

Pat O'Connor, Pat Harrington, Julian Foster

#### Challenge Hand 1 (Play)

North	
♠ AJ98	Your contract is 3NT with
♥7542	West leading the <b>6</b> East
♦ 83	follows with the <b>T</b>
🛧 KQ2	
South	How do you plan to make
♠ KT5	your contract?
♥ A86	
+ KQ7	
🔶 AJ76	

#### Easter Weekend 7-10<sup>th</sup> April sessions

Easter Dates	Easter Weekend Sessions April 2023	
Good Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Online Open and Restricted game at 1.30pm Red Points. No morning game.	
Easter Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Online and Face to Face just normal Saturday sessions.	
Easter Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	CLOSED.	
	Online Open 1.30pm no morning game. Red Points	
Easter Monday	Online Rookie 2.00pm Red Points	
10th April	Face to Face East Lindfield 1.00pm Red Points	
	Supervised 10.00am and 7.00pm Closed.	



## RB InterClub Bridge Across the Ditch vs Auckland BC 18<sup>th</sup> Apr



#### RB Online Congress 23rd April



Anzac Day 25<sup>th</sup> April Redpoints



## Club AGM @ EL 10am 29th April





Come and join us at **East Lindfield** for Coffee, Cake and Bridge or Cheese, Biscuits and Bridge, we have been hermits since our COVID lockdowns, let's get out, play some bridge and socialise.



## PO – Overruffing



## Overruffing

It is from my book Demystifying Defense.

#### We are West. Our hand is.

**▲ 2 ♥QJ876 ♦65432 ▲** AJ.

The auction is quick. Partner opens  $3 \pm$ , showing a weak hand with long spades, and South overcalls  $4 \pm$ . We pass and North raises to  $5 \pm$ , which ends the bidding.

Standard Bidding					
West	West North East (D) South				
3♠ 4♣					
Pass 5 All pass					

We lead **◆2**, partner's suit, and dummy comes down.

Lood +2	North
	♠ KQ87
West	▼ AKT9
٠	+ JT
♥ QJ876	<b>♣</b> 543
• 65432	
🐣 AJ	

T1 We lead  $\bigstar 2$ , South plays the  $\bigstar Q$  from dummy and partner wins with the  $\bigstar A$ , declarer playing the  $\bigstar 3$ . We are pleased to have won a spade trick.

#### Are we going to win any more spade tricks?

It's unlikely. Partner surely had seven spades for the opening bid, so declarer has no more.

T2 We soon find out as partner continues with the  $\pm 9$ , which declarer ruffs with the  $\pm Q$ .

#### What are our options?

We can overruff with the A and lead a diamond. If partner has the A that would be the setting trick.

But there is a much better option which is guaranteed to set the contract.

#### Can you see it?

It's neat! Just discard a heart or diamond and sit back and wait for our two trump tricks. We will have the  $\clubsuit AJ$  sitting over declarer's  $\bigstar KT$ . That's curtains for declarer provided that we don't lead the suit.

#### The Full Deal

	North	
	▲ KQ87	
West	♥ AKT9	East (D)
<b>≜</b> 2	+ JT	▲ AJT9654
♥ QJ876	<b>◆</b> 543	<b>♥</b> 43
♦ 65432		♦ 987
🜲 AJ	South	<b>♣</b> 2
	<b>≜</b> 3	
5 <b>∻/S</b>	♥ 52	Vul Nil
Lead +2	+ AKQ	DIr: E
	🜲 KQT9876	

Note that if we had overruffed the A with the A, declarer would have won any return, drawn our J with the K and claimed the contract.

#### **Post Mortem**

This is a straightforward example of a general principle: If as a defender you have a natural trump trick it is usually unwise to overruff declarer. By restraining yourself you often make an extra trump trick.

#### Another example:



South ruffs with the ♣K. If West overruffs he doesn't make another trump trick. If he ducks, he makes two trump tricks. It's a bit like magic!

## For Our Newer Players

## For Our Newer Players

## • Bridge Puzzle 33.

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North	S	tanda	rd Bid	ding
<b>≜ Q</b> T93	West	North	East	South (D)
▼ AQ62				2NT
♦ KT5	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
<b>♣ K</b> 4	Pass	4•	Pass	4♠
	Pass	4NT	Pass	5 <del>*</del>
	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
	Pass	6♠	A	l Pass
South (D)		Biddir	ng Not	es
🔺 AKJ8	2NT	20-21 Bal		
♥ 54	3♣	Puppet stayman		
♦ AJ2	3♦	1 or 2	4card N	<i>l</i> lajor
🜲 AQJ3	4♦	l have	both	
	4♠	4 4 Spades		
	4NT	NT Keycard (S)		
	5∻	5♣ 1 or 4		
	57	5 Extra Kings?		
	5 <u></u> ♦ None			
	6♠ to play			

In a team's game, you are declarer in 6.

- T1 West leads a trump with East following.
- T2 When you play another round of trumps,
- again both opponents follow.

You now have a way to guarantee your contract. Do you see it?

#### Solution

Declarer (South) has 11 top tricks (4≜+1♥+2♦+4♣=11).

The easiest way to score a 12th is simply to ruff a heart in the closed hand.

- T2 You cash another round of trumps, with both defenders following.
- T3 The last trump is drawn,
- T4 The heart finesse is taken for a possible overtrick.

Depending on whether the ♥K is onside, declarer will next play the ♥A and ruff a heart in his hand for 12 or 13 tricks.

## PH –Not as similar.

#### Solution: Challenge Hand 1 (Play)



This article was based on a Bridge feed article "<u>Not As</u> <u>Similar</u>" by

Pat Harrington.

PH Not as Similar as They Appear

The opening lead against your notrump contract is a suit in which you hold **KQ7** opposite two or three low cards in dummy. How many stoppers do you have in this suit?

I hope you didn't say two. You will have two stoppers only if the ace is played by third hand. Most of the time, you will have just one sure stopper. This month, your plan involves how to deal with that second potential stopper.

The contract is 3NT with West leading the  $\bullet 6$ . East follows with the  $\bullet T$ .

North
♠ AJ98
♥ 7542
<b>♦ 83</b>
🛧 KQ2
South
South KT5
South ▲ KT5 ♥ A86
South ♠ KT5 ♥ A86 ♦ KQ7

#### Count your winners.

You have two spades, one heart, one diamond for sure and four clubs. You can turn to the spade suit for that one extra trick. But be careful how you play that suit.

#### T1 West **6**, **3**, **T**, **Q**

You win the first trick. Is there a dangerous opponent? Yes, it's East. West cannot play diamonds a second time without giving you another trick in the suit. A diamond lead from East, on the other hand, traps your remaining diamond honour and could lead to your demise.

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#### Is there a solution?

Build that spade trick so that West is the only player who can gain the lead.

- T2  $\clubsuit$ 6 to enter to dummy with  $\clubsuit$ K.
- T3 lead the ♠9 or ♠8, letting it run if East plays low.

It looks awkward to do it that way, but it's essential.

When the finesse wins, you can repeat it. If the finesse loses, you are safe from attack in diamonds.

#### The full deal:

	North	
	▲ AJ98	
West	♥ 7542	East
<b>♠</b> 73	♦ 83	♠ Q642
♥ KJ3	🛧 KQ2	♥ QT9
♦ AJ965		♦ T42
👲 T94	South	♣ 853
	♠ KT5	
3NT/S	♥ A86	Vul Nil
Lead +6	+ KQ7	DIr: S
	📥 AJ76	



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. This will be a free game for the mentor. For enquiries info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

#### Next, you are in 3NT as South.

	1	1	1	
North	Standard Bidding			
<b>♠ 642</b>	West	West North East South (D)		
♥ AQJ93				1♣
+ AQ32	1♠	27	pass	3NT
& J	All Pass			
South (D)		Bidding Notes		
🔺 KQ7	1.≜	1♣ 2+♣ Opening hand		
♥ T5	1♠	1≜ 5+≜, overcall		
♦ KJ6	2 5+v, Forcing			
🛧 AT982	3NT To Play,  stopped			
West overcalled your 1♣ opener with 1♠.				
T1 West leads the ♠J, East following to trick				

one with a low spade.

Declarer's spade suit looks like the diamond suit in our first example, but dummy has one more card in the suit, leaving only seven spades for the opponents.

If you win trick one, you have a potential second spade stopper, but it is not a sure thing. Let's count our top tricks: one spade for sure, one club, four diamonds, and one heart. Two more tricks must be developed, and that can be done in hearts, but you might lose the lead, and you know which opponent will get in. You will finesse by leading the ♥T. If the finesse wins, repeat it and you have your contract. If the finesse loses, only East can gain the lead. Is East a dangerous opponent? Yes, but only if you win the ♠Q at trick one.

East can lead through your remaining **▲K7** and trap the king. Can you render East harmless? **Yes**, if you listen to the bidding. West bid spades, so he almost certainly has five of them. That leaves East with two. If East doesn't get the lead until he is out of spades, he will have no way to reach partner's spade suit.

How can you make this happen? Refuse to win the first trick. Let West's <u>AJ</u> hold the trick! Whether West cashes the ace or leads another low spade, you will be safe when East wins the <u>YK</u>.

Notice also that there is no suit that West can switch to at trick two that will hurt you. A club switch will create at most one club winner for the defence.

## For Our Newer Players

## ♦ JF – Hand Analysis



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

**Julian Foster** 

Flat hand, Poor Defence

	North (D)	Dealer: North Vul: Nil	
West	<b>♥ J</b> 8	East	
▲ A987	◆ Q4	♠ 65	
♥ A92	♣ KT964	♥ KQ76	
♦ A97		♦ KJ652	
🜲 AJ3	South	🔶 Q5	
7	♦ KQT	<b>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠</b> NT	
17 11	♥ T543	N	
5	◆ T83	E 2 5 4 3 4	
5	<b>♣ 872</b>	W 2 5 4 3 4	

It may seem strange to pick a board to discuss that was completely flat. On this board in a club level game, every EW pair made 12 tricks playing in 3NT. Yet not one of them should have done so! Let us see why not.

As usual let us consider the auction first. It will certainly be an EW uncontested auction. East has the first decision about whether to open 1 or just pass. These days many would choose to open 1 or

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	1+	Pass
1≜	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Once East responds 1NT, showing 11-14 limited hand, West should be content with game. There is no obvious fit and the hands have a maximum of 31 points (normally you need about 33 for 6NT with two balanced hands).

Although some players were playing ACOL (with a weak NT), they might well open that. If they do the auction is likely to be:

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

If East passes initially, West will open a strong NT and the auction is likely to be

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

Deep Finesse says "No trump Contracts", should only make 10 tricks played by either East or West. That can only be achieved with a spade opening lead by either defender, which sets up 2 spade tricks to go with the ♣K. Declarer can then only make 1♠,3♥,5♦ and 1♣.

Declarer will naturally start on their diamond suit and the normal way is to cash the **A** and then lead towards the **KJ** intending to finesse. When the **Q** pops up from North it makes that suit nice and easy!

In practice the spade bid in the auction will deter the defence from leading spades. On lead, North is more likely to lead  $4^{th}$  highest club ( $\bigstar$ 6). On lead, South might try a club ( $\bigstar$ 8) or a heart?

These leads should bring declarer to 11 tricks (1♠,3♥,5♦ and 2♣). Note I said just 3 heart tricks. But the reason every declarer actually made 12 tricks is they scored 4 heart tricks, because every South discarded a heart at some point. This meant East's ♥7 scored a trick that declarer was not entitled to.

Had South clung on to the ♥T543 they would have eventually scored a trick with that ♥T. How can they tell? There are two ways on this hand - count points (see advanced section for the details) and general principles. By general principles I mean two things that you simply learn through experience at the bridge table:

- a) Discarding from Txxx or Jxxx costs a trick an amazing proportion of the time.
- b) Always try to keep the same length as dummy's suits if you can beat its lowest card in the suit.

Had South followed these principles they would have discarded 2 clubs on the running of the long diamonds. Declarer will almost always then play on hearts hoping they would

For Our Newer Players

split 3-3. But if declarer now plays a club South should STILL cling onto that precious heart holding and discard the **▲**T instead. Today had they held declarer to 11 tricks instead of 12 they would **have scored a complete top!** 

#### Key points to note.

- Opening reasonable 11 counts with points in your longer suits is generally a good idea.
- Don't look for slam with two balanced hands unless you have about 33 points between the two hands.
- Try to avoid discarding from Jxxx or Txxx. It costs a trick a large proportion of the time.
- Try to keep the same suit length as dummy if you can beat its lowest card in a suit.

When declarer has opened or rebid NT, you can work out the points partner will have to within a fairly narrow range. That can often help you in defence.

#### More advanced

First a small point about the auction where East initially passes and West opens 1NT. East uses stayman and then bids 3NT over 2♠. North is on lead and the auction should tell him that East's dummy is going to have 4 hearts in it. Why? Because he used stayman to look for a major fit but then did not raise spades. Without 4 spades or 4 hearts he would normally just have bid 3NT directly. That information isn't of much use to North on this hand (they have a fairly clear club lead) but it might help on some other occasions (e.g., to avoid a poor heart lead).

Let's return to the defence. How can South work out not to discard a heart? The first step is to **count points**. Whenever declarer has shown a point range (almost always via a NT opening or rebid), as soon as you see dummy as a defender you can work out partner's point range too. You should get into the habit of doing this mental exercise every time. Suppose first that East is declarer and West is dummy (after the 1♦-1♠-1NT-3NT auction). East has shown 11-14. South should add his own 5 points to dummy's 17. Add that 22 to declarer's known 11-14 and you get 33-36. That leaves partner with **only 4-7 points**.

Suppose now West is declarer and East is dummy (after the P-P-P-1NT-2-2-2-3NT auction). West has shown 15-17. Now South adds their 5 to dummy's 11. Add that 16 to declarer's known 15-17 and you get 31-33. That leaves partner with **7-9 points**. Sometimes you can get an even more accurate estimate. For example, if there has been an invitational auction and declarer has accepted, you know they are going to be near maximum in their range. So how does that help? Keep the range in your mind as the play develops. As you see partner play some cards you may be able to work out what cards there is room for them to have left.

Here if South had led a club ( $\bigstar$ 8) and North had won the  $\bigstar$ K and returned the suit, once declarer plays diamonds South also sees partner play the  $\blacklozenge$ Q. By now they have seen 5 points and partner had 4-7 to start with. Hence, it's impossible for partner to also have the  $\clubsuit$ A. If declarer also has the  $\clubsuit$ J they will always have 4 heart tricks. But if partner has the  $\clubsuit$ J, it's essential for us to cling on to our 4 hearts to stop dummy's 4th heart scoring a trick.

The point count is not quite as clear if North is on lead and East is dummy since North leads a club **46** which is probably from an honour but South does not know which one. When North shows up with the **\Q**, South knows partner has 7-9 points which include a club honour and the **\Q**. It is more likely to be the A or A of clubs rather than the A (simply because leading away from a **&J** is a less attractive lead). There is just room for North to have all the  $\forall A$ ,  $\diamond Q$  and  $\bigstar K$ , but that would be a specific three cards making up the maximum 9 points. The odds are against that. So, I would still assume declarer has the VA and cling onto my 4 hearts - especially as I am not immediately in trouble with discards.

Note that, although it makes no difference on this hand, North is also likely to cling onto his **4J432** for all the same reasons. He knows West has 4 spades from the auction so his **4J** may be essential to stop the suit (from his point of view declarer could have **AKQx xxx Axx Axx**).

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

Bridge Puzzle 34.				
(BE		This article was derived from Bridgefeed, "Puzzle This no 34"		
North	Standard Bidding			
<b>♠ A</b> 54	West	North	East (D)	South
♥ J73			1≜	1NT
<b>♦ 8</b>	Pass	3NT	All P	ass
🗢 AT9843				
South	Bidding Notes			
▲ Q32	1≜	5+. Opening?		
♥ QT42	1NT 15-17 Bal, $\bigstar$ stopper		ber	
• AK54	3NT To Play			
🚸 KQ				

You are in an IMPs game (over tricks are not important!), just make sure of your contract.

West obediently leads his partner's suit: the &K. As South, plan the play to guarantee your contract regardless of how the suits divide.

### **Preliminary Analysis**

The opening lead gives you two spade tricks, and you have two sure diamond winners, so you need five more. The club suit looks like it will provide plenty of tricks as long as you can untangle the suit and have an entry to get to dummy.

## Solution

T1 West obediently leads the <u>▲K</u>. First, you must resist the temptation to win the ▲A at trick one. You'll need the ▲A later as an entry to the long clubs. As a matter of good technique, it's often correct to duck holding two winners in an

opponent's known long suit to help cut communication between the defenders. In this case, however, the dummy entry is the reason you must duck.

- T2 West continues with a low spade. You win this trick with your <u>▲Q</u>,
- T3 You get to work on the clubs. Cashing▲K with both opponents following.
- T4 Next the ♣Q, West follows. To guarantee your contract, you must overtake with dummy's <u>♣A</u>.

The importance of this play at IMPs is revealed if East shows out. This is the critical layout: If, on the ♣Q, you play a low club from dummy, you won't be able to run the suit.

	North	
	<b>♠ A</b> 54	
West	♥ J73	East (D)
<b>♦ K</b> 6	<b>♦ 8</b>	▲ JT987
♥ 86	♣ AT9843	▼ AK95
97632		+ JT
🜲 J765	South	<b>♣</b> 2
	♠ Q32	
3NT/S	♥ QT42	Vul NS
Lead <b></b> •K	♦ AK54	DIr: E
	👲 KQ	

T5 You next play the **♣T** to force out West's **♣J**..

The ♠A will then provide an entry to the established long clubs. All they can do is cash ♥AK.

## Bridge Lessons



Anita Curtis is teaching her popular **Develop** your Skills & Broaden your Game. See website for more details.

Anita offers an extensive range of topics in the Broaden Your Game and Intermediate Hand Analysis Classes held on Wednesdays at 2pm. From the 1st of April, there is a small price increase for these lessons, they are still great value at \$20 for members and \$25 for

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visitors. I invite you to take your game to the next level and join Anita on Wednesdays, if you can't make the date or time - Anita will email you a recording to watch at your leisure.

#### NSBC Develop Your Skills Mar-Apr 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 <u>Realbridge</u> after the lesson at your convenience.

Date	Lesson Topic
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)



Liz Wilkinson has restarted **Bridge Basics** which is a follow-on course from Introduction to Bridge.

## BUILD ON THE BASICS



Link to Website Teaching Basics



Jessica Brake

Jessica Brake will be teaching **Bridge Basics** Online from April 10. These are a follow on to Anita's Introduction to Bridge Classes. Zoom is Mon 9.30am and practice Wed 7pm.

Build on the Basics	Thursdays	1:30 PM	Willis
Responder's First Priorities and Opener Rebids	13th April	1:30 PM	Willis
Planning and Entry Management	20th April	1:30 PM	Willis
Opening and 2 Suited Hands	27th April	1:30 PM	Willis
Responder's NT Bids	4th May	1:30 PM	Willis
Defence and Leads	11th May	1:30 PM	Willis

# Restricted <300 MP Upcoming</li> Competition Opportunities

In April, NSBC is running another **Sunday Online Autumn (Anzac) Swiss Pairs Congress** with a separate restricted section.



Then our bridge festival events start in June with the Novice & Restricted Congress.

## For Our Newer Players



Player Fees (pp) \$45 (Light lunch and snacks provided) Why not join? Remote Members just \$35/

Beginner Bridge Lessons



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

New F2F lessons begin 6<sup>th</sup> May. info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au



NEXT DATES

- Start Date: 6th May 2023
- Lessons on Saturday mornings at 10.00am
- Practice Sessions Monday evenings at 7.00pm

# Bridge Lessons for Beginners 合约桥牌初级课程

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Cost	\$150 for 6 week course
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