



## ♦ 2023 Oct EL Matchpoint Pairs Congress

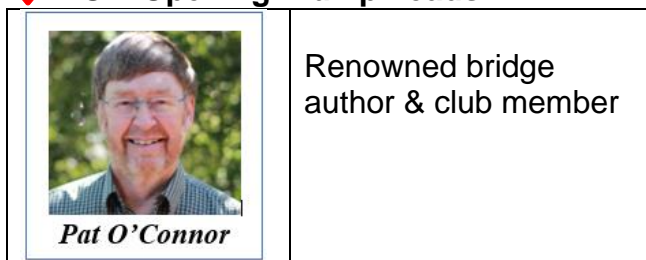


## ♦ 2023 Melbourne Cup Pairs



Traditional celebration lunch and fun pairs bridge game on Tuesday 7th November, 10:30 am at East Lindfield. Bring a plate to share - the club will provide drinks, wine, champagne! There will be sweeps, a hat parade and of course watching the race on the big screen. Entry fee is \$25 - Booking is essential - click on above heading or go to Upcoming Events

## ♦ PO – Opening Trump Leads



Some players lead trumps frequently, some never lead a trump. There is an adage **“When in doubt, lead a trump”**. What is the best approach? Let us look at some situations.

## WHEN TO LEAD A TRUMP

- 1 ***Declarer is two suited, and dummy showed preference for one of them.***

This is the classic time to lead a trump. You know that declarer will probably want to ruff losers from the first suit in dummy, so you want to prevent this as much as you can. This is especially true when you hold some good cards in declarer's first suit. Here is an example:

North	Standard Bidding			
	West	North	East	South (D)
♠ 3				1♠
♥ Q983				
♦ A95	PASS	1NT	PASS	2♥
♣ J6432	PASS	PASS <sup>1</sup>	PASS	
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ KT965	1♠	5+♠, opening hand		
♥ KJT6	1NT	6-9 HCP, Not 3♠		
♦ Q83	2♥	4+♥		
♣ A	PASS <sup>1</sup>	Prefers Hearts		

	North	
West	♠ 3	East
♠ AQJ8	♥ Q983	♠ 742
♥ 742	♦ A95	♥ A5
♦ K74	♣ J6432	♦ JT62
♣ T97		♣ KQ85
	South (D)	
2♥/S	♠ KT965	Vul Nil
Lead ♥4	♥ KJT6	Dir: South
	♦ Q83	
	♣ A	

West is on lead, holding  $\spadesuit\text{AQJ8}$  in spades and, knowing that dummy is short of spades, it is clear that declarer will need to ruff spades in dummy. **Therefore, a trump lead is indicated.** East will win the  $\heartsuit\text{A}$  and play another heart. Declarer will give up a spade at trick 3 and West will win and lead a third round of trumps, leaving just one trump in each of the North and South hands. This will seriously reduce their ruffing ability and declarer will go down. Any other lead would allow declarer to make.

**2 A non-trump lead would give something away.**

When you have broken honours in all side suits, a passive trump lead is indicated. For example, defending against a spade contract with this hand

$\spadesuit\text{83} \heartsuit\text{K753} \diamondsuit\text{QT43} \clubsuit\text{QT6}$

lead a spade.

**3 We have the balance of power – they are sacrificing.**

They will rely on trumps for extra tricks. Lead a trump and turn it into a notrump game.

**4 Partner has left your takeout double in – help partner to draw trumps.**

You are sitting West, holding

$\spadesuit\text{AQT7} \heartsuit\text{KQ95} \diamondsuit\text{QT82} \clubsuit\text{6}$

The bidding:

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			$1\clubsuit$
<b>X</b>	Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	Pass

Lead the  $\clubsuit\text{6}$ . To pass your takeout double, partner must have something like  $\clubsuit\text{KQJTx}$ . So, help partner to draw trumps by leading one.

**5 You have five trumps.**

Try to reduce their ruffing power.

## WHEN TO AVOID A TRUMP LEAD

In situations other than those above, consider possible strong leads.

**1 You have a side-suit singleton.**

According to the book *Winning Suit Contract Leads* by Bird and Anthias, it is an excellent lead and should be nearly always chosen.

**2** From the bidding you expect dummy to have a powerful side suit, so you need to make an aggressive lead.

**3** You have four trumps – it may be best to lead a long suit to force declarer.

**4** Of course sequence leads from suits headed by AK or KQJ are always appealing.

## Sydney Spring Nationals



**18 - 25 OCTOBER 2023**

**TBIB OPEN TEAMS  
BRIDGEGEAR INTERMEDIATE TEAMS**

**DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS  
TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED PAIRS  
SPRING NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS**

**SPRING NATIONAL MIXED TEAMS  
TWO MEN AND A TRUCK RESTRICTED, NOVICE & ROOKIE TEAMS  
PENLINE SWISS PAIRS**

**RAINBOW SWISS PAIRS CONGRESS**

### Gold Masterpoints & Playoff Qualifying Points

**Venue: Level 2, Canterbury Park Racecourse  
96 King St, Ashbury**

**Chief Tournament Director:** Matthew McManus

**Tournament Organiser:** Ian Lisle (0425 255 980)

[www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/638](http://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/638)

email: [sn@abf.com.au](mailto:sn@abf.com.au)




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Wed 18	Thu 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25
Masterpoint restricted events							
Bridgegear Intermediate Teams	Bridgegear Teams Finals	Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs		Two Men and a Truck Teams Restricted, Novice & Rookie			
		Spring Nationals Novice Pairs					

## ♦ AR – Opening at the 3 Level

	Opening at the three level
	Andrew Robson

An opening bid at the Three-level shows a good seven-card suit, but less than opening values. The more you have in your suit – preferably two of the top three cards or three of the top five – and the less outside, the better.

Hand (a)	Hand (b)	Hand (c)
♠ KQT9632 ♥ Q85 ♦ 42 ♣ 2	♠ 632 ♥ 9 ♦ AQJ8532 ♣ 97	♠ 73 ♥ A875432 ♦ J9 ♣ 42

Hand A: Open 3♠.

Hand B: Open 3♦.

Hand C: Pass-heart suit quality too poor or consider opening a weak 2 bid.

## Responding to Three-level opener

"Put up or Shut up" - probably "Shut up".

West	North	East	South
	3♠	Pass	??


Hand (a)	Hand (b)	Hand (c)
♠ Q ♥ AK85 ♦ A962 ♣ 9732	♠ 32 ♥ QJ2 ♦ QJ73 ♣ AKQ3	♠ void ♥ AQT742 ♦ AJ62 ♣ Q96

With Hand (a), bid 4♠. You have a magical queen in partner's suit and three quick tricks outside.

With Hand (b), you should pass. Those queens and jacks are probably completely useless – partner will be out of the suit once they start to work. Aces (and to a lesser extent) kings are what partner wants. I'd be surprised to see partner make even 3♠.

Pass with Hand (c) too. Partner has told you they have a useless hand unless spades are trumps. 4♥ would be very likely to fail.

## Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner

	<b>Splinter Raises</b>
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The splinter bid is a useful addition to any pairs' bidding arsenal. It is a specialized type of raise that sometimes allows a partnership to bid a game or slam that might otherwise be missed.

A splinter raise is an unusual jump that shows four-card or longer support for the last bid suit, game-going values and shortness (a singleton or void) in the suit in which the jump occurred. For example:

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4♣	

Responder shows at least four hearts, opening values (approximately; more on this later) and club shortness.

How can you tell which jumps are splinters? They're usually defined as any new-suit response higher than a jump raise.

That means that after a 1♥ opening, 3♠, 4♣ and 4♦ are all splinter raises, each showing a different singleton or void.

After a 1♠ opening, 4♣, 4♦ and 4♥ are all splinter bids.

Why are these bids useful? Let's look at an example:

Opener	Responder
♠ AK654	♠ QT987
♥ KQ6	♥ A542
♦ 862	♦ 5
♣ A6	♣ KQJ

After opener begins with 1♠, responder bids 4♦. From opener's point of view, this is good news. She knows that her partner has at most one diamond, making it safe to explore for slam. Why? Opener doesn't have to worry about the three low diamonds in her hand. Whether opener uses Blackwood, Keycard or cue bids, 6♠ is easy to reach and almost certain to succeed. Notice that the partnership has a combined total of only 28



points, far less than the textbook 33 points suggested for bidding a small slam.

If responder had splintered in a different suit (hearts, for example) opener should take a more pessimistic view of things and settle for game only.

How strong does responder need to be to make a splinter bid? Partnerships may, of course, define them as they please, but many players have found that restricting responder to 13 to 15 points (which includes distribution) makes it easier for opener to know what to do. With a weaker hand, other types of raises are available to responder. The same is true for stronger hands. Opener may make a splinter bid as well. Here's an example:

Opener	Responder
♠ AJ65	♠ KQ743
♥ 9	♥ 876
♦ KQJ4	♦ 932
♣ AQT2	♣ J4

After 1♦ by opener, responder bids 1♠. Opener then jumps to 4♥, a splinter bid. What does it mean when opener uses this type of jump? It shows a fit for responder's suit (at least four cards), an excellent hand (remember, responder could have a minimum hand, as in the example) and shortness in the bid suit.

Responder on this hand will retreat to 4♣ after the 4♥ splinter bid, but will be pleased when he sees the dummy. With only 22 combined HCP, the spade game is a virtual lock, and 11 tricks are possible if the club finesse works. Note that if splinters weren't being used on this deal, opener might have rebid 3♠. Responder, with such a weak hand, would certainly have passed, and the good game would have been missed.

Can you use splinters after a 1♣ or a 1♦ opening? Yes, as long as you discuss this with partner.

After a 1♣ opening, 3♦, 3♥ and 3♠ would all be splinter bids.

If opener starts with 1♦, then 3♥, 3♠ and 4♣ would be splinters.

There are other applications for splinters in different auctions. Consider this:

Standard Bidding			
West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	

Since the partnership has already agreed on hearts, should 3♠ be a natural bid? Many partnerships believe that it should not. Instead, they treat it as a **splinter raise**, showing game-forcing values and spade shortness.

Remember, you must discuss this treatment with partner. It's important to specify the strength of splinter raises as well as whether they can be used in other constructive auctions such as the last example.



This article was derived from Bridgefeed, "[Puzzle This no 37](#)"

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ AQT4	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ 654				2NT
♦ 5432	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
♣ 62	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
	All Pass			
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ J92	2NT	Strong Bal 20-21		
♥ KQJ2	3♣	Puppet Stayman		
♦ AKQJ	3♦	1 or 2 4Card Majors		
♣ A3	3♥	4♣		
	3NT	To Play		

As South, you arrive in 3NT, after a 3♣ Puppet Stayman sequence, where South bid 3♦ (showing one or two 4 card Majors), North Biding 3♣ (showing 4♥, allowing South to bid 4♥ or 3NT)), South converted to 3NT. West leads the ♦T, East following.

You've somehow managed to avoid a potentially deadly club lead, so you want to make sure you don't squander your good luck thus far. **What do you play next?**

## Solution

**Count your top tricks.** You started with one spade, four diamonds and a club for six top tricks. If the spade finesse works, you'll have nine tricks, but if it fails, you'll only have eight (three spades, four diamonds and a club). What can be done about this?

As usual, a little treachery can help. Try stealing a heart trick by leading the ♥J at trick two.

Why do this? The opponents don't know you're in a hurry to establish tricks, and a lazy opponent holding the ♥A may not realize he needs to win the ♥J right away and switch to a club. This is their best chance to beat you if the ♠K is offside.

If the ♥J wins (is not covered), you can then take the spade finesse, not caring if it wins because you'll have nine tricks (one heart, four diamonds, one club and at least three spades).

Note that if the opponents are alert

- And capture the ♥J with the ♥A
- Then accurately switch to a club,
- you still have a chance to make 3NT — even if the ♠K offside — If hearts break 3–3.

So

- *if* the opponents win the ♥J with the ♥A
- *and if* they switch to a club
- *and if* hearts do not break kindly 3–3
- *and if* the ♠K is offside, you'll go down.

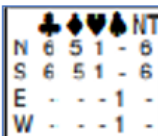
You can't be that unlucky can you?

You have **done your very best!**



## ♦ JF – Hand Analysis

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

		North	Dealer: West Vul: All
West (D)		♠ A ♥ Q ♦ AQ97 ♣ KQ76542	East
♠ J8742	♥ J9532		♠ KJ963
♦ JT2	♣ -		♥ A74
17	2 8		♦ 8653
13			♣ 3
		South	
		♠ Q5 ♥ KJ86 ♦ K4 ♣ AJT98	
			

Continuing the theme of looking at slams, this board in a club game was a NS slam that only one pair managed to bid. Let us look at how the hand could be bid.

We'll assume first that EW don't get involved.

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

North will clearly open 1♣ and South would respond 1♥ (it being normal to look for major suit fits first). The first decision rests with North. I would then bid 2♦.

That's a "**reverse**" bid. It means our 2nd suit is higher ranked than our 1st and if partner wants to go back to our 1st suit they have to do so at the 3 level – that is the basic definition of a reverse. You need extra strength to do this (typically at least 16) because partner might have responded on as few as 6 points so you don't want to force to the 3 level with only a minimum 11/12-point hand opposite what might only be 6.

Note I bid 2♦ even though I have 7 clubs. Some won't agree with that, but I think of it as just showing more cards in my hand. When I bid 2♦ I am telling partner about 9 cards in my hand (4♦ and 5♣). Whilst if I jump bid, say, 3♣ that's only really telling partner about 6 of my cards.

Partner could easily be something like 4450 shape anyway!

Why not show our 2nd suit where we could still have our best fit? Because 2♦ is a reverse, it is forcing. Partner cannot pass it. That gives us time to go back to clubs later if we need to. It also means you don't need to bid any MORE than 2♦.

One of the auctions last week I saw this hand bid 3♦. As long as both players understand 2♦ is forcing you don't need to jump bid to 3♦ – that takes up a whole extra level of bidding which might make it harder to bid slam on some hands.

What should south do over 2♦?

They now know there is a good club fit and that they want to play in at least game.

3♣ you might think? The trouble with that is what would you also bid with this hand?

♠Qx ♥K10xx ♦xx ♣JT9xx

You want to bid 3♣ with that as well – only this time to potentially just play there.

Clearly you cannot just bid 3♣ with both these hands – partner cannot possibly bid accurately then!

The answer is **fourth suit forcing**. You bid the 4th suit (2♠ here) as an **artificial game forcing bid** asking partner for more information.

In this case you don't actually really care what partner says, you are just going to bid & support clubs next to say you wanted to agree clubs strongly (as opposed to just give preference back to partner's 1st suit).

Once North hears that they will be off to the races with their huge hand – probably with blackwood. The whole bidding sequence might be

West (D)	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠/♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Where 5♠/♦ (1 key card in your methods) –

North will probably be disappointed to find out you are missing one Keycard (Ace) and cannot bid a grand slam!

### Key points to note

- A reverse bid shows extra values and is forcing. So, you don't have to bid any higher than the reverse. Doing so can take up too much bidding room.
- Before making a bid, don't just think about the hand you have – think about what other hands you could have had. If you find yourself wanting to bid the same thing on two hands of very different strength then one of those bids is wrong!

### More advanced points

#### a) 3♦ rebid by north = “splinter”

We mentioned earlier that North should rebid 2♦ and doesn't need to bid 3♦. So, does 3♦ exist? And if so what does it mean? Most good pairs play it as a “splinter” – that is a hand with shortage in diamonds and showing good agreement for partner's hearts. The general rule is that if a bid is forcing (2♦ here) then an unnecessary jump in the same suit is artificial. Splinter bids are very useful because knowing where partner has shortage can help evaluate how well your hands fit together..

#### b) Will EW actually remain silent?

I don't think so! These days a lot of experienced players sitting East who would overcall 1♠. Yes you only have 8 points opposite a passed partner, but 1♠ over 1♣ takes a whole level of bidding space away – and it is very rare to get into trouble at the 1 level. It also suggests a defensive lead for partner.



West (D)	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♠	X
4♠	5♣	Pass	?

Here the overcall would dramatically change the auction. South will start with a negative double to show their four hearts – but West will probably now pre-empt all the way to 4♠ knowing they have a big fit and plenty of shape.

Now North South have no room for reverses, blackout, blackwood or anything! Given how powerful a hand they have North will probably just bid 5♣ anyway (but now they do this without the luxury of knowing partner has any clubs at all).

South MIGHT now raise to 6♣ but it's not obvious – south is missing a lot of aces. North could have almost the same hand they do have but with the ♦K instead of the ♦A. Now 6♣ has 2 aces missing.

The point is the pre-empt to 4♠ takes all their bidding room away and makes North South have to guess. Some of the time, even if they are world champions, they are going to guess wrong!

Julian Foster (many times NSW Representative

### ♦ Bridge Lessons.



Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson has just finished teaching Introduction to Bridge and is now teaching "Bridge Basics" on **Wednesdays at East Lindfield** & will be teaching "5 Essential Conventions" from Oct 10

**Bridge Basics** has started 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](mailto:info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au)



**Christmas PARTY**  
Friday 1st December  
at East Lindfield @ 10 am  
*Play a duplicate Session at 10 am and stay for Lunch.*  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**Christmas PARTY**  
Friday 1st Dec @ 10 am at East Lindfield  
Redpoint Duplicate Session followed by Lunch and Mingle  
MEMBERS ONLY Cost \$15.00pp  
[BOOK NOW](#)

EL XMAS Party on a new Session Friday 10am 1st Dec (normal Table Fees + Free post-game lunch. [must Book](#)  
WS XMAS party date will be set on completed refurbishment.

Bridge Basics - Face-to-Face	Wednesdays 2.00pm @ East Lindfield
How to count your tricks and develop your playing skills	11th October
Finding a fit in a Major suit, and focus on Responder	18th October
Developing a long suit for extra tricks and planning the play in a No Trump contract	25th October
Overcalling and the Takeout Double	1st November
Counting losers, playing and defending a suit contract	8th November
Play in your Major when you have a fit, more bidding when partner opens 1NT	15th November
Making the best of your high cards, the fine art of Finessing	22nd November
Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an opponent has opened	29th November
Defending well, the hardest part of the game.	6th December

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)

## Five Essential Conventions @ EL

New Lessons with Liz



*Five Essential Conventions*  
with Liz Wilkinson

Tuesdays 10am  
at East Lindfield  
from Oct 10




We have 5 great lessons planned for October. These lessons will cover five essential conventions that will help players move from Supervised into Rookies - **Stayman, Transfers, Strong 2 Clubs, Blackwood and Pre-empts**. Rookie players may also like to refresh these conventions. The lessons will run Tuesday mornings 10am at East Lindfield from October 10 for 5 weeks. Come to one or come to all of them. No need to book. \$20 for Members, \$25 for Visitors

Any questions, please contact Fiona on

0407 698 786 or email her at

[info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au](mailto:info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au)

Five Essential Conventions	Tuesdays 10am @ East Lindfield
Stayman	10th October
Transfers	17th October
Strong 2 Clubs	24th October
Blackwood	31st October
Pre-empts	14th November



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

**Jessica Brake**

**NSBC Intermediate/BYG October 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
4 Oct	Eddie Kantar's No Trump tips	Intermediate/BYG declarer play. Eddie Kantar explains best practice principles in NT contracts.
11 Oct	Gentle Hand Analysis 4, 2023	BYG/Intermediate all skills. 8 hands to bid, play & defend at the intermediate level
18 Oct	No lesson	
25 Oct	Eddie Kantar's Competitive bidding after a takeout double	BYG/Intermediate bidding. So, you think you know what to do after your partner makes a takeout double? Eddie Kantar will test what you really know and your bidding judgement in competitive situations.
1 Nov	No lesson	

**NSBC Thursday mornings online at 9.30am**  
**October - 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
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

## 2023 State Novice\* & Restricted Teams\*\*\*

### Championship

**11 & 12 November**

Hosted by



415 The Entrance Road, Long Jetty NSW  
email: [ccbconvenor@gmail.com](mailto:ccbconvenor@gmail.com)

Alan Bustany — Tournament Director  
John Redfearn and Kerrie Ransom — Organisers

**SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER**



Kiama and District  
Bridge Club Inc.

## Novice Swiss Pairs

Sunday  
8<sup>th</sup> October  
2023

For players under 100 MPs as at 3/09/2023