# **Open Hands**



#### **Open Challenge Hand 1**

North (D)	You are in an IMP'S game (safety Plays?) & you have arrived in an uncontested auction to 4♥.
♣ AQJ South	West leads the <b>A</b>
<ul> <li>▲ K54</li> <li>▼ AK9752</li> <li>◆ A6</li> <li>◆ 95</li> </ul>	How do you plan to play the hand?

## Bridge Puzzle 11

(BE)		This artic derived f Bridgefee This no 1	rom ed, <u>"Puzz</u>	<u>le</u>	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		
1≜	DBL	PASS	3♥		
PASS	4¥	ALL	PASS		
North (D)         ▲ J6         ♥ 8754         ◆ AKQ2         ▲ AKQ         South         ▲ A7         ♥ KQ32         ◆ JT86         ♣ 872					
T1 West le with the	eads the <b>≜</b> l e <u><b>≜A</b></u> .	<b>K</b> , and yo	u (South)	win	

What next?

## Thursday Comp Night –Q3 2023

- The current MP Swiss Pairs completes in early July.
- Then a 2-week break for the ANC,
- Then the BAM Teams starts in late July



This is followed by the Watermark Sponsored Club Teams in middle august

## Bridge Puzzle 12



North		Std Bidding			
<mark>∳</mark> KQ	West	West North Eas			
♥JT4				1≜	
<b>♦ 75</b>	X	X 3♣ Pass 3NT			
🛧 A86542	All Pass				
South (D)		Bidding	Notes		
▲ A76543	1≜	5+S, Open	ing		
♥ A5	X	Takeout, 4	¥		
♦ AJ3	3♣ 5+♣, ongoing				
秦 KJ	3NT To play				

#### Playing IMPs, you bid to 3NT

- T1 West leads the ♦K against your 3NT. You duck, hoping that West will continue the suit
- T2 West switches to the **49** instead.

What should you do now?

## 🔶 BM – Think Ahead

#### Solution to Challenge hand 1



This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article "<u>Think</u> <u>Ahead 3</u>". Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

Brent Manley

You are playing in an IMPs game. Your straightforward auction lands you in 4. West starts with the  $\diamond Q$ .

Do you see a way to 10 tricks on this deal?

North (D)	Standard Bidding				
<b>♠ 632</b>	West	West North East South			
♥ QJT4		1	Pass	1¥	
• K52	Pass 2¥ Pass 4¥				
🛧 AQJ	All Pass				
South		Bidding Notes			
♠ K54	1♣	2+C, C	pening h	and	
▼ AK9752	1•	4+♥			
♦ A6	2♥ Min Opening 4♥				
<b>♣</b> 95	47	4♥ To Play			

## **Your initial Solution**

T1 Against the 4♥ contract, West led the ♦Q.
 You played low from dummy, won in hand ♦A.

T2/4 You drew trumps **<u>VQAK</u>** ending in hand.

- T5 You then led a **♦**9 to the **♦**J. But East took this with the **♦**K.
- T6 East shifted to the <u>▲Q</u>. You initially played low from hand.
- T7 But East continued with the ▲J. You covered with the ▲K, but West took this with the ▲A
- T8 West then cashed the <u>▲T</u> to defeat the contract by one trick.

"That was unlucky – both finesses lost. I was a 3:1 favourite to make," you said to no one at the table.

## **Better Solution**

"Luck had nothing to do with the outcome," said a somewhat-miffed partner. "All you had to do was to let the queen of diamonds win the first trick.

- T1 Against 4♥, West led the <u>♦Q</u>. You are playing low from dummy, and from hand
- T2 If West shifts to a club (best), You rise with the <u>**▲A**</u>
- T3/4 You draw two rounds of trumps with the ▼AK
- T5 You cash the diamond  $\underline{\bullet A}$ .
- T6 Then, after crossing to dummy with a trump <u>♥Q</u>
- T7 You then throw your losing club from hand on the diamond <u>◆K</u>
- T8 You now lead the ♣Q.

If East covers with the  $\clubsuit K$ , you ruff and then return to dummy with a trump to cash the  $\clubsuit J$  pitching a spade.

If East does not cover, pitch a spade. If West wins you still make your contract, as you can discard a second spade on the now high club.

Either way, you make 10 tricks: six trumps, two diamonds and two clubs for contract.

The full deal:

	North (D)	
	<b>♠ 632</b>	
West	♥ QJT4	East
♠ AT87	+ K52	♠ QJ9
¥ -	♠ AQJ	♥ 863
♦ QJ97		♦ T843
🛧 T8732	South	♣ K64
	♦ K54	
4 <b>∀</b> /S	♥ AK9752	Vul NS
Lead +T	♦ A6	Dir: North
	<b>♣</b> 95	

#### JF – Slam bidding

	Julian Foster (many times NSW
-	representative) analysing
	(bidding & play) on an
	interesting hand from a club
And the second s	session. Sourced SBC Wisdom
Julian Foster	articles.
	Slam-Game?

**Slam Bidding** 

-	North ♠ KT8653	Dealer: South Vul: NS
West	▼QT62	East
▲ AQ94	♦ T6	<u>م</u> -
♥ 73	<b>♣</b> 7	♥ AK954
AKQ84		♦ J72
<b>♣</b> 86	South (D)	🜲 AKT32
5	. <b>↓</b> J72	
15 15	<b>∀ J</b> 8	S
5	♦ 953	E 5 7 5 2 5
3	<b>♣ QJ</b> 954	W 4 7 5 2 5

This Board in a club level game, provided an opportunity for East West to bid a slam. Only one pair reached 6. How should the hands be bid?

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+ or 1NT			

West will most likely open 1. 1NT is also a possibility – you have a semi-balanced hand and are in the 15–17-point range. Personally, I wouldn't open 1NT for two reasons:

- a) I have all my points in two suits and am wide open in two suits.
- b) If I open 1 + there isn't any response partner can make which will give me a rebid problem.

Even if he bids 2♣, I am strong enough to reverse and bid 2♠ because I have a good 15 points and his 2-level response will show at least 10 hcp.

We'll suppose that North doesn't bid (had I been not vulnerable I might well have stuck in 1 or 2 ot 2 ot vulnerable, it's arguably a bit too much and could certainly run into huge trouble here!)

#### The auction then continues uncontested

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+	Pass	1♥	Pass
1≜			

At a few tables East now closed proceedings with 3NT. This is premature. The East hand has great potential and is a good opportunity to use **"Fourth Suit Forcing"**. After 3 suits have been bid naturally there is very little point in having the fourth suit as natural as well. Partner has already shown two suits – how likely is it they have a third? Only if they are 4441 or 5440 – rare.

Therefore, most players use it as an artificial bid – basically seeking further information from partner. These days most players also agree to make it game forcing.

Why would East want to do this? Probably the most common use for fourth suit forcing is to ask if partner has a stopper in the 4th suit in order to play 3NT. That isn't necessary here of course as we have a club stopper ourselves. But there are other reasons:

- a) To find the best game here we would like to know if partner has 3 hearts. Partner could be 4351 shape for example and hearts could still be our best trump suit.
- b) To find out more about partner's shape and/or strength to explore slam.
- c) To set a suit as trumps and show a strong hand in the process (again to explore slam).

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+	Pass	1♥	Pass
1≜	Pass	2*	

Here the fourth suit is  $2\clubsuit$ . It is nothing to do with clubs (even though we happen to have them here) – it's an artificial bid asking for more information.

As such, it needs to be alerted

- By partner in face-to-face bridge & on **RealBridge**,
- By yourself on **BBO** or **RealBrige** in

West's response to that should just attempt to describe their hand a bit more. Usually, the most useful things to tell partner are that you some support for their first suit, or to bid no trumps if you have a stopper in the 4th suit. Here West has neither of those, so West will just resort to bidding 2.

#### So, the auction so far has gone

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+	Pass	1•	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2•			

After just these few bids East has a lot of information about West's hand:

- West has at most 2♥ (with 3♥ they would bid 2♥ over 2♣) - so although we now know there is no heart fit it also means there is no heart loser.
- West has at least 5+ diamonds.
- West has exactly 4 spades (with 5<sup>♠</sup> they would have bid 2<sup>♠</sup> over 2<sup>♣</sup>).
- West does not have a club stopper so they Will not be something like 4153 with QJx).
- Given West has at least 9 cards between spades and diamonds, that means there are no losers outside those suits (partner can have at most 4 cards in either clubs or hearts and our two AK's will take care of all those).
- West's most likely shapes are 4252, 4153, 4162 or 4261. Note they are unlikely to have 4 clubs because with that they could have raised 2<sup>+</sup> to 3<sup>+</sup> (shape 4414) or bid 2NT.

East's next bid should be 3♦. That sets diamonds as trumps and is **FORCING** – because their previous 2♣ bid set up a **game force**. It shows a much stronger hand than one which would bid 3♦ directly over 1♦ (that would be invitational to game).

#### West should probably next bid 34

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+	Pass	1♥	Pass
1≜	Pass	2♣	Pass
2•	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠			

 this is a cue bid (see advanced section) showing a spade control and expressing willingness to co-operate with partner's diamond slam investigations.

Why should West co-operate? Because they have a good opening bid, they have good trumps and several controls. Remember at this stage after just bidding 1 ◆ then 1 ◆ West could have had a minimum opening bid of only 11 or 12 points – in fact they have 15 and good controls.

At this point East can probably just bid blackwood. Note that normally blackwood isn't a good idea with a void – but once West has cue bid spades, we know that one of partner's key cards is the A so we will not later be guessing which key card(s) West has.

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1+	Pass	1♥	Pass
1≜	Pass	2♠	Pass
2•	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5 <b>∀ (Q</b> ?)	Pass
5NT (Y)	Pass	7+ or 6+	All Pass

West's response is whatever shows **0 or 3** key cards (usually 5♣). East should next ask for the queen of trumps and when West shows that card, East could consider bidding 7♦. You probably would only bid 6♦ – you will score extremely well for bidding and making a slam anyway and it is silly to bid 7♦ unless you can almost count 13 tricks.

You MIGHT (?) be able to ruff 3 spades in your hand (but the defence is very likely lead a trump against 7 to stop cross ruffs) and you MIGHT also be able to establish a long heart or club in your hand but neither of those things are certain. Hence 6 is enough.

#### Key points to note

- Fourth suit forcing is an essential convention on many hands to enable you to find the right game to play in, or to explore slam
- Bidding fourth suit forcing and then one of opener's suits sets that suit as trumps
- During the bidding always keep in mind what you MIGHT have had to bid the same way – that will allow you to recognise whether you should be exploring more or backtracking.
- Slam bidding is about recognising the trick taking potential of hands and then trying to make sure you do not have 2 losers.

#### More advanced

If West did open 1NT how might the auction proceed? I liked the auction from the pair who did bid 6.

West	North East South (D		South (D)
		Pass	
1NT	Pass	2•	Pass
27	Pass	Pass 3 Pass	
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
6+	All Pass		

2 was a transfer to hearts, 3 was natural and game forcing. 3NT denied a 3-card fit for either ♥ or ♣. 4 was semi-natural still interested in slam (either 0535 as here or 0544). 6 was a good practical bid showing trust in partner – you have enormously good trumps when partner is showing slam interest! Well bid – a deserved top board.

By "blackwood" I mean Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB). That is a vastly superior convention to simple blackwood that just asks for aces. RKCB focuses on 5 "key cards" (4 aces plus the K of trumps) and also explores the Q of trumps too. Typical responses are:

- 5 = 0 or 3 key cards
- 5 = 1 or 4 key cards
- 5♥ = 2 key cards but not the Q of trumps
- 5♠ = 2 key cards and the Q of trumps

These days quite a few pairs swap over the  $5 \neq$ and 5 + responses so that  $5 \neq$  shows 1 or 4 and 5 + shows 0 or 3. That's mainly because a response of 1 tends to be the most common so this leaves more space to ask for other things.

What happens after you start RKCB? Any Bids of the **trump suit** are normally a **sign-off**. There are then all sorts of schemes for other bids. Importantly after the 5♣ and 5♦ responses you want a bid that asks whether partner has the Q of trumps (since those two responses don't say anything about it). Usually that bid is the next step that isn't the trump suit. Again, responses vary.

There are plenty of books on RKCB for those that would like to know more.

Cue bids are another essential tool for advanced bidding. They apply AFTER a suit has been definitely agreed and show controls (usually 1st round control) in that suit. They imply interest in co-operating with slam explorations so, while they don't necessarily show extra values, they typically show a hand that is not completely minimum for its bidding so far.

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)



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.

# **Open Hands**

#### Bridge Puzzle 11 Solution

BE	This article was derived from Bridgefeed, <u>"Puzzle</u> <u>This no 11"</u>		
North (D)			
<b>≜ J</b> 6			
♥ 8754			
+ AKQ2			
♠ AKQ			

South	WEST	NORTH	EAST SOUT	SOUTH
♠ A7				
▼ KQ32	1♠	DBL	PASS	3♥
♦ JT86	PASS	4¥	ALL	PASS
<b>&amp; 872</b>				

T1	West leads the <b>K</b> , and you (South) win
	with the <u>A</u> .
Wha	t next?

#### **Solution Puzzle 11**

You need to tackle the trump suit. At first glance, it looks tempting to cross to the dummy in a minor suit and lead a trump toward the **\*KQ**. On this deal, however, that's a bad plan. Why? Remember the bidding:

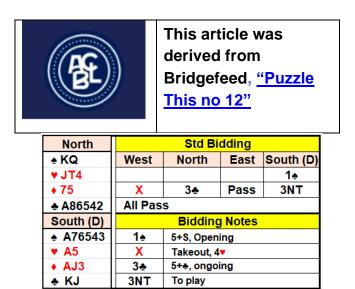
West opened 1♠, so he must have almost all the missing high-card points. Therefore, he must have the ♥A and there is no point in leading toward the ♥KQ.

T2 The best approach is simply to play a low trump from your hand at trick two. If the enemy trumps are 3–2, it doesn't cost anything to play this way because you'll lose two trump tricks maximum.

Notice, however, what happens if the **\*A** is singleton in the West hand. By playing a low trump the first time, you'll still make your contract:

	North (D)	
	. <b>≜</b> J6	
West	♥ 8754	East
♣ KQT98	+ AKQ2	♦ 5432
▼ A	🚓 AKQ	♥ JT96
♦ 97		♦ 543
🜲 JT954	South	<b>♣</b> 63
	▲ Α7	
4 <b>♥</b> /S	♥ KQ32	Vul NS
Lead <b></b> •K	♦ JT86	DIr: West
	♣ 872	





Playing IMPs, you bid to 3NT

- T1 West leads the ♦K against your 3NT. You duck, hoping that West will continue the suit
- What should you do now?

# **Open Hands**

Bridge Puzzle 12 Solution

	North	
West	♥JT4	East
<b>≜</b> 9	<b>+</b> 75	▲ JT82
¥ K872	♣ A86542	♥ Q963
♦ KQT64		♦ 982
	South (D)	♣ 93
	▲ A76543	
3NT/S	♥ A5	Vul All
Lead +K	♦ AJ3	Dir: S
	🜲 KJ	

There are several ways to try for nine (or more) tricks because you have two 6-2 fits to explore. If the spades behave, you'll have plenty of tricks, but what if they don't?

T2 If you win the **K** 

- T3 Then continue with the **AQ**, you'll be in
- big trouble if either defender shows out.

#### Instead

- T3 To give yourself the best shot, test the clubs first by playing a club to the  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{K}$
- T4 Then the **♣J**, **♣Q** to the **♣A**.
- T5 If both defenders follow, simply play another club to set up the club suit.

The important thing to notice, however, is that you still have an entry to dummy and the good clubs because the **AQ** is still on the board. If you rashly cash the **AQ** at trick three, you will have no way to get to the established clubs.

And what happens if the clubs split poorly? Try the spades.

T5 Play the **AQ**, and if both defenders follow, cross to your hand and run the spade suit.

And if both suits break poorly? In that case, you can't make it!



## RK - System, judgement, and aggression



## 2022 NSBC Winter

Teams by Club member Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiast who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.

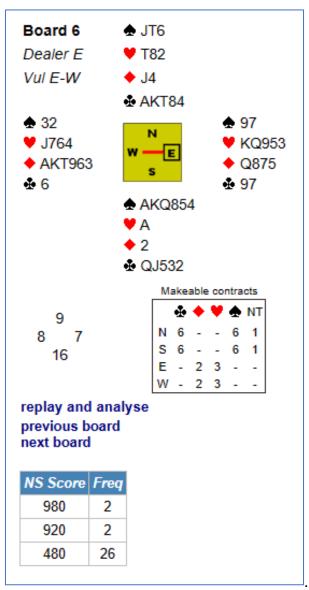
**Rakesh Kumar** 

The 2022 NSBC Online Winter Teams, was won by the COURTNEY team (Chris Depasquale - Michael Courtney - Simon Hinge - Stephen Lester). they finished well ahead of the rest of the field.

Here are a few interesting deals from the NSBC online event. They reprise a theme which featured many potential slam deals that usually proved too difficult for the field to reach. Effective slam bidding is winning bridge, so it's worth looking at those situations where slam could have been and perhaps should have been reached, but usually wasn't.

How will you bid the North-South hands on this deal from the first match?

Across the field, only 4 of 30 North-South pairs reached slam, two each in clubs and spades.



For a successful auction, obviously quite a lot depends on your agreements, but no matter what broad-brush agreements you might have, this is a tricky deal.

Firstly, after East passes, will you open the South hand 2♣? It has only 16 hcp, but two playable suits and only 3 losers.

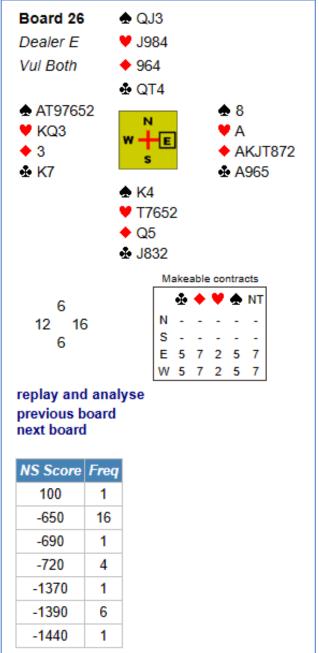
If you do open 2. North will usually respond 2. (Waiting), unless North can immediately show a positive hand with clubs.

South will rebid  $2 \ge$  and be raised to  $3 \ge$ , which in a game-forcing auction should be stronger than a direct raise to  $4 \ge$ .

But now what? After suit agreement, what is a 3NT rebid by South? If North treats that as a request to cue  $4 \ge$  if possible, South might then be able to rationally head towards slam.

Perhaps this is something worth discussing with your partner

This deal from the third round was a problem for East-West. How would you handle it?



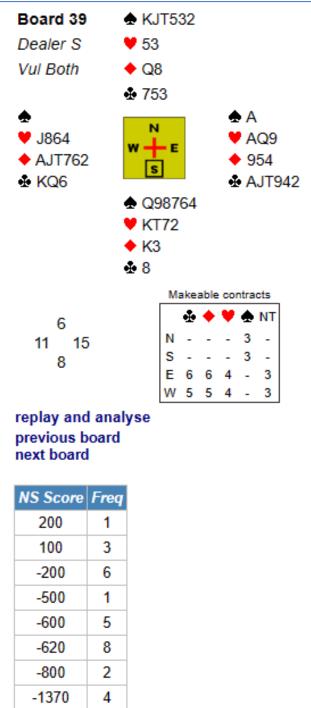
Most of the field ended up in  $4 \ge$  after the auction commenced  $1 \ge -1 \ge -3 \ge$ . Those who opened  $1 \ge -1 \ge -3 \ge$ . had more success, because West could now bid a fourth suit forcing  $3 \ge$  to show extra values.

Another useful approach could be a multi-2 opening, if you play that this includes 5-loser hands in the majors and 4- or 5-loser hands in the minors. Now after East opens 2, West will

## **Open Hands**

bid 2NT with the expectation of arriving in 4♥, but when East rebids 4♦ it would be unwise to sign off in 4♠. Of course, if 4♦ is automatically Minorwood (RKCB in the bid suit) then a signoff isn't possible anyway. Overall, only 7 of 30 reached 6♦, while one reached 6NT.

Another challenge for East-West was this deal from the fifth round.



After 1.2.2., you have choices, again in part depending on your methods. Do you play 2.2. in response to 1. as absolutely game-forcing? If so, do you also play that opener's first responsibility is to show a 5+ suit by rebidding 2•, regardless of any other holding? Or do you play that 2• is forcing to game unless opener rebids 3•? In that case West will rebid 2•, showing shape but not promising anything extra, and East will bid 2•, fourth suit forcing to game. Now West can show support with 3• and the slam should be reached.

In fact, only 5 pairs bid to slam on this board. One East-West pair ended up in 6+ with West as declarer. This was a somewhat fragile contract, but it made when a heart was not led.

The other 4 were in 6♣ by East. This is quite safe given the lie of the diamonds, but one declarer somehow went down. Would you have reached the good 6♣ contract?

Thursday Comp Night –Q3 2023



This is followed by the Watermark sponsored club Teams



Then the Club MP Pairs (state) in late Sep

## 2023 NSBC Congress Programme

2023 Online Winter Teams Congress

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Online Winter Teams Congress is on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> on the RB Platform.





# 2023 Aug Online Winter Swiss Pairs Congress



2023 Aug Greg Quittner Swiss Pairs



#### 2023 Aug EL Pairs Championship



2023 Aug WS Pairs Championship



#### July Advanced Courses

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 anytime click <u>here</u> to enter.



## **Open Hands**

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 <u>here</u> to enter.

• (	ENCE Counting the hand Siving the right signal Reading the lead	JULY <b>4</b> 2PM - 4PM
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Matt will be doing two lessons Monday 10th July Card Play Series Lesson 1 2.00pm click <u>here</u> to enter.



Tuesday 11th July at 2.00pm Lesson 2 at 2.00pm click <u>here</u> to enter.



#### Link to Website Advanced Teaching



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

Anita offers an extensive range of topics in the Broaden Your Game and Intermediate Hand Analysis Classes held on Wednesdays at 2pm.

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.



GP

Wednesday July 27th at 9:30am on Zoom - or order the recording

#### Link to Website Advanced Teaching



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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			r more information or to register, ail Anita: <u>ac210927@bigpond.net.au</u>	

#### 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: <u>ac210927@bigpond.net.au</u>