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help us defend our title

We need players with a total of 200 Masterpoints between the 2 of you. i.e. an average of 100 or below.

NORTH SHORE
 since 1962
BRIDGE CLUB

INTERCLUB PAIRS

Sunday 3rd September, starting at 10am and finishing at 4pm at East Lindfield Venue.
 Cost will be \$15pp which is to cover lunch and snack.
 If you are interested and available - please email Sue Crompton at suecrompton40@gmail.com

Thursday Night
 28th Sept, 5th, 12th & 26th Oct

CLUB MP PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Enter via MyABF

LABOUR DAY

Pairs

Monday 2nd October
 Starts @ 10am

Click to enter

East Lindfield Club Champion

Bridge Puzzle 29

This article was derived from Bridgefeed, ["Puzzle This no 29"](#)

North	Standard Bidding			
	West	North	East	South (D)
♠ K763				1♠
♥ A84				
♦ A42	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
♣ AT5	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
	Pass	5NT	Pass	7♠
	All Pass			
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ AQJ84	1♠	5+♠, Opening Hand		
♥ KQ9	2NT	GF ♠		
♦ K9	3NT	No Shortage, Extra values		
♣ KJ6	4NT	Keycard (♠)		
	5♠	2+♠Q		
	5NT	Interested in 7		
	7♠	To play „ have 3 extra K's !		

You and your partner bid all the way to the grand slam 7♠ on an uncontested auction, and West leads a trump, East following. With 12 top tricks, it looks like you'll need to guess which defender has the ♣Q.

What's the best way to go about this?

JAMIE THOMPSON
Plan the play as declarer *Series*

Friday 15th Sep
 Friday 22nd Sep
 Friday 29th Sep
 at 10am

OVERCALLS
 vs
DOUBLES

When and how to use

COUNT

Both as a defender and declarer

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PLAN THE PLAY

To bid or not to bid?

Friday 29th Sep @ 10am

Friday 22nd Sep @ 10am

Friday 15th Sep @ 10am

WATERMARK RESIDENCES

CLUB TEAMS

GENEROUS PRIZES

Club Champion

MYABF

AUGUST 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023

♦ BM – Your Best Shot



Brent Manley

This Challenge hand was adapted from a Brent Manley article. Sourced from the ACBL Bridge feed website

North	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ AJ87	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ 863				1♠
♦ 865	pass	2♠	X	4♠
♣ Q63	Bidding Notes			
	1♠	5+♠ Opening		
	2♠	Limit Raise		
South (D)	X	Takeout (Non Vul all 3 suits)		
♠ KQT52	4♠	To Play (1 have 18hcp)		
♥ 754				
♦ AKQ4				
♣ A				

Bidding

You (South) open 1♠ with your unbalanced 18 hcp. Partner limit raises to 2♠ (6-9 and 3 Spades) and East doubles for takeout. You place the contract in 4♠ game bid. West starts the defence with the ♥J lead

- T1 West leads the ♥J against your 4♠ game contract. East takes the ♥A
- T2-3 East then cashes the ♥KQ, with everybody following.
- T4 East then exits with the ♦J. You win the ♦A, all following.

Now what? How are you going to make the game?

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 5x♠+3x♦+1♣ = 9 one short

Top Losers 3x♥ (already cashed)

Strategies for the 10th:

After winning the ♦A, declarer considered his options.

- Obviously, if trumps were no worse than a 3-1 break, he could just ruff the losing diamond in dummy if necessary.
- He asked himself, "What can be done if trumps are 4-0?" and concluded that the safest option would be a dummy reversal. Using dummy's mostly good trumps to draw the EW trumps but planning on ruffing 2

clubs in the long trump hand. (i.e. 4 + 2 ruffs in the long hand is an extra trick)

Solution

With that in mind,

- T5 Declarer started by cashing the ♠A to get ready for the club ruffs if needed
- T6 Then led the ♠K. When West followed with the ♠3, declarer overtook this in dummy with the ♠A and was rather pleased when East discarded a club confirming a 4-0 trump break.

If East had followed, he would have reverted to the first basic plan & drawn trumps & then ruffed the 4th diamond if required.

- T7 Declarer led the ♠6 and ruffed in-hand with a high ♠Q (preserving small trumps for entries to dummy).
- T8 Declarer then led the ♠2. When West followed with the ♠4, the trick was won with dummy's ♠7.
- T9 The ♣Q was then ruffed with the high ♠T in hand
- T10 Then West's remaining trumps were picked up by finessing ♠9 with dummy's ♠8
- T11 then cashing the ♠J while discarding the losing 4th diamond ♦4 from hand.
- T12+ You claimed the two remaining tricks with his ♦KQ diamond tops:

Declarer made four top trumps, three diamonds, a club and **two club ruffs** for a total of 10 tricks.

The full deal:

	North	
West	♠ AJ87	East
♠ 9643	♥ 863	♠ -
♥ JT92	♦ 865	♥ AKQ
♦ 32	♣ Q63	♦ JT97
♣ KJ7	South (D)	♣ T98542
4♠/S	♠ KQT52	Vul EW
Lead ♥J	♥ 754	Dir: S
	♦ AKQ4	
	♣ A	

♦ JF – Declarer Play



Julian Foster

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

		North (D)	Dealer: North Vul: EW	
West		♠ AT73 ♥ 54 ♦ QJ743 ♣ 74	East	
♠ 984			♠ Q63	
♥ AQ9			♥ K8762	
♦ A9			♦ T86	
♣ AQ862			♣ KJ	
7 16 9 8		South	<div>♣♦♥♠NT</div> <div>N - 1 - - -</div> <div>S - 1 - - -</div> <div>E 4 - 4 - 4</div> <div>W 4 - 4 - 3</div>	
		♠ KJ5 ♥ JT3 ♦ K52 ♣ T853		

This Board in a club level game, shows the importance of looking ahead when declaring. The auction will normally start with three passes to West who will open a strong NT. East will transfer to hearts and then either bid 2NT or 3NT depending on how aggressive they are feeling!

West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Personally, I would bid just 2NT because my 9 points are opposite 15-17 and they are not great (♠KJ may not be worth much – we don't know).

Either way, West should accept any invite because, although they have 16 points (i.e. in the middle of 15-17) they hold 3 aces and a good side 5 card suit. With 3 card heart support plus the chance of trumping a diamond in that hand, it's even clearer to accept. So, the final contract should be 4♥ played by West (which was the case at every table except one).

North will most likely lead is the ♦Q, which declarer will win with the ♦A. Now what? As usual we should count our tricks and our losers.

Our tricks are looking good. We have 1♦, 5♥s (assuming they split 3-2) and probably 5♣s as well. That's 11.

What about our losers? The spade suit is very dangerous – we could easily lose 3 tricks there.

So, the first thing we should observe is that trying to trump a diamond in the west hand is not a good plan. We would have to lose a diamond before we could do that, and the defence may then be able to take 3 quick spades and beat us.

We are better off trying to just take what looks like our 11 tricks.

Normally if we want to cash tricks we need to draw trumps first to make sure the defence cannot trump any of our winners. Should we do that here?

If we do it will take 3 rounds. We now have to try and take our club tricks. But after the ♣K and the ♣J we have a problem. If we leave East on lead with the ♣J we can no longer reach the West hand to take the rest of our clubs (the ♦A went at trick 1 and we took all 3 trumps out as we drew them). So, we must OVERTAKE the ♣J with the ♣Q to carry on cashing the suit. But that now leaves West with ♣A86 and South with ♣T9. We can take the ♣A but that's all. All of a sudden, our 5 clubs tricks have become 3 and our total tally only 9!

Were we unlucky the clubs didn't split? Actually no, – a 4-2 split is the most likely (see advanced section for details).

How could (and should) we have avoided this? We needed to look ahead to see what was going to happen. We had to get that ♣KJ out of the way BEFORE we ran out of entries to the West hand.

We can certainly START drawing trumps, but we should only play the ♥A and the ♥K. Now we temporarily leave the last trump out and cash the ♣KJ. THEN we cross to the ♥Q drawing the last trump in the process. Finally we continue cashing the clubs and throw 3 losers from the East hand (there are 5 losers left there – 3 spades and 2 diamonds so we will throw 3 of them away and lose the other 2, **making 11 tricks**).

Key points to note:

- When declaring we need to count both our tricks and our losers. Both can be critical when deciding how to play the hand.
- Whilst drawing trumps is often right, we should also look ahead for what could go wrong if we do.
- Always be very wary of suits that are blocked (where we either cannot move between the hands at all or will have to overtake big cards to do so). Try to unblock them as soon as possible.
- Always look at entries in both hands. Look ahead for how you will reach your tricks.

More advanced

While it is not necessary to have detailed knowledge of the mathematical odds of how suits will split, most serious players at least have some feel for it.

A good general rule is when there are an **ODD number of cards out**, they will likely split evenly most of the time. The most common example is when we have 8 cards in a suit and the opponents have 5. In the absence of any other distributional information provided by the bidding the opposing 5 will split

- 3-2 68% of the time
- 4-1 is 28%
- 5-0 is 4%.

Conversely when there are an **EVEN number of cards out**, they will tend **NOT** to split evenly. A common example (relevant to this hand) is when we have 7 cards in a suit and the opponents have 6.

- This time an even 3-3 split is not the most common. It will happen just 36% of the time.
- a 4-2 split is more common at 48%
- a 5-1 is 15% and
- 6-0 is 1%.

This hand follows the odds with the clubs splitting 4-2.

The opening lead was important here. Had the **♦A** still been in the west hand, we could have just drawn trumps, cashed **♠KJ** and then crossed back to the **♦A**.

Once the **♦A** had been knocked out we had to be more careful and leave a trump re-entry there instead.

If we also had had the **♠T** in the west hand things are also very different. Now we could afford to overtake the **♠J** and still make 5 club tricks when the suit breaks 4-2 (48%) + 3-3 (36%) ie 84% chance of making.

So that should also influence how we play the **♥** suit?.

This time we no longer need to leave a big heart with West so we should cash the **♥AQ** first. That's because if south has singleton **♥T** or **♥J**, we can next run the **♥9** through North's 4 trumps. If he covers we win **♥K** and cash the **♥8** to draw the last trump and continue as before. If he doesn't cover we cross to the **♠K** and draw North's last trump with the **♥K**.

Playing **♥AQ** first lets us cater for one of the 4-1 trump splits as well as all the 3-2 ones which we couldn't do before.

♦ Avoid the Convention Trap



Avoid the Convention Trap, Part 2

Sourced BBO newsletter
Chris Willenken

In [my previous article](#), I advised improving players to avoid spending time learning new conventions, and we talked about some effective ways to improve your bridge. The feedback was positive, so let me offer two more pieces of advice.

First, always pay careful attention to the bidding, even if you don't expect to have any decisions to make during the auction.

So many times, I see players staring into space at the opponents' turn to bid. Those players are missing a lot of opportunities. For one thing, every bid that an opponent makes represents an opportunity to start counting that player's hand! In fact, if the opponents have a long auction, you will often be able to call declarer's exact shape after the opening lead.

Consider a mundane auction such as

1NT (15-17)	P-	2♣-	P
2♥	P -	3NT	P
4♠.			

Declarer should be either **4-4-3-2** or **4-4-2-3**. If partner leads a spot card in one of the minors, you will often be able to use your lead methods (4th best, or 3rd/5th) to determine whether declarer has two or three cards there. Now you know declarer's exact distribution before playing a single card! (And you also know declarer's HCP—16 HCP give or take a jack—were you listening?)

Also, if you listen carefully, you may find yourself with the opportunity to make a brilliant bid or double. Imagine that you hold

♠QJT9 ♥xx ♦xxxx ♣xxx.

Could you imagine doubling the opponents' 4♠ contract if partner never acted? I can. Let's imagine that the opponents bid

1NT	P	2♣	P
2♠	P	3♠	P
4♠.			

If you were listening, you know that dummy has 8-9 points, with declarer having 16 or 17. That leaves partner with at least 11 HCP and possibly more! Wouldn't you bet that partner will be able to take two tricks to go with your guaranteed TWO trump tricks?

Both of the examples, I gave involved 1NT openings by the opponents, which is no coincidence. It is especially easy to get a read on a player's hand when their shape and strength are already narrowed down quite a bit. But the concept works on other auctions as well—you'll simply need to put in a bit more effort to follow the flow of the bidding.

Second, in the bidding, don't get trapped by a "bad good hand" or a "good bad hand".

What in the world is a bad good hand? Here is an example: You open a strong 2♣ with

♠AQJxx ♥AKQJ ♦Qx ♣Kx

and over partners 2♦ (waiting) rebid 2♠. Partner raises to 3♠, showing slam interest. How do you

proceed? Most players I know would go straight to Blackwood. A cautious few would make a control-showing bid of 4♣. But in my mind, 4♠ is the correct bid. If partner has two aces, or an ace plus the trump king, slam is a poor proposition. And if your partner has more than that, surely, he will bid slam himself over your 4♠ signoff, remembering that you opened a game force 2♣.

This is an example of a bad good hand. Sure, you have a lot of points, but you already showed every one of them when you opened 2♣. So, from that moment on, you should keep your foot on the brake.

The good bad hand is equally important to recognize. Imagine you hold

♠Kx ♥Qxxx ♦xxxx ♣xxx.

Your left hand opponent opens 1♣, and partner overcalls 2♣ showing **5-5 in the majors**. Your right hand opponent bids 3♣. What is your call?

Many would pass, but I would bid 4♥! If partner has as little as ♠Axxxx ♥AJTxx ♦xx ♣x, you have decent chances to make game, and if partner has less than that, surely the opponents can make something. The key is that your hand came to life when partner showed both the majors. You have a big double fit, and both of your honours are guaranteed to be helpful in filling in partner's long suits. This is the time to step on the accelerator.

Thinking back on my suggestions from previous articles, I notice that my suggestions all fall under the category of good habits. A great thing about bridge is that you don't need to be a genius to look like one! All you need is a disciplined approach to the game.

About the Author: **Chris Willenken** is one of the world's top bridge players. In 2022, he won the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams and earned a silver medal in the World Mixed Teams. He offers private playing lessons on BBO.

♦ Bridge Puzzle 29 Solution

North	Standard Bidding			
	West	North	East	South (D)
♠ K763				1♠
♥ A84				
♦ A42	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
♣ AT5	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
	Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
	All Pass			
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ AQJ84	1♠	5+♠, Opening Hand		
♥ KQ9	2NT	GF ♠		
♦ K9	3NT	No Shortage, Extra values		
♣ KJ6	4NT	Keycard (♠)		
	5♣	2+♠Q		
	5NT	Interested in 7		
	7♣	To play „ have 3 extra K's!		

You and your partner bid all the way to the grand slam 7♣ on an uncontested auction, and West leads a trump, East following. With 12 top tricks, it looks like you'll need to guess which defender has the ♠Q. **What's the best way to go about this?**

There may be no 100% line of play, so you should scout for clues. It's always a good idea in this type of situation to see how much you can discover about the defenders' distributions.

T1-3 Say you draw trumps ♠AQJ and find out that West began with three and East with one.

Before testing the critical club suit, see what you can find out about hearts and diamonds first.

T4-6 If you play three rounds of hearts, ♥AKQ let's say West shows out on the third round. West, therefore, started with a 3-2 pattern in the majors, while East was 1-5.

T7-8 Try 2 top diamonds next by playing the ♦KA finishing in dummy

T9 ♦4 from table ruffing in your hand.

Let's say something surprising happens: West shows out of diamonds on the third round. If that's the case, you know both opponents' patterns:

West started with a 3=2=2=6 distribution, while East was 1=5=6=1.

With this information, you can claim!

T10 Cash the ♠K, extracting the only club from East's hand.
T11 Now you can take the club finesse ♣J against West in complete confidence to make your contract.

The full deal from this scenario would look like this:

		North		
		♠ K763		
		♥ A84		
		♦ A42		
		♣ AT5		
West			East	
♠ T92			♠ 5	
♥ J7			♥ T6532	
♦ J8			♦ QT7653	
♣ Q98732			♣ 4	
		South (D)		
		♠ AQJ84		
		♥ KQ9		
		♦ K9		
		♣ KJ6		
7♣/S Lead ♠2			Vul NS Dir: S	

You might wonder what would happen if both opponents had followed to all three rounds of diamonds. You wouldn't have a complete count, but you would know that West was 3=2=3=5 or 3=2=4=4. Because he holds more clubs than East, he is the player you should play for the ♠Q.

The finesse might fail, but you would have given the contract the best chance.



◆ Thursday Comp Night –Q3/4 2023

The current event (Watermark sponsored Club Teams) is running, no further entries.



This is followed by the Club MP Pairs Championship starting in late Sep. Note break on 19/Oct for Spring Nationals.



59th

Online Club Matchpoint Pairs (State) Comp Night – Club Pairs Championship

Thursday's 28 Sep, 5, 12 Oct & 26 Oct
7pm Start– Club Matchpoint Pairs Championships
Prize Pool: **Generous** Prize Pool + 3 Entries NSWBA State Open Pairs
Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick 0413 884 805**
Director: **Ronnie Ng**
Entry Management: **Enter by MyABF**
Pre-payments: Visitors "ABF Credits", Members via "Club PP System"
58th 2022 Winners: **Sophie Ashton & David Beauchamp**

Notes: 17 Oct is Spring Nationals, NSW State Open Pairs Finals : Nov 18/19

Player Fees per Pair (152 ABF Credits) Members (via Club PP System only \$128)

Then the Mixed Teams



A 1-week break for the GNOT National finals & then & XMAS Teams



14th

Online XMAS Teams Comp Night – XMAS Teams

Thursday's 7,14,21 Dec
7pm Start– Club XMAS Teams Championships (Imp/VP)
Prize Pool: **Generous** Prize Pool
Convenor, queries & partnership advice: **Gary Barwick 0413 884 805**
Director: **Ronnie Ng**
Entry Management: **Enter by MyABF**
Pre-payments: Visitors "ABF Credits", Members via "Club PP System"
13th 2022 Winners: **Martin Bloom, Mathew Vadas, Shane Harrison, George Fleischer**

Player Fees per Team (228 ABF Credits) Members (via Club PP System only \$192)

2023 NSBC Congress Programme

◆ 2023 Oct EL MP Congress

LABOUR DAY

Pairs

7th

Labour Day Pairs Congress
EL Open Pairs (Matchpoints)

Monday 2nd Oct 2023 @ our East Lindfield Venue
10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Matchpoint Pairs Event

Prize Pool: Generous but dependent on entries, + Best Intermediate Team
 Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Mike Prescott 0435 528 872
 Director: Ronnie Ng
 Entry Management: Enter by MyABF
 Pre-Payments: Visitors pay MyABF Credits & NSBC Members select "Club PP System"
 2022 6th Winners: NS: Kevin Davies - Elli Urbach
 & EW: Margaret Foster - Colin Clifford

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB
Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club
 2b Carlyle Road, East Lindfield
 Tel: 02 9415 8344

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA. The
 ABF has approved the issue of **red masterpoints** at
level B4. All players are subject to the NSWBA's
 Disciplinary Regulations. Yellow systems Restricted.

Player Fees (pp) \$45pp includes Refreshments & a Light Lunch

Jamie Thompson successfully since 2016 in Melbourne and Sydney.

Jamie will be presenting 3 great lessons via Zoom. Make sure you book your place on the website. If you can't make that time you can buy a recording and watch it later.

JAMIE THOMPSON
Plan the play as declarer

Series
 Friday 15th Sep
 Friday 22nd Sep
 Friday 29th Sep
at 10am
 BOOK NOW

15th Sep - How to effectively plan the play as declarer

22nd Sep - When and how to use count. Both as a defender and declarer.

29th Sep - Overcalls. To bid or not to bid. Overcalls vs Doubles.

♦ Bridge Lessons.



Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson is currently teaching Introduction to Bridge on **Wednesdays at East Lindfield**. She will be teaching "Bridge Basics" from Sept 27

Bridge Basics will be running on Wednesday afternoons from **Sept 27**. This course expands on basic ideas, introduces some new concepts, and focuses on card playing skills. If you know someone who hasn't played for a while and can't remember much more than the basics, this course would be great to get them back into the game. Please contact Fiona for more details

info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)

BRIDGE BASICS
 WITH LIZ WILKINSON
 STARTS SEPTEMBER 27
 WEDNESDAYS 2PM
 GREAT FOR RETURNEES TO BRIDGE
 DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE



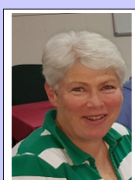
Jamie is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia multiple times. His passion for bridge is on par with his passion for teaching which he has done



Anita Curtis

Anita Curtis is taking a break but is restarting on 28th September. With **Gentle Hand Analysis**

NSBC Thursday mornings online at 9.30am
September - November 2023 Program
with Anita Curtis



Thursday mornings for the rest of the year will be consolidation through hand analysis of the DYS course and also a few lessons at lower intermediate level - Broaden Your Game (BYG). 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
Sept 28	End of course Hand Analysis 3 (Gentle Hand Analysis)
Oct 5	End of course Hand Analysis 4 (Gentle Hand Analysis)
Oct 12	I hate No Trumps!
Oct 19	NO LESSON
Oct 26	End of course Hand Analysis 5 (Gentle Hand Analysis)
Nov 2	NO LESSON
Nov 9	Covering honours in defence
Nov 16	Gentle Hand Analysis 6
Nov 23	Card combinations part 2 (missing 2 honours)
Nov 30	Gentle Hand Analysis 7

Visitors \$20; Members \$17



Jessica Brake

Jessica Brake will be returning to the club to teach soon.