For Our Newer Players

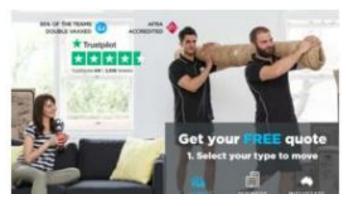












PH – Responding to a Takeout Double



This article was based on a Bridge feed article "Responding to a takeout double" by

Pat Harrington.

The use of a low-level double is a request to partner to bid an unbid suit. The most common instance is after a one-level bid by an opponent. The double normally indicates a hand worth an opening bid with at least three-card support for all unbid suits.

Knowing the proper responses after partner doubles is crucial. You should look first to play in one of the **major suits**. The second choice is **notrump**. If either of these is not a good option, then you should play in a **minor suit**

Suppose the bidding starts:

Standard Bidding				
West North East South				
1♦	X	Pass	?	

Make a minimum suit response with 0–8 high-card points. Suppose you hold this hand and the bidding has proceeded as above (all the following examples presume left-hand opponent opened 1♦ and partner doubled and RHO passes):

♦KT43 **♥Q4 ◆T43 ♣** J765

With this hand, you should respond 1♠. You are lucky to have a useful hand, but you are not strong enough to do more than bid at the one level. Notice that you would also have to bid 1♠ with

★T843 **♥**Q4 **◆**T43 **♣**J764

Bidding 1♠ doesn't promise values since partner forced you to bid.

Bid 1NT with a relatively balanced hand and 7–10 HCP. Here is an example

♠ KT3 ♥ Q4 ◆ QT43 ♣ J754

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Although 7–10 HCP is recommended here, the exact strength is a matter of style, and expert opinions vary. The conservative view is to use the bid for 7–10 or 8–10, but others recommend 6–9 or even 5–10. As with many bidding situations, this is something you and your partner should discuss.

Make a jump response in your suit with 9–11 HCP, or a good 8 HCP and some distribution. Suppose you hold:

♠ KT3 ♥ QJ743 ♦T43 ♣ A3

You should not bid 1 — you are too strong. You should jump to 2♥, a bid that is invitational. Partner can pass if he has a minimum takeout double. If he has 13 points and you have 10, that's not enough for game. If he has extra, he can bid again.

. A3 ♥ J53 + KQT4 . JT74

You should bid 2NT. The hand is too strong for 1NT, and you don't have a four-card or longer major. Try to play notrump instead of a minor suit when you have a hand this strong. 2NT shows your strength and approximate pattern and allows partner to make a good decision.

Cuebid the opponent's suit with 12 or more HCP. If you and partner both have opening bid values, you probably have game. You send this message to partner with a cuebid. Suppose you have:

♠ A6 ♥ QJ53 ♦ KQ74 ♣ JT53

Should you play game in 3NT or 4♥? If partner has a four-card heart suit, you would want to play 4♥. If partner only has three-card heart support, then you want to play 3NT. Since you are not sure, cuebid 2♦.

If partner rebids 2♥, you can raise to 4♥. If partner bids something else, you can bid 3NT.

Jump to the three-level with a long suit with good playing strength, but less than game values. You hold

♠ KJT874 ♥ 9 ♦54 ♣ QT94

Bid 3♠. Your hand has too much potential for a simple 1♠ bid, but doesn't qualify for a 2♠ bid with only 6 HCP. Bidding one more than a single jump shows you have a long suit and some useful points. Partner can evaluate his hand to decide whether to continue to 4♠.

Here are some more examples. In each case, suppose your LHO opens 1♣ and partner doubles.

Standard Bidding			
West North East South			
1♣	X	Pass	?

Example #1:

♦ 853 **♥** KQ 3 **♦** 9432 **♣** 743

Answer: **Bid 1**. Yes, your suit is weak, but you are forced to bid and it's the only fourcard suit you have.

Example #2:

♣ 84 ♥ Q843 **♦ T83 ♣ AK43**

Answer: **Bid 2**♥. It's true your hearts are only four cards long and not very strong, but bidding 1♥ does not show the strength of your hand. Partner usually has four-card heart support, so jump to 2♥ and hope for the best.

Example #3

. T7 ♥ K83 + KQJT7 . 975

Answer: **Bid 2**. You don't have a four-card major to bid. You don't have a club stopper. That leaves bidding diamonds. Jumping to 2. promises diamonds and 9–11 (or a good 8) points, which is a good description of your hand.



◆ PO - Blockages



Blockages

It is from my book Demystifying Defense.

We are East. Our hand is

· · · · · ·	21 1G 1G	
	East	
•	T 74	
*	KT62	
•	85	
٠	KJT6	

South opens 1NT, West passes and North bids 2♣, the Stayman convention seeking a major suit in South's hand. We are spectators here, so we pass and South bids 2♦ showing no four-card major. West passes and North closes proceedings with a jump to 3NT.

Standard Bidding			
West North East South			
			1NT
PASS	2♣	PASS	2♦
PASS	3NT	All	Pass

Partner leads the ♥5 and dummy comes down.

North	
. AQJ6	
♥8	You
♦ KT94	♠ T74
♣ 7542	▼ KT62
	♦ 85
	♣ KJT6

Let us do a quick calculation to see how many points partner has.

- South has shown 15-17 with the 1NT opening bid.
- North (Dummy) has 10, that's a total of 25-27
- We have 7, so by subtraction from 40, partner has 6-8.
- T1 Dummy plays the ♥8 and we win with the ♥K, declarer playing the ♥4. This is good news.

Which card should we play now?

When returning partner's suit, the standard method is to return your original fourth best if you started with four or more cards in the suit. So

- T2 We return the **v2**, on which declarer plays the **v9** and partner wins with the **vJ**. More good news.
- T3 Partner then tables the ♥A. Even better news.

How many hearts does declarer have?

Think about the bidding. Declarer replied 2♦ to the Stayman enquiry so he started with a maximum of three hearts, and he has already played two, so he has only one left. Partner obviously started with five hearts as we have not yet seen the ♥3

Which heart does declarer have left?

It is most likely the ♥Q and it will fall on partner's ♥A. We have the ♥T6 left at this stage.

Which card do we play?

We must play the ▼T to unblock the suit. The only hearts we have not seen are the ♥Q, ▼7 and ▼3. If partner has the ♥Q, there is no problem because our remaining hearts will fall on partner's ▼A and ▼Q.

But if declarer has the ♥Q and partner has the ♥7 and ♥3 we must unblock our ♥T, otherwise we will win the fourth trick with the ♥T and there will be no entry to partner's last heart.

The Full Deal

	North	
	♠ AQJ6	
West	♥ 8	East
965	♦ KT94	★ T74
♥ AJ753	♣ 7542	▼ KT62
♦ 632		♦ 85
♣ Q3	South (D)	♣ KJT6
3NT/S	♠ K32	
Partners	♥ Q94	Vul Nil
Lead ¥5	♦ AQJ7	Dir: South
Leau V3	♣ A98	

Partner takes the fifth trick with the **v3** and we defeat the contract. If we had failed to unblock our ♥T, declarer would have made the contract with four spades, four diamonds and a club. That would be bad news!

Post Mortem

It is important to keep track of spot cards when you and partner are cashing your suit, so that the suit doesn't become blocked.

Also don't forget the bidding. It can give vital clues to declarer's distribution.

Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner



Cappelletti over 1NT

In first seat you hold:



You open 1NT (15-17 Bal) and your left-hand opponent intervenes with 2+ bid showing the majors. Don't you just hate that? All the useful tools you learned, like Stayman and Transfers rendered useless.

Bridge players have learned that it pays to compete over opening strong 1NT bids when they hold **shapely hands**. Generally, it is best to compete with hands containing either a long suit or with two-suited hands — usually with 5–5 or even 5–4 distribution and appropriate values.

The object of the interference is not to get to game, but rather trying to obstruct the opponents and to do so safely. You hate it when they bid over your 1NT — turn the tables and do it to them!

For this to be effective, however, you need a system to define your bids. One of the most popular of these methods is called Cappelletti, a treatment that is also commonly known as Hamilton.

How it works

Cappelletti (Capp) or Hamilton Over Strong NT

X	Double shows a good hand , either a
	very strong balanced hand or
	(better) a hand with a running suit
	that can be used to defeat 1NT
2♣	Shows any long one suiter hand
2•	Shows both majors
2♥	Shows hearts and a minor suit
2♠	Shows spades and a minor suit
2NT	Shows both minors
3	Three-level bids are natural and pre-
Suit	emptive (weakish)

Examples

Say your RHO opens 1NT (15-17) and you hold the following hands: What do you bid?

	Bid 2 ♦, showing both majors. Yes, you only have 10 high-card points, but the
. 3	shapeliness of this hand makes it more valuable.
★ KJ943★ 6★ K7★ QJT42	Bid 2♠, Good shape, shows spades and a minor suit.
	Bid 24
♣ A74 ♥ KJT732 ♦ 8	This hand has only 8 HCP and may not be worth much on defence, but it should be quite good on
♣ 653	offense. Remember, your

aim is to just interfere with the opponents' bidding.



Double. Do not bid 2♣ to show a one-suited hand. You are too strong. If you end up defending 1NT doubled, you can lead a heart and expect to take at least six hearts and two aces. If the opponents scramble to safety, you can next bid your hearts and partner will know you have a good hand and a good

suit.

June 2023 Hands

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♣ JT7653 ▼ K92 ◆ 84 ♣ 2

Pass.

True, you have a six-card spade suit, but this hand is too weak to compete. Do not bid 2♣ to show a one-suited hand.

Responding after partner bids

Over the opponents strong 1NT, your partner bids 2♣ (showing a one-suited hand), If your RHO Passes.

- You would normally just bid 2♦ so partner can name her suit or pass (if she has diamonds).
- An exception is that you may name your own decent six-card major.

If your RHO opponent X doubles the 2♣ bid,

- **Pass**, so your partner can bid her long suit or pass if clubs.
- Or XX redouble by you shows 7 or more high-card points and support for any suit partner wants to name.
- An exception is that you may name your own decent six-card major.

Over the opponents strong 1NT, partner bids 2 (showing both hearts and spades), if your LHO passes

- you should bid your longer major suit. If you have a good fit and distribution you may jump in the major.
- If you bid 2NT, you show the minors and partner should name her longer minor, even if it is a two-card suit.
- If you have a fit for one major and 11 or more HCP, bid a forcing 2NT, ostensibly for the minors, but follow up by supporting the major suit.

If your RHO opponent X doubles the 2♦ bid,

- you should bid your longer major suit. If you have a good fit and distribution you may jump in the major.
- If you have equal Majors, just pass for partner to bid her better or longer major

If partner bids 2♥ or 2♠ (showing that major and a minor suit), if your LHO Passes

- Pass if you can tolerate the Major suit, the higher you bid the more likely a penalty
- You should raise the major with a good fit and 8 to 11 points.
- If you do not like the major but can fit either of the minors, bid 2NT to ask partner which

- minor suit she holds. When partner names it, you may then pass.
- If you have a strong raise for the major, bid 2NT first asking for partner's minor. Over her response, support the major. This shows a stronger hand than a direct raise. Even though the idea is to obstruct the opponents, sometimes you can make game, and this allows you to find out. If partner has a minimum 5–5 type hand, she may pass your invitation.

Examples

Take a look at these hands. All start with your left-hand opponent opening a strong 1NT.

bids 2♣. What
would you call with

♣ K83

♥ Q742

+ QT6

♣ K54

1NT, then Partner

This one is easy. **Bid 2**, which allows
partner to pass or
name her suit.

1NT, then Partner bids 2♣. What would you call with



Bid 2♥. You have a good suit

and are willing to play opposite shortness. You've also helped partner if she is on opening lead.

1NT, then Partner bids 2♣. What would you call with



Bid 2.

Do not bid 2♥ with a bad suit and a bad hand.

1NT, then Partner bids 2♣ and your right-hand opponent doubles. What do you call with



Redouble.

This says you have at least 7+ HCP and support for your partner's suit. She is invited to compete.

June 2023 Hands

For Our Newer Players

1NT, then Partner bids 2♠. What would you call with

♣ 84♥ 62♦ KJ842♣ KJ42

Bid 2NT, which asks partner to name her better minor. You don't like spades, but you are happy to play in clubs or diamonds.

1NT, then Partner bids 2♠. What would you call with

♣ 84♥ KQJ74◆ J86♣ K92

Pass. Partner has at least five spades. It's not advisable to bid 2NT to ask for her minor. Your fit might not be much better and you are raising the bidding to the three level. In any event, you have some help for partner, so pass and hope for the best.

JF – Hand Analysis



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

Weak2

	North	Dealer: East Vul: NS
West	▼ A84	East (D)
♠ QJ74	♦ J9432	♠ AT3
♥ Q7	♣ J975	♥ JT9632
+ AQ		♦ K86
♣ KQT62	South	♣ 3
6	♠ K8652	* • V * NT
16 8	♥ K5	N - 1 S - 1
10	♦ T75	E 1 - 2 2 3
10	♣ A84	W 1 - 2 1 2

This Board in a club level game. saw every East West playing in some number of hearts or no-trumps but with the usual wide variety of scores and tricks taken. How might things have gone?

East has first go, and many players opened a weak 2♥ which seems perfectly reasonable to me. A multi 2♦ opening if you are playing that is also fine.

However, several players chose to pass.
Where East hand passed, most Wests opened a **strong NT** and found themselves in 4 contracts via a transfer sequence.

Over 2♥ should South consider overcalling 2♠? Absolutely NOT! There are lots of reasons why:

- You only have 5 spades, and their quality is terrible
- Your hand is balanced
- The vulnerability is dangerous getting doubled can quickly get very expensive
- After an opponent has pre-empted their partner has the best idea of whose hand it is – so they will be able to double you (and here West most definitely should!)

What about West in response to a weak two? Players tended to bid 3NT or 4. At teams (Imp scoring) that is reasonable but at matchpoints I'm not so sure. It is worth being more conservative and perhaps just enquiring about East's hand (see advanced section for some possible bidding methods here). If West learns that East has shortage in clubs that might tip them off that the hands are not fitting that well and stop in 3.

A very important factor is actually knowing what your partner's style of weak two is. Many pairs these days play extremely aggressive pre-emptive opening bids, even more so when the vulnerability is in their favour as it is here. It is also quite common for a weak two to only be a 5 card suit when not vulnerable. Just to show the variation that style creates - with my most regular partner I would be at least enquiring with West because we play fairly traditional weak two bids that are always a 6 card suit or more. But with another regular partner I would actually pass with West as they could easily have almost nothing! See advanced section for more.

What about the play firstly in hearts?

Played by West, North will lead their singleton ♠9 and this puts the contract in all sorts of trouble. South will get in with ♠K and can give North a spade ruff. So, the defence will score ♠K, a spade ruff, ♥AK and ♠A holding declarer to 8 tricks.

Played by East it's not so bad as South will probably lead a spade. North will still get a spade ruff but the defence no longer scores the ♠K so declarer will probably make 9. Deep Finesse shows that the contract can still be held to 8 though – see advanced section for how.

Finally let's consider the play in no trumps – played almost certainly by West. NT was played 9 times and ranged from 7 to 10 tricks.

North has a natural diamond lead. Declarer should start playing on hearts and if they can get them going will probably score 1♠, 4♥, 3♦ and at least 1♣ to make the contract. However, it's not that simple to reach the long hearts (see advanced section for more).

Key points to note

- Weak two bids are an effective pre-empt but can vary a lot in strength and style these days – it is worth discussing that with your partner.
- Do NOT overcall pre-empts with bad suits or with weak balanced hands at unfavourable vulnerability – it is asking to be doubled and concede a very large penalty!
- There are assorted responses available to weak twos – usually involving 2NT being an enquiry with game interest. Responses to that vary a lot too! (See advanced section)
- Be more conservative in the bidding playing Matchpoint pairs – you don't need to push for game as every board is worth the same so, the game bonus isn't as valuable.
- Just like it is often right for declarer to duck the 1st round of a suit in no-trumps with a double stopper it can also be right for the defence to do the same to make

sure the long suit cannot be established (see advanced section).

More advanced

What responses are played to weak twos? A huge variety. Direct raises to the 3 level are usually pre-emptive in nature. Hands that are interested in game usually start with a 2NT enquiry. Responses to that also vary by partnership agreement. A traditional method was **OGUST** where responses focused on both the strength of the hand and the quality of the suit. Typically:

- 3♣ = poor suit, weak hand
- 3♦ = good suit, weak hand
- 3♥ = poor suit, good hand
- 3♠ = good suit, good hand.

These days more common methods are either "Feature asks" or "Shortage asks". A "feature" is typically an honour in a suit – something like Kxx. A shortage is obviously a singleton or a void. Both these methods help responder identify if the hands fit well together.

My partner and I play shortage asks but we also have the agreement that we only show a shortage if we are non-minimum. Any minimum hand (even with a shortage) just rebids the weak two suit.

The style question is absolutely critical because it can also have knock on effects to your 1 level opening bids.

For example: if you open very aggressive weak twos at favourable vulnerability then you don't want the range of them to be so wide that it's impossible for partner to know what to do.

Therefore, you tend to drop the strength of your 1 level openings as well so you might open 10 or even 9 point hands at the 1 level as they are "too good" for a weak two.

Some pairs try to accommodate this by playing two strengths of weak 2. Usually 2♦ is opened with a "bad" weak two (typically weaker or only a 5 card suit). 2♥ or 2♠ show a stronger weak two (sometimes even up to 11 points).

A further question is what new suits mean. E.g. 2♥ P 2♠. Forcing or non-forcing? This is playable either way but you need to agree. It makes more sense to play them as forcing over decent weak twos because you are unlikely to need to pull to your own suit as you know partner will have at least 6.

Playing bad 5 card weak twos there is more of a case to play these bids as non-forcing because you may well want to correct the partscore (strong hands then all have to start with 2NT).

Looking at the play and defence now, 2♥ played by East can still be held to 8 tricks but the defence is basically double dummy.

South has to lead a low heart from their ♥Kx!

North wins the ♥A and switches to their ♠9.

Now South gets in with ♥K Cash the ♠K and

North still has a low trump for their spade ruff.

If that defence takes place in the real world,

something extremely fishy is going on!

The no-trump play is the most interesting. Suppose after a diamond lead, declarer wins and plays *Q. If South wins and plays another diamond, declarer can win and get the hearts going by forcing out North's ace. That should lead to making as North has no more entries so declarer will have time to set up 3 spades to go with 4 hearts and 3 diamonds. To make sure the hearts can't be set up, North South need to DUCK the *Q! Now when South wins the *K and plays a 2nd diamond, declarer has no more hearts himself and needs an extra entry to dummy to set them up.

He will probably try the spade finesse but when that fails, South can play a 3rd diamond. Now whatever declarer does is no good – North has a heart entry and if declarer plays on clubs instead, the defence will score two tricks there including the ♣J as an entry to North's diamond winners. Of course after the ♥Q is ducked, declarer should realise the hearts are now useless and switch to spades themselves.

Deep Finesse holds the contract to 8 tricks by leading the singleton spade and then playing clubs themselves whenever the defence get in. Eventually they score 1♠, 2♥ and 2♣. By attacking clubs before both their heart cards are knocked out, they win the race.

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)





Down Under vs Up Over at 6pm Tuesday 4th July 2023. Australia and NZ will form a super team to take on the mighty UK and Ireland. Kenya, South Africa and others will be also joining in. The format is matchpoints pairs 20-Regular session prices 22 boards. members and visitors. Players will be organised into three categories Expert/General/Beginner. The starting time of 6pm AEST allows all countries to align to a somewhat sensible playing time. The event should run approx. 2.5 hours, bookings are essential as numbers will be limited to balance the field. Get in early to secure your spot.

For Our Newer Players

Bridge Lessons.

Link to Website Teaching Basics



Jessica Brake has been teaching **Bridge Basics Online** (Zoom is Mon

9.30am and practice Wed 7pm on

RealBridge with John Newman.)

Jessica Brake

Bridge I	Basics (Online) Mondays 9:30
5th June	Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an
Julie	opponent has opened
12th June Defending well, the hardest part of the game.	

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Build on	the Basics - Thursdays 1:30 Willis
1st June	2C Game Force Opening and 2D Response
8th June	Counting and Dumping Losers
15th June	Overcalls, Part 1
22nd June	Overcalls, Part 2
29th June	Takeout Double, Part 1
13th July	Takeout Double, Part 2
20th July	Stayman Part 2
27th July	Transfers



Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson is teaching **Build** on the **Basics** at the Willis on Thursdays 1:30. A great new lesson every week. See website for more details. Liz will also be teaching BB on Saturdays.

Bridge I	Basics (Face-to-Face) Saturdays
17th June	Responding to partner's opening of 1NT
24th June	How to count your tricks and develop your playing skills
8th July	Finding a fit in a Major suit, and focus on Responder
15th July	Developing a long suit for extra tricks and planning the play in a No Trump contract
22nd July	Overcalling and the Takeout Double
29th July	Counting losers, playing and defending a suit contract
5th August	Play in your Major when you have a fit, more bidding when partner opens 1NT
12th August	Making the best of your high cards, the fine art of Finessing
19th August	Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an opponent has opened
26th August	Defending well, the hardest part of the game.



Anita Curtis

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

NSBC Intermediate/BYG June 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	
7 Jun	Reverses & Jump Shifts	BYG/Intermediate bidding. Learn how to show a 2 suited hand with extra values – essential for all aspiring intermediate players. This is a bidding only session.	
14 Jun	Eddie Kantar's Ducking in suit contracts	Intermediate declarer play. When do you duck in a suit contract?	
21 Jun	Plan the Defence	BYG/Intermediate defence. Consolidates defensive techniques and	
28 Jun	Fourth Suit Forcing part 2 – Tools for major suit success going to slam	BYG/Intermediate bidding. You have done the 1st part of 4SF. This lesson highlights how 4SF can be used when interested in slam.	
5 July	NO LESSON		
12 July	NO LESSON		

Visitors \$25; Members \$20

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

NSBC Develop Your Skills June 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 at any time 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	
June 1	Advancer's Options in the competitive auction (bidding)	
June 8	Unblocking in defence (defence)	
June 15	Hand Analysis 2 (all skills)	
June 22	Cross ruffing (declarer play)	
June 29	Life after transfers (bidding)	
July 6	NO LESSON	
July 13	NO LESSON	
July 20	Super accepts - I love your transfer (bidding)	
July 27	Establish your side suit in suit contracts (declarer play)	

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

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

For Our Newer Players

◆ Our Novice & Restricted Teams Congress @ EL

Our Clubs first Festival Event - Novice & Restricted Teams congress is being held at East Lindfield on **Saturday the 17 June** @10am.

Last year the winners:

=aot				
Ven	т	Grade	NSBC Festival Restricted & Novice Swiss PAIRS Congress in June	Sponsor
EL	8	Restricted Novice	David Hagley, Robyn Rogers, Michael Clarey, Penny Clarey	2men & a Truck
			John Simmonds, Sachiko Cathcart, Simon Hunter, Susan Eason	







Note: Normal Saturday EL Open game still scheduled for 1pm

◆ Our Novice & Restricted Pairs Congress @ EL

Our Clubs second Festival Event - Novice & Restricted Pairs congress is being held at East Lindfield on **Sunday the 18 June** @ **10am**.

Last Years Winners:

Ven	Т	Grade	NSBC Festival Restricted & Novice Swiss PAIRS Congress in June	Sponsor
EL	10	Restricted	Jay Novak & Richard Carter	2men & a
EL	10	Novice	Sandra Belcher & Joe Camilleri	Truck

