



## Weekly Wisdom

### The Sydney Bridge Centre mini lesson

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative) will be analysing an interesting hand from each Saturday ARVO BBO session. To subscribe, please email your name and email address to [office@sydneybridgecentre.com](mailto:office@sydneybridgecentre.com).

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

## #12979 BBO – Saturday ARVO session 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

9	♠ KJ8	Dir: N																									
	♥ Q4	Vul: E-W																									
	♦ AQJ32																										
	♣ T73																										
♠ Q74	♠ A3																										
♥ A93	♥ K762																										
♦ T954	♦ 76																										
♣ KJ9	♣ AQ852																										
13	♠ T9652	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	S	-	-	-	2	E	3	-	2	-	W	3	-	2	-
♣	♦		♥	♠	NT																						
N	-		-	-	2																						
S	-		-	-	2																						
E	3	-	2	-																							
W	3	-	2	-																							
10	♥ JT85																										
13	♦ K8																										
4	♣ 64																										

Despite a total of 43 tables playing in the SBC online charity pairs event held last Saturday, 18 tables still played in the regular duplicate. I guess there's fewer opportunities for doing other things with most of us in lockdown – hope everyone is doing alright!

Board 9 last week was a fairly typical part-score hand. Scores ranged from NS+200 (3♣ 2 off) to EW+180 (2NT +2). But, as so often in pairs, a plus score was the important thing. Let's see what might happen.

Playing standard North has a normal 1♦ opening (see advanced section for another option). What about East? At the table 5 players chose double and 13

chose 2♣. I can't say I am a particular fan of either of these! If you double you need to have a plan for what you will do if partner bids spades. Normally doubling and bidding again shows a very big hand so you can't double and then bid 2♣ or 1NT over 1♠. You may just have to pass and hope partner has at least 5 spades – not ideal! If East does double it will work well this time because West's most descriptive bid is probably 1NT which may well end the auction and will make at least 8 tricks – these pairs got the best scores today.

A 2♣ overcall by East is risky for a number of reasons, most of which I raised in last week's column!

- You only have 5 clubs
- The quality of your clubs is poor
- Your hand is relatively balanced
- The vulnerability is unfavourable so even 1 off doubled is -200 and likely to be a horrid result

I actually think I would pass which, unless West decides to come back in with 1NT (usually showing 11-14 in protective seat) might lead to 1♦ being the final contract! Provided the defence lead trumps, they can beat that. However a big majority did overcall 2♣ so let's consider what happened then. South passes and many Wests raised to 3♣. I prefer a cue-raise – i.e. 2♦ which shows a good club raise usually around 9+ points (an immediate bid of 3♣ is better played as just a weaker hand making it harder for North to come back into the auction). Over 2♦ North may not bid again (but see advanced section for thoughts on what double means here). East's next bid should be 2♥. Just because partner has shown a raise of clubs doesn't mean he cannot have 4 hearts so we might as well explore that especially as a cue raise can still be a very strong hand – 4♥ could easily be our best spot. On this occasion, West has a minimum for their cue raise and will return to 3♣ since they cannot bid NT without a diamond stop.

So the final contract is likely to be 3♣ by East (9 tables played in a club part-score EW).

After North's opening bid, South will most likely lead ♦K and the defence will start with 3 rounds of the suit. East will ruff (most likely high) and then have to decide how to play it. Most tables drew trumps and then either hoped

South held ♠K or that hearts were 3-3. Neither worked and they ended up making 8 tricks for -100. But the contract can be made - see advanced section for more on the play.

### Key points to note

- 2 level overcalls with balanced hands and poor 5 card suits are generally a losing proposition – especially when vulnerable.
- Direct raises of overcalls are best played as weaker hands – good raises (9+) make a cue bid of the opponents' suit.
- Just because partner has raised your overcall doesn't preclude them having a fit for an unbid 4 card major – it is worth exploring that option.
- Count losers when declaring but think about how many there will be if you draw trumps. If too many, you may need to defer drawing trumps.
- Watch the opponents points and signals – they need to help each other so they will often give you a clue where some key cards are (see advanced section).

### More advanced

In standard methods North has a normal 1♦ opening but regular readers will know I am a fan of the weak NT. Here if North opens a 12-14 1NT it makes life very tough for East West. In fact they may well not be able to bid at all. East is unlikely to act over 1NT, South can bid stayman and over the 2♦ response bids 2♠ to play. Neither East nor West has an easy way into the auction but 2♠ will make (losing 1♠, 2♥, 2♣). +110 NS is a great score!

There is a small point to consider if the auction does go 1♦ 2♣ P 2♦ back to North. Specifically what does double mean? There are a few possible methods played so it is definitely worth agreeing with your regular partner what it means for your partnership:

- Showing good diamonds
- Takeout of clubs (because the opponents have effectively bid and raised clubs)
- Anti-lead directional (i.e. showing a bad diamond holding and a likely better lead elsewhere) – this is much rarer and you would never assume this in an unfamiliar partnership!

Showing good diamonds is probably the best assumption in an unfamiliar partnership. Takeout of clubs is less useful in practice because you are likely to get another chance to do that – the auction could continue 3♣ P P back to you. Also you may get to hear whether the opponents have extra values before committing to another bid. Wading in with a takeout double straight away is risky and needs to be a good hand because partner has passed and both opponents could have decent hands ready to double you!

Returning to the play in 3♣ - East's first decision should be what to ruff the 3rd round of diamonds with. Although the 8 works here, the A or Q are probably better – you would feel silly getting overruffed with the ♣10 when trumps were 3-2 all along. But then what? On the face of it you might think you only have 1 spade loser, 1 heart loser and 2 diamond losers. But look more closely and you should see that, after drawing trumps, you actually then may have 2 heart losers.

Can South have the ♠K (so we could set the ♠Q up for a discard)? No, not really. There are only 17 points missing and declarer has already seen ♦K with South. It is highly likely North has the ♠K. There is another reason too. North should have been giving South a signal when they played their diamonds (as North is hoping South will be able to get in with an over-ruff). So at trick 2 North should have won ♦A and then continued with the ♦Q as a suit preference signal for spades. Had they wanted South to play hearts, they could have won the ♦J at trick 2 and continued with the ♦Q.

So, with ♠K in the North hand, how should declarer proceed? Hearts 3-3 is certainly a chance but a better bet is simply to try and ruff your 4th heart in dummy. In other words don't immediately draw trumps but instead play 3 rounds of hearts. As it turns out South wins the 3rd round and cannot play a 4th diamond through you (if that did

happen declarer should just discard their spade loser and not ruff). Playing 3 rounds of hearts now sets up the chance to ruff the 4th heart in dummy with the K or J which leads to 9 tricks via 1♠, 2♥, 5♣ and 1♥ ruff.

Can declarer recover if they do draw trumps? Yes if they read the hand perfectly. They only play 2 rounds of hearts ending with the ♥A in West and reach this position:

	KJ8	
	-	
	J3	
	-	
Q74		A3
9		76
10		-
-		8
	1096	
	J10	
	-	
	-	

Now (assuming North has the ♠K), they lead the ♦10 from dummy and when North plays the ♦J, discard a heart. North will probably now play their last diamond but instead of ruffing, declarer simply discards his other heart! This leaves North endplayed to lead away from the ♠K. But that line of course looks very silly if hearts were 3-3 all along!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

### RED masterpoints for the first 3 NEW BBO sessions



We heard you! Starting from 26th July, there will be **NEW BBO sessions** on **Tuesday Night** (7.15pm) and **Friday Morning** (10.15am).

**RED** masterpoints for the first 3 Tuesday Night and Friday Morning:

- **RED Tuesday Night** on 27th July, 3rd August and 10th August
- **RED Friday Morning** on 30th July, 6th August, 13th August

We will play 24 boards in these sessions.

BB\$4 per person for 24-board sessions.

### The Sydney Bridge Centre online sessions on BBO during temporary lockdown

Our clubroom on Goulburn Street is temporary closed under the current restriction. We are running regular club session online on BBO for the moment and will resume our F2F sessions once we can. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for the latest announcement.

#### 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.