

Articles for Open players

Including analysis
by Brent Manley, Joan Butts,
Julian Foster, Bridge
Puzzle, John Mottram &
Rakesh Kumar

Click Button below to open

| North | | Std Bidding | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-----------|--|--|
| West | North | East | South (D) | | |
| ♠ A8 | | | | | |
| ♥ KQ7 | | | | | |
| ♦ KQ73 | | | | | |
| ♣ A962 | | | | | |
| South (D) | | | | | |
| ♠ K74 | | | | | |
| ♥ A82 | | | | | |
| ♦ AJ5 | | | | | |
| ♣ KJ74 | | | | | |

You are playing an IMPS teams game.
You reach 6NT. West leads the ♠J. What's your plan to take 12 tricks?

Open Challenge Hand

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Do you know anybody who may be interested in learning to play bridge?
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Willoughby

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♠ Open

♠ <750

♠ <300

♠ <100

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RealBridge
Starts at 1:30pm

your best 3 out of 4 scores will count

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2 x Sessions - 10am Start

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Congress NSBC @ EL – Swiss Pairs 26/Mar

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2 x sessions - 10am Start

SWISS PAIRS

East Lindfield

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♦ BM – Careful Planning



Brent Manley

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article “[Make them Pay2](#)”. Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

| North | | Standard Bidding | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| ♠ KQT2 | | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ A872 | | | | | 1♦ |
| ♦ A4 | | 2♦ | X | Pass * | Pass |
| ♣ J954 | | 2♥ | X | Pass | 3♦ |
| | | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| | | Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 5♣ |
| | | Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | |
| South (D) | | Bidding Notes | | | |
| ♠ A8 | | 1♦ | 4+♦, Opening | | |
| ♥ Q5 | | 2♦ | takeout - 55 majors | | |
| ♦ KQT987 | | X | Penalty of a least 1 Major | | |
| ♣ AT8 | | Pass * | No Preference | | |
| | | 2♥ | Better Major | | |
| | | X | Penalty | | |
| | | 3♦ | extra HCP & ♦ Length | | |
| | | 3♥ | Cue | | |
| | | 3♠ | Cue | | |
| | | 4♦ | Cue | | |
| | | 5♣ | Cue | | |
| | | 6♦ | To play | | |

2♦ = Showing at least 5-5 in the majors.

The auction had some points of interest apart from West's bid showing the majors, very helpful information for declarer.

South's pass, followed by 3♦, promised extras: He would have bid 3♦ at his second turn with fewer values. South also judged that a vulnerable game or slam was more promising than a penalty from 2♥ doubled. After that start, the partnership was forced to game. Control bidding followed, and once South confirmed a club control, North ended the auction by leaping to 6♦.

West led the ♣K.

- T1 West led the ♣K, you took this with the ♣A in hand.
- T2 You then led a low trump ♦7 toward the ♦A. You were shocked by West's heart discard & East's long 5 Trump holding.

How will you make 12 tricks on this deal?

Solution

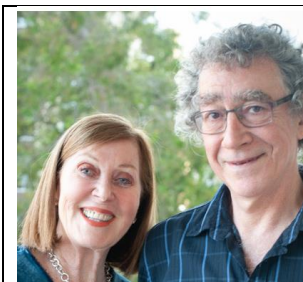
Undaunted by the bad trump break, declarer saw that he could make 12 tricks provided West had exactly five spades headed by the jack.

- T2 You won the ♦A on the table.
- T3 You continued with the ♦4, east the ♦3 and ♦8 winning in hand.
- T4 You then cashed the ♦K of trumps
- T5 You then followed by the cash of the ♠A.
- T6 You then he led a low spade ♠8 and, playing with the odds when West followed low, finessed the ♠T. as East followed with the ♠6.
- T7 You continued with the ♠K. East saw that ruffing it would allow the contract to make easily (declarer could overruff, draw trumps and claim 12 tricks). So, he threw a heart ♥3, and so did you from your hand ♥5.
- T8 Next came the ♠Q, again eliciting heart discards from East ♥6 and also from you ♥Q.
- T9 You then cashed the ♥A, East threw a club discard ♣4 and your hand ♣8.
- T10 You then led a heart ♥2 and ruffed in hand with the ♦9
- T11 You then and exited with your club loser ♣T to West's ♣K.
- T12 East was reduced to the ♦J6, while you still held the ♦QT over him. You made the last two tricks and brought your contract home.

The full deal:

| | | North | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|--------|----------------------|--|
| | | West | | East | |
| | | ♠ J9743 | ♥ A872 | ♠ 65 | |
| | | ♥ KJT94 | ♦ A4 | ♥ 63 | |
| | | ♦ - | ♣ J954 | ♦ J6532 | |
| | | ♣ KQ2 | | ♣ 7643 | |
| | | South (D) | | | |
| | | ♠ A8 | | | |
| | | ♥ Q5 | | | |
| | | ♦ KQT987 | | | |
| | | ♣ AT8 | | | |
| 6♦/S Lead ♣K | | | | Vul NS Dir: South | |

♦ JB – Mixed Teams Playoff

Joan Butts &
Michael Courtney
joan@joanbuttsbridge.com
2 more hands
Mixed Teams Playoff

Joan Butts reminisces on playing with our 2022 Club Champion **Michael Courtney** at the Australian Mixed Team Championships.

Hand 3. Board 29 Set 2 Quarter finals
You, South, both vul, hold:

| South |
|----------|
| ♠ A7 |
| ♥ 3 |
| ♦ AKJ983 |
| ♣ QT94 |

Partner North opens 1NT passed to you:

| West | North (D) | East | South |
|------|-----------|------|-------|
| | 1NT | Pass | ? |

Do you have a bid to describe this hand? What would a transfer to diamonds and then a bid of 3♥ mean in your partnership? Do you have super-accepts to minor suit transfers all sewn up? Would you reach slam whether partner super-accepted or not? (Questions, questions...)

What Happened? The Whole Hand:

| | North (D) | |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| | ♠ 43 | |
| West | ♥ AK64 | East |
| ♠ QJT6 | ♦ T64 | ♠ K9852 |
| ♥ JT872 | ♣ AKJ6 | ♥ Q95 |
| ♦ Q | | ♦ 752 |
| ♣ 872 | | ♣ 53 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ A7 | |
| | ♥ 3 | |
| | ♦ AKJ983 | |
| | ♣ QT94 | |
| Hand 3. Brd 29 Set 2 Quarter finals | | Vul All Dir: North |

As you can see, the grand is possible in three strains...either minor, and 7NT.

The playoff results were:

| | |
|---------|--------|
| 3NT (N) | + 720 |
| 6♦ (S) | + 1390 |
| 6♦ (N) | + 1390 |
| 3NT(N) | + 720 |

My view:

My partner, Michael Courtney, who uses a lot of judgement in his hand evaluation, calling it “plastic evaluation”, decided NOT to open the north hand 1NT. This is not mainstream, as it’s a balanced 15-point hand. But we play four card suits, and Michael, with his two very good suits, he decided it was a “suit hand”. He opened 1♥, and over my natural 2♦ response, raised to 3♦ (still not liking his small doubleton spade for no trumps). I used Keycard (probably a gross overbid) and bid 6♦ over his “two without the ♦Q” key card response.

Our bidding:

| West | North (D) | East | South |
|----------|-----------|------|-------|
| | 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ |
| pass | 3♦ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

How would you have reached the slam via a 1NT opening? I think a transfer to diamonds is normal, but partner wouldn’t super accept with ♦T64 would they? Over the transfer, 3♥ should be a splinter. Is that good news for opener? At the other table where 6♦ was reached, their bidding proceeded as suggested: 1NT p 2NT (transfer to diamonds) p 3♦ p 3♥ (splinter). Over the splinter their partner raised to 4♥ (hopefully a cue agreeing diamonds, not natural). Blackwood was next followed by 6♦.

The two tables who missed slam were not excited to hear the transfer to diamonds, and signed off in 3NT. Understandably no-one found the grand (missing the ♦Q).

Hand 4. Board 19 Set 4 Quarter finals
You, South, dealer, EW vul, hold:

| South (D) | |
|-----------|---------|
| ♠ | T963 |
| ♥ | 8 |
| ♦ | T |
| ♣ | AKQ8652 |

What's the best opening bid?

3♣ is wimpy, 3NT better, and 4♣ or 5♣ seem best. What Happened:
Our Bidding:

| West | North | East | South (D) |
|------|----------|------|-----------|
| | | | 3♣ |
| X | 4♣ | 4♥ | 5♣ |
| X | All Pass | | |

The Whole Hand:

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|--|----------------------|--|
| | | North | | | |
| | | ♠ K72 | | | |
| West | | ♥ 963 | | East | |
| ♠ AQ5 | | ♦ 8542 | | ♠ J84 | |
| ♥ QT7 | | ♣ 943 | | ♥ AKJ542 | |
| ♦ AQ93 | | | | ♦ KJ76 | |
| ♣ JT7 | | | | ♣ - | |
| | | South (D) | | | |
| | | ♠ T963 | | | |
| | | ♥ 8 | | | |
| | | ♦ T | | | |
| | | ♣ AKQ8652 | | | |
| Hand 4. Brd 19 Set 4 Quarter finals | | | | Vul EW Dir: South | |

As you can see, 7♦ and 6♥ are possible. The payoff results were:

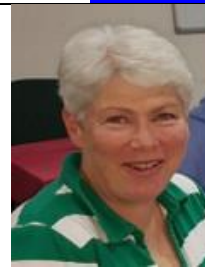
| | |
|---------|--------|
| 6♥ (E) | - 1430 |
| 6♥ (E) | - 1430 |
| 5♣X (S) | - 300 |
| 4♥(W) | - 680 |

My view: I think 5♣ is the best opening. West will probably double for take-out, and East will bid 6♥.

At our table, I'm embarrassed to say that I chose the worst (wimpy) opening of 3♣ and then broke a cardinal rule of pre-emptive bidding by coming in with 5♣ over the opponents' 4♥. (Michael did show me club support). Strangely enough I was left there, doubled! (a totally undeserved good result).

♦ MAR/APR Advanced Courses

Link to [Website Advanced Teaching](#)



Anita Curtis

Anita Curtis, has restarted "Develop your Skills", "Gentle Hand Analysis" & Broaden your game

NSBC Develop Your Skills Feb-Mar 2023 Program **ONLINE**
THURSDAYS at 9.30am with Anita Curtis



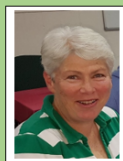
Develop Your Skills (DYS) is aimed at players who have completed the Build on the Basics course or who have been playing for at least one year. Bidding, declarer play & defence are all targeted, as well as hand analysis to consolidate skills learnt. These lessons will be held **on-line**. You can watch the video or participate in the zoom session (9.30-11.30am). You can also play the hands on RealBridge after the lesson at your convenience.

| Date | Lesson Topic |
|--------|---|
| Mar 2 | I CAN support you but not now! (Delayed raises – the "Canberra convention") |
| Mar 9 | Managing Entries – declarer play |
| Mar 16 | Let's get into the bidding – Weak Jump Overcalls (bidding) |
| Mar 23 | No lesson |
| Mar 30 | Whose hand is it? (Competitive bidding) |
| Apr 6 | Hand Analysis 1 (review all skills) |
| Apr 13 | Signalling is Legal (defence) |
| Apr 20 | Brilliant switches (defence) |
| Apr 27 | Double or nothing – when is a double for penalties? (bidding) |

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

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

NSBC Intermediate/BYG March 2023 Program
Online Wednesdays at 2pm with Anita Curtis



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

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


| Date | Lesson Topic | Description |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 Mar | Recognising a misfit – Eddie Kantar | BYG/Intermediate bidding. Knowing when to give up, when to bid NTs, when to insist on your own suits is tricky but Eddie Kantar makes it simple! |
| 8 Mar | How do I get this contract down? | BYG defence. Signalling, Leads, knowing when to return partner's suit & when to switch – these are all essential ingredients for the intermediate defender. |
| 15 Mar | Jacoby 2NT – 4 card raise with an opening hand & continuations | BYG/Intermediate bidding. Make it easier to get to slam with the Jacoby 2NT raise. Just as importantly, find out what the continuations are! |
| No lesson on 22 March | | |
| 29 Mar | Gentle Hand Analysis | 8 hands to bid, play & defend for the intermediate player. |

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

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

♦ JF – Slam or Game?

JF – Hand Analysis

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | | Julian Foster (many times NSW representative) analysing (bidding & play) on an interesting hand from a club session. Sourced SBC Wisdom articles. Slam-Game? | |
| | | North ♠ AQ9 ♥ AQ62 ♦ J63 ♣ K97 | Dealer: South Vul: Nil East ♠ KJ432 ♥ 53 ♦ T987 ♣ 85 |
| West ♠ 86 ♥ J74 ♦ K54 ♣ QJT42 | | South (D) ♠ T75 ♥ KT98 ♦ AQ2 ♣ A63 | ♠♦♥♣NT N 2 3 4 2 3 S 2 2 4 1 3 E - - - - - W - - - - - |
| 16 7 4 13 | | | |

This Board in a club game, was a NS hand with a decision about game or slam and whether to play in hearts or no-trumps. Plus, a tricky play problem in 4♥.

The auction is likely to be uncontested NS and start.

| West | North | East | South (D) |
|------|-------|------|-----------|
| | | | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | ? | | |

North now has the key decision. Obviously with 16 points opposite an opening bid they will bid to at least game. Are they strong enough to look for slam?

Two tables did and both ended in 6♥ going off. I'd say no. Their 16hcp hand is very balanced and partner could only raise to 2♥. We have a lot of losers to do something with. Especially these days with people opening lighter and lighter. If partner is balanced they will be at most 14 points (with 15 they would have opened 1NT). That's at most 30, not usually enough for slam (two balanced hands tend to need around 33 points to make slam).

Even when partner is unbalanced we'll need them to have perfect cards for us – something

like ♠Kx ♥K10xx ♦x ♣AQxxxx. Slam is certainly possible but it's not that likely. Second question is which game? 4♥ is obviously an option but when both hands are balanced, 3NT can be better. With 4333 shape North should bid 3NT next. This gives a good description of their hand and gives South the choice of games. North also has some points to spare which is important when considering playing 3NT with a known fit elsewhere (see advanced section for why).

As South, being 4333 as well I would elect to pass 3NT. If I had had a doubleton I'd have converted to 4♥ though as a 4-4 fit will then usually play better (with a ruff in one hand being an extra trick).

3NT by North will probably make 10 tricks on the likely spade lead by East. Declarer wins the 1st spade and takes a losing diamond finesse. Now declarer scores 2♠, 4♥, 2♦ and 2♣. If East leads a passive diamond, it might only be 9 tricks but it's still easy to make 3NT.

What about 4♥? On a spade lead it'll be the same 10 tricks, the only difference being declarer draws trumps before finessing diamonds. But on the ♦T lead it's much harder to make. There is a risk of declarer losing 2♠ and a trick in each minor. It can be done with an endplay though - see advanced section. Note that the passive diamond lead is better for the defence. This is often the case, especially when leading round to a hand known to be quite strong. So, should we be leading a diamond not a spade? I believe the answer depends what form of scoring we are playing.

Playing imps (i.e., teams, butler and most Swiss pairs events), your primary objective is to try and beat the contract (because the difference in score between the contract making and going one off is enormous - overtricks don't really matter). A spade lead is probably the most likely to set up tricks for the defence. But it's also risky as it is leading round into a known strong hand.

When playing match pointed pairs (i.e. most club sessions) it's not the same – you are just

trying to outscore other pairs, it doesn't whether the difference in score is 10 points or 1100 points, you still only get 2 matchpoints for each pair you beat! This means beating the contract is actually not the most important aspect - you just don't want to give a cheap trick away. Hence at pairs it tends to be better to lead passively and a diamond on this hand is a good example of that.

Key points to note.

- Balanced hands aren't so great when considering slam. You need points and a source of tricks.
- 4333 in both hands can often play better in NT even with a major suit fit (especially if you have more than minimum game values).
- Prefer passive leads when playing matchpoints. Don't give cheap tricks away.
- A lot of defenders are too "active". There are times for that, but frequently passive defence is best – then declarer has to do his own work!
- It can sometimes be possible to avoid taking finesses and instead force the opponents to give tricks by end playing them (see advanced section).

More advanced

A 5-4 major fit should almost always play in the major and not in no-trumps (because 9 card trump fits are so much more powerful than 8). But sometimes when you have a 4-4 fit and two balanced hands, you may consider whether it is better to play in that or play 3NT.

A lot of pairs try 3NT hoping to score the extra 10 points (e.g., 630 instead of 620). Often that doesn't work though because they forget that most of the time the 4-4 fit is worth a trick more (with the ability to ruff a loser in the other hand). So, you find you actually score 630 instead of 650!

There are two situations where that argument DOES work:

- When both hands are 4333 (now no ruffs are available in the 4-4 fit).

- When you have some extra points (e.g. you have 29-30 between the hands instead of 25-26). This means some of your additional cards are probably $\spadesuit Q$ and $\spadesuit J$ instead of small spot cards. These may well now be high winners without needing to be ruffed. Hence you'll make the same number of tricks as the suit contract and now you do score 660 instead of 650.

In this hand, both apply so playing 3NT is definitely a feasible option.

We saw $4\heartsuit$ was easy to make on a spade lead. But what about on the $\diamond T$ lead? We would normally take the diamond finesse at trick one so West will be on lead a trick 2. I'll look at two scenarios. In the first West either returns a diamond or the $\clubsuit Q$. We have 9 tricks for sure ($1\spadesuit, 4\heartsuit, 2\diamond, 2\clubsuit$). We draw trumps, cash any remaining top diamonds and top clubs and arrive at this position:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | North | |
| | \spadesuit AQ9 | |
| West | \heartsuit 6 | East |
| \spadesuit 86 | \diamond - | \spadesuit KJ43 |
| \heartsuit - | \clubsuit 9 | \heartsuit - |
| \diamond - | | \diamond 9 |
| \clubsuit QJT | South | \clubsuit - |
| | \spadesuit T75 | |
| | \heartsuit T | |
| | \diamond - | |
| | \clubsuit 6 | |

Now we exit with the 3rd round of clubs leaving only the spade suit left to be played. If East had won the club, he would have to lead a spade into our AQ or give us a ruff and discard.

As it happens on this hand West has to win the club, and he will lead a spade through us. But we simply cover his leading card (e.g. $\spadesuit 8 \spadesuit 9 \spadesuit J \spadesuit 5$). Once East wins that NOW he is endplayed to lead spades back or give us a ruff & discard. Both routes lead to 10 tricks. The critical thing is we have eliminated the diamonds and the other clubs by cashing our winners in those suits so the defence cannot safely exit to them.

The 2nd scenario is harder - it's where West switches to a spade through us at trick 2. We finesse and lose to the $\spadesuit J$. East now exits passively again (see how annoying it is as declarer when the defence don't give you

tricks?!). After drawing trumps we can make 4♥ but it's very specific. We have to cash the ♠AK, ♦AQ and reach the position below:

| North | | |
|-------|------|-------|
| | ♠ AQ | |
| West | ♥ 6 | East |
| ♠ 6 | ♦ - | ♠ K43 |
| ♥ - | ♣ 9 | ♥ - |
| ♦ - | | ♦ 9 |
| ♣ QJT | | ♣ - |
| South | | |
| | ♠ T7 | |
| | ♥ T | |
| | ♦ - | |
| | ♣ 6 | |

Now we can either play ♠AQ which East wins but, because he only started with two clubs, he has no more clubs left and has to give us a ruff and discard to get rid of our club loser.

Or we can cash the ♠A and exit our club. This time West wins and, because he has no more spades left, he has to give us a ruff and discard to get rid of our spade loser!

Neither line of play is very realistic though as it requires both spade honours offside and both black suits 5-2. In practice you might well prefer just to take a second spade finesse! Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

♦ Bridge Puzzle 8

Solution - Open Challenge Hand 1



This article was derived from Bridgefeed, ["Puzzle This no 8"](#)

| North | Std Bidding | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ♠ A8 | West | North | East | South (D) |
| ♥ KQ7 | | | | 1NT |
| ♦ KQ73 | Pass | 6NT | All Pass | |
| ♣ A962 | | | | |
| South (D) | Bidding Notes | | | |
| ♠ K74 | 1NT | 15-17 Bal | | |
| ♥ A82 | 6NT | To Play | | |
| ♦ AJ5 | | | | |
| ♣ KJ74 | | | | |

You are playing an IMPS teams game. You reach 6NT. West leads the ♠J. What's your plan to take 12 tricks?

Preliminary Analysis

You have 11 tricks on top:
 $2♠+3♥+4♦+2♣$, just 1 short
 Top Losers=None

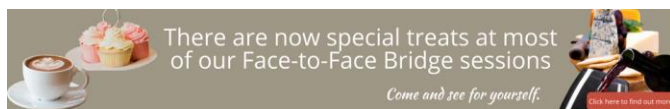
If you can get another trick in clubs, you're home — but what's the right way to tackle the suit?

It may look right to simply play a low club toward your hand to finesse the ♠J. Many would even be tempted to play the ♣A first and then take the finesse. These players reason that even if the finesse loses, the suit may break 3-2, allowing declarer to score three tricks in the suit. On this layout, however, that plan would be disastrous. Was this play unlucky or inferior?

The answer: **inferior**.



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There is a way to guarantee three club tricks regardless of the layout of the suit. With this particular holding,

A–9–x–x opposite K–J–x–x,

Solution:

- T1 The right play (a safety play) is to start by cashing the ♠K in hand. Leaving a ♣ honour card still in each hand.
- T2 If both opponents follow, play a low club ♣4 toward dummy, intending to play the ♣9 if West plays low.

| | | North | | |
|---------|--|-----------|------------------|--|
| | | ♠ A8 | | |
| West | | ♥ KQ7 | East | |
| ♠ JT92 | | ♦ KQ73 | ♠ Q653 | |
| ♥ 965 | | ♣ A962 | ♥ JT43 | |
| ♦ 62 | | | ♦ T982 | |
| ♣ QT83 | | South (D) | ♣ 5 | |
| 6NT/S | | ♠ K74 | Vul NS Dir: S | |
| Lead ♠J | | ♥ A82 | | |
| | | ♦ AJ5 | | |
| | | ♣ KJ74 | | |

What if West has the singleton and East has ♣QJxx ? It makes no difference!

- T1 Start with the cashing of the ♠K.
- T2 Next, play a low club on the next round of the suit. If West shows out, go up with the ♣A
- T3 Then play a low club back toward your ♣J. East can take the ♣Q, but that's all.

♦ JM – Modern Pre-empts



John Mottram

Our ex-president provides insights on bidding.

Modern Day Pre-empting

When I was first introduced to pre-emptive bidding many decades ago, it only applied to 3-level opening bids (weak 2's had yet to be invented). Some discipline was recommended when undertaking such bidding, in order to minimise the chances of a hefty penalty.

The **rule of 2 and 3** (see Google or Wikipedia) was usually applied. To illustrate the point, I quoted a hand last year (in a different context) where partner opened 5♣ and with 3 Aces I confidently bid 6♣.

As bridge has developed since those days, both in theory and in practice, so too has pre-emptive bidding and defence to such bidding. In particular, there appears to be a 'no fear' approach to opening at the 3 level. And it seems to me that this is truer in online rather than face to face sessions. In addition, the emphasis these days is to get into the action sooner rather than later.

It is worth remembering that in 1st and 2nd seats one is pre-empting partner as well as opponents. If the range of pre-empter's points and/or tricks is too wide, partner's possible options will be unclear.

With one of my partners,

- our opening 3's, apart from Clubs, follow the rule of 2 and 3.
- If we have a weaker 3, we include it in our weak 2's.

An alternative is to pre-empt on the weaker 3's, and open at the 1 level on the stronger 3's.

In 3rd seat I would possibly only use the strong option. In 4th seat I would definitely only use the strong option. In both instances, partner may be able to envisage game even as a passed hand.

In defence, there are some general guidelines for bidding, including:

- 'Don't pre-empt over a pre-empt'.
- 'Don't attempt slams unless you can be certain';
- Make sure you and partner are agreed on the meaning of doubles.

This latter applies to both sides.

Because pre-empting is frequently successful, it remains part of the game, and should be treated with respect. In defence, don't try and compete purely for the sake of it. Unless you have an obvious bid, you can leave it to partner to protect if appropriate.

The following is a recent hand from a club on-line session: I was north.

| North | | Dealer: West Vul: All |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------|
| West (D) | East | |
| ♠ J96 | ♠ KQ85 | ♥ A64 |
| ♥ QJT9753 | ♥ A64 | |
| ♦ J4 | ♦ T853 | ♣ 73 |
| ♣ Q | ♣ 73 | |
| South | | |
| ♠ T732 | | |
| ♥ K8 | | |
| ♦ Q962 | | |
| ♣ 852 | | |

East-West are a strong pair who relish action at the table. So, it was no surprise when West opened 3♥ on this weak, weak, hand.

As North, I had to try and anticipate how the auction would proceed depending on my action. There would probably still be bidding at the 6 level.

So, I went against my 2nd rule and bid 6♣.

As expected, East bid 6♥, which was doubled.

6♣ was making (1370),
6♥x went 4 off for -1100. The par result (theoretically).

Unfortunately for East-West, no other pair bid 6♣.

There must be a moral to this story!

♦ RK – Deals of Doom



Rakesh Kumar

NSBC Australia Day Weekend Swiss Pairs 2023

More deals of doom ...

North Shore Bridge Club's Australia Day Weekend Online Swiss Pairs was held on 29 January and had a strong turnout, with 48 pairs in the Open section as well as 24 pairs in the Restricted section. After 7 × 8-board rounds (what a nice change from what has lately been the usual format of 6 × 9-board rounds!) the winners, by a fairly substantial margin, were Fraser Rew - Julian Foster.

Before I show you some interesting deals from the day, here are 3 bidding problems for you. Firstly, you hold:

| East | |
|---------|--|
| ♠ 7 | |
| ♥ AKQT8 | |
| ♦ AQ643 | |
| ♣ K4 | |

With both sides vulnerable, partner opens 1♠ in second seat, RHO passes, and you bid 2♥, forcing to game and promising 5+ cards. Partner rebids 2♠. What will you bid now? If you choose 3♦, partner rebids 3NT. What then?

Secondly, you are vulnerable, and your opponents are not. As dealer, your RHO opens 3♣. This is your hand:

| North | |
|---------|--|
| ♠ T8732 | |
| ♥ A8 | |
| ♦ AK | |
| ♣ A865 | |

What are you going to do? Would you do anything different if RHO had opened 4♣?

And thirdly, you hold another quite strong hand with both red suits:

| South (D) | |
|-----------|--------|
| ♠ | Q |
| ♥ | AQJ98 |
| ♦ | AKJT85 |
| ♣ | 3 |

Not vulnerable against opponents who are vulnerable, you decide to open your major suit first rather than attempting to reverse and rebid the hearts. LHO passes and partner responds 3NT, promising 3-card support and a balanced (usually 4333) hand with 13-15 hcp. Your next action?

There's some luck involved at Swiss Pairs because there is a significant directional element, but when you are fortunate enough to hold the cards it's mostly about hyper-aggressive bidding and careful play, otherwise it's all about tight defence.

However, there are days hyper-aggressive bidding doesn't pay off. Back in 2021, I wrote about the IBA Swiss Pairs, in the course of which the card gods offered up several "deals of doom" where the declaring side was always going to get into trouble – the only question being just how bad. There was no shortage of doomed contracts in this NSBC event! Most of them turned up in the afternoon and caused much movement up and down in the rankings.

Here's the deal associated with the first problem:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------|---|------------|----|--|----|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Bd:39 | | | North | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West | | | ♠ J | | East | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 954 | | | ♦ K9852 | | ♠ 7 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ KQ9652 | | | ♣ QJ87 | | ♥ AKQT8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ - | | | | | ♦ AQ643 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ JT7 | | | | | ♣ K4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ AT96 | | | South (D) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♠ AT843 | | Vul All | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♥ J7632 | | Dir: South | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♦ - | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♣ 543 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table><tr><td></td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table> | | | | 7 | | 10 | | 18 | | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |





| |  |  |  |  | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| W | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

It's tempting for East to go slam-hunting and 7 pairs did indeed end up in either 6♦ or 6NT, but these contracts do not fare well ...

interestingly, Fraser Rew - Julian Foster
stayed well out of trouble after 1♠-2♥-2♠-3♦-
3NT-4NT-all pass. This contract just made.

The second problem deal was a genuine "deal of doom" because after a pre-emptive opening by West, any contract by North-South goes down, while 3♣ is also unsuccessful. However, many Norths looked at their incredibly strong (not) spade suit and just couldn't resist bidding 3♠, while some others doubled. The resultant game contracts all failed.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---------|----|--|---------------------|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| BD: 44 | | | North | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♠ T8732 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West (D) | | | ♥ A8 | | | East | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ K | | | ♦ AK | | | ♠ AJ64 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 7 | | | ♣ A865 | | | ♥ QJ963 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ T543 | | | | | | ♦ 9872 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ KQJ9432 | | | South | | | ♣ - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♠ Q95 | | | Vul NS Dir: West | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♥ KT542 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♦ QJ6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ♣ T7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table><tr><td></td><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table> | | | | 15 | | 9 | | 8 | | 8 | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| |  |  |  |  | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| N | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| S | - | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| E | 1 | 3 | - | - | - |
| W | 1 | 3 | - | - | - |

Things were even more awkward when West started proceedings with 4♣. If North now got into the action with a double, the result was thoroughly disappointing. Life was simplest for North-South when West opened 5♣, because now a penalty double was the standout action – this happened 3 times.

Once again, Julian Foster - Fraser Rew were among the few who showed restraint: in the


North seat, Fraser passed 3♣ and they turned a small profit.

The third problem deal was cruel to the North-South pairs who got to a reasonable-looking slam in hearts:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|------------|--|
| BD: 51 | | North | | | |
| West (D) | | ♠ AK2 | | East | |
| ♠ 9865 | | ♥ 543 | | ♠ JT743 | |
| ♥ K7 | | ♦ 762 | | ♥ T62 | |
| ♦ - | | ♣ AQ97 | | ♦ Q943 | |
| ♣ KJT8652 | | | | ♣ 4 | |
| | | South (D) | | | |
| | | ♠ Q | | Vul EW | |
| | | ♥ AQJ98 | | Dir: South | |
| | | ♦ AKJT85 | | | |
| | | ♣ 3 | | | |

| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| N | 1 | 6 | 6 | - | 6 |
| S | 1 | 6 | 6 | - | 6 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |

Unfortunately, the typical result was that declarer lost a trick in each of the red suits and went one down. Just to be annoying, Bridge Solver demonstrates that it is possible to make 6♥ even after a club opening lead takes out one of dummy's two entries. The successful line involves playing ace and another heart, winning the spade return in dummy, taking a diamond finesse and cashing two more top diamonds, then ruffing out the ♦Q with dummy's last remaining trump. Not in the real world ...



Jessica Brake will restart lessons later in the year.

Wedding Plans!


Jessica Brake

♦ Upcoming NSBC Congresses

Sunday 12 March: Online Teams

Online Swiss Teams (IMP) Event

Sunday 12th March on RealBridge
2 x Sessions - 10am Start



[Click here to enter](#)

New NSBC Online Teams

Online Swiss Teams

Sunday 12th Mar on RealBridge

10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Swiss Teams (IMP) Event

Prize Pool: Generous, but dependent on Entries

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

Director: Ronnie Ng

Entry Management: Enter by MyABF

Pre-Payments: Visitors use MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to select "Club PP System"

Player Fees (pp) \$30pp

Sunday 26 March: F2F Swiss Pairs @ EL

THE PAULINE EVANS CONGRESS

Sunday 26th March 2023

2 x sessions - 10am Start

SWISS PAIRS

East Lindfield

[Click here to enter](#)

We invite you to

Mentor a friend

East Lindfield
Mondays at 9:45am and 6:45pm

Online
Tuesdays at 10am - Wednesdays at 7pm - Thursdays at 7pm

[MORE INFO](#)

IMPROVE
DEVELOP
TRAINING
MOTIVATE
COACHING
INSPIRE

Can you think of anyone who would benefit from playing bridge in a relaxed environment, where they can ask questions, won't get into trouble for doing the wrong thing? If so, we are inviting you to bring that friend along to one of our **Supervised Sessions**, you will partner them and help them develop their skills and confidence to play in a Club duplicate game.

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)

11th The Pauline Evans Congress
Open Swiss Pairs (Imp)

Sunday 26th March 2023 @ East Lindfield Venue
10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Swiss Pairs Event

Prize Pool: Generous, but dependent on Entries + Best restricted

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Mike Prescott 0435 528 872**
 Director: **Ronnie Ng**
 Entry Management: **Enter by MyABF**
 Pre-Payments: **Visitors pay MyABF Credits & NSBC Members select "Club PP System"**
 2022 10th Open Winners: **Kim Morrison & David Weston**

Player Fees (pp) \$45pp includes Refreshments & a Light Lunch

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. Yellow systems Restricted.

open Swiss Pairs Championship

5x Thursday Nights
 30th Mar, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Apr

GREAT PRIZE POOL

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

Sunday 26 April: Online Swiss Pairs



5th "Morgans" Swiss Pairs Championship
Comp Night – Open Swiss Pairs

5x Thursday Nights 30th Mar, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Apr
7pm Start – 5th Morgans Swiss Pairs Championships Event
Prize Pool: Generous Prize Pool (Dependant on Entries)

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick 0413 884 805**
 Director: **Ronnie Ng**
 Entry Management: **Enter by NSBC Website**
 Pre-payments: **Visitors NSBC "Make a Payment", Members via "Club PP System"**
 2022 4th Open Winners: **Paul Dalley & Sophie Ashton**

Player Fees (pp) Members \$80 (5x\$16) Visitors \$95 (5x\$19)

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA. The ABF has approved the issue of **red masterpoints at level 4BC**. All players are subject to the NSWBA's Disciplinary Regulations. Yellow systems Restricted.

5th NSBC – Autumn (ANZAC) Pairs
Anzac Weekend Online Swiss Pairs

Sunday 23rd April on RealBridge
10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Swiss Teams (IMP/VP) Event

Prize Pool: Generous, but dependent on Entries

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick 0413 884 805**
 Director: **Ronnie Ng**
 Entry Management: **Enter by MyABF**
 Pre-Payments: **Visitors use MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to select "Club PP System"**
 2010 4th Winners: **Mark & Julie Guthrie**

Player Fees (pp) \$30pp

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. Yellow systems restricted.

A further 1 week break for the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide.



16th "GNOT Direct" Teams Championship
Comp Night – GNOT Open Teams

5x Thursday Nights 11th, 18th, 25th May, 1st, 15th June
7pm Start – GNOT Direct Teams Event
Prize: 1st Entry Paid into GNOT National Finals as a Sydney Metro Team, Other Generous Prizes dependent on entries

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick 0413 884 805**
 Director: **Ronnie Ng**
 Entry Management: **Enter by NSBC Website**
 Pre-payments: **Visitors NSBC "Make a Payment", Members via "Club PP System"**
 2022 15th Winners: **Wayne Zhu - Peter Jeffery - Yumin Li - Yixiang Zhang - Wei Zhang**

Player Fees (pp) Members \$80 (5x\$16) Visitors \$95 (5x\$19)

The ABF has approved the issue of **Gold Masterpoints**. All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations. Note: Eligible players (to win the Sydney Metro Direct entry) must be a member of a Sydney metropolitan bridge club affiliated with the NSWBA, and must be bona fide residents of the Sydney metropolitan area or a neighbouring country GNOT region, ie Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Ilawarra.

◆ Thursday Comp Night –Q1 2023

The current competition Night Event is the Mixed Pairs

Mixed Pairs
CHAMPIONSHIPS

3 x Thursday nights
 • 2nd March
 • 9th March
 • 16th March

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

A further 1 week break for the Tasmanian Bridge Festival, then: