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♦ Inter-Club Rookie Teams required



As we won the Metro North Inter-club Teams event in 2021 at our old Ryde RSL venue. So, we are again hosting this event, but at **East Lindfield** on the 30th of October, after the Spring Nationals are over.

Probably we will be entering two sets of teams representing both NSBC & East Lindfield clubs

We need teams of 4 in all 4 grades to represent our 2 clubs. These grades are based on Masterpoint rankings, and you will play against teams of the same ranking.

- Open
- <750 MP
- <300 MP
- <100 MP

Contact Sue Crompton too book your team into the Sunday event at EL.
Note: teams (IMP/VP) scoring

Club's [Honour Board Link for Interclub Teams](#)
[Link to Inter-Club Teams Flyer](#)

Challenge Hand 1 (Bid and Play)

North (D) ♠ 76 ♥ 65 ♦ A7653 ♣ AKJ9		Nil Vul, Dealer North <table> <tr> <th>West</th><th>North (D)</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr> </table>		West	North (D)	East	South		1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
West	North (D)	East	South																
	1♦	Pass	2♣																
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♣																
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣																
South ♠ AQJ ♥ J7 ♦ KT ♣ QT8765		All Pass You end up in a 5♣ contract as neither could stop hearts. T1 West cashes ♥K T2 East Wins ♥A T3 East now switches to 2♠! How do you play the hand?																	

Challenge Hand 2

You are South:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♣	X
PASS	2NT	PASS	?

- How many diamonds does North hold?
- As South, you hold:

♠7 ♥T8432 ♦AK84 ♣J76.

What's your call?

"Gentle Hand Analysis" with Anita Curtis, ONLINE on WEDNESDAYS at 2pm Oct-Nov 2022



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

Join "live" on Zoom OR watch the recording at your leisure.

Date	Lesson Topic
Wed Oct 12 th	Gentle Hand Analysis 13
Wed Oct 26 th	Gentle Hand Analysis 14
Wed Nov 9 th	Gentle Hand Analysis 15
Wed Nov 23 rd	Gentle Hand Analysis 16

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

Visitors \$20, Members \$17.

♦ PO - Communications

 <i>Pat O'Connor</i>	Communications It is from my second book "Demystifying Defense".
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We are West. Our hand is

♠K8763 ♥954 ♦J42 ♣43.

South opens 1♣, we pass and North bids 1♦. Partner passes and South jumps to 2NT showing a balanced hand with 18-19 HCP. We pass and North raises to 3NT. It is our lead. We don't have much of a hand so we could lead a heart hoping to hit partner's suit, but we decide to lead the fourth highest of our long suit, the ♠6.

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1♣	2+♣, opening hand		
1♦	4+D, 6+hcp		
2NT	4+♣ Support Min		
3NT	Spade Stopper, weak in ♥		

North
♠ 95
♥ J87
♦ JT98
♣ A876

When dummy comes down, we see that the opponents have a maximum of 25 points, so partner must have 12 or 13.

- T1 Declarer plays the ♠9 from dummy and partner wins the trick with the ♠A
- T2 East returns the ♠T. This indicates that partner did not start with four spades. Declarer covers the ♠T with the ♠J and it is time to think.

We must hope that partner started with three spades rather than two, otherwise we won't get far in developing our suit.

What happens if we win this trick?

Declarer started with three spades and clearly has the ♠Q remaining. We could continue spades and knock it out but we have no entries in our hand so we will never get in to enjoy our spades.

What happens if we duck this trick?

We would retain the ♠K and all our spades would be winners. More importantly, partner will still have a spade left. We have no entries outside the spade suit, but partner almost certainly does, and can return his last spade when he gets in.

So, this is the way to go. We play the ♠3 on this trick, showing partner that our lead of the ♠6 was not our lowest and thus we started with five spades.

Declarer wins and eventually leads the ♣Q for a finesse. Partner wins the ♣K. Partner returns the ♠2 and we set the contract.

The Full Deal

		North	
		♠ 95	
		♥ J87	
		♦ JT98	
		♣ A876	
		South (D)	
		♠ QJ4	
		♥ AKQ	
		♦ A53	
		♣ QJT2	
West (You)			East
♠ K8763			♠ AT2
♥ 954			♥ T632
♦ 742			♦ KQ6
♣ 43			♣ K95
3NT/S			Vul Nil
Lead ♠6			Dir: S

Post Mortem

Ducking in a suit to retain communication is a standard declarer play. It is also an invaluable tool for defenders. If we had not ducked the spade at Trick 2 the defence would have taken only two spade tricks instead of four. When you don't have an outside entry, give serious consideration to this technique. And yes, on this deal partner might have had only two spades, and you'd never get your king – but you must play to beat the contract!

♦ PH – Counting Stoppers

Pat
Harrington

Counting Stoppers:

From Pat's Play and Learn Bulletin series, on the ACBL bridge feed website.

When you declare notrump, you often see the opponents attack your weakest suit on opening lead. It's a relief to have a second stopper. Sometimes you can control whether or not there will be a second stopper. Let's look at some examples.

How will you play this holding for two heart stoppers after your left-hand opponent starts with the ♥6?

♥Q3
♥A54

Play the queen from dummy, hoping that West led from a long suit headed by the ♥K. If you play low, East could play low to force out your ace even when he held the king.

How should you play the next holding for two club stoppers on the lead of the ♣5?

♣J3
♣AT4

As long as you play the ♣3 from dummy, you are guaranteed a second stopper. If East plays an honour, capture it with the ♣A and your ♣T4, combined with dummy's ♣J, are enough to drive out the other high honour and give you a second trick. You must play your ace on East's honour, however. Holding up would cost you your second stopper. If East does not have a high honour to play to trick one, you win the ♣T and have the ♣A for later.

Another way to go wrong with this holding is to put up dummy's jack at trick one. If East plays an honour, you can win the ♣A but that leaves you with the holding shown below while your opponent's still have one of the club honours.

♣3
♣T4

Your ♣T is protected from attack if West gains the lead, but not if East leads through it. Playing low from dummy at trick one gives

you a second stopper no matter who gains the lead later.

What is the best way to play the next holding for two stoppers on the lead of the ♦7?

♦K53
♦Q4

Let the lead ride around to your hand. If East plays the ace, you have two sure tricks. If East plays a lower card, he forces out your ♦Q. With the ace still out, do you have a second stopper? Here's what's left:

♦K5
♦4

There's a good chance that the opening leader has the ♦A and the ♦K will be a second trick. But it's not guaranteed. East, holding the ace, might have finessed at trick one. If you can play to keep West off lead, you will not have to worry about dummy's king being attacked.

Switch declarers and dummy's cards and you also have to switch your thinking. What's the best play for two stoppers now?

♦Q4
♦K53

If you play low from dummy, East can easily force out your king, and the opponent's ♦A will pick up dummy's ♦Q. You are better off playing the ♦Q from dummy at trick one. It wins if West has led from a long suit headed by the ♦A. There are two misconceptions I have seen applied in this situation.

- Players remember the advice "do not underlead an ace," but they forget that advice is for suit contracts.
- The second misconception is to think of the saying "second hand low." That is sometimes good advice for declarer, but it is meant for the defenders, who do not know their combined assets.

Declarer has the advantage of knowing all 26 of his side's cards and can play them to his best advantage. Look at the previous examples and notice that we played low from dummy in some and high from dummy in others.

Back to the above example — you play dummy's ♦Q to trick one and it holds. Is there a dangerous opponent? Yes: East can lead a diamond through your king. It appears that West has the ♦A. Try to keep East off lead.

One more example: How can you play for two stoppers when dummy's ♠9 wins trick one (West led the ♠4)?

♠ JT9
♠ K53

The fact that dummy's ♠9 won the first trick should help you place the missing high spades. Where are they? East would have played "third hand high" if he could, so it appears that West has both the ♠A and ♠Q. Is there a dangerous opponent?

If East gains the lead, he will send a spade right through your king. It is dangerous to let East gain the lead with the above cards. Is West also dangerous? No. If West leads a spade, your king is protected from attack. Try to keep Dangerous East off lead.

♦ JF – Hand Analysis (X or Overcall)



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

		North	Dealer: East
		♠ QJT	Vul: EW
West		♥ 986	East (D)
♠ A96		♦ KJT42	♠ 852
♥ KT54		♣ K8	♥ AQJ2
♦ A75			♦ Q6
♣ 954		South	♣ QJT6
10		♠ K743	♣♦♥♠ NT
11 12		♥ 73	N - 1 - 1 -
7		♦ 983	S - 1 - 1 -
		♣ A732	E 1 - 2 - 1
			W 1 - 2 - 1

On a board in a club game, most of the field played in a heart part-score. But most made 9 tricks rather than the 8 they are meant to (the defence should score 2 spades, 1 diamond and 2 clubs). Let's have a look why. First the auction.

1♣ Pass 1♥ ?

East normally opens 1♣ and West responds 1♥ (although see advanced section for another method). Many Norths overcalled 2♦ at this point. That's pretty risky, for several reasons:

- The hand is balanced!
- The ♠Kx isn't looking that good with the suit opened on your left.
- We only have 5 diamonds.
- The hand on our left could still be large – it's opened the bidding so could easily have up to 20 points.
- On a bad day 2♦ could easily be doubled and go for a large penalty!

Today, however, isn't that bad a day and East will, in practice, raise hearts.

Melbourne Cup Pairs

East Lindfield Club

Red Point Event

Tuesday, 1st November

at 10:30am

ENJOY BRIDGE for \$25.00

LUNCH: Bring a plate and share lunch.
Free champagne wine and juice provided

Watch the race on any of the many TV screens around the club

Hat Parade (Best Hat Prize)

Enter our \$1, \$2 & \$5 sweeps

Booking Essential
Club noticeboard, Website or
Entries close: Monday 31st October

NEW
Starts Monday October 10th

MONDAY NIGHT ROOKIE SESSION

7pm at East Lindfield

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1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	

If North has bid 2♦ South might raise to 3♦. West might want to make an invite in hearts now (see advanced section for a way of doing that) but might also content themselves with just 3♥ which is then likely to be the final contract.

How should the play go? North should lead the ♠Q – a lead from a sequence of honours in an unbid suit is one of the safest in bridge. South should encourage this suit. West might duck one round and win the 2nd (it doesn't make much difference). After drawing trumps declarer will play on clubs. Most often this was a low club to the ♣9 and North's ♠K.

At one or two tables declarer had only drawn two rounds of trumps (an error) so, after winning the ♠K North tried another club hoping for a ruff. Alas when South got in, they assumed (reasonably enough) that declarer had drawn all the trumps, so they played a diamond through instead. Declarer could now win the ♦A, complete drawing trumps and discard a spade loser on one of dummy's clubs.

After getting in with either the 1st or 2nd club the defenders need to continue spades to cash their two tricks. Those are the critical tricks to take. A diamond discard on the 4th round of clubs isn't actually of any use to declarer because they will still lose the ♦K and the 3rd diamond would later have been ruffed in dummy anyway (see advanced section for more discussion on this).

Other ways that 3♠ was allowed to make were:

- Declarer led a low diamond towards the ♦Q and North didn't take the ♦K (it is very dangerous not to rise here knowing there are only 2 diamonds in dummy!)
- North switched to a diamond which allowed the ♦Q to score a trick in dummy (again very dangerous to switch from a suit like that but sometimes, as we will see below, North was not given any choice in the matter!)

- At some tables both the ♣AK had been taken and then the defence cashed their two spade tricks. But North was left on lead after doing so and only had diamonds left. This meant they had to lead the suit away from the ♦K so declarer scored two diamonds without losing any. That in turn meant 9 tricks in total (1 spade, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs). South should not have allowed this to happen – they should have overtaken the 3rd round of spades to be on lead with the ♠K. See advanced section for why. Two tables in fact made 10 tricks when North led a diamond at trick 1 allowing the Q to score, and later the defence took both their clubs before switching to spades, so a spade loser was discarded on the 4th round of clubs as well.

Key points to note

- Overcalling on balanced hands with 5 card suits is dangerous (especially if the opponents bidding is still relatively unlimited).
- Leads of an honour sequence in an unbid suit are one of the best and safest in bridge.
- It can be important to distinguish between hands that want to invite to game and hands that just want to compete. Game try doubles can help do that (see advanced section).
- Be wary of leading away from broken honour holdings at any stage – they regularly cost tricks.
- As a defender give thought to whether partner might have a problem on the next trick and whether it may be better for you to be on lead.
- Consider what losers declarer might be threatening to discard – that will help guide which suit the defence may need to play as soon as they can (see advanced section).

More advanced

These days a common method after a 1♣ opening is to play **transfer responses**. This gives plenty of advantages as both partners can show more hands (including, most

usefully, whether opener has 3 or 4 card support). So, on this hand West would respond 1♦ showing hearts. If North were to overcall, now East's 2♥ bid would specifically show 4 card support (because they could use a support double to show 3 card support).

Without any opposition bidding there are different methods used but a common one is that completion of the transfer (i.e. 1♥) by East shows exactly 3 hearts and a 2♥ bid shows 4 hearts (equivalent to a raise of a natural 1♥ response). This comes in very handy to West as they quickly know the extent of the fit they have.

If there was a competitive auction where South raised North's 2♥ bid to 3♥ this might allow West to make use of another handy competitive bidding tool – a game try double. This is a double of a bid that is immediately below your own 3 major contract. It is not penalty – it shows a hand that is a genuine invite to game in your suit (distinguishing it from 3 of your suit which now shows a hand that just wants to compete without inviting partner to bid more). This only occurs because there is no room left below 3 of your own suit (i.e. here because our suit is hearts and they are bidding diamonds).

Assuming the defence start with the ♠Q lead and North gets in with the ♠K and plays more spades, South should overtake the 3rd round of spades. Why? Because there is nothing to lose. Once they see their partner play the 3rd round of spades, either the spades are 4333 round the table or partner has 4 spades and declarer is ruffing this round. In the 2nd case it doesn't matter what we play. In the 1st case it might be critical – we need to be on lead to play a diamond through for partner. A good defender is always alert, to try to protect their partner from being endplayed. It might not make any difference, but it doesn't cost to consider the possibility just in case!

In fact, if South does overtake and finds themselves on lead with the 3rd round of spades they can relax. Why? Because they can count the shape. They now know declarer has 3 spades. They know declarer has 4 hearts because 3 rounds of trumps

have been drawn. That leaves declarer 6 cards in the minors which is the same as the number in dummy. So it doesn't actually matter what the rest of the shape is! Here declarer is 3-3 in the minors but a discard of a diamond on dummy's 4th club isn't of any value. Suppose they were 4-2 in the minors instead. It still doesn't matter. Now they might be able to discard 2 diamonds on clubs but that still leaves declarer with 2 diamonds and a loser.

An important skill as a defender is to identify what losers from declarer might be usefully discarded and what ones can't be. Here the spade losers are the critical ones. Diamonds are relatively short in dummy so it's less of a concern if they are discarded from declarer's hand (a longer diamond card could be ruffed in dummy anyway). So it's essential for the defence to take their spade tricks – the diamond trick isn't going anywhere (unless of course North gets endplayed and is forced to lead one!)

As a final thought, if the defence had not found the spade lead declarer should try a low diamond towards the ♦Q himself. When North has the ♦K there is time to win a spade switch, cash the ♦Q and cross back to hand with a trump to this time discard a spade loser from East on the ♦A. But there is no point trying that once the spade has been led because the defence's spade tricks are already set up.



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)

♦ 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

Solution to Challenge 1

North (D)		Standard Bidding			
		West	North (D)	East	South
♠ 76			1♦	Pass	2♣
♥ 65					
♦ A7653		Pass	3♣	Pass	3♣
♣ AKJ9		Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
		All Pass			
South		Bidding Notes			
♠ AQJ		1♦	4+♦, opening hand		
♥ J7		2♣	Strong GF, 5+♣		
♦ KT		3♣	4+♣ Support Min		
♣ QT8765		3♣	Spade Stopper, weak in ♥		
		4♣	Cannot help in ♥		
		5♣	To play		

Partner opens 1♦, you respond 2♣, partner raises to 3♣, you try 3♠ hoping partner can bid 3NT with heart stoppers. No luck, partner takes you back to 4♣, so you bid 5♣.

- T1 West opening lead is the ♥K (surprise) , ♥5 , ♥8 (encouraging), ♥7
 T2 West Continues ♥2, ♥6 East ♥A, ♥J
 T3 East shifts to a low spade ♠3.

Plan the play.

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 1♠+2♦+6♣ = 9 short

Top Losers: ♥AK (cached), threatening a ♠ loser

Strategies for 11 Tricks

- Play East for ♠K and finesse
- Play West for ♠K and set up dummy's Diamond suit for 2 Spade discards

Best Solution

Stick in the ♠Q. A 50% chance.

A 50% chance is better than trying to set up the diamonds for two spade discards. In order for that to happen, you need diamonds to be exactly 3-3, which is only a 36% chance.

Ideally, you would like to have had time to test the diamonds first, but you didn't have that luxury. You were forced to make an early decision so knowing the odds helps.

Say you had one less spade and one more club. Now you can make the hand needing only one spade discard. In other words, you can make the hand if diamonds divide 3-3 (36%) OR 4-2 (48%).

Now it is better to rise with the ♠A and try to set up the diamonds missing 6 cards

3-3 break 36%
 4-2 break 48%
 Total: 84% chance.
 I.e., you only lose to the 5-1 & 6-0 breaks (16%)

Full Hand

		North (D)			
		♠ 76			
West		♥ 65		East	
♠ T852		♦ A7653		♠ K943	
♥ KQ942		♣ AKJ9		♥ AT84	
♦ Q9				♦ J842	
♣ 43				♣ 2	
		South			
5♣/S		♠ AQJ		Vul Nil	
Lead ♥K		♥ J7		Dir: N	
		♦ KT			
		♣ QT8765			

Outstanding Cards	Possible Holding	Percentage
6	4-2, 2-4	48.5%
	3-3	35.5%
	5-1, 1-5	14.5%
	6-0, 0-6	1.5%

♦ MB – The Best Chance



I think most bridge players know the saying “Eight ever, nine never” which refers to if you should finesse or not when you have the Ace and King of a suit but missing the Queen – with 8 cards you ‘always’ finesse, with 9 cards you should ‘never’ finesse.

The reason is that with 9 cards, the chance of the Queen falling under your Ace, King is 52% but with 8 cards it’s only 31% chance that the Queen falls. A finesse is *usually* close to a 50% chance.

However, like just about everything in bridge, there are exceptions! - If one of the opponents has pre-empted with a 7-card suit then the chance of dropping the Queen under Ace, King falls from 52% to 43%. How would you play the contract of 6♥ below with the ♠A lead?

♠ J7	
♥ A6	
♦ KQ	
♣ KQJT965	
A♠	
♠ K43	
♥ KJT752	
♦ A84	
♣ A	

Well, you’ve got 3x♠ losers in hand. Dummy’s clubs can take care of those. Now - with the A♠ opening lead, the play is straightforward. You cannot afford to lose a trump trick and with 8 cards in hearts, the best chance is to finesse East for the ♥Q (“Eight ever, nine never”).

But what about 6♥ Contract on a ♦5 opening lead?

Do we take the heart finesse, as before? If the heart finesse loses, the opponents are sure to cash their ♠A (well they should!! seeing that long club suit in dummy) and down you go.

Interestingly, the best percentage play is to win the opening ♦5 lead with dummy’s ♦K and cash your top two trumps. If the ♥Q drops, draw the last trump with your ♥J, unblock the A♣, and cross to dummy’s ♦Q and play clubs.

If the ♥Q doesn’t drop, no matter, still unblock and cross to dummy and play clubs. If the player with the ♥Q also has 3 or more clubs, she will have to follow to the ♠K, ♠Q, as you discard two spade losers. When you play the 4th round of clubs, the player with the Queen of trumps is welcome to ruff in but you simply discard your last losing spade.

Here, finessing you will make your contract **44%** of the time. Playing your Ace-King of hearts and then playing clubs, you make **53%** of the time.

But “hang-on”, you say, “A finesse is a 50% chance isn’t it?” Well..., not when you only have ♥A6 in dummy and can only finesse once. You must lose a trick when East or West has ♥Qxxx.

“Bridge Basics” online with Liz Wilkinson.

Lesson on Tuesdays at 9:30am,

Practice sessions Wednesdays at 7pm.

Starting Tuesday 25th October 2022



These lessons follow the 6-week “Introduction to Bridge” course. They expand on the basic ideas already learnt, introduce some new ideas, and focus more on card playing skills.

There will be 8 topics in total – this month’s topics are listed below.

Each week there is a supervised Practice session, that supports the lesson.

Date	Topic
25 th October	Responding to partner’s opening of 1NT

Lesson notes and sample hands will be sent out each week.

The weekly fee of \$25 covers both the lesson and the Practice session, or you can pre-pay the block of 8 for \$120.

For more information email Kay Moyes on moyes_kay@hotmail.com

♦ RT – Playing in online bridge Tips



Robert Todd

Stay Focused and Play Your Best
Sourced BBO July 2022 Newsletter

To be a consistently good bridge player requires more than just bridge knowledge or even good bridge judgment. A large part of bridge is about focus and psychology. In many ways, your ability to keep (or regain) your focus in stressful situations is more important than your bridge knowledge.

As a bridge teacher, I often find myself working with my students on bridge concepts (or even their bidding systems/agreements). But as a professional player, that plays with students of many backgrounds and skill bridge levels, I find that one thing almost every player needs is help with the psychology of the game.

This is true for all types of bridge – in-person and online. When it comes to playing bridge online, we face a more difficult set of challenges than we do when we're playing in-person. Of course, when playing bridge online there are often distractions with things going on around you – either in your home, coffee shop or wherever you may find yourself playing bridge. But there are other aspects of playing bridge online that are important for you to deal with properly. Let's look at some of the things you can do better:

The Clock– When you're playing online don't get too focused on the time remaining. Most players focus on the clock ticking down in the corner of their screen and let it distract them from playing or defending the hand. 2-3 minutes is a much longer time than you think, **so don't panic! Relax and play the cards the best you can. Don't let the ticking clock pressure you into making bad choices or mis clicks.** If you run out of time, the director will make whatever adjustments need to be done.

History– One of the aspects of online play that is often more gratifying than in-person play is the history. You can see every card you and partner played as well as the details of what happened at each of the other tables. In many games, you also get to immediately see your result (% score or IMPs). All of this is great information, but it's

important for you not to spend too much time looking at it or thinking about this information while you play.

So many players get focused on this data and allow it to distract them from their play. Spending time focusing on this information will only distract you and undermine your focus. Remember, the history of your play and the results at the other tables are not going anyway. You can look at them later, keep your focus on the next hand, not the previous one!

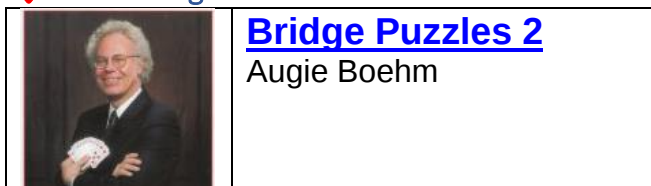
Discussion with Partner– When playing bridge in-person, it can be dangerous to discuss previous boards in the middle of the session. This is especially true when discussing boards resulting in bad outcomes or where you and partner had a disagreement. Often these conversations distract you and partner from the next board and negatively affect your future results. Many players choose to discuss some things because they're fresh in their minds, and don't want to forget to cover them later (or just can't help themselves). If you do feel the need to discuss a board with partner in the middle of a session, you need to be careful to be constructive towards or complimentary of partner, not critical.

When it comes to online and using say "BBO chat" it can be very easy to have your tone misinterpreted. Even things that you mean as a compliment if read quickly can be misunderstood. It's always better to wait until the end of the session to discuss things with partner – especially if you're discussing a poor result or something you think they did wrong! If you want to improve your online bridge results, then put some significant effort into correcting any of these bad habits you might have developed. You'll be amazed at how doing just a bit better at these will significantly improve your scores.

About the Author

Robert Todd is a professional player and teacher that you'll find all over North America (and the world). He is the founder of [Adventures in Bridge](#) and you'll find him hosting events, either virtual or in-person, almost every week of the year! Robert's also the president of the [ACBL Educational Foundation](#) where he's working to build an institution to shepherd the long term good of bridge!

♦ 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. You are South:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	2♣	X
PASS	2NT	PASS	?

- How many diamonds does North hold?
- As South, you hold:

♠7 ♥T8432 ♦AK84 ♣J76.

What's your call?

SOLUTION – Challenge 2

- North holds four or five diamonds. North has at most three hearts — no 3♥ response to your negative double. The greatest major suit length North can have is 4–3, and with 4–3–3–3 North usually opens 1♣.
- 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.

You are East:

NORTH	SOUTH
	1NT
3NT	PASS

Partner's opening lead is the ♥4.

North	♥ Q3
West	♥ 4
East (you)	♥ KT85

Declarer plays dummy's ♥3

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

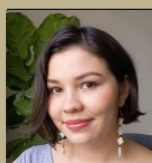
SOLUTION

- South holds either the ♥AJ, or the ♥Jx, but not ♥Ax. With ♥Ax, declarer would definitely have tried dummy's ♥Q at trick one. If declarer has no heart honours, he will also try the ♥Q, hoping the lead was away from ♥AK.
- 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.

"Build on the Basics" Hand Analysis

with Jessica Brake,

ONLINE every second FRIDAY, 2pm to 4pm



Jessica is running a fortnightly Hand Analysis, for those that have completed the Build on the Basics lessons.

These sessions are designed to refresh and revise the concepts taught in the lessons.

Date	Activity
Fri Oct 14 th	Build on the Basics Hand Analysis
Fri Oct 28 th	Build on the Basics Hand Analysis

Join "live" on Zoom OR watch the recording at your leisure.

For more information, or to register: Email Jessica at jessicabrakebridge@gmail.com

Visitors \$20, Members \$17.

You are sitting South

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1NT	2♠
PASS	PASS	PASS	

East opens 1NT (15–17 high-card points), you overcall 2♠, and then 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 Then lead a second spade ♠6. East follows with the ♠T.

- a. What questions should you be asking?
 b. Do you finesse or play for the drop?

SOLUTION

- a. Find out if the opponents are using **negative doubles** at the two-level. While you're at it, see if they are playing **lebensohl** or a similar convention that allows them to compete at the three-level without forcing to game.
- b. If they are using **negative doubles over your 2S bid**, play for the drop. The reasoning: their side has 24 HCP, giving West has at least 7hcp. 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 over your 2S bid**, 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. Now the finesse still seems like the best percentage play.

"Build on the Basics" with Jessica Brake, ONLINE on THURSDAYS, 9:30am to 11:30am October 2022



These lessons are suitable for those who have been playing for around 3 months to a year, or who have come back to Bridge after a long break. There are 20 topics in total, topics for the rest of the year are listed below. Attend all the lessons, or just those that interest you!

Wk #	Date	Lesson Topic
11	Thu Oct 6 th	Weak twos – "let's get in the way!"
12	Thu Oct 13 th	Other pre-empts
13	Thu Oct 20 th	Dumping losers
14	Thu Oct 27 th	No Lesson
15	Thu Nov 3 rd	2C game force opening
16	Thu Nov 10 th	Overcalls
17	Thu Nov 17 th	Takeout doubles I
18	Thu Nov 24 th	Takeout doubles II
19	Thu Dec 1 st	Stayman – searching for a 4-4 major suit fit
20	Thu Dec 8 th	Transfers to majors
21	Thu Dec 15 th	End of course review

Join "live" on Zoom OR watch the recording at your leisure. Each week you will be sent a recording of the lesson, lesson notes, and a quiz (most weeks).

For more information, or to register: Email Jessica at jessicabrakebridge@gmail.com

Visitors \$20, Members \$17.

"Develop Your Skills" with Anita Curtis, ONLINE on WEDNESDAYS at 9.30am Oct-Nov 2022



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 and defence are targeted, with hand analysis to consolidate skills.

Lessons will be held **on-line on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am**. Join "live" on Zoom OR watch the recording at your leisure.

Date	Lesson Topic
Wed Oct 5 th	Hand Analysis 2 (all skills)
Wed Oct 12 th	Cross ruffing (Declarer play)
Wed Oct 19 th	No Lesson
Wed Oct 26 th	Life after transfers
Wed Nov 2 nd	I love your transfer
Wed Nov 9 th	Establish your side suit
Wed Nov 16 th	How to play NT contracts
Wed Nov 23 rd	How to play suit contracts

For more info or to register, email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au
Visitors \$20; Members \$17