as few as 4 points. Yes of course that can backfire (partner jumps to 2NT!) but a lot of the time when you don't win the auction, you will not have made it as easy for declarer in the play.

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

♦ JM – Non-Natural NT Bids



John Mottram

Our ex-president provides insights on bidding

Non-natural NT bids

Below is a small selection of such bids, some of which are no longer in fashion, others which have remained popular over time, and newer ones which are gaining in popularity.

The Baron 2NT: Back in the 1940's, the 'Baron' system was developed, named after its inventor, although it seems to have been more a series of ideas which could be merged into other systems, in particular ACOL. Using this system, the **2NT** bid was regarded as a convention. In essence it could be deemed to be a natural bid, in that it was a balanced response to a 1-level opening, but it showed 16+ points (preferably 16-18). It was quite popular with ACOL players, but not surprisingly has fallen out of fashion, particularly when viewed alongside modern bidding methods.

The 'Jacoby' 2NT: This has been a popular convention for some time. The bid applies when responder to an opening bid of 1 Heart or 1 Spade has 4 card support plus opening or better values. The 'Bridge Australia' version can be found on the Internet. I prefer a few variations in opener's rebid: 3H/3S to show a 6th trump rather than a strong hand (17+); 3NT to show a strong balanced hand rather than 13-15 balanced; 4 of a new suit to show a void rather than a second 5 card suit.

The 'Unusual' 2NT as an opening bid:

Normally showing a hand with 2 5-card suits, commonly the minors, this conventional bid seems to be less popular now than it was in earlier years. Ranges of strength depend on partnership agreements.

The 'Unusual' 2NT as an overcall: Normally showing a hand with 2 5-card suits, commonly the minors, but frequently other suit combinations depending on the opening bid. This conventional bid, particularly showing the minors, seems still to be popular after many years of use.

The 'Bergin' 3NT response: Strictly speaking, this is not part of Bergin, but is a common additive which can be used elsewhere. Bid in response to an opening bid of 1 Heart or 1 Spade, this shows a balanced hand of 13 – 15 points with 3-card trump support. Other players may think otherwise, but I believe that ideally it should deny an outside 5-card suit. With such a hand, responder can bid the 5-card suit then follow up with a delayed game raise.

Knowledge of this 5-card suit may be useful to opener.

Finally, here are **2 newer conventional 2NT bids** which I have been using for a while.

No name 2NT No 1: Here is a common situation at the table:

Standard Bidding			
RHO	Partner	LHO	You
1♣	1♥	2♣	?

You wish to raise to 3 hearts, not expecting to win the auction, and being aware that partner will be on lead. You have 2 bids available, **3 Hearts** ('I have a top honour in Hearts') and **2NT** ('I have no honour in Hearts'). This latter bid may deter partner from making an expensive lead from a broken Heart suit.

No name 2NT No 2: Here is another common situation:

Standard Bidding			
RHO	Partner	LHO	You
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

Partner has a tricky bid, having a hand of 12 – 14 points with 3 Hearts, no Spade suit and a rat doubleton somewhere, and chooses not to bid 1NT. If you have game invitational values, you can find out more about partner's hand via a rebid of **2NT** (asking). Partner's replies are

- 3 Clubs (3 card support, minimum),
- 3 Diamonds (3 card support, maximum),
- 3 Hearts (4 card support, minimum),
- 3 Spades (4 card support, maximum)

◆ Thursday Competition Nights

The current **Club Teams** event finishes in mid-September. The next Thursday night event will be a 4-week **Club Open Pairs**. This will also qualify pairs to the NSWBA State Open Pairs championship to represent our club.



58th Club Open MP Pairs Championship (State)

4x Thursday 22nd Sep -13th 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 after a 2-week Spring Nationals break, A Sponsored Mixed Teams event



39th "Falls Estate" Mixed Teams Championship

5x Thursday Night Sessions: 7:00pm
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 1st Dec
Again on RealBridge in 2022

Must Enter for all 5 sessions (Substitutes are allowed) in the club Website by 10pm Wednesday 2nd Nov.
 Late entries may be allowed by Convenor at his discretion. 2xCC scoring event for 2021 Club Championship (Brownie Cup) 39th Club Mixed Teams Championship (Imps/VP) (Club Honour Board)
 Teams must consist of **true partnerships with the opposite gender** in each played match.

Prizes: Sponsor Supported \$2,500.00 Prize Pool

Convenor, queries & partnership advice:
 Director : Ronnie Ng
 Convenor: Gary Barwick 0413 884 805

We welcome all players who are financial members of the ABF to play in this event.
 Yellow Complex Systems are not permitted

Previous 38th 2021 Mixed team's Champions:
Sophie Ashton - Susan Humphries - Liam Milne - David Beauchamp

Red Point Event

Members (PP) \$340 per Team (5 Nights @ \$17pp)
Non Members \$400 per Team (5 Nights @ \$20pp)



Then the final XMAS Teams



13th Club XMAS Teams Championship

Again on RealBridge in 2022

2x Thursday Night Sessions: 7:00pm 8th, 15th December

Must Enter for both sessions (Substitutes are allowed) in the club Website by 10pm Wednesday 7th Dec Late entries may be allowed by Convenor at his discretion.

Club Honour Board **Generous Prize Pool : Dependant on entries**

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
 We welcome all players who are financial members of the ABF to play in this event. Yellow Complex Systems are not permitted

Previous 12th 2021 XMAS Team's Champions:
Liz Sylvester & Peter Gill, Yumin Li & Simon Zhang

Red Point Event

Members (PP) \$112 per team (2 Nights @ \$14pp)
Non Members \$136 per Team (2 Nights @ \$17pp)



◆ Club Congress & Special Events

The early October Congress Pairs at EL

Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club
 2b Carlyle Road, East Lindfield
 Tel: (02) 9415 8344



Labour Day Congress

Matchpoint Pairs @ East Lindfield

Monday: 3rd October

2 Session Event: 10am Start

Prize Pool: Generous - dependant on entries

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Mike Prescott**
M: 0435 528 872, Director: Mike Prescott
 Entry Management: Enter via **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
 Complex Yellow Systems are not permitted

2021 RB Winners: **NS: Gary Barwick & Helen Milward**
EW: Cevat Emul & Catherine Zhang

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

The Late October, Metro North Interclub Teams

B5i Event!

Margaret Smale 2022

Metro North Interclub

Teams Challenge

Sunday 30th October 2022
9.45am for 10am start
 Hosted by North Shore Bridge Club
 Venue East Lindfield 2b Carlyle Road
 East Lindfield Ph 0435 528 872



Join the fun and the challenge!

- One day friendly IMP teams event for novices up
- \$100 per team, includes light lunch, & snacks at the end
- Play in <100, 100-300, 300-750 & >750MP fields (based on team average MPs) - so play against similar teams
- Teams in top half of each field earn their club points
- Teams contribute equally whether novice or open
- Smaller club entries welcome and may combine into "All Stars"-type entries
- Red points - and perpetual Trophy records winning club

Margaret Smale's family provided the perpetual trophy in Margaret's memory.

Director - Ronnie Ng
Convenor - Mike Prescott

How to Enter (by 16 May or earlier if full):

- Metro North ABF affiliated clubs can enter 2-3 teams of their club's regular players in each field (3rd team prov.)
- Limit 32 teams - enter early, avoid disappointment
- Club entry form (see bottom) and inquiries to Sue Crompton, 0416 290 867, suecrompton40@gmail.com

Then, in late November, the Metro North Interclub Pairs