

No Passing Zone

Brown Bridge Studio
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Brighton 3186
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Really Easy

♠ KQJ109
♥ 2
♦ A5
♣ AKJ54

You open the bidding with 1♠, LHO passes and partner bids 4♠. Is 4♠ a weak bid or a strong bid?

Answer: pg 9

Bridge Newsletter



Editor's Desk - It's Not Hard

"There are three kinds of bridge Players: Those who can count and those who can't." I think it was Alfred Sheinwold who first coined that phrase. I find it interesting because I tell my students... "the only thing that separates you from the Bridge player you are now and the Bridge player you want to become, is that the Bridge Player you want to become - counts!! Alfred's quote is intended to be funny. Mine is meant to be serious. Count, count, count! Count points - count distribution - count trumps.

**It's Not Hard
Count Points**

If LHO opens 1♥ and RHO passes, RHO has less than 6 points, so keep an eye out for any points they do turn up with. It can be revealing.

**It's Not Hard
Count Distribution**

Pre-emptive bids are hands where the distribution can be revealing. If RHO opens 3♥ you can expect a 7-card heart suit. This leaves 6 unknown cards in the other three suits. Keep an eye out for these six cards and you become a better player.

**It's Not Hard
Count Trumps**

Perhaps counting all four suits is a bit of an ask. How about

just focusing on the trump suit. You are playing in a 4-4 fit. There are only 5 trumps missing. Keep an eye out for them

**It's Not Hard
Practice Counting**

"There are three kinds of Bridge Players: Those who can count and those who can't..."

Practice 'Counting' Points, Distribution and Trumps. Count every time you play bridge and you will receive the gift of becoming a much stronger card player.

It's That Simple

Congratulations

Meredith Lambert Our top master-point winner for 2009 with almost **70 points!**

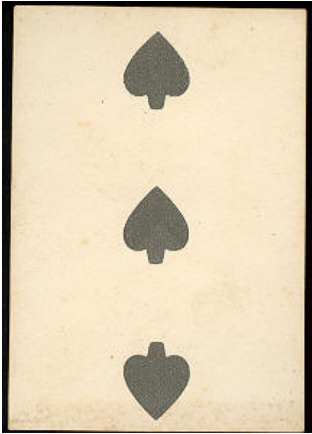
The **178 graduates** of the Introductory Bridge program for 2009. Welcome to the club and I want you to know that 2010 will be a year of unraveling that mountain of information you have jammed in your heads.

John and Lucy Fine for achieving the lofty heights of **Grand Life Master.**

Charles Baker for returning to health from his experience with cancer. Health is everything.

Sue Small and Flossie Aizen (see page 3 as to why)

George Gaspar for two major victories in the New Year Congress.



EASY 3NT by South

♠ 742
♥ AQ2
♦ AK5
♣ Q973

♥ 4 led

♠ AK63
♥ 75
♦ QJ4
♣ KJ102

Which card do you play from dummy at trick one?

Answer page 9

Rule of 10, 11 & 12

Everyone knows the 'Rule of 11'. When an opponent or partner leads 4th best from their longest suit (say the ♥7) if you subtract the value of the card led from 11 the answer reveals how many cards are out that can beat the ♥7.

Some experts now lead 3rd and 5th best! We can handle that too. If 3rd best use the 'Rule of 12' And if the card led is 5th best use the 'Rule of 10'. All three rules are applied the same way.

The Importance of Partnership Trust:

Too many times I will question a player, whom I deem to be fairly competent, about a bid that seemed a bit outrageous. The answer all too often is: "I would have made the right bid but I was unsure if my partner would understand it." I am surprised. In most partnerships one player is assumed to be the stronger player

of the two. If you are that stronger player then you have an obligation to make the right bid even if you think

"...the stronger player has an obligation to make the right bid at all times..."

partner might forget or misunderstand. Partner might get it right

and enjoy a learning curve. Or they might forget (yes you may get a bad score) but partner will still gain the experience of their error. That is how we all learn. Partnership trust equates into a stronger partnership. Allow the lesser player to learn by you doing the right thing. This is respect.

The Following Do Not Have to Pay Membership Fees

We will also pay your ABF fees.

Senior Life Membership

Barry Samuels

Ray Rockman

Betty Salter

Edith Sheezel

Kenneth Rossdale

Sheleagh Davidson

Founding Life Member

Pam Borin

Loyalty Member

Jeff Kahan (2010 free)

Top Masterpoint Member

Meredith Lambert (2010 free)

Defence

Holding ♥942 you may lead the ♥4 (MUD). But the premise changes when you have raised partner's suit. Say you hold the ♥942 and responded 2♥ to partner's 1♥ opening. The opponents buy the contract in 4♠. Partner knows you have 3+ card support so it is okay to lead the ♥9, to deny an honor card in the suit. Partner knows it's not a doubleton!

Declarer Play

When winning a trick as declarer make sure you always win with a card that is most likely to leave the opponents in the dark. Say you are in 3NT and hold ♥KQ3. LHO leads the ♥5 and RHO plays the ♥J. Always win with the ♥K. LHO will be unsure as to who holds the ♥Q, you or his partner!

Bidding

Conventions do not make winners - Card Play does! Too many conventions is the undoing of most club level players. They suffer memory fatigue, trying to remember all the gadgets of their system. Think of the arguments you have over system! If you want to emulate the experts, learn the common suit combinations and how to play the cards. This is what makes a winner!

Tables Fees to Rise at Spink Street Venue \$2

Table fees in 2000 were \$8 for members. They went up to \$10 in 2005. They will now rise \$2 again. This is unavoidable. Don't scream at us. If you must scream, scream at our land-lord, the electricity board, the insurance company, the various suppliers of Bridge products, kitchen supplies and whoever else dips into our pocket every month. It is just a fact of life. To ease your pain, we will stretch the fee increase over 2 years. \$1 this year and another dollar next year. In 2010 members pay **\$11** and non-members pay **\$13**. In supervised sessions, the price will increase to **\$14** for members and **\$16** for non-members. This will take effect February 1, 2010. Your Club Membership fees remain the same and still include ABF membership. See page 5 for membership registration.

Sue Small and Flossie Aizen

The Jim Borin Memorial Swiss Pairs was held Saturday January 2 at Spink St. It was an arduous 2 session event with 30 tables in play and some of Victoria's top players in attendance. My partner Helen Stewart and I managed to crawl up to table 4 for the last round, granting us some semblance of respectability and a chance to win it. A quick glance at the top 3 tables revealed several top seeds battling it out. That was when I spotted our own Sue Small and Flossie Aizen at table three playing against a top pair. Sue and Flossie were only 8 Victory Points out of first place and had placed themselves in a position where they could win it all. Very well done ladies! You have represented the club well and we are proud of your accomplishments.

Table Fees to Rise at the following Venues \$1

Brighton Beach Bridge Club \$13 for duplicate

McKinnon Bridge Club \$13 for duplicate

Toorak Bridge Clubs: \$13 duplicate (same) \$14 for supervised.

New Starting Times: McKinnon and Brighton Beach

With the increase of \$1 at McKinnon and Brighton Beach we will also increase the number of boards played from **24 to 27**. In order to facilitate the extra boards we will start the game 15 minutes early. Hence, game time at both venues will start at **9.45am**.

"We play forcing hesitations".

- Dorothy Haden



Hard 3NT by South

♠ 93
♥ 963
♦ AK6
♣ AQ973

♠4 led

♠ KQ7
♥ AQJ5
♦ Q105
♣ J104

Dummy plays the 3 and East plays the 10. Your play?

Answer page 9

Staff Members

Gary Brown
Joanne Brown
Jai Dale
Valerie Daly
Phil Flynn
George Gaspar
Laurie Kelso
Wilma Mustow
Tim Orr
Penny Purbrick
Margaret Schofield
Colin Shugg
Judith Wood

Gary's Top Bridge Tip #8

'Help Suit Game Try' is all about Complementary High Cards

Wouldn't it be nice to reach game holding this combined 20 count?

West	East
♠ KQ3	♠ 42
♥ KQ7654	♥ 9832
♦ 7	♦ 985
♣ A84	♣ KQJ7

In a real life situation, W opened 1♥ and E responded 2♥. W now bid 3♥ as a way of showing interest in game if E had a maximum, and E thinking she had a minimum hand, declined the offer, signing off in 3♥. The excellent contract of 4♥, missed. E lamented that...“in hindsight, perhaps we should have bid it, but how to know, with only a 20 count?” That is when I realized that HSGT also stands for HindSiGhT. Help Suit Game Try allows hindsight to become foresight: The auction should go: 1♥ - 2♥ - 3♣! - 4♥. The 3♣ is an example of a Help Suit Game Try in action. E now has the ‘hindsight’ of how important her club values are.

Complementary High Cards = Action Auctions

Help Suit Game Tries are based on the principle of Complementary High Cards. If your HCP complement partner's suit(s) it is good reason to bid more. If your HCP are outside of partner's suit(s) it is reason to bid less. Queens are given a value of two points. However, if your Queen is opposite KJX in partner's hand, she becomes a monarch with considerable power. She complements the KJX, enhancing and consolidating their value. If however, your queen is opposite XXX, her power is significantly diminished. The crown sits uneasy. She is alone, her power uncertain, in fear of the guillotine. In part score battles you can benefit greatly from applying your knowledge of complementary high cards in deciding whether to bid (action auction) or to pass. Say the auction goes:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♦	2♦*	3♦	?

* Michaels (5-5 in the majors)

1) ♠ QJ7 ♥ A76 ♦ 9763 ♣ 943

2) ♠ 765 ♥ 876 ♦ QJ94 ♣ A76

Should you bid with either of the above two hand after the above auction? With the first hand I would and with the second I would not. The reason is based on the location of my values. The power of the first hand is the way my high cards ‘fit’ into partner's suits, creating an ‘action auction’. With the second hand, my values are decidedly defensive in nature. 3♦ is under threat, so I will bide my bidding this time and defend with expectations of beating it. Heck, I might even double 3♦ !!

Brown Bridge Studio

2010 Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

E-MAIL: (print neatly) _____

ABF # _____ Home Club: _____

Membership is due by February 15. After that you will pay visitor's fees unless financial.

I have an ABF number which is active. (you are financial) _____

I have an ABF number but I am inactive. (non-financial) _____

I have never been issued with an ABF number. _____

I wish to transfer my HOME membership to this club. _____

I wish to retain my current HOME club. _____

*Home club member prices includes affiliation to the ABF. If **Brown Bridge Studio** or **Southern Bridge** is your Home Club, you pay **Home Club Members** Fees If not, then you pay '**Away Member**' fees.*

Please circle the applicable fee:

HOME CLUB MEMBER \$60

AWAY MEMBER (ABF fees not included) \$45

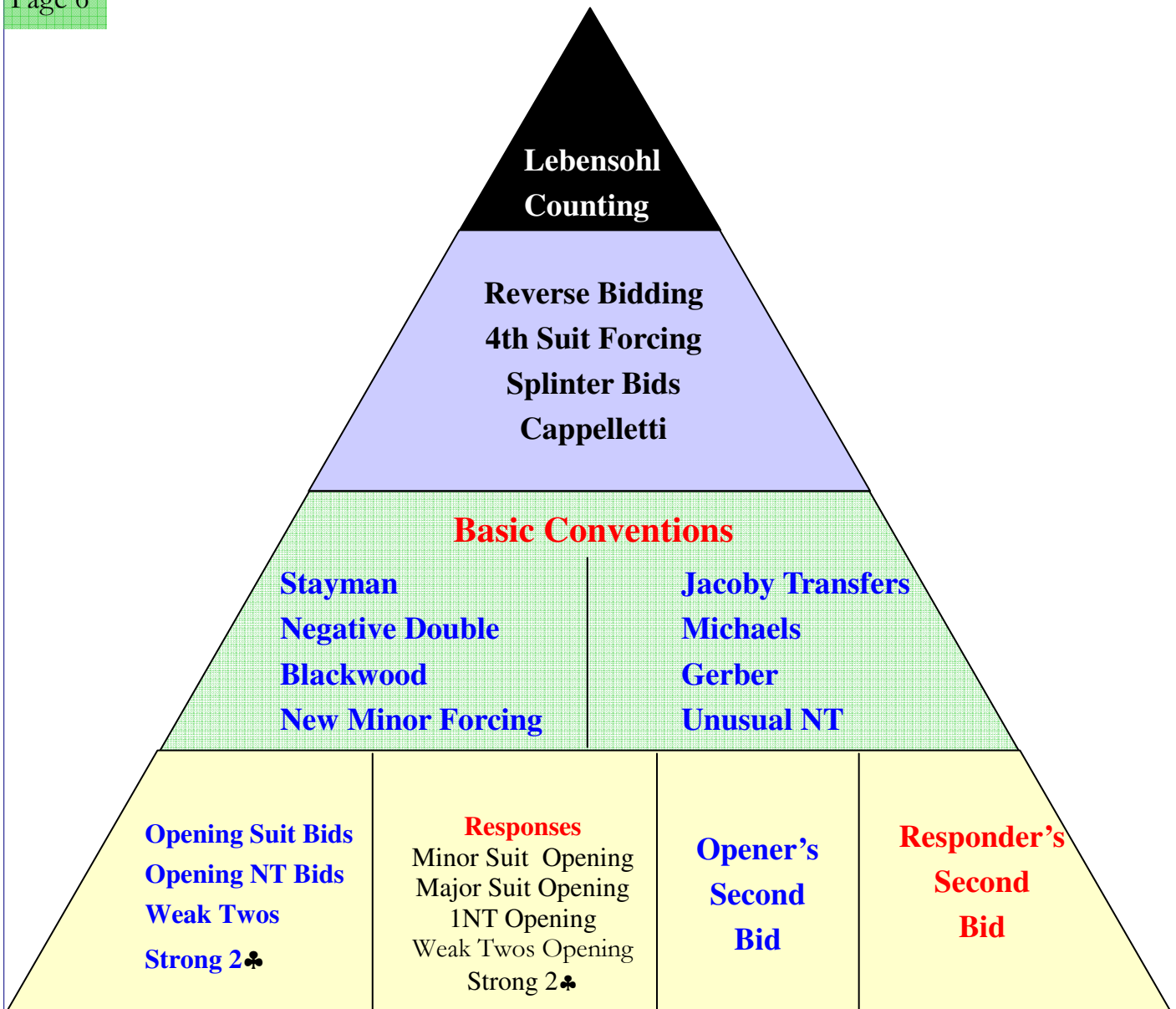
CENTRELINK PENSION CARD (show card) \$45

YOUTH (not yet 20 years of age) Free

ABF **requires** date of birth: Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____

Note: This is Membership for Brown Bridge Studio Only: All other venues do not require a membership fee and need only pay ABF membership and capitation fees. See Joanne or Judith to renew ABF membership.

20 SPINK STREET, BRIGHTON, 3186 VICTORIA

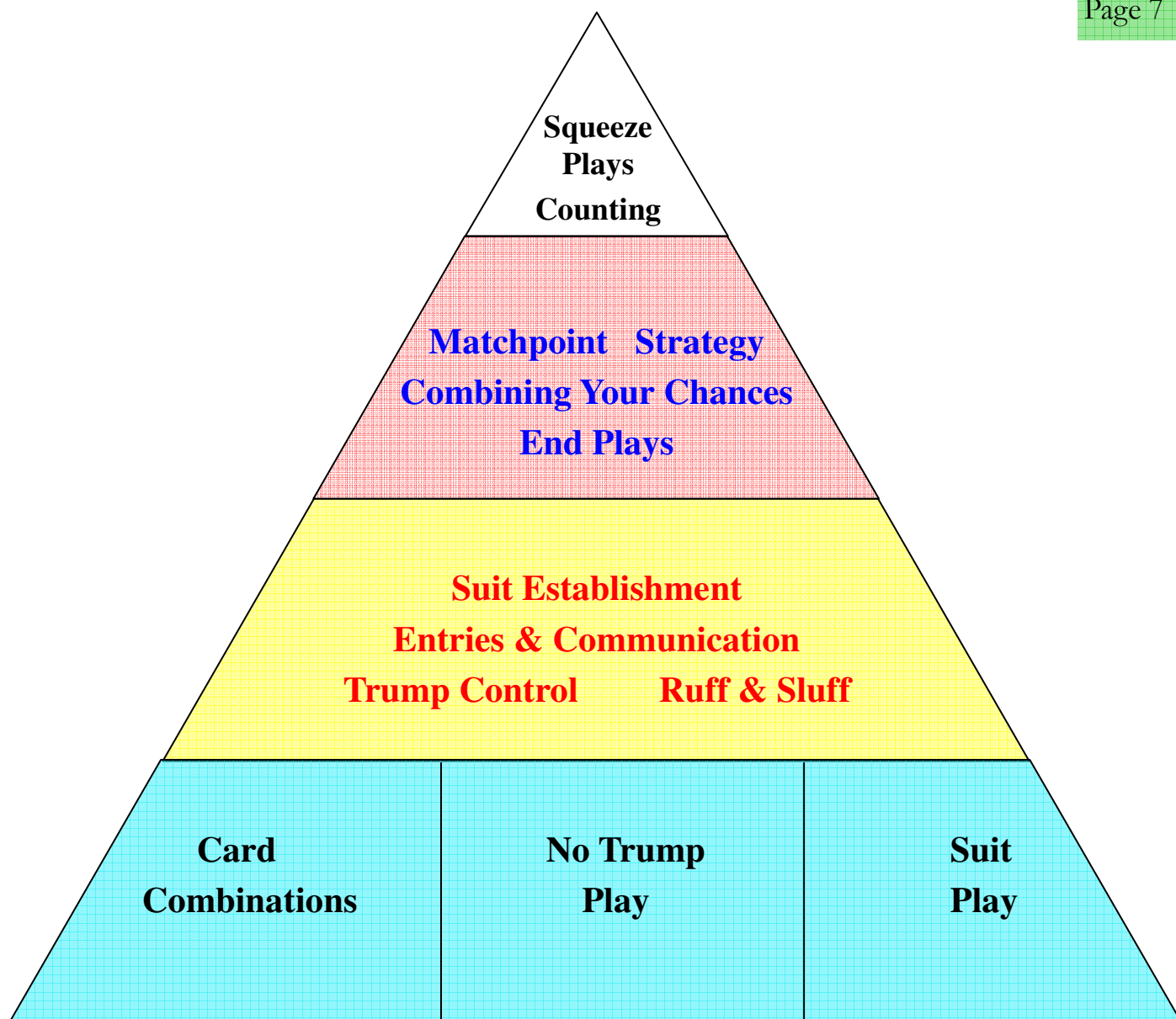


Bidding Pyramid of Knowledge

THIS PYRAMID IS NOT MEANT TO BE EXHAUSTIVE BUT IT DOES ENTAIL A BASIC BIDDING SYSTEM THAT SHOULD PUT YOU IN GOOD STEAD AT THE TABLE. STARTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID, YOUR GOAL IS TO WORK YOUR WAY UP THE PYRAMID. FOR A KNOWLEDGE BASED APPROACH TO THIS SYSTEM GO TO PAGE 10 (GRADUATE SEMINARS) AND BOOK YOURSELF IN. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GO BACK, REBUILD AND KEEP AN INTERESTED EYE ON YOUR DEVELOPMENT AS A BIDDER. IN THIS PARTICULAR PYRAMID, THERE ARE 13 CONVENTIONS SUGGESTED, THIS MAY SEEM DAUNTING, BUT WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CONVENTIONS, THIS SYTEM IS BARE BONES COMPRISED OF ONLY NECESSARY CONVENTIONS. IT IS VERY DOABLE. A BASIC GUIDE TO SYSTEM IS GARY'S 6TH BOOKLET STANDARD BIDDING *WITH 5-CARD MAJORS*. IT IS ONLY 20 PAGES, SELLS FOR \$12 AND OUTLINES THE VERY BIDDING STRUCTURE SUGGESTED IN PYRAMID ABOVE.

"One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts".

- Alfred Sheinwold



Card Play Pyramid of Knowledge

THE BASIC PREMISE OF THIS PYRAMID MODEL IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE AREAS OF CARD PLAY WHICH NEED ATTENTION. KNOW THE STUFF ON THE BOTTOM TIER BEFORE TACKLING THE THREE UPPER TIERS. THE BOTTOM TIER OFFERS THREE AREAS OF CARD PLAY THAT ARE A MUST IF EVER YOU ARE TO UNDERSTAND UPPER LEVEL CONCEPTS. THIS BOTTOM TIER WILL NEED REVISITING FOR YEARS TO COME AS YOU PROGRESS UP THE PYRAMID, IMPROVING YOUR STANDARD OF PLAY. FOR A KNOWLEDGE BASED ATTACK ON CARD PLAY, SEE THE LEVEL I CARD PLAY CLASSES ON PAGE 11.

"As soon as the dummy is exposed, you can see at a glance what suit can readily be established between the two hands, and the small cards of it made as useful as aces and kings."

- W. Dalton Practical Bridge 1908

North

♠ AJ532
♥ 82
♦ Q8
♣ A862

♥ 6 led

South

♠ 104
♥ A109
♦ AK9762
♣ K7

West	North	East	South
			1♦
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
pass	3♦	pass	3NT
All pass			

Social Bridge Corner

Intermediate Level

Fred is Dead

by Gary Brown

Difficulty Rating: **Medium**

The full deal:

North

♠ AJ532
♥ 82
♦ Q8
♣ A862

♠ Q9

♥ QJ763

♦ J543

♣ J3

♠ K876

♥ K54

♦ 10

♣ Q10954

South

♠ 104
♥ A109
♦ AK9762
♣ K7

“It is not easy living with your husband 24 hours a day and then partnering him at the bridge table.” That is what she told the police when she handed them the empty revolver. You know I have always said: “Husbands and wives should not partner each other at the bridge table” I always say that. However, sitting N/S at table #4 in a Saturday afternoon **Swiss Pairs** event, were Fred and Wilma Dimple. It was the last hand of the day and Fred was shell shocked. Sitting **S** he opened 1♦. The bidding went as shown, with Fred declaring 3NT. On the lead of the ♥6, Fred, remembering the **‘Rule of 7’**, held up on winning his ♥A until the third round. “Snipping communications between the opponents” he chanted quietly in his head, “snipping communications”. Wilma, as dummy, nodded approvingly and Fred commenced breathing. He then played a small diamond to the ♦Q (“high card from the short side first - high card from the short side”). When he next played the ♦8 back to hand, **E** discarded and the hand fell apart. **W** could eventually win a diamond and cash his hearts defeating the contract by a trick. Wilma, armed with hind-sight, berated him for not making the contract. With her face extended halfway across the table she glared, “the hand is cold you dimple.” “So are you”, thought Fred, hoping she couldn’t read his thoughts.

When Wilma admonished him in front of the opponents, Fred’s head would go dizzy and he could hardly sit still or hold a thought in his head.

“Only a bad diamond split threatens the contract. You simply have to finesse the ♦8. **W** is the danger hand. If **E** wins, what can she do?” Wilma sighed with disgust.

Unfortunately for Fred, Wilma was right about the safety play in diamonds. In IMP scoring he should have made the contract. Fred slumped in his chair, his baggy clothes hanging on him like the flag of a defeated country. Fred’s right hand opponent, (in an effort to offer some comfort) kindly noted that if it was match-points, Fred’s line of play would have been correct. The warmth of these words were welcomed as they cascaded over Fred like the warmth of a big bosomed cuddle, only to be doused by the cold water of that other voice, “but it’s not match points dimple-head”. In the car they argued all the way home. Wilma was absolutely enraged as she marched into the house - into the bedroom, got the family hand gun from the dresser drawer and the next thing she knew, the police were in her living room.

Really Easy

♠ KQJ109
♥ 2
♦ A5
♣ AKJ54

You open the bidding with 1♠, LHO passes and partner bids 4♠.

Is 4♠ a weak bid or a strong bid?

The jump to 4♠ is a weak bid! Partner has a hand with 5 trumps (maybe only 4 trumps with a singleton somewhere) and less than 10 points.. She is also interfering with the opponents ability to communicate with each other by taking up bidding space.

Easy

3NT by South

♠ 742
♥ AQ2
♦ AK5
♣ Q973

♥4 led

♠ AK63
♥ 75
♦ QJ4
♣ KJ102

Which card do you play from dummy at trick one?

With 6 certain tricks (2 spades, 1 heart and 3 diamonds) you need three more and they will come from clubs. You must get your clubs established before they get their hearts established. Therefore, play a small heart. Your ♥7 ensures that E must win the trick and when she does, she cannot hurt you in hearts or any other suit before you can knock out the ♣A and claim your 9 tricks.

Hard

3NT by South

♠ 93
♥ 963
♦ AK6
♣ AQ973

♠4 led

♠ KQ7
♥ AQJ5
♦ Q105
♣ J104

Dummy plays the ♠3, E plays the ♠10. Your play?

Should you win the first trick or duck it? Based on the ♠4 lead, W has at most a 5-card suit. So E has at least three spades. Whether you duck or win, E will have a spade left if you play on clubs and find she has the ♣K. Therefore, put the clubs on hold and try hearts for three more tricks. Win the first trick, go over to the ♦K and finesse the ♥J. If it wins go back the ♦A and finesse the ♥Q. If hearts are 3-3 and the ♥K is onside, you will make your contract. If the hearts do not work in your favor, you can always fall back on the clubs working. The thing about this hand, is you have exercised two chances (hearts and clubs) instead of just the obvious one (clubs). If the ♥K is with W and the ♣K is with E, it just isn't your day. If this happens, that is when I say to myself, 'it is only just a game!'

Introductory Bridge Classes

Starting in February we will kick off our 2010 campaign for new-comers to the game. Should any of you know of a family member, a friend or a colleague you feel will benefit or enjoy playing bridge, send them to us. We will take good care of them and get them addicted. In return you will receive a signed copy of Gary's booklet, **Standard Bidding with 5-card majors** (Based on a *Limit Bidding Structure*).

The classes begin the first week in February with a choice of either Wednesday evenings at **7.45pm** or Friday mornings at **9.45am**. They are interchangeable.

**"Did you know that
Bridge Players Live Longer?"**

Stage I Graduate Seminars

The Beginner Graduate program is a set of Refresher Seminars and is comprised of 3 stages: 'each Stage with 6 sessions'. Consider that Bridge is a jig saw puzzle. In this Jigsaw puzzle we will take out 6 pieces, each piece representing a basic fundamental of the game. We will explore each piece, examining the merits and usage and then carefully place it back into the puzzle in full view of the student, allowing them a better perspective on how the whole structure works. Great way to kick off 2010 with this commitment. You have a choice of two sessions. Tuesday morning or Thursday evening. Registration form is on page 10 (below)

These seminars are designed for the following players.

- 1) All Graduates from an Introductory course in 2009.
- 2) Those of you who have drifted away from the game but would like to get back into it and start playing again, properly.
- 3) Those of you who have been playing for sometime, but frankly are still struggling and need only to revisit the basics again.

Where: **Brown Bridge Studio**

When: **6 Tuesdays (Feb. 9 - March 16) 9.30am**

6 Thursdays (Feb. 11 - March 18) 7.30pm

Costs: **\$120** (\$108 members) for Stage I

Registration Form for All Programs

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tick appropriate Box(es) Members take 10% off listed price.

Introductory Course Wed Evening: \$176 Fri. Morning: \$176

Graduate Seminars Tues. Morning: \$120 Thurs. Evening: \$120

Stage One Card Play Monday Morning: \$120 Tuesday Evening: \$120

Please book my seat in the above program. I have enclosed full payment.

Cheque payable to: Brown Bridge Studio

Post to: Brown bridge Studio 20 Spink Street Brighton VIC 3186

Level I of a Four Level Series focusing on Card Play.

Degree of Difficulty: **Intermediate.**

Level I will commence Monday morning February 1, at 9.30am. And run for 6 weeks. These classes are designed for those of you who attended the Monday Morning Card Play Series in 2009 and for any experienced players who simply feel that they are not getting the most out of their cards. So if your Card Play technique does need a bit of work make sure you get into this program at the ground level. Seating will be limited: Registration form is on page 10

Week 1 - Transportation:

The first trick, repeatable finesses, unblocking, overtaking forcing an entry)

Week 2 - Tricks on the Side:

Basic technique

Week 3 - When not to Finesse:

Finesse avoidance techniques, Common Finesse combinations.

Week 4 - When to Finesse:

Which way to take a two-way finesse, Recognizing more complex finesses.

Week 5 - Out For the Count:

Counting during the bidding, counting during play, bringing it all together.

Week 6 - Exit Strategies:

End Play, Letting the Opponents do the Work

Where: Brown Bridge Studio

When: 6 Mondays (February 8 - March 15) **9.30am**

6 Tuesdays (February 9 - March 16) **7.45pm**

Costs: \$120 (\$108 members) for Level I

Introductory Bridge Course

Where: Brown Bridge Studio

When: Wednesday February 3 7.45pm - 10pm

Friday February 5 9.45am - 12pm

Costs: \$176 (Includes GST and \$22 Work Book)

For absolute Beginners. We assume you know nothing and we take it from there. If you attended this course in the last two years under Gary's tutelage but would like to start all over again just to get it right, see Gary about a special discount. Registration form is on page 10

The atmosphere is relaxed, the teacher is experienced and friendly and most importantly - you will feel comfortable while you learn.

Free Game Vouchers

Free Game Vouchers will be allocated at 20 Spink Street for the following reasons:

- Top overall score for any event with 9+ tables in play. In the case of a tie, both pairs will win free entries.
- Any pair who score exactly 50% in any duplicate game.
- **Loyalty Rewards** Any player who plays in three duplicates of the week's scheduled 8 duplicates can play the remainder of that same week without charge. No vouchers issued. Honour system in play. Tell the director on duty that you are playing free based on the Loyalty Rewards program.

1. **Monday 1pm**

2. **Tuesday 1pm**

3. **Tuesday 7.30pm**

4. **Wednesday 1pm**

5. **Wednesday 7.30pm**

6. **Thursday 9.30am**

7. **Thursday 1pm**

8. **Saturday 2pm**

- Supervised Games. Of the three supervised sessions each week, if you play in the first two sessions, Friday morning's session is free.

1. **Monday Evening**

2. **Wednesday Evening**

3. **Friday Morning**

Missing Penny Purbrick

We are very saddened at the passing of Penny Purbrick. Penny was on staff with the Brown School of Bridge for 3 years, working at our Kew venue and then our Toorak venue. To all her students I can only say that she wanted to be with you all well into the latter stages of her illness, but it became too difficult. Penny was well received by everyone. I also has the opportunity to partner Penny at last season's Victor Cup Championships. Her competitive spirit, coupled with her enthusiasm for Bridge and her lovely disposition all made for an enjoyable and exciting experience. As a recent survivor of cancer, and as anyone else who has survived this dreadful disease can tell you, there never seems any rhyme or reason as to why some make it and some don't. Our best wishes go to all her family and friends from all of us at the Brown Bridge Studio. Thank you Penny. You are missed.

Summary of Rank Promotions

Level	Points Required	Players	
Graduate Master	2+	Jenny Fox Sharonna Brott Jeanette Kaye Susan Serry Sue Sonenberg Esme Williams	Jenny Allardice Robert Hetzl Kay Mahlook Caroline Shaw Pat Thomas Michael Yelen
Club Master	5+	John Fox Joe Krampel Trevor Reed Leiba Cohen Ann Wraith	Marion Jacobson Susan Lipton Kenneth Coghill Joyce Guymer Carmella Rauchberger
Local Master	15+	Stacey Gardiner Denise Dorfman Mervyn Kalmek	Phillippa Fitzpatrick Margaret Dorrington
*Local Master	25+	Peter Grey Bennie Schreiber	Roslyn Levy
**Local Master	35+	John Garrett	
Regional Master	50+	Merle Goldberg Len Levin Joanne Brown	Marcelle Karro Priscilla Van Reesema

Congratulations to all who have improved their Achievement Rankings.

"No matter what you do, no matter how stupid, dumb or damaging you judge your play to be, there is a lesson to be learned from it. No matter what happens to you, no matter how unfair, inequitable or wrong, there is something you can take from the situation and use for your advancement. Champions are made of such things".