



View from the top



Part of the playing and scoring area, viewed from the upstairs bar.

Stage 2 Open is very close at the halfway stage, with the leaders averaging just 17½ and the holders of the vital 7th places sitting on average.

Here are some more Stage 2 hands:

Stage 2, Rd 7, Bd 12

W/NS ♠ 876
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 10863
 ♣ AKJ97

♠ J10 ♠ AK53
 ♥ AKQ1074 ♥ 93
 ♦ A75 ♦ K92
 ♣ Q5 ♣ 10863

♠ Q942
 ♥ J852
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ 42

West should make 4♥ here, without needing to peek at South's trumps. North cashes two clubs then switches to a spade. After you cash

two trumps, cash dummy's other high spade and ruff a spade. Then ♦A-K to ruff another black card, exit with a diamond and casually display your ♥Q-10.

North-South get the chance to shine on the next board:

Stage 2, Rd 7, Bd 13

N/Both ♠ J5432
 ♥ AKQ10
 ♦ A
 ♣ KJ10

♠ KQ8 ♠ A976
 ♥ 854 ♥ J73
 ♦ Q109754 ♦ J6
 ♣ Q ♣ 9632

♠ 10
 ♥ 962
 ♦ K832
 ♣ A8754

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	no	1NT
no	2NT?	no	3NT?
end			

An awkward hand in Standard. North is too strong to rebid 2♥ but 3♥ feels wrong with those minors.

There are nine easy tricks in 3NT but plenty went down in game – the Open datum was -20 NS.

On a diamond lead, South cashes dummy's ♥A-K then the ♣K. Good news, though the suit is blocked. You cash your minor winners then lead towards dummy's ♥Q-10. With clubs 4-1, it's tempting to finesse in hearts, playing West to have started with ♥Jxxx.

If North tries 3♥ instead, South may raise to the possible 4-3 game, thinking his hand is better for suit play.

Best lead is a trump. You play a spade, win the next trump then ruff a spade. After a diamond to the ace you can draw their trumps in one go then simply give them two spades.

In fact you can make 11 tricks via a winkle. This is the ending after trumps have been cleared:

Stage 2 after 8 of 14

Top 7 each way go through. 120 is average,

Open – NS

- 1 B Neill & R Klinger 138
- 2 A De Livera & I Robinson 132
- 3 S Hinge & C Chua 124
- 4 M Chen & J Li 122
- 5 A Peake & D Wiltshire 120
- 6 S Hans & C Ritter 119
- 7 T Strong & J Magee 119

Open – EW

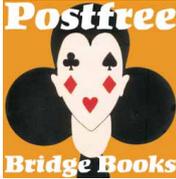
- 1 P Gill & M Bloom 141
- 2 B Richman & M Derofe 140
- 3 G Gaspar & S Browne 140
- 4 R Jedrychowski P Wyer 139
- 5 N Francis & M Moren 138
- 6 A Clark & P Rogers 130
- 7 T Nunn & E Adams 121

Women's – NS

- 1 C Lachman & C Mill 156
- 2 S Lusk & T Tully 152
- 2 E Berger & J Faranda 135
- 4 W Halvorsen & K Moses 123
- 5 J Snow & H Borman 123
- 6 V Goldberg & S Gerdan 121
- 7 A Weber & S Richman 121

Women's – EW

- 1 M Scudder & I Glanger 164
- 2 A Anderson & B Stacey 150
- 3 S Coleman & S Mabin 143
- 4 P Rickard & J Twigg 136
- 5 S Weal & J Atkinson 135
- 6 K Neale & H Renton 129
- 7 R Kaplan & P Shroor 121



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ABF events

Stage 2 & Seniors Stage A
 Tue 10am, 3pm

Stage 3
 Wed - Fri 10am, 2.30

Youth triathlon at NSWBA
 5-7 August, Fri - Sun
 Teams, Pairs then Individual!

World Youth Championships
 8-17 August
 at Olympic Park Homebush

♠ J 5 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 10
 ♠ K ♠ A 9
 ♥ — ♥ —
 ♦ Q 10 9 7 ♦ —
 ♣ — ♣ 9 6 3
 ♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ A 8 7

Duck a spade to West's king. The forced diamond return squeezes East. West can avoid this by unblocking the ♠K earlier. Then the *backwash* squeeze works. After trumping a spade in dummy (with West unblocking) play the ♦K, then a ruff. This sees East guarding the black suits and holding a losing trump. Ask Tim Seres about these.

Maryo Derofe stole this bold 3NT:

Stage 2, Rd 8, Bd 30

E/nil ♠ Q J 9 8
 ♥ K 6 3
 ♦ A K 4 3
 ♣ K 3
 ♠ A 10 ♠ K 3
 ♥ 8 ♥ A J 10 9 7 4
 ♦ 5 2 ♦ J 10 9 8
 ♣ A Q J 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ 7
 ♠ 7 6 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 5 2
 ♦ Q 7 6
 ♣ 10 2

WEST Derofe	NORTH	EAST Richman	SOUTH
		1♥!	no
2♣	no	2♥	no
3NT!	end		

Congress events in Week 2
 All these events at the **Masonic Centre**, 279 Castlereagh St.
 All start at 10am with no play in the evenings.

Swiss Pairs
 Tuesday 2nd Aug

Restricted Pairs
 Wednesday 3rd Aug

ANC Swiss Pairs (gold points)
 Wed - Fri, 3-5 August

Open to everyone! Not just drop-outs from Stages 1,2 & A.
 You can enter at the Hospitality Desk or ring 0411 248 248.

What should North lead? When you hold a flat 16-count, the usual stolid leads don't work. North led the ♠Q for -430. Ouch! Better is the ♦A. Then North might see the need to switch to a heart.

A hand from the Friday Pairs

Peter Gill is very busy at the moment, leading Stage 2 and staying up till 3am each morning, helping to organise the World Youth Teams. He still found time to write up a hand from Friday's Mixed Pairs, which he won with Carolyn Molloy.

Pairs 1, Bd 14

E/nil ♠ Q 6
 ♥ K J 7 6 4
 ♦ Q 7 6 2
 ♣ 7 5
 ♠ 5 4 ♠ K J 9
 ♥ 8 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 3
 ♦ K J ♦ 10 5 4 3
 ♣ K J 10 6 3 2 ♣ 9 8
 ♠ A 10 8 7 3 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 9 8
 ♣ A Q 4

WEST Dyke	NORTH Gill	EAST Lovelock	SOUTH Molloy
		no	1♠
3♣	dbl	no	3NT
end			

"Kieran's weak jump overcall pushed NS into the apparently hopeless 3NT. Carolyn ducked the ♣J lead at the speed of light, won the next club, then tried a spade to the queen and East's king. After a diamond to West's king, Dyke decided not to lead a heart, placing declarer with a heart honour. Instead, he led the ♦J to dummy's queen. Declarer led a spade to the 10 for +400.

"Never give up in your hopeless contract – smoothly say *Thank You Partner* and concentrate hard on the play!"

INITIA _____

"The first Noël."
 And for today ...

O_ER_T_O_

Appeal # 3

Stage 2 Butler, Rd 3, Bd 10

S/Both ♠ Q 10 9 5 3
 ♥ A J
 ♦ 10 7 4
 ♣ A 10 4
 ♠ AK 8 3 ♠ —
 ♥ — ♥ K 10 9 8 7 5
 ♦ K Q 8 ♦ A 9 6 5 3 2
 ♣ K Q 9 6 5 3 ♣ 7
 ♠ J 7 6 4
 ♥ Q 6 4 3 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ J 8 2

WEST Moren	NORTH Hughes	EAST Francis	SOUTH K'malik
		3♦*	no
4♠	dbl	no	5♥
Dbl	end		

* alerted and explained as diamonds and a major

Result: -2300 (Newcastle!)

Director (Mullamphy): East-West seemed to have different opinions as to the meaning of 4♠. However, system notes presented agreed with the explanation given at the table by East "4♠ is to play". No misinformation, therefore no adjustment.

Appellants: If 4♠ is to play, North's double is tko of diamonds, 4-4-1-4 or similar.

EW notes state that 4♣ over 3♦ is a forcing enquiry; 3♠ & 4♥ are pass/correct; 4♠ is not mentioned. West believed that 4♠ was also pass/correct. If West's view is correct, North would have passed, since double of 4♠ would then be takeout.

We contend that EW had no clear agreement about 4♠, that unassimilated inferences do not constitute an agreement.

Respondents: Look at the notes.

Committee (R Grenside, E Chadwick, I Dahler, E Ramshaw, M Scudder): No infraction. Appeal without merit, 3 VPs forfeited.

An eventful match. Apart from us losing 19 IMPs on the board, Robert's phone went off, plus this fine, turning our 18-12 win into a 12-12 draw. On the bright side, it helped fill up the back page. Ed.