



## Wednesday Wisdom

### The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative) will be analysing an interesting hand from each Wednesday morning session. This hand commentary will be sent to participants before the next Wednesday BBO session.

You are also welcome to [send questions](#) about hands that you have played. We will collate them and let our panellists leading by Julian Foster to answer them.

## #73045 BBO – Wednesday morning session 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

<b>14</b>	♠ AQ9	Dir: E																													
	♥ A84	Vul: None																													
	♦ Q9642																														
	♣ A2																														
♠ 542	♠ KT6																														
♥ T95	♥ KQJ76																														
♦ KT7	♦ 53																														
♣ J986	♣ Q43																														
16	♠ J873	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	1	4	2	S	2	4	1	4	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
♣	♦		♥	♠	NT																										
N	2		4	1	4	2																									
S	2		4	1	4	2																									
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										
4	♥ 32																														
11	♦ AJ8																														
9	♣ KT75																														

Board 14 last week brought up the situation when bidding in “protective” position and some play & defence tips too.

If East passes as dealer it is likely to be passed round to North who will open 1NT (15-17). South will probably try stayman and when there isn't a spade fit will bid 3NT.

However these days many Easts will open 1♥. I would too. Even though I only have 11 points it's such a good suit I want partner to lead it, and it makes bidding easier if you get in first.

West might dredge up a raise to 2♥ but this is dubious with such poor shape. If he passes the spotlight falls on North. What does 1NT mean now after 1♥ P P? Is it the same as bidding 1NT immediately over 1♥ (i.e. 15-17)?

Some pairs agree it is still 15-17 but a very common treatment is for it to be weaker (11-14). Why the difference? It's because South may have had to pass with quite a reasonable hand (he could easily have a balanced 12-14 points that just can't bid over 1♥). It would be quite embarrassing to pass out 1♥ when you both have balanced hands with 14 points! So North is in “protective” seat - meaning they may need to bid on hands lighter than normal to allow for the fact partner may not have been able to bid. A broad rule of thumb in this position is to mentally add 2-3 points to your hand and bid like that. At the same time partner needs to mentally DEDUCT 2-3 points from their hand to compensate!

So what should North do with 16 points (which they mentally treat as 18-19)? Start with double and then rebid NT. Here South will probably respond 1♠ over the double (they should mentally treat their hand as 6-7 points instead of 9) and then raise the 1NT rebid to 3NT so the same spot will be reached.

What about the play? The obvious ♥K lead should lead to the contract going off. Declarer should duck the first two rounds of hearts and win the third (at the table it looks like two declarers didn't do this, they won the 2nd round of hearts but this isn't effective to cut off East's long heart suit). Declarer then takes the diamond finesse (no doubt quite hopeful it will win if East opened the bidding). Even when that disappointingly loses West at least has no more hearts so the contract isn't immediately doomed. But a spade return should beat it as declarer only has 8 tricks (even if they take the ♠A they only have 1♠, 1♥, 4♦ and 2♣). However, see the advanced section for more about the defence and play.

### Key points to note

- It is advantageous to get into the bidding first. Don't be ashamed to open with 11 points - especially when you have a good suit that you are happy for partner to lead.
- After an auction of bid pass pass to you, you are in “protective” seat and should be aware that partner may have had to pass some quite decent hands. You should therefore come back into the auction with weaker

hands than normal. A guide is to mentally add 2-3 points to your hand, partner should deduct the same from theirs.

- 1NT in protective position is frequently played as 11-14 rather than 15-17. Worth agreeing with your partner.
- Remember to hold up aces when declaring NT to reduce the defence's communications.
- Don't take a finesse you know cannot win - consider another line. Running a long suit can sometimes cause the defence insoluble problems (see advanced section).

### *More advanced*

Firstly, even though I recommended West pass 1♥ look how nasty it makes the bidding for NS if he does raise to 2♥. North can't really bid at all - 2NT is incredibly risky when East might be sitting over you with 19 points, and 3♦ with such a bad 5 card suit is just as bad.

So how do NS get into the auction? The answer is more "protection"! This time from South who should come back in with a double. This is actually pretty safe - they didn't make a takeout double of 1♥ to start with so they can't suddenly have one now. Double just says they do have the shape but didn't quite have the strength to act the first time. North needs to take that into account but with 16 points they may well just jump to 3NT since partner clearly has SOMETHING to come back in with a double. Note at the table that did have this auction, North bid only 3♦. Although they scored quite well this time, 3♦ is a big underbid here. They might have had almost nothing but in fact have 16 points! So they need to pretty much force to game (and just jumping to 3NT is the most practical way to do that).

What about the play and defence? When West wins the ♦K what suit should they switch to? It looks pretty obvious to play a spade anyway. But it is just possible declarer has ♠AKQ ♥A84 ♦Q9642 ♣32 and East has ♠1096 ♥KQJ76 ♦53 ♣AQ4. Now West needs to play a club (or declarer will score 4♠,1♥,4♦).

But there should be no doubt - East should have signalled spades. How? By a suit preference card when they played the third round of hearts. By then the layout is known so East has a free choice of which heart to use to knock out declarer's ace. The highest heart (J here) should clearly signal his entry is in spades. Holding the ♣A he should instead use the lowest heart (6 here) to knock out the ace.

So if West does play a spade now what? Assuming the auction did start 1♥ P P declarer knows this finesse cannot possibly win (having now seen the ♦K with West, East has to have the ♠K to even come close to a 1 level opening bid). So declarer should win the ♠A and try something else. On this particular hand it doesn't work but it might have done! Suppose East had started with the same hand they have but their clubs were QJx instead of Qxx. Look what happens when declarer starts running their diamond suit. East has to find 3 discards from K10 76 - QJ3. He can spare the S10 and one heart but then what on the last diamond? Discarding the ♠K is obviously fatal. A club discard will allow declarer to score the A, K and 10. So East has to pitch his winning heart. But now he no longer has two winners to beat the contract! Hence declarer now has time to knock out his ♠K to set up 2♠,1♥,4♦ and 2♣. It's amazing what can sometimes happen when you just run your long suit!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

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The Sydney Bridge Centre is running a **F2F Matchpointed Swiss Pairs Congress** on Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney. It is a one-day congress with 24 boards in the morning, lunch break, then another 24 boards in the afternoon. A delicious light lunch is included.

An invaluable and meaningful prize for the Open winners, the Overall Novice & Restricted winners and the Best Novice (or Restricted) winners – **Over the Shoulder Mentoring** by a Teams of Three Captain, including Derrick Browne.

**RED** masterpoints awarded. Please refer to [programme brochure](#) for details and [enter online](#).

### The Sydney Bridge Centre is now running F2F club sessions AND online sessions on BBO

Yes, we have reopened on Goulburn Street only. Rozelle and Henley remain closed for the time being. We are now running F2F sessions in the City AND also online sessions on BBO. Please find our full session timetable on our website:

<https://www.sydneybridgecentre.com/sbc-sessions/>

#### For Face-to-Face sessions:

All are welcome but due to Covid restrictions the numbers are limited. It is essential that you pre-book for these sessions via this [F2F Session Booking Form](#). Walk-ins are welcome for sessions which are not fully booked.

Normal table money fee.

#### For BBO sessions:

All are welcome. No need to book. Please find us on BBO / Featured Areas / Virtual Clubs / ABF-Australia. Tournament title "Sydney Bridge Centre & Friends". Tournament will open only 2 hours before the game starts.

BB\$3 per person per game.