



## ♦ Come & Play in the Interclub

### UP OVER

Take part in a challenge: your opportunity to represent the super teams of North "up over" versus South "down under".

The date: Tuesday 4th July, 2023

**vs.**

New Zealand: 8 pm   Australia (AEST): 6 pm  
Kenya: 11 am   South Africa: 10 am  
UK and Ireland: 9 am

Matchpoints pairs  
22 boards

... book early to  
ensure a seat...

### DOWN UNDER

Down Under vs Up Over at 6pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 20-22 boards. Regular session prices for members and visitors. Players will be organised into 3 categories by NSBC.

- **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.

NSBC will grade your entry into the right category for play.

## Festival Restricted Results Teams & Pairs



Lorna   Sharon   Felix   Mike   David



Fiona Fawcett   Mike   Mary Carter

## ♦ PH – How do I Raise Thee?

This article was based on a Bridge feed article [“How do I raise thee”](#) by Pat Harrington.

Many players use the five-card major system where a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid shows a five-card suit. The system makes it easy to know when you have a major suit fit. All responder needs are three-card support for opener's major to be certain that the partnership holds at least eight cards in the suit. However, responder still has a variety of hand strengths to describe. How responder does this depends on partnership bidding agreements. Let's look at some bids that are considered "standard."

Responder can raise opener's major to the two level with three or more trumps and 6–10 support points (high-cards plus distribution). Some experts disagree, but my advice is to show support for opener's major immediately with a minimum hand. With bridge players so competitive today, the bidding might be too high for you to safely show the fit later. Also, partner is better placed to compete once a fit is uncovered. Would you raise partner's 1♠ opening to 2♠ holding:

♠K9752 ♥6 ♦QT987 ♣72?

Your hand does fit the parameters for a raise to 2♠, but most players would raise directly to 4♠. The law of total tricks suggests competing for as many tricks as your side has trumps in certain situations (for example, bidding with weak hands and competing for part-scores). A raise to 4♠ pre-empts the opponents — and partner might make it!

The raises to two and four discussed so far are standard, but a raise to the three level means different things to different players. The most common choice is to treat responder's jump raise to 3♥ or 3♠ as an invitational, promising 10–12 points. Keep in mind that some pairs use a raise to three of a

major as forcing to game. Make sure you know what your partner thinks a jump raise shows.

Would you raise a 1♥-opening bid to 3♥ with this hand:

♠A63 ♥JT53 ♦A63 ♣Q74?

How about:

♠AT63 ♥J53 ♦A63 ♣Q74?

Some would raise to 3♥ directly, but many players differentiate between three- and four-card support when showing medium and maximum raises. There is no point in doing this unless you appreciate the difference. Take a look at this deal:

		North (D)		
		♠ A63		
		♥ JT53		
		♦ A63		
		♣ Q74		
West		South	East	
♠ QT2		♠ 874	♠ KJ95	
♥ 4		♥ KQ872	♥ A96	
♦ K9742		♦ 5	♦ QJT8	
♣ JT98		♣ AK62	♣ 53	

South counts two spade losers and one each in hearts and clubs. Unless trumps split 4–0, declarer will easily handle the club loser. Dummy will still have a heart left to ruff it after trumps are drawn. 4♥ makes.

Now trade North's ♥T for West's ♠T. Can South still make 4♥?

		North (D)		
		♠ AT63		
		♥ J53		
		♦ A63		
		♣ Q74		
West		South	East	
♠ Q2		♠ 874	♠ KJ95	
♥ T4		♥ KQ872	♥ A96	
♦ K9742		♦ 5	♦ QJT8	
♣ JT98		♣ AK62	♣ 53	

Losers will be the same, but handling the club loser is a problem now. If declarer draws trumps and plays clubs, dummy is out of hearts and cannot ruff the club loser. If declarer plays clubs before drawing all the trumps, East ruffs the third club. 4♥ might make on a different layout, but you have to be pretty lucky to find both clubs 3–3 along with a 3–2 heart split.

Notice that we never changed North's points. All we did was remove one trump card, reducing holding to 8 trumps, and a good game turned into a poor prospect.

If you and your partner recognize the power of a ninth trump (5+4) and wish to differentiate between raises with three and four trumps, you can require responder's immediate jump raise to the three level to show four-card support. With only three-card support, responder makes some forcing bid first. In our example hand, North could respond 1♠, showing four spades. South rebids 2♣, and North bids to 3♥, a limit raise with only three trumps. South can pass, knowing that game is not a good prospect.

**Ed:** It's more common in Australia to use **Bergen raises** to show 4 card trump support.



## ♦ PO – Long Hand



Pat O'Connor

### Long Hand

It is from my book

*A Second Book of Bridge Problems.*

North (D)	Standard Bidding			
♠ KJ	West	North	East	South
♥ KT93		1♣	Pass	1♥
♦ 832	Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
♣ AJ94	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
	All Pass			
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ AQ64	1♣	2+C, Opening hand		
♥ AQJ2	1♥	4+♥		
♦ Q	2♥	Min Opening 4♥		
♣ K532	4NT	Keycard		
	5♥	2 Keycards, no ♥Q		
	6♥	To Play		

West leads the ♦A and continues with the ♦K.

Pause now and make your plan.

### Analysis

It looks like the contract depends on a very favourable layout in the club suit.

The 'long hand' of declarer's side is the one with more trumps or, if the number of trumps is equal, the one with the stronger trumps. It is the hand where you count losers. It is usually declarer's hand. In this case both hands here have four equally good trumps.

- T1 West Cashes the ♦A all follow  
T2 South ruffs West's ♦K continuation with the ♥2,

North now has more trumps and becomes the long hand.

How does this change your thinking?

Because dummy is the long hand now, look for losers there – two clubs and one more diamond. Now you are thinking of the hand as reversed, you can discard two club losers from dummy on South's spades! You can also trump the remaining diamond loser in your hand.

- T3 Play the ♥A,  
T4 a heart ♥J to the ♥K in dummy,  
T5 Then ruff the last diamond safely in hand with the ♥Q. This exhausts trumps from your hand  
T6 So play a spade to the ♠K in dummy  
T7/8 Then draw the last two trumps with the ♥T and ♥9, discarding clubs.  
T9 Then cash the ♠J  
T10 Then lead a club to ♣K in your hand,  
T11/12 Then discarding the two losing clubs in dummy on the ♠A and ♠Q.

This is a very interesting deal. It illustrates the need to look at dummy as the long hand when the need arises. This type of play is called a 'dummy reversal'.

West helped you by making the natural lead of the ♦A.

In fact, an initial club lead, and club continuation when later in with the ♦A, would set the contract because you wouldn't be able to get back to hand for the final two spade winners after drawing the last trumps. We like it when defenders are kind to us!

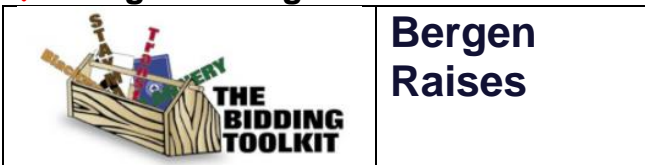
North (D)		
♠ KJ	♥ KT93	♠ T8
♦ 832	♣ AJ94	♥ 8765
♣ 97532		♦ J765
♥ 4		♣ QT6
♦ AKT94		
♣ 87		
South		
♠ AQ64	♥ AQJ2	Vul Nil
♦ Q	♣ K532	Dir: North
6♥/S		
Lead ♦A		

### Key Point

The 'long hand' can switch during the play.



## ♦ Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner



### Bergen Raises

In contract bridge, **Bergen raises** are conventional treatments of responses to a major suit opening in a five-card major system. Developed by Marty Bergen and first published in 1982, Bergen raises are used in response to a 1♥ or 1♠ 5-card opening bid to show hands of specific length in trump support and strength as follows:

- 2♥/2♠ - weak (7-10 high card points) with three-card support
- 3♣ - weak (typically 7-10 high card points) with four-card support
- 1NT followed by 3♥/3♠ on next round - invitational to game (typically 11-12 high card points) with three-card support
- 3♦ - a limit raise (typically 11-12 high card points) with four-card support; invitational to game
- 3♥/3♠ - very weak (pre-emptive, typically less than 7 high card points) and four-card support
- 4♥/4♠ - very weak (pre-emptive, typically less than 7 high card points) and five-card support

Bergen raises are based on the Law of total tricks, a hand evaluation concept which states that with nine trumps one should compete at the three-level regardless of high card strength. Bergen recommended that instead of the rarer occurrence in the use of the 3♣ and 3♦ responses as a jump shift to show a strong hand, these bids should be redeployed to provide more precise information about the length and strength of support held by responder for partner's major suit opening.

Over 3♣, Opener may sign off in trumps, but a bid of 3♦ asks partner to bid three of the major with a weaker hand, i.e., 7-8 points, or bid four with a stronger hand, i.e., 9-10 points.

Partnerships which employ Bergen raises, often utilise a Jacoby 2NT response to major suit openings for game-forcing hands with trump support. A direct raise to game is then pre-emptive on a very shapely hand (often with five card trump support).

Editor: my 2/1 bidding structure with Bergen

### 1♥ Opening (5♥, Opening Hand)

- Pass** Normal <6hcp
- 1♠ Natural bidding 4+♠ 6+hcp
- 1NT Forcing (5-11 hcp) catch all
- 2♣ GF hand 12+ hcp, 4+♣ Natural
- 2♦ GF hand 12+ hcp, 4+♦ Natural
- 2♥ 3♥, good 8-10 hcp
- 2♠ **Bergen 3♥, 11-12 Bal Limit raise**
- 2NT Jacoby sets GF in ♥
- 3♣ **Bergen 4♥ 5-9 Hcp**
- 3♦ **Bergen 4♥ 10-12 Hcp**
- 3♥ **Bergen 4♥ Weak pre-emptive (<7Hcp)**
- 3♠ Splinter Slam try in ♥
- 3NT **Bergen 3♥ Bal 13-15 Bal raise**
- 4♣ Splinter Slam try in ♥
- 4♦ Splinter Slam try in ♥
- 4♥ **Bergen 5♥ Weak pre-emptive (<7hcp)**

### 1♠ Opening (5♠, Opening Hand)

- Pass** Normal <6hcp
- 1NT Forcing (5-11 hcp) catch all
- 2♣ GF hand 12+ hcp, 4+♣ Natural
- 2♦ GF hand 12+ hcp, 4+♦ Natural
- 2♥ GF hand 12+ hcp, 5+♥ Natural
- 2♠ **Bergen 3♠, good 8-10 hcp**
- 2NT Jacoby sets GF in ♠
- 3♣ **Bergen 4♠ 5-9 Hcp**
- 3♦ **Bergen 4♠ 10-12 Hcp**
- 3♥ **Bergen 3♠, Bal 11-12 Limit raise**
- 3♠ **Bergen 4♠ Weak pre-emptive**
- 3NT 3♠ Bal 13-15 **Bal raise**
- 4♣ Splinter Slam try in ♠
- 4♦ Splinter Slam try in ♠
- 4♥ **Splinter Slam try in S**
- 4♠ **Bergen 5♠ Weak pre-emptive (<7hcp)**

### 1♥- 1NT (5-11 hcp Forcing for one round)

Opener rebid notes:

- 2♣ **Min hand** Better Minor.. maybe 2/3
- 2♦ **Min hand** Better Minor...maybe 3
- 2♥ **Min hand** 6♥
- 2♠ 5♥/4♠ Strong hand
- 2NT 18-19 Bal with 5♥
- 3♣ Strong usually 5/5
- 3♦ Strong usually 5/5
- 3♥ 3♥ 11-12 Limit with unbalanced Hand

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## ◆ JF – Hand Analysis



## Julian Foster

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

Sometimes in bridge there are hands which are complete “misfits” - we have shortage in our partner’s suits and vice versa.

		North		Dealer: South	
		♠ A8753		Vul: NS	
West		♥ 5		East	
♠ QJ964		♦ A		♠ K2	
♥ J92		♣ T98652		♥ K864	
♦ 74				♦ K985	
♣ A43		South (D)		♣ KJ7	
8		♠ T		    NT	
8 13		♥ AQT73		N 1 2 1 - -	
11		♦ QJT632		S 1 2 1 - -	
		♣ Q		E - - - 2 1	
				W - - - 2 1	

This board from a club level game, was a good example. Hands like this can often lead to disaster as each partner keeps bidding their own suits until they get too high - and then the opponents find the **X** card!

The art is to get out of the bidding as low as possible, but you need to recognise the warning signs to be able to do that. Better still you want the opponents to come into the bidding so you can defend instead! Let's see what might happen on this board.

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦

South will usually open 1♦ (although some might try 1♥ - see advanced section). These days some Wests might overcall 1♠ at favourable vulnerability to get in the way but let's suppose they don't.

North will now respond 1♠ (even though their clubs are longer they are not strong enough to bid at the 2 level). Now what?

South needs to rebid 2♦. Bidding 2♥ is a mistake. That is a “**reverse**” (it forces partner to the 3 level to go back to your first suit when they have only responded at the 1 level so might only have 5-6 points). You need at least 16 points to do this. South only has 11 and 2 of those (♣Q) might be worthless.

What would poor North do over 2♦ here? 2NT maybe?. Now the partnership is already too high, and it might get worse if South decides to bid 3♣ to show their full shape!

After 2♦ (5♦ min) North should recognise that this is not looking good. Partner doesn't have spade support and didn't bid clubs either. The other big clue is the hearts. Where are they? If the opponents really had lots of them there's a fair chance one of them would have bid (they must have points too since we only have 8 and partner has only rebid 2♦).

Given we only have 1 heart, partner is very likely to have quite a few. North should **pass** 2♦ and get out before things get worse.

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	?	

Yes of course occasionally North will have a hand like Axxxx Kxxx x xxx. And will still pass 2♦ even though hearts are a much better contract. Tough! You can't get every hand right. It is far more likely that the hand is a misfit and bidding on will lead to disaster. (North cannot afford to bid 2♠ with that hand over 2♦ because that is forcing, and they only have 7 points opposite a minimum opening bid).

**What about the play?** Most tables that played in diamonds made 9 tricks. Although the Deep Finesse analysis says it can be held to 8.

On the face of it the defence will score the ♦K, one ♣ and 2♥'s. Where can they get another trick?

Probably by first leading a trump (to stop declarer scoring a ♥ ruff in dummy with the ♦A) and then by forcing declarer.

Suppose they lead a ♦. Declarer might start on ♥s, finesse the ♥Q and then lose the third round. But now the defence can exit a ♠ to

leave declarer in dummy. They will have to play a black card which will lead to them being forced. When they lose the 4th ♥ they are forced again and now they are down to 3 trumps, the same as East. After East wins the ♦K they force declarer a 3rd time and now have more trumps than declarer. They will therefore score another small trump. Declarer will only score 1♠, 2♥ and 5♦ – even if declarer can set up their 5th heart they will not also be able to draw trumps so they cannot cash it.

## Key points to note

- If you recognise a misfit get out of the bidding low! It is far better to occasionally play the wrong partscore than to keep bidding and bidding until you get too high and get doubled for -800 (or more)!
- Misfits can be suspected when partner is bidding your short suits, or the opponents are bidding your long suits.
- In a partscore hand (i.e., where points are distributed roughly evenly between the two sides) if you are very short in a suit and the opponents have not bid it, there's a good chance partner has some - also indicating a misfit.
- When defending against misfits it is often good to try to force declarer to trump. With everything breaking badly they may well lose control.

## More advanced

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦

Some players holding South might think ahead to what is likely to happen after opening 1♦ and deliberately decide to open 1♥ with the intention of rebidding 2♦. That has a few advantages:

- it shows more of your hand.
  - it won't miss a heart fit if one exists; and
  - it doesn't create a reverse on the 2nd round.
- But it is not without risk. Its big disadvantage is it mis-states the length of your suits (1♥ followed by 2♦ is usually x54x and could be x64x). Often partner will give "preference" back to what they think is your longer suit

(hearts). You might easily end up playing in a 5-2 heart fit instead of a 6-3 diamond fit. And if the opponents force you to trump you can then easily lose trump control.

Personally, I have never got a good result when I have tried opening 1♥ on this sort of hand. But I have watched my partner and my opponents do it regularly and not have a problem! So, it's perhaps personal preference or just paranoia on my part!

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
1♠	1NT or Pass?		

If West does overcall 1♠ what should North do? Once again, the opponents bidding our 5-card suit is **indicative of a misfit**. North might venture 1NT but certainly nothing more. One thing North should not do is attempt to penalise 1♠ by passing and then passing a reopening double. They are nowhere near strong enough and they don't have good enough trumps (you need tricks to defend, more so than points).

Julian Foster



**Restricted & Novice Congress** at Central Coast Bridge Club, 415 The Entrance Road, Long Jetty NSW

Sat 8 July – Swiss Pairs

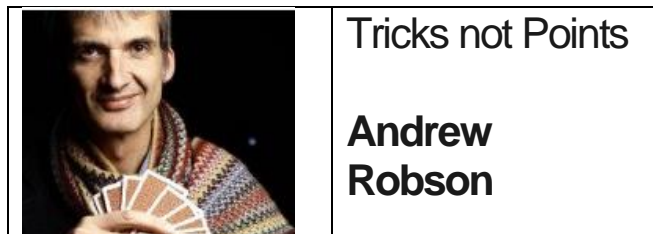
Sun 9 July – Swiss Teams

Entries via [NSWBA website](#)





## ♦ AR – Tricks not Points



Tricks not Points

**Andrew Robson**

Which is the better hand, (a) or (b)?

**Hand a)**

♠ Q J  
♥ AJ732  
♦ KJ  
♣ KJ32

**Hand b)**

♠ 86  
♥ KQJT2  
♦ A2  
♣ KQJT

Hand (a) has more points, but hand (b) is far stronger because it contains more TRICKS. Never ever forget, Bridge is a game all about tricks, not points. Your point-count means absolutely nothing once play begins, point-count is a guide only to bidding, nothing else. If partner has a flat “Yarborough” i.e., no points at all, you will make eight tricks with hearts as trumps with (b), yet barely two or three tricks with (a).

I should say, however, that you must always have a flexible mind-set at Bridge. If your partner is bidding spades and diamonds very strongly, suddenly you’d rather have Hand (a); if partner holds

♠ AK5432, ♥4, ♦QT9872, ♣-

you can make 6♠ opposite Hand (a) yet may not even make 4♠ opposite Hand (b).

Exercise: Right hand opponent opens 1♠. Would you overcall with these?

**Hand i)**

♠ QJ2  
♥ AJ2  
♦ KJ742  
♣ Q2

**Hand ii)**

♠ 32  
♥ 2  
♦ KQJT92  
♣ QJT2

With Hand (i), the answer is no. You have one TRICK.

With Hand (ii), yes, facing a bad dummy, you have seven likely TRICKS.

Note, **your point-count in no way tells the whole story.**

## ♦ Bridge Lessons.

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)



**Jessica Brake**

Jessica Brake has now finished teaching **Bridge Basics Online** and **will be returning later in the year.** Players are now invited to play Supervised Wed 7pm with Jenny Barnes online with RealBridge.



**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.

### Build on the Basics - Thursdays 1:30 Willis

13th July	Takeout Double, Part 2
20th July	Stayman Part 2
27th July	Transfers


### Bridge Basics (Face-to-Face) Saturdays 10am East Lindfield

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.

## ♦ Venue Championships Scheduled



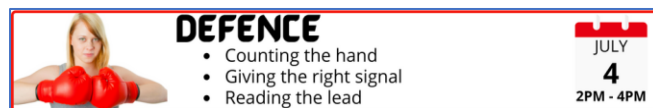
## ♦ July Guest Speaker Courses

	<p>Lessons with Nick Jacob on</p> <p><b>Contested Auctions</b></p>
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We are very lucky to have Nick Jacob coming to NSBC in **July for two lessons** Monday 3rd July at 2.00pm on Zoom or you can enrol and receive the recording to watch at any time click [here](#) to enter.



On Tuesday 4th July Nick's lesson is **Defense** at 2.00pm once again you can enrol; and receive the recording and watch when it suits you click [here](#) to enter.



	<p>Lessons with Matt Smith on</p> <p><b>Card Play</b></p>
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Matt will be doing two lessons Monday 10th July Card Play Series Lesson 1 2.00pm click [here](#) to enter.



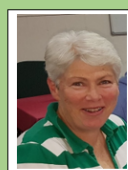
Tuesday 11th July at 2.00pm Lesson 2 at 2.00pm click [here](#) to enter.



## ♦ July Advanced Courses

	<p>Anita Curtis is teaching her popular <b>Develop your Skills &amp; Broaden your Game</b>. See <a href="#">website for more details</a>.</p> <p><b>Anita Curtis</b></p>
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### NSBC Intermediate/BYG July 2023 Program ONLINE WEDNESDAYS at 2pm with Anita Curtis



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

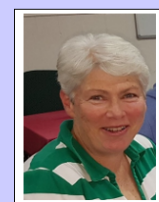
**Intermediate:** aspiring open players or those with considerable experience in Restricted.

Date	Lesson Topic	Description
5 July	NO LESSON	
12 July	NO LESSON	
19 Jul	Cue bidding – Tools for major suit success	BYG/Intermediate bidding – a bidding only session. The last session in Tools for Major Suit Success. What is cue bidding? When do we use it?
26 Jul	Gentle Hand Analysis 3, 2023	Practise all skills with 8 new hands & in-depth analysis.

Visitors \$25; Members \$20

For more information or to register, email Anita: [ac210927@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ac210927@bigpond.net.au)

### NSBC Develop Your Skills July-August 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
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)
August 3	Do you know how to play this NT contract?
August 10	Do you know how to play this suit contract?
August 17	End of course Hand Analysis 1
August 24	End of course Hand Analysis 2

Visitors \$20; Members \$17

For more information or to register, email Anita: [ac210927@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ac210927@bigpond.net.au)