



♦ Our online Restricted Winter Swiss Pairs Congress in mid-August



♦ 2023 Aug EL Greg Quittner Swiss Pairs



♦ 2023 Oct EL Matchpoint Pairs Congress



♦ PH – Bid more after takeout X



This article was based on a Bridge feed article “[Bid more after takeout X](#)” by

Pat Harrington.

Do you tend to breathe a sigh of relief when your opponent makes a takeout double and relieves you of the obligation to bid with a minimum hand? Wouldn't it be more fun to take up some bidding space from your opponents? The best time to do that is when you have a fit for partner's suit.

When partner opens a major suit, you need only three cards for a fit. After partner's 1♠ opening bid is doubled by your right-hand opponent, would you bid with:

♠K76 ♥5 ♦J9762 ♣T942 ?

If not, you should! You have a fit, in the trump king and ruffing value in hearts. Think how much more difficult you make life for your opponents by bidding. Doubler's partner probably has some values but might be reluctant to bid at the three level.

Try another hand with the same bidding:

♠K976 ♥5 ♦J9762 ♣T94

Surely you want to bid over your opponent's double now. A raise to 2♠ simply doesn't do this hand justice. You can raise to 3♠. No, I haven't lost my mind, and I am not saying that this hand is worth a limit raise.

Your opponent's takeout double gives you new ways to show a limit raise or any good hand. Traditionally, redouble is used to show **10 or more high-card points**. When you raise partner to 3♠ instead of using the redouble, you deny 10 or more points. This is a competitive auction because of RHO's takeout double, and it's time to apply the law of total tricks.

In a competitive auction, the Law tells us to **compete for as many tricks as our side has trumps**. You know opener has five spades and you have four. That makes nine trumps, and you compete for nine tricks. If a raise to 2♠ made it hard for your opponents to compete in the first example, just think what your 3♠ raise is going to do to them!

Because redouble exists, nobody at the table should take you for a good hand when you jump raise your partner's opener's suit after your opponent's takeout double. This weak raise is not Alertable. In fact, those who jump to show a limit raise in this situation are the people who are bidding in non-standard fashion and should really Alert. Don't expect that to happen, however, because they are probably inexperienced players who are not aware that their bid is not standard.

Now try these. Partner opens 1♥, and RHO makes a takeout double. What will you bid with each hand below?

♠42 ♥QJ97 ♦765 ♣K754

1, Jump to 3♥. You want to keep them from finding their likely spade fit. With nine trumps between you, the three level should be safe. You might not make 3♥, but if you do go down, the penalty is likely to be less than what your opponents can make if left to bid freely.

♠42 ♥Q97 ♦7654 ♣K754

2. Bid 2♥. It might not block the opponents, but at least you can try. Your raise also helps partner know when it is correct to compete further.

♠4 ♥JT765 ♦Q9654 ♣54

3. Go all the way to 4♥! With 10 trumps, contract for 10 tricks in competition. That could really mess up your opponents. Responder can make this pre-emptive raise to game whether RHO doubles, overcalls or passes. In standard bidding, responder's immediate raise to four of a major shows a

weak, distributional hand with five-card trump support. With a strong, game-going hand, responder makes a forcing bid first and then bids game.

♠K76 ♥QJ97 ♦AT76 ♣54

4. This is a real limit raise. Before RHO's double, you planned to raise to 3♥, but now that bid would be pre-emptive. Many pairs use 2NT to show a limit raise or better immediately. If you don't use that convention, sometimes called Jordan, start with a **redouble to show 10 or more points**, and raise hearts next time.

Some of you might have learned a new bid today — one that isn't even a convention.

Responder's jump raise of opener's suit is pre-emptive after a takeout double. It's standard bidding, but not widely known among less-experienced players.



♦ PO – Find partner's entry



Pat O'Connor

Find partner's entry

It is from my book

Demystifying Defense.

We are East. Our hand is

♠J76 ♥85 ♦AT832 ♣A85

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
1♠	Normal 5♥+ , Opening		
2♠	Single Raise 2♠		
Pass	Normal		

South opens 1♠, partner passes and North raises to 2♠. We are not strong enough to bid so we pass and so do South and West.

T1 Partner leads the ♥A and dummy comes down.

	Dummy	
	♠ T32	
	♥ QJ2	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ QJ762	
♥A		You
		♠ J76
		♥ 85
		♦ AT832
		♣ A85

T1 We play the ♥8 (encouraging) on the ♥A, which wins.

T2 Partner continues with the ♥K we play ♥5

T3 Partner continues with the ♥6, which we ruff. ♠6

South follows suit with the ♥3, ♥7 and ♥T.

How are we to interpret partner's ♥6?

This is the situation where we want a suit preference signal from partner, in order to put partner in again to give us another ruff. If the ♥6 is low, partner's entry is in clubs, whereas if the ♥6 is high the entry is in diamonds. It is very difficult to tell. We can't trust South to follow suit in order.

So what can we do to find partner's entry?

Well, we have the aces of both clubs and diamonds, so we can cash them and get partner's reaction. We cash the ♦A on which partner plays the ♦4. That is discouraging since we have the ♦2 and ♦3, so we cash the ♣A. Good old partner plays the ♣9 and we have struck pay dirt. We then lead a club to partner's ♣K and get another heart on which we can overruff dummy's ♠10 with our ♠J while declarer helplessly follows with the ♥4.

Down 2! Who said there was no justice in the world?

Full Deal

	North	Dealer: South
West (D)	♠ T32	Vul: Nil
♠ 94	♥ QJ2	East
♥ AK96	♦ Q9	♠ J76
♦ 7654	♣ QJ762	♥ 85
♣ K93		♦ AT832
	South (D)	♣ A85
2♠/S West leads A♥	♠ AKQ85	
	♥ T743	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ T4	

Post Mortem

Note that declarer tried to muddy the waters by discarding the ♥3, ♥7 and then the ♥10, hiding the ♥4.

As declarer it is a good idea to occasionally vary the order in which you play your spot cards. Don't let the defenders get too comfortable!

♦ Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner



Two-way checkback

General Approach

Eddie Kantar, an American great, pointed out the unplayability of standard bidding after a 1NT rebid by opener:

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
1NT	?

Responder may now want to **sign off**, **invite game**, or **force to game** with a suit bid.

There are only two levels of bidding available for the three actions, however, and three into two won't go. Our style of rebidding no trump with balanced hands means that we may miss major suit fits and we use a convention known as **checkback** to find them.

Over a one no trump rebid, we give up two natural bids (2♣ and 2♦) to this convention and it is known as **two-way checkback**. This allows us to differentiate easily between invitational and game-forcing hands, leaving jump rebids for hands with slam interest.

Over a 2NT rebid we only give up one bid (3♣) as a checkback, the differentiation is not required and the natural bids below three no trump are too valuable.

We will mainly focus on two-way checkback as this is more frequent.

After any auction like:

Opener	Responder
1♣	Pass 1♥ Pass
1NT	Pass ???

2♣ is a PUPPET to 2♦ - that is, the opener **MUST** bid two diamonds.

Now responder may

- PASS this if they have a weak hand with long diamonds.
- All other follow-up bids are INVITATIONAL strength hands.

2♦ is **GAME FORCING** checkback.

Opener makes the most natural rebid but always shows hearts BEFORE spades: that is, if responder has bid hearts, then you show 3-card heart support before showing a four-card spade suit; however, if responder has bid spades, then you show your 4-card heart suit before showing three-card spade support suit. As it is a GF, the bidding continues till a game contract is selected.

2♥ and 2♠ are weak rebids asking partner to pass.

2NT is invitational bid with long CLUBS

3♣ is WEAK CLUBS

3♦, 3♥, and 3♠ are natural slam tries.

Examples

Opener Responder

♠ Kxxx	♠ xx
♥ AQx	♥ KJxx
♦ Qx	♦ K10xxxx
♣ Jxxx	♣ x
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	Pass

Auction Comments

With a minimum hand responder shows their 4-card major looking for a fit, then settles for playing in diamonds.

Opener Responder

♠ Ax	♠ Qxxxx
♥ AQxx	♥ Kxxx
♦ Jxxx	♦ A
♣ Jxx	♣ Qxx
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♥
3♥	4♥

Responder shows five spades and 4+ hearts with invitational values. Opener invites and responder hopes for a good dummy.

Opener Responder

♠ Ax	♠ Qxxxx
♥ AQxx	♥ KJxx
♦ Jxxx	♦ x
♣ Jxx	♣ xxx
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♥
Pass	

Responder shows five spades and 4+ hearts with a weak hand. Opener shows a preference. Responder will often be 5-5 for this auction.

Opener Responder

♠ Axxx	♠ Qxxx
♥ AQx	♥ KJxx
♦ Jxx	♦ x
♣ Qxx	♣ AJxx
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♣
2♦	2♠
3♠	4♣
Pass	

Responder shows four spades and 4+ hearts with INVITATIONAL values. Two spades is non-forcing, but Opener likes the double fit and is maximum for 1NT.

Opener's 4333 distribution means a cautious invitational raise (imagine if responder had xx xx in the minors), but many would raise directly to game. Responder accepts with good values.

Opener Responder

♠ Axxx	♠ KQxx
♥ AQx	♥ KJxx
♦ Jxx	♦ x
♣ Qxx	♣ AJxx
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♦
2♥	2♠
3♠	4♣
Pass	

Over the game-forcing checkback, Opener shows his 3-card heart suit before their 4-card spade suit. Responder shows four

spades (and probably four hearts) and they find the best game. This route allowed them to find a possible club fit if they did not have a spade fit.

Opener Responder

♠ Axxx	♠ KQxx
♥ AQx	♥ KJxx
♦ Jx	♦ Kxx
♣ Qxxx	♣ Ax
1♣	1♥
1NT	2♦
2♥	3NT
4♣	Pass

Over the game-forcing checkback, Opener shows his 3-card heart suit before their 4-card spade suit.

Responder's 3NT shows that they are not interested in a 5-3 heart fit, so they must have four spades otherwise they would have not used checkback. So, Opener corrects.

Opener Responder

♠ Axx	♠ QJTxxx
♥ AQJx	♥ Kx
♦ Axx	♦ 10
♣ QJx	♣ Kxxx
1♣	1♠
2NT	4♣
Pass	

Don't use checkback when you have an obvious bid.

Opener Responder

♠ Axx	♠ KQJ10x
♥ xxx	♥ AKJxx
♦ KQxx	♦ A
♣ QJx	♣ xx
1♣	1♠
1NT	3♥
3♠	4♦
4♣	Pass

Responder shows slam interest with five spades and, probably, five hearts. With 5-4 you would often use game-forcing checkback. Opener sets spades and Responder cue bids. Opener signs off, knowing that they have two club losers.

♦ 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.

West		North	Dealer: South	
♠ AQ63		♠ T87	Vul: None	
♥ 985		♥ K	East	
♦ T93		♦ KJ8652	♠ KJ5	
♣ K53		♣ J98	♥ T632	
8			♦ A74	
9 12		South (D)	♣ AT6	
11		♠ 942		
		♥ AQJ74		
		♦ Q		
		♣ Q742		

This board in a club level game, saw 11 different contracts played across the 22 tables which included every contract between 1♠ and 3♥ plus one table in 3NT! With such variety, as you can imagine there are a lot of possible choices in the auction.

South gets first shot.

- 12 pairs chose 1♥,
- 9 pairs chose pass
- 1 pair chose to open 2♥. (5♥+minor)

I'm with the 1♥ bidders.

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥

Yes, it's only 11 points but we have a nice suit and a 5431 shape, plus it's nil vulnerability which is by far the best vulnerability to be bidding on at matchpoints (see advanced section).

Most tables then continued Pass 1NT although some Norths bid 2♦. The hand isn't strong enough for a 2-level response which usually shows at least 10 points. Therefore, you should just bid 1NT.

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
Pass	1NT		

Yes, even with this shape. That's often a misconception from inexperienced players. A

1NT response to a 1 level opening bid does NOT promise a balanced hand. It simply shows a hand that **can't raise, can't bid a suit at the 1 level, isn't strong enough to bid at the 2 level** but does have enough to respond.

Yes, most of the time bidding no-trumps you do have a balanced hand, but this sequence is an exception to that.

East cannot really bid over 1NT so South now has another decision. A few tables passed but I would have bid 2♣.

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣

I find it's usually better to bid a 2nd suit here – especially as partner might not have a balanced hand. For example, suppose here they had something like

♠10 ♥Kx ♦xxxx ♣AJxxxx.

Now we have a big club fit and we might even make game in 4♥ or 5♣! That's not very likely but it is definitely possible that 1NT will be a silly contract (we are wide open in spades and diamonds) and we can make a club, diamond or heart partscore.

If South does bid 2♣ then North also has to decide whether to leave that in (Pass) or bid 2♦. I wouldn't crime passing 2♣ but I prefer to bid 2♦ because our hand may well be worth more played in diamonds.

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

Played in something else, there won't be any later entries to my diamond suit. Bidding a new suit like this having responded 1NT to start with now shows it was a long suit (at least 6♦) but a weak hand (if we had had at least 10 points we would have responded 2♦ to start with). Accordingly, South should give up before things get worse!

Where South chose to pass initially the auction usually began with 3 passes,

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
X or 1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

1NT was usually playing there making at least 8 tricks for a good EW score.

Surprisingly very few Norths opened the bidding in 3rd seat – I would definitely have opened a weak 2♦

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

if I was playing weak 2's.

One table even opened 3♦

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Which I actually have quite a lot of sympathy for. Today it gets them too high but on another day they could easily catch East with a big hand and give them a very nasty bidding problem (here East West should just quietly pass 3♦ out as neither have a bid over it).

Playing in 2♦ North should go 1 off. Assuming East finds the spade lead (see advanced section for why you should) the defence can cash 3 spades and 2 clubs and will make the ♦A too. In fact they can give declarer a nasty decision to avoid going 2 off – see advanced section.

Of course, if the defence don't quickly cash their spades, declarer can quickly play 3 rounds of hearts (overtaking the ♥K with the ♥A) to discard two spade losers on ♥QJ. Now they should make at least 8 tricks and 9 if they later avoid 3 club losers.

Another contract played a few times was 2♣ by South. Assuming North hadn't bid diamonds I would have lead the ♦T which, on seeing dummy, doesn't look a great start for the defence on this occasion! However, after winning ♦A East should see the threat of the spade discards and switch sharply to spades so the defence should then come to the same 6 tricks to beat this by 2.

Key points to note.

- A 5431 shape with a nice suit is usually worth an extra point or two and therefore is worth opening with an 11 count.
- A 1NT response to a 1 level opening bid does NOT promise a balanced hand – merely a hand that isn't strong enough to bid at the 2 level and can't raise or bid a new suit at the 1 level either.
- Bidding a new suit after having responded 1NT to start with shows at least 6 of that suit (and less than 10 points).
- Where discards are threatened in a suit contract you may need to attack your suit to take your tricks quickly.
- At pairs be more inclined to bid when it's nil vulnerability and less inclined when both sides are vul (see advanced section).

More advanced

Why is nil vulnerability the best time to be bidding at matchpoints? It's the mathematics of the scoring.

- If you are playing a contract which fails you only go off in 50's.
- But if you beat a contract they are playing you only get 50's.
- In the first case even if you go 2 off (-100) you are usually scoring better than conceding their contract. So, you have done better to bid on.
- Likewise in the second case if you take their contract 2 off you score just +100 which is less than something you might be able to make yourself – so they have done better to bid on.

The situation changes if either side is vulnerable.

- Bidding on now by either side runs the risk of going off in 100's and going 2 off (or 1 off doubled) for -200 is almost always a very bad pairs score.
- You might instinctively therefore think the most dangerous time to be bidding is when you are vulnerable and they are not. However, that isn't actually true!

- The most dangerous is when both sides are vulnerable. The reason is that if you let them play the hand going off in 50's you may not score enough anyway – hence it's worth bidding on to try and make your contract.
- Conversely when they are also vulnerable you may be able to collect 200 from their contract so it is less appealing to risk bidding on.
- Therefore at pairs you should tend to compete the most when no-one is vulnerable and compete the least when both sides are vulnerable.

So, after the auction

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

Why should East lead ♠5? Partly again just process of elimination – hearts and clubs have been bid on your left, and you know declarer has a weak hand with plenty of diamonds and no fit for hearts or clubs. Neither hand has shown spades. But there is another reason too. You know South has at least 5 hearts and North is short (they bid 2♣ on the 2nd round, they didn't give preference back to 2♥). With your own lack of heart honours there is definitely a danger that some losers from North could get discarded on South's heart suit. You may therefore need to cash some spades (as here) or you may need to set some spade tricks up quickly before declarer sets up hearts in dummy to discard them on (suppose for example the spade and heart aces were switched between the West and South hands).

Although 2♦ should only be one down, the defence can give declarer a nasty moment. If they successfully cash 3 rounds of spades, then ♦A, the ♠A, then the ♠K and now West plays the last spade. Declarer has to trump with exactly the ♦8 to avoid either being over-ruffed or promoting West's remaining ♦T9 for 2 down. Not easy!

Lastly, I mentioned that North may need to avoid 3 club losers if the defence don't attack the suit. To do this they effectively have to

guess where the ♠T is. If they can force out the ♠A or ♠K on the first round, the ♠Q and ♠J are then good enough to force out the other top honour. Here that works by running the ♠9.

In practice, however, when playing in 2♦ the risk of North being able to pitch club losers is the same as pitching spade losers so the defence, will just seek to cash their club tricks. If clubs were trumps, however, the defence should steer clear and just hope declarer guesses wrong!

♦ 2023 WS/EL Pairs Championship



Just turn up for the EL & WS pairs championships (sum of 3 session scores)

- 3x Mondays Open 14/Aug @ EL
- 3x Tuesdays Open 15 Aug @ WS.
- No need to register your entry.
- 3 sessions added up for the Win
- Walkin and play OK, on any session
- Represent EL/WS at State Pairs Finals

♦ Bridge Lessons.



Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson has finished teaching Build on the Basics at the Willis on Thursdays but is still teaching Bridge Basics on Saturdays at 10am at East Lindfield. She will be teaching ITB from mid-August.

We have a new Introduction to Bridge course beginning August 16. This course will run Wednesday afternoons 2 – 4pm and is suitable for the absolute beginner. It will be taught by **Liz Wilkinson** and if players enjoy the course, Bridge Basics will follow in the same time slot immediately after. The bar will be open after the session and players will be welcome to stay for a drink after the game and chat with new friends.

Learn Bridge 2023 CLASSES

FACE TO FACE

6-week course
\$150

- At East Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club
- 2hr lessons with notes to take home
- No partner is required, just give it a go!
- Teachers are available for support throughout your course
- Start Date: **16th August 2023**
- Lessons on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm
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- emails to info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au
- or see our website www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

Liz Wilkinson is currently completing the Bridge Basics course, at EL on Saturdays

Build on the Basics - Thursdays 9:30 East Lindfield	
5th Aug	Play in your Major when you have a fit, more bidding when partner opens 1NT
12th Aug	Making the best of your high cards, the fine art of Finessing
19th Aug	Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an opponent has opened
26th Aug	Defending well, the hardest part of the game.

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)



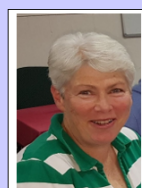
Jamie Thompson will be presenting 3 great Zoom lessons in September. Stayed tuned for more details.



Anita Curtis

Anita Curtis is teaching her popular **Develop your Skills & Broaden your Game**. See [website for more details](#).

NSBC Develop Your Skills 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
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

NSBC Intermediate/BYG August 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
2 Aug	Eddie Kantar's Defence in suits	Intermediate/BYG defence . Eddie Kantar explains defensive principles in suit contracts when hoping for a ruff.
9 Aug	Get back into the bidding with balancing & re-opening doubles	BYG/Intermediate bidding . Are you letting the oppo play too many contracts but aren't sure how to get back into the auction? Find out when & how to gain the competitive edge through doubles!
16 Aug	Eddie Kantar's Plan the play hand analysis	BYG/Intermediate declarer play . Eddie Kantar tests your declarer play with 8 typical hands. Can you find the solutions?
23 Aug	Cue raises – have your cake in competition and eat it too!	BYG/Intermediate bidding . Change the way you compete in the bidding! Cue raises allows you to have both constructive & pre-emptive auctions in competition – twice the fun!
30 Aug+	No lessons on 30 August or September	

Visitors \$25; Members \$20

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



Jessica Brake

Jessica Brake has now finished teaching **Bridge Basics Online** and will be returning later in the year..