



♦ 2023 Melbourne Cup Pairs

\$25.00 Bring a Plate and share lunch - Free champagne, wine and juice

MELBOURNE CUP PAIRS

TUESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER
AT 10:30 AM
AT EAST LINDFIELD

Bring a Plate and share lunch
Free champagne, wine and juice

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

♦ 2023 EL Christmas Party 1st Dec



1st Dec – Full

8th Dec – Open/Rookie sections

This article was derived from Bridgefeed, “Puzzle 22”

♦ 2023 State Novice/Restricted Teams

2023 State Novice* & Restricted Teams***

Championship

11 & 12 November

Hosted by

CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB

415 The Entrance Road, Long Jetty NSW
email: cbccconvenor@gmail.com

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

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

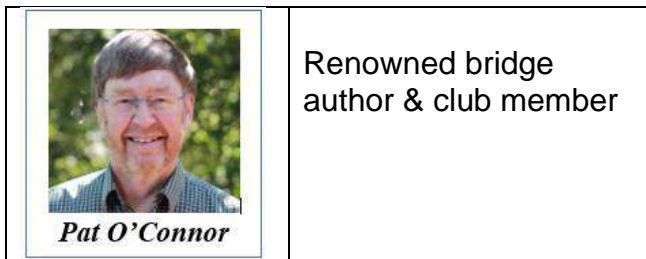
North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K763	West	North	East (D)	South
♥ A84			4♥	4♠
♦ A42	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
♣ AT5				
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ AQJ84	4♥	Non Vul Pre-empt		
♥ KQ9	4♠	Good Overcall		
♦ K9	6♠	To Play		
♣ KJ6				

As South, you are declarer in a 6♠ Contract.

T1 West leads the ♥6, and you win the ♥A in hand

This definitely looks like a single heart?
What do you try next?

♦ PO – Entries



You are South. After a simple auction you are declarer in 3NT

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ 93	West	North	East	South (D)
♥ A4				1♣
♦ Q942	Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
♣ QT962	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ AK5	1♣	3+♣ opening hand		
♥ K732	1♦	4+♦ 6+hcp		
♦ AJ7	2NT	18-19 HCP Bal		
♣ KJ4	3NT	To Play		

The lead is the ♥Q by West.
How do you plan to play the hand?

Analysis

The first thing to do in a notrump contract is to count your winners. You have the ♠A and ♠K – that's two, then the ♥A and ♥K – that's two more, and the ♦A brings the total to five. So, you need to find four more tricks.

The obvious source of extra tricks is the club suit where you have all the honours except the ace.

How do you proceed?



The Full Deal

		North		
		♠ 93		
West		♥ A4	East	
♠ Q874		♦ Q942	♠ JT62	
♥ QJT9		♣ QT962	♥ 865	
♦ 53			♦ KT86	
♣ A74		South (D)	♣ 85	
3NT/S Lead ♥Q		♠ AK5	Vul Nil Dir: South	
		♥ K732		
		♦ AJ7		
		♣ KJ4		

Look at the entry situation. You are going to develop some club tricks, so you need an entry in dummy to access the club tricks when they are set up, otherwise they may wither on the vine. So, it is important to win the first trick in your hand,

- T1 West leads ♥Q, ♥4, ♥5 (count), ♥K retaining the ♥A in dummy.
- T2 You play the ♣K. If the opponents duck it
- T3 You continue with the ♣J. If the opponents again duck it. Remembering to play the high honours from the short side first.
- T4 You continue with the ♣4 and West will win the ♣A but you will be able to get to dummy with the ♥A to reach the two established clubs.

This way you will make four club tricks, with a reasonable club split (3-2) in the suit.

Winning the first trick in dummy with the ♥A would have been successful if West had taken the ♣A on the first or second round of clubs, but a good defender would wait until the third round, and you would have not made your contract.

Key Point

Plan your entries to cater for uncooperative opponents.

Bridge Bidding Toolkit Corner



Puppet Stayman

Puppet Stayman is a specialized version of regular Stayman that is popularly used in response to a 2NT opening bid. Beginning an auction with 2NT has pluses and minuses.

In the plus column, opener gets to convey her strength (for the purpose of this column, we'll define 2NT as showing 20 to 21 high-card points) and relative shape, which is, of course, balanced.

On the minus side, 2NT is unwieldy because it takes up a lot of bidding space. Also, many of the hands that are candidates for 2NT openings will contain a five-card major. If you open 2NT on a hand that has five hearts or five spades, wouldn't it be easy to miss a 5–3 major-suit fit?

This is why many pairs use Puppet Stayman, a bidding tool designed to diagnose such a fit. Here's how it works: After a 2NT opening (the opponents are silent), a 3♣ response promises at least game-going values and asks opener if she has a four- or five-card major.

- With five hearts, opener rebids 3♥.
- With five spades, she rebids 3♠.
- If opener has four hearts or four spades (or both), she rebids 3♦.
- With no four- or five-card major suit holding, opener just rebids 3NT.

These responses to 3♣ Puppet Stayman are Alertable.

After a 3♦ response

When opener rebids 3♦, saying that she has at least one four-card major, responder still isn't sure which major opener holds — or if opener has both majors.

If responder has only one four-card major, he tells opener about it by bidding the *other* major at the three level. So:

- With four hearts, responder rebids 3♠.
- With four spades, responder rebids 3♥.

This seems backward. Why do this? If opener has a fit for responder's major, it allows her to bid it at the four level, ensuring that the strong hand declares. (ie is hidden from the opponents)

For example:

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♣ (1)
3♦ (2)	3♠ (3)
4♥ (4)	Pass

(1) Puppet Stayman: do you have a four- or five-card major?

(2) I have at least one four-card major.

(3) I have four hearts.

(4) Me too. Let's play 4♥ instead of 3NT.

Notice that the strong hand bid hearts first and will declare the contract.

What if opener's major doesn't fit responder's? Opener just rebids 3NT.

Finally, what if responder has both four-card majors? Responder rebids 4♦ over 3♦ to command opener to choose.

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♣ (1)
3♦ (2)	4♦ (3)
4♠ (4)	Pass

(1) Puppet Stayman: do you have a four- or five-card major?

(2) I have at least one four-card major.

(3) I have four hearts and four spades.

Please choose a major-suit game.

(4) I have four spades.

After a direct 3♥ or 3♠ response

When the 2NT opener shows a five-card major, responder can usually place the contract (unless he has slam ambitions). With a three-card or longer fit for opener's major, responder will usually bid four of that major to end the auction. If responder doesn't have a fit for that major, he rebids 3NT.

There is a catch, however. As responder, you have to get into the habit of asking about opener's major suit holdings even when you have only three cards in hearts or spades — remember that opener might have five.

For example:

♠Q64 ♥87 ♦A942 ♣Q532.

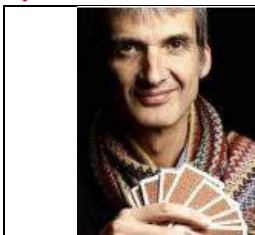
If partner opens 2NT it seems automatic to bid 3NT, but playing puppet Stayman you should bid 3♣ first. If opener shows a five-card spade suit (3♠), you'll happily bid 4♠. If not, you'll sign off in 3NT.

After a 3NT response (no Major)

3NT will frequently end the auction. Responder will continue only if he has unusual length in the majors. With hands that contain a 6-4 pattern in the majors, for example, responder may start with 3♣ to find out if opener has a major-suit fit. When opener says no, responder may then transfer into the six-card major at the four level. This one is easy to forget, so be sure to discuss it!



♦ AR – When its it safe to lead Trumps



When is it safe to lead a trump?

Andrew Robson

When it's safe to lead a trump (in defence)
Say your, on opening lead, have nothing very appealing such as a singleton or top of a sequence. In fact, all your suits contain broken honour(s) such as Qxxx or KJxx. Yuk – these are very dangerous leads.

It may be best, especially if dummy has shown weakness, to lead a trump, giving little away. However, you must be careful you do not butcher your or partner's trump holding by leading the suit. Say you are leading verses a 4♥ contract. Which of the following trump leads are safe and which not?

- | | |
|----|------|
| 1. | ♥752 |
| 2. | ♥A52 |
| 3. | ♥Q52 |
| 4. | ♥J52 |
| 5. | ♥2 |

1. ♥752 is **pretty safe**; you may pick up partner's ♥Q4 but probably declarer would have picked up ♥Q for himself.
2. ♥A52 is also **fairly safe**, although a holding of ♥Jx in partner's hand would likely be squashed.
3. ♥Q52 is most certainly **not safe**, for you would lose your protection for ♥Q. Don't lead a trump, instead wait for declarer to cash ♥AK, promoting your ♥Q.
4. ♥J52 will be safe if partner has no high card. However, it is not completely safe. Take this layout:

Dummy		
♥ K94		
West		East
♥ J52		♥ Q6
Declarer		
♥ AT873		

Left to his own devices, declarer will lose a trump trick. If you lead a trump, you'll lose that trick.

Then
then ♥2, ♥4, ♥Q, ♥A;
♥3, ♥5, ♥9, ♥6;
♥K felling ♥J.

- 5 ♥2 is **not at all safe**.
Indeed, this is much misunderstood, "Surely my ♥2 is worthless, so why not lead it?" I hear many say. But think of partner, who is likely to hold a useful holding such as ♥Qxx or ♥J10xx.

Your trump lead will severely compromise partner's holding. Make the lead of a singleton trump a very rare occurrence in your repertoire: it's very, very dangerous. You could almost say, "**never lead a singleton trump**."

♦ 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.

I previously mentioned that shape beats points any day. This Board played at a normal club game was another example of this.

		North	Dealer: West Vul: All	
West		♠ T9852	East	
♠ -		♥ -	♠ AKJ	
♥ AQT8762		♦ K	♥ KJ953	
♦ J752		♣ KT87654	♦ 94	
♣ A9			♣ J32	
6 11 13 10		South (D)		
		♠ Q7643		
		♥ 4		
		♦ AQT863		
		♣ Q		

I was surprised to see that only one North-South pair bid 4♠ – most tables allowed East-West to play in 4♥. Although North-South only have a combined 16 points they can make 4♠. At the same time East-West can make 5♥ with their combined 24 points. When there are wild distributions around and large fits it is quite common for both sides to be able to make high level contracts. The key is for each side to identify that they have such a fit. How might the auction go?

South has the first decision. Personally, I would open this hand 1♦. Yes I only have 10 points and 2 of those are a singleton Q that might be worthless but there are other good reasons for opening:

- I have a lot of shape – a 65 shape is very powerful if we find a fit.
- By opening 1♦ I indicate a good lead for partner if we do end up defending
- The side that opens the bidding has an advantage – it tends to be harder to evaluate your hands when you are overcalling

If you are playing 2♠ as a weak hand with 5♠ and a minor that is also a reasonable action.

Once North hears that, with their enormous shape they should immediately jump bid to at least 4♠.

Let's suppose South does open 1♦.

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

or

West	North	East	South (D)
			1♦
1♥	1♠	4♥	4♠

West will overcall 1♥ and North will bid 1♠. At this point both East and South know they have large fits with their partners. East will force the bidding to 4♥ (either directly or using a “cue raise” – a bid of the opponent's suit to show a good hand with a ♥ raise as opposed to a pre-emptive raise).

Whatever East does, despite South's 10 points they should bid 4♠ next. They have found a fit and they have a lot of shape.

Furthermore, how much defence do you have to a ♥ contract? Not much!

Give West also has a lot of shape, they might well push on into 5♥. Now it's hard for North-South. In general, you want to leave the 5 level to the opponents. Bidding 5 over 5 is usually a bad thing to do (so often both 5 level contracts go off and you just convert a plus score to a minus score). But when there is extreme shape around it is more likely to be right. Here 5♥ makes so bidding 5♠ is right as it scores **-100** (assuming doubled) instead of **-650**. With their 75 shape, North is probably the one more likely to bid 5♠ (and possibly even 6♠ over 6♥ - see advanced section).

Let's finish with a different auction. Suppose South did pass initially.

West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1♥	2♥	4♥	4♠

West would open 1♥ and now North should enter the auction using a common convention called the “**Michaels cue bid**”. This is a bid where you overcall the suit your right hand opponent has opened to show at least 55 in two suits,

- (1m-2m) shows both majors,
- (1M-2M) shows the other major and a minor).

Here North would bid 2♥. That gives South a huge amount of information – they now know they have at least a 10 card spade fit and partner's other suit is almost certainly clubs. They will bid at least 4♠ for sure. With such powerful shape and being not vulnerable it is **absolutely critical** for North to bid something over 1♥. What's more they hold spades. The spade suit is often called the “**boss**” suit because you can outbid the opponents at the same level. Doing so creates problems too – imagine you are about to end up in a nice comfortable 4♥ contract. The very last thing you want to hear from the opponents is 4♠! You now have to decide whether to risk 5♥ or double 4♠ or give up. No matter how expert you are, you will get that decision wrong sometimes.

Key points to note

- Wildly distributional hands have enormous power once a fit is found. High card points are almost irrelevant. Do not be afraid to bid with them!
- The spade suit is hugely valuable as you can outbid the opponents at the same level. Be more inclined to get into the bidding when you hold it. Bidding 4♠ over 4♥ is right an amazing proportion of the time!
- If your hand is marginal tend towards opening the bidding rather than passing. It tends to be easier to bid well having opened than when you overcall.
- The Michaels cue bid is a very useful convention to be able to get into the bidding with shapely hands.

More advanced

When you bid the Michaels cue bid what strength should you have? Expert opinion varies here. Some play “**any strength**” believing it is more important to get the shape in first. But that can make it hard for partner to know which side has the strength.

Others (including me) prefer “**Either weak or strong**”. You bid Michaels with weak hands or strong hands but with intermediate hands (about 10-16) you overcall one of your suits and hope to be able to bid the other one later. Using this method if you bid a 2nd time after using Michaels you are showing the strong option, otherwise you have the weak option and leave it to partner.

The rationale is the weak option may lead to a cheap sacrifice, the strong option to making game, but intermediate hands frequently have enough defence to stop the opponents making their contract. Knowing the strength allows partner to judge the hand better. But the downside is you may never be able to safely bid your 2nd suit if the opponents bounce the bidding high quickly so you could miss finding a fit there.

As with all these things, each approach will work on some hands and fail on others. There is no magic answer!

High level decisions are tough. A good mantra is “**the 5 level belongs to the opponents**”. Although it is right on this hand to bid 5♠ over 5♥, I would have sympathy with North-South pairs who chose to defend 5♥. Both have cards that could take tricks in defence.

With extreme shape, it is generally far safer to play the hand. You simply don't want to take the risk of making an unlucky lead and letting a high level contract make, possibly even a slam, possibly even doubled! Note that on this hand even 6♠x only costs -- **300** – far less than the value of East-West's 4♥ vulnerable game. In an expert game I would not be at all surprised to see some 6♠x contracts on this hand. It is relatively cheap “insurance” against the risk of conceding - 1430 in 6♥!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)



This article was derived from Bridgefeed, “Puzzle 22” Solution

North	Standard Bidding			
♠ K763	West	North	East (D)	South
♥ A84			4♥	4♠
♦ A42	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
♣ AT5				
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ AQJ84	4♥	Non Vul Pre-empt		
♥ KQ9	4♠	Good Overcall		
♦ K9	6♠	To Play		
♣ KJ6				

As

South, you are declarer in a 6♠ Contract.

T1 West leads the ♥6, and you win the ♥A in hand

This looks like a single heart?
What do you try next?

The solution

If you tried to draw trumps at trick two, your score is minus -100 for down one: East will win the ♠A and give his partner a heart ruff. Is there any way to avoid this?

Yes. Because East's 4♥ pre-empt tells you that West is very short in hearts, you must get rid of your other heart (**even though it's high**) before getting to work on trumps.

T2 Play the **♦K**, and overtake with the **♦A**.

T3 Play the ♦Q dumping the ♥K

With the threat of the heart ruff eliminated, you can safely go about drawing trumps next.

		North			
		♠ KJ3			
West		♥ 873		East (D)	
♠ 42		♦ AQ		♠ A	
♥ 6		♣ AQ532		♥ QJT9542	
♦ 765432				♦ JT98	
♣ JT98		South		♣ 8	
		♠ QT98765			
6♠/S		♥ AK		Vul NS	
Lead ♥6		♦ K		Dir: East	
		♣ K74			

◆ Bridge Lessons.

Learn Bridge

FEBRUARY CLASS

FACE TO FACE

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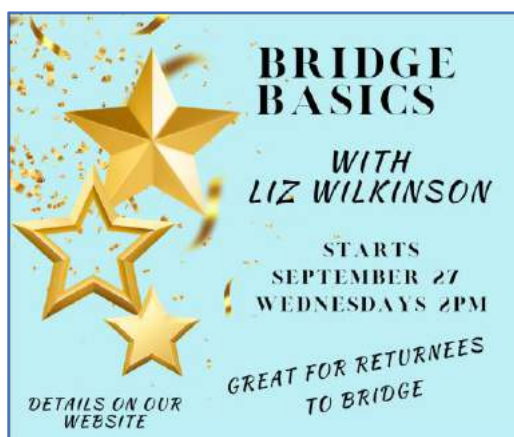


Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson is now teaching "Bridge Basics" on **Wednesdays** & "5 Essential Conventions" on **Tuesdays**, both at **East Lindfield**.

Bridge Basics has started on Wednesday afternoons continuing into November. 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



Bridge Basics - Face-to-Face	Wednesdays 2.00pm @ East Lindfield
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](#)



These lessons cover five essential conventions that will help players move from Supervised into Rookies – **The last is on Pre-empts**. The lessons are Tuesday mornings 10am at East Lindfield. \$20 for Members, \$25 for Visitors

Any questions, please contact Fiona on 0407 698 786 or email her at info@learnbridgeinsydney.com.au

Five Essential Conventions	Tuesdays 10am @ East Lindfield
Pre-empts	14th November



Anita Curtis

Anita Curtis is running 2 separate intermediate sessions: - Wednesday pm for more **experienced intermediate players** & Thursday AM for those just **starting intermediate**

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
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

NSBC Intermediate/BYG November 2023 Program

LAST WEDNESDAY LESSONS 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
1 Nov	No lesson	
8 Nov	Eddie Kantar's Defence in No Trumps	Intermediate/BYG defence. Eddie Kantar explains best practice defensive principles in NT contracts.
15 Nov	Overcalling with 2 suiters – Michaels Cue Bids	Intermediate/BYG bidding. How do you show 2 suited hands as overcaller? The "Michaels" convention allows you to show 2 suiters in one bid!
22 Nov	Eddie Kantar's Suit Establishment	Intermediate/BYG declarer play. Challenge yourself by looking at suit establishment even when there are bad breaks!
29 Nov	Gentle Hand Analysis 5, 2023	BYG/Intermediate all skills. 8 hands to bid, play & defend at the intermediate level. The last Wednesday intermediate lesson!