



♦ 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



1st Dec – Full 8th Dec – Second EL XMAS Party

Bridge Puzzle



This article was derived from Bridgefeed Website

How do you play this hand?



You each a contract of 5\\$/South after no opponent bidding.

Opening Lead:

- T2 East cashes **A**
- T3 East leads a third spade. Which you ruff high with •7 in Hand

How do you now play this hand?





♦ BM – Plan B Needed



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

Brent Manley

North (D)	Standard or 2/1 Bidding					
♠ Q 6	West North (D) East South					
♥ 642		1♣	Pass	1♥		
♦ JT65	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦		
♣ AKQ5	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥		
	All Pass					
South		Bidding	Notes			
♠ A42	1♣	hand				
♥ A8753	1♥	6+hcp 4♥				
♦ A	1NT 12-14 Bal					
♣ J876	2+ GF Checkback					
	2♥ I have 3♥					
	4♥	To Play				

Bidding

Your partner opened the bidding with a prepared club (2+♣ Opening strength), you (South) responded 1♥ and North bid 1NT (12-14 balanced hand). You bid 2♦ (Game forcing Checkback) & partner bids 2♥ (showing a 3-card heart fit). So, you settle for a 4♥ contract.

T1 West starts the defence with a trump lead
▼T against your 4♥-game contract.

What is your plan to make your contract after that annoying lead shortening your trumps?

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 1♠+1♥+1♦+4x♣ =7 + ruffs Losers: 2-3♥, ♠K & maybe another ♠ Strategies for making 10 tricks.

- On any suit lead, you would have little trouble getting to 10 tricks, losing only a spade and two trumps. In this case, your ability to successfully ruff a ♠ has disappeared on the trump lead.
- You must ruff 3 diamonds in long trump hand, and Hearts must be 3-2 to have any chance.
- Also, the hand with 2 hearts, must be the hand that is shorter in clubs 2-3 for a third entry to dummy to ruff the 3rd diamond.

Solution

- T1 West leads the ▼T, dummy played small ▼2 and East followed with the ▼J, so you as declarer found the necessary move of playing ducking low from hand ▼3.
- T2 East continued the heart attack with the ▼K, you win with ▼A, West ▼9 & dummy ▼4. This was your first assumption Trumps had to break 2-3.
- T3 You as declarer now cashed the ♠A, with all following, getting ready for the required diamond ruffs.
- You then played a low club **♣6** to dummy's **♣Q**, both EW following
- Then a diamond ◆6 was led to a ruff inhand with the ♥5. Both EW following
- T6 Dummy was re-entered with a low club **₹7** to the **₹K**, again both following.
- T7 Then a second diamond ◆T was ruffed inhand with the ♥7, both EW following
- T8 Next, a third club **♣8** was led dummy's **♣A**West discarding a spade, East following
 with **♣T**. This was another assumption that
 the high Heart hand had 3 clubs.
- This allowed declarer to lead the 4th diamond •J and to ruff in-hand with the •8.
- T10 Then declarer cashed the A which held, he had made a total of nine tricks in the bag already.
- T11 Finally, he advanced the ♣J. This would secure declarer's 10th trick. If the ♣J was ruffed, then dummy's ♥6 would be trick number 10.

The full deal:

	North (D)	
	. Q 6	
West	♥ 642	East
	♦ JT65	★ KJT
▼ T 9	♣ AKQ5	▼ KQJ
♦ K972		♦ Q843
♣ 94	South	♣ T32
	♠ A42	
4 ∀ /S	♥ A8753	Vul EW
Lead ♥T	♦ A	DIr: N
	♣ J876	

RK – EL Greg Quitner Pairs Congress



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

Rakesh Kumar

This one-day face-to-face tournament is named in honour of Greg Quittner, who founded the Gordon Bridge Centre, way back in 1988 – it eventually became the East Lindfield venue of North Shore Bridge Club almost 30 years later. And no, just because the event is named after him doesn't mean he isn't around any more – Greg is very much alive and kicking! These days he lives in Melbourne but is no longer active in bridge.

The 2023 event had a strong field of 15 tables and was won by Maurits Van Der Vlugt - Warren Lazer, who finished a *very* long way ahead of everybody else. In second place were Michael Cartmell - David Hudson, closely followed by Steven Bock - Rakesh Kumar. The Restricted section was won by Jenny Barnes - Fiona Fawcett.

It's axiomatic that at Swiss Pairs, one should bid aggressively. Overbidding to game on a bit of shape and a lot of hope is entirely normal – it puts the onus on the defending side to actually beat your contract. With that in mind, here are a couple of defence problems for you.

First an easy one – in the diagram below, dummy is at the top and you are sitting on the left:

♣AKQ9 **♥J85 ♦KJ65 ♣A9 ♠8742 ♥AT962 ♦8**

Both sides are vulnerable. You pass as dealer and LHO opens 1 ◆. Partner passes, RHO responds 1 ◆ and LHO raises to 4 ◆. You lead your singleton ◆8. Partner wins the ◆A and returns ◆T which you ruff. What next?

Now one that's perhaps not so simple. This time dummy is again at the top, with you on the right:



Both sides are vulnerable.

Partner passes and RHO opens 1. You pass, LHO responds 1. and partner overcalls 1. Now RHO invites game by jumping to 3. and LHO continues to 4.

T1/2 Partner cashes ♠A and ♠K as all follow, declarer dropping ♠T and ♠Q.

T3 Partner switches to \$7 and dummy's queen holds the trick.

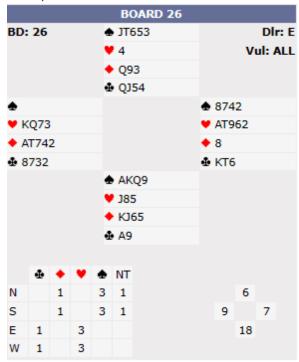
T4 Now declarer leads ♥4 from dummy.

What is your plan?

♠KT987 **♥**Q82 **♦**6

Meanwhile, speaking of aggressive bidding, what would you do with this hand, vulnerable against opponents who are not vulnerable, after RHO passes as dealer?

Here's the deal associated with the first problem, now in its correct orientation:



Partner's return of ◆T is of course suit preference for a heart return. But did you cater for the possibility that partner might have 4 hearts? You have to put your faith in partner's signal and underlead ♥A, otherwise the contract makes.

FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 26								
Contract	Result	Score	Frequency					
4♠ by NS	=	620	6					
4♠ by NS	=	620	1					
3♠ by NS	+1	170	1					
4♠ by NS	-1	-100	2					
4♠ by NS	-1	-100	3					
4♠ by NS	-2	-200	1					
EAV by NC	- 1	200	1					

In the event, 9

of 15 made 10 tricks in spades

This was the full deal for the second problem, again back in its proper orientation:

BOARD 23										
BD:	3D: 23									Dir: S
			•	A5	2		٧	ul: ALL		
			4	JT4	12					
				4	65					
♠ 8	6						♠ QT			
♥ Q	♥ QT74						♥ KJ86	5		
A	◆ AKQ876						953			
⊕ Q	⊕ Q				♣ AKT	4				
				4	AK	374				
				•	93					
				4	109	3732				
					. 350	3732				
	•	٠			NT					
N	2	Ť	Ť	4				5		
S	2			4			13		13	
Е		3	3		1			9		
W		3	3		1					

At trick 3 it appears that declarer has at least 3 heart tricks, 3 club tricks and enough diamond tricks – possibly after establishing the suit by ruffing out your jack – to make game. So, is there any hope? Partner has at most 2 hearts, but if she does have 2 hearts and a void in diamonds, you just might be able to beat the contract if you rise with •A and switch to a diamond. It's a slender chance, but on this deal it works.

You might have been more likely to consider this line of defence if you played weak 2 bids based on a 5-card major and a 4+ minor suit (5+ when vulnerable). However, over this type of weak 2♠ opening, after West's likely takeout double North can and should raise to 3♠. Remarkably, North-South can actually make 4S!

→ O.								
FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 23								
Contract	Result	Score	Frequency					
4♠X by NS	=	790	1					
5♦X by EW	-2	500	1					
5 by EW	-2	200	2					
3NT by EW	-2	200	1					
5♥ by EW	-1	100	2					
4♦ by EW	-1	100	1					
4♥ by EW	-1	100	1					
3♦ by EW	=	-110	1					
4♠X by NS	-2	-500	1					
4♥ by EW	=	-620	2					
5♥ by EW	=	-650	1					
400 L., EW		CEO						

4▼ by EW +1 -650 1 Across the field, at 5 tables East-West were pushed to the 5-level and duly went down. Four pairs made 4♥ but only one pair in 4♥ was beaten.

And so to the bidding problem. Here is the deal – you were East:

y	BOARD 6													
BD:	BD: 6		BD: 6			BD: 6		4	64	2	Т	Dir: I		
			•	T 7				V	ul: EW					
				•	85	3								
				4	∙ QT	653								
♣ A	QJ						•	KT9	87					
♥ Al	K95	3					•	Q82	2					
♠ K	♦ K9742					•	♦ 6							
4							4	AJ4	2					
				4	53									
				•	J64	4								
				•	◆ AQJT									
				4	• K9	K987								
	4	٠	۳	•	NT									
N									2					
S								17		10				
E	2	4	6	6	5				11					
W	1	4	6	6	5									

At this vulnerability, were you prepared to open 1♠ in second seat? If you were, your partnership would easily reach 6♥ after 1♠-2♥ (game forcing if you play 2/1)-4♥ (sign-off with a weak hand if you play "fast arrival")-4NT etc. Otherwise, however, the double fit never comes to light.

Note that even if you do play 5/4+ weak 2 bids, this is not a good hand for a 2♠ opening because:

- (i) You don't have 5/5 shape, which I think is mandatory at adverse vulnerability
- (ii) In second seat there is only one opponent left to pre-empt
- (iii) You have 3-card support for the other major and it might be your partner who is being shut out.

With 10 hcp and a 7-loser hand, opening 1♠ instead makes a lot of sense.

FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 6								
Contract	Result	Score	Frequency					
2♥ by EW	+4	-230	1					
4♥ by EW	+2	-680	8					
4♠ by EW	+2	-680	2					

6 by EW = -1430 4 In this event, only 4 of 15

bid a slam.



This article was derived from Bridgefeed Website

How do you play this hand?



You each a contract of 5*/South after no opponent bidding.

Opening Lead:

- T1 West leads ♠2 lead, East wins ♠K
- T2 East cashes **A**
- T3 East leads a third spade. Which you ruff high with 17 in Hand

How do you now play this hand?

Counting your top winners:

6x♦ + 1♥+ 2♣ = 9. (2 tricks short). But extras can come from either the Heart or Club suits. **Count your top losers**: 2x♠ (cashed)

There are four of possible lines of play to make your 5 contract.

- Run ♥Q finessing hopefully West's ♥K.
 then cashing ♥A & ruffing a ♥. Hoping
 wests hearts are exactly ♥Kx or ♥Kxx. You
 need 3 heart tricks to pitch 2 ♣ losers.
- 2. Better is to Play ♥Q to ♥A, then run ♥J finessing hopefully East's ♥K. If he does not cover, the finesse can be repeated.
- 3. Finesse hopefully **East's ♣Q**, then hope clubs are breaking 33 for the contract.
- Cash ♣AK, If the ♣Q comes down you are OK making 4 club tricks.

Best Solution:

Your best shot is to try line 4 first, to see if the ♣Q drops, then take your best guess on who has the ♥K. Better chance is ♥Q to ♥A & finesse East.

This **combination of chances**, cashing the top Clubs before the Heart guess is the most likely to succeed. On the actual deal, the ♣Q drops & you do not have to find the heart, 6♦+4♣+1♥=11

Full Deal	North ♣ 765	
West	♥ AJT9	East
♠ Q842	◆ KT8	♠ AKT3
♥ K876	♣ J53	♥ 5432
◆ 543		♦ 6
. Q2	South (D)	◆ 9876
	▲ J9	
Lood	♥ Q	
Lead •2	◆ AQJ974	
	◆ AKT4	

♦ JF – Grand Slam



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

Julian Foster

	North	Dealer: West			
	♣ 7652	Vul: All			
West (D)	♥ KJ5	East			
♠ AKJT93	♦ QJ63	. Q			
♥ A	♣ 52	♥ QT64			
♦ A92	A-1	 ↑ T3 ♠ AKJ864 			
♣ Q73	South				
7	<u>♦</u> 84	A . VANT			
18 12	♥ 98732	N			
3	♦ K874	E 7 227 7			
	♣ T9	W 7 2 2 7 7			

was asked a question about board 20, specifically whatever it's possible to bid a grand slam even though EW are missing two kings.

Bidding slams is hard – many are missed even at world championship level. It is not about brute strength or honour cards though – it is more about being able to visualise where you will get tricks from and ensuring you have all suits controlled. Just because we are missing two kings doesn't mean we can't bid a grand slam – we might easily have 13 tricks with two long suits (on this hand we have 14!) Let's have a look and see how we could bid it.

Looking at the results I see two pairs did reach slam in clubs. Both started by opening the West hand 2. (strong). Even though it's a very nice hand I personally would open it 1♠. It depends a little on what you play 2♣ as. These days quite a few pairs agree 2♣ is an unconditional game force. If you do that then this hand isn't good enough - it has 5 losers and only 7 certain tricks. Opening 2♣ has another downside - the amount of bidding space it consumes. It's easy to get quite high before you find out what, if any, fit you have. That leaves less room later to judge whether slam is available. If West had opened 2♣ I would respond 3♣ with East traditionally a positive response. There is no need to jump. Indeed it's far better NOT to jump. 3♣ will establish a game force (even if 2♣ hadn't already) and, as mentioned above, we have already used a lot of bidding space. Hence you want to leave room for partner to tell you why they opened 2♣.

West (D)	North	East	South
1∳	Р	2♣	Р
3♠	Р	4♠	Р
4NT	Р	5♦	Р
5♥	P	6♣	Р
6♦	P	7♠	All P

Returning to the more normal situation where West opens 1♠, East will bid 2♠ (which I am assuming is 10+ points, but not game forcing – see advanced section for a bit more about this). Now what? West should rebid 3♠ in my view. That is game forcing. Why? Because it is showing a better than minimum hand (15+) and partners response showed 10+.

Does it set spades as trumps? No. It just shows 6+ spades (usually fairly good ones – with a broken suit you might choose to bid NT or something else). West cannot raise clubs because East doesn't promise to have to have more than 4 for a 2♣ bid. What would you respond with a 2434 10 point hand?

Back to East. At this point I would raise to 4♠ even though I only have one. That's because it's the ♠Q which is likely to be very useful to fill in gaps in partner's suit. Bidding 3NT could be silly as I have nothing in diamonds. If I had a small singleton spade I would probably bid 4♣ which should be NATURAL (please don't play 4♣ as Gerber ace ask – it is massively inferior, there are so many situations where you need 4♣ to be natural, or a cue bid instead).

If East does bid 4♠ then West can happily blackwood over that and the pair should then reach at least 6♠. Over 4♠ West can also start slam explorations with **4NT key card blackwood**. They have an enormous hand, partner has raised spades, they have both red aces and, most importantly of all, they have ♠Qxx in the suit partner bid first which should help to set it up. East will show 1 key card. So the auction so far has been 1♠-2♠-3♠-4♠-4NT-5♦ (or 5♣ depending on what blackwood responses you play to show 1 keycard).

Now West should ask for the Queen of trumps and when East confirms they hold that card, West can bid slam. Playing matchpoints you prefer to play in spades – indeed with this auction West still doesn't even know there is a club fit.

Is it feasible to bid to a grand slam? Yes very much so provided you have some more

agreements about what happens after blackwood – see advanced section. There is of course nothing to the play on this hand – you have 14 top tricks!

Key points to note

- Opening 2strong consumes a lot of space and should be reserved for REALLY strong hands
- After a 2 level response, any jump rebid by opener is game forcing because it's showing at least 15 points opposite at least 10.
- Always playing 4. as ace ask is not a good method – there are many situations where you want 4. as a natural bid or as a cue bid.
- Slam bidding requires partnership trust, an appreciation of the trick taking power of hands, and an ability to ensure you have all the suits controlled.

More advanced

First a minor diversion – some pairs play a "2 over 1" method where a 2-level response is itself game forcing. East is worth that here with their good suit. Over that, it is then a matter of partnership agreement whether West should leave more room and just bid 2♠ or whether they should try and express their extra values by jumping to 3♠ anyway. It is important for 2 over 1 players to discuss what bids show extra values and what bids don't.

Let us return to our auction. So far it's 1♣-2♣-3♣-4♣-4NT-5♦. Getting to use blackwood is always nice as it means we are near the slam zone. But many pairs don't discuss what happens next. There are many possible schemes but one that is almost universal over the 5♣/5♦ responses is the next bid up (in a side suit – so 5♦ or 5♥ here) asks for the Q of trumps (this is obviously not needed over 5♣/5♦ responses as they already deny and show that card).

There are variations in responses. A method I play with my regular partner is quite popular and works very well on this hand. It tells partner about the Q but, when I have the Q, I also tell him about my side suit kings. Knowing exactly

WHICH side suit king you have can help partner enormously.

Responses are:

- Most economical of the trump suit or NT (5♣ here) = Denies the Q of trumps (this doesn't say anything about kings).
- Least economical of the trump suit of NT (5NT here) = Shows the Q of trumps but denies any side suit king.
- Bids of other suits = Show the Q of trumps and the K of this suit (if you are lucky enough to have 2 kings, show the more economical or the one you think will be of most use for partner to know about).

Here East now bids 6♣ which shows the ♠Q and the ♣K. This is music to West's ears – they now know they have 6 spade tricks, ♣AKQ and the two red aces. That's 11 tricks already. And whenever East has length in clubs (remember West doesn't know this yet) those are likely to take more tricks.

Note the enormous difference knowing East has the ♣K. Just knowing East had ONE side suit king is nowhere near as useful – the ♦K or ♥K will only be worth 1 trick whereas the ♣K could be worth lots as it will usually make the whole club suit run.

Similar principles apply to other blackwood continuations – e.g. a bid that asks for kings (some play this as 5NT, others as the next available side suit step). You can play responses showing the number of kings, or specific kings. The latter is better in my view. In our auction after 6♣ it is not unreasonable for West to just bid 7♠ directly – they are effectively gambling that East has at least 5 clubs (so a 5-3 club fit will produce 5 tricks when they split 3-2). 5 clubs, 6 spades and 2 aces = 13. However, if West is concerned that East still might have the 2434 sort of hand shape that I mentioned earlier then they can try something else.

If at this point West bids 6♦ or 6♥ this must logically be a grand slam try. Why? Because if they were only interested in 6♠ they would just have bid that directly. Therefore, when they do something else they are trying to consult their partner about bidding to 7 or not. If East is not interested they should sign off in 6♠. Here, however, East should most definitely accept

that offer because they are hav,e a good 6 card club suit which partner doesn't know about (yet partner is STILL looking for grand slam all by themselves!)

Note how much trust this requires. East trusts that West would only bid 6♦ or 6♥ when they have all the top controls (which West knows following the blackwood response). East also needs to appreciate what they could have had for their bidding to date – and therefore how much better their actual hand is than that! I would actually bid 7♠ over 6♦ or 6♥to try and tell partner I think that might be a playable spot. Now West knows East has long clubs so they can count 13 tricks (6♠, ♥A, ◆A and at least 5♠) and bid 7NT. At matchpoints bidding and making a grand slam always tends to score well but getting the extra 10 points for bidding 7NT is really the icing on the cake!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

♦ Thursday Comp Night –Q3/4 2023

The Next Event is the True Mixed Teams in November





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



Then the 2024 Calendar starts on 28/dec with the Summer Imp Pairs (2 nights.. Canberra Warm-up).



2024 Draft Comp Night Program

2024 Tentative Comp Night Events Program								
Start Date	N	Ven	Type Grade CC Event Name					
Thu-28-Dec	2	RB	Pairs	Open	Summer Imp Pairs			
Thu-25-Jan	4	RB	Teams	Open	Summer Teams			
Thu-07-Mar	3	RB	Pairs	Open	Club Mixed Pairs Championships (State Qual)			

2023 NSBC Congress Programme

♦ 16 Dec RB Festive Congress Swiss Pairs





NSBC Festive Season Online Swiss Pairs Saturday 16th December 2023 on RealBridge 10:00am Start 2 Sessions - Swiss Pairs (IMP) Event Prize Pool: Generous, but dependent on Entries Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Gary Barwick 0413 884 805 Director: Ronnie Ng Entry Management: Enter by MyABF MYABF Pre-Payments: Visitors use MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to select "Club PP System" Pre-Payments: Visitors use myour created & Linden Raymond 2022 Winners: Michael Courtney & Linden Raymond Conducted under the auspices o uspices of the NSWBA . The ABF has

Player Fees (pp) \$30pp

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB

approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4. All players are subject to the NSWBA's Disciplinary Regulations.

17 Dec RB Festive Congress Swiss Teams





2024 Draft Congress Program

2024 Tentative Congress Events Program							
Dates	Ven	Туре	Grade	CC Congress Name			
Sun-7-Jan	RB	Teams Open Summer Teams					
Sun-28-Jan	RB	Pairs	Open	Aust Day Weekend Swiss Pairs			
Sun-10-Mar	EL	Pairs	Open	Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs			
Sun-21-Apr	RB	Pairs	Open	Online Autumn Swiss Pairs			

Bridge Lessons.



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. Eddle 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!