

BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2023

www.bridgeinthecity.net.au

Vale Kathleen Tymukas

It is with much sorrow that I announce the recent passing of Kathleen Tymukas. Kathleen was a foundation member of the Club and, despite being 94 years old, certainly had her wits about her, and kept me on my toes!

When I Counted My Points

On a recent Friday I picked up the following hand and saw that partner had opened 1♣.

♠AK85
♥52
♦KQJ74
♣QJ

I responded 1♦ (planning to bid the spades later), and partner jumped to 2NT. One of the first bridge rules that I ever read was that you needed 33 points to make 3NT. I had 15 points, and partner's jump No Trump rebid showed a hand that was too strong to open 1NT, i.e. she had 18-19 points and a balanced hand, So, it was a quick 6NT from me, making 13 tricks, partner's hand being

♠J42
♥AQ10
♦A5
♣AK85

Also recently, sitting East, South the dealer opened a strong 1NT, partner called, and eventually we got to 4 spades, with the following pair of hands:

♠A10953	♠QJ742
♥J7	♥4
♦AQ8	♦K5
♣A109	♣KJ875

I had no problem locating the missing club Queen - we had 25 high card points between us, so South must have the rest!

Masterpoint Promotions

Paul Acfield	BRONZE NATIONAL	Pam Bowman	REGIONAL
John Hickey	CLUB	Veronica McCaffrey	LOCAL
Trevor Parr	CLUB	Glenn Trenwith	CLUB
Sue Wilksch	LOCAL		

Christmas Function December 17th at the Warradale Hotel.

Entry open to club members and a friend, cost \$40 per head, please advise your attendance to Stuart Tuck, email inlec@esc.net.au or Pam Bowman (Mondays).

The menu:

MAIN COURSE

Roast turkey breast, seasonal vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy.
Bocconcini, heirloom tomato tart with a garden salad.

DESSERT

Individual Christmas Pudding with vanilla
Ice cream and Brandy anglaise.
Seasonal berry pavlova roulard roasted macadamia nuts cinnamon sugar
whipped cream.

Dennis Miles is Moving House.

Dennis will soon be downsizing from his present home at Aberfoyle Park. During the transition period he needs somewhere to leave his furniture, if anybody can help he will be very grateful.

His mobile number is 0437857170, email dennisedwardmiles@gmail.com

Not For the Faint Hearted

Board : 13	S♠ KQJ4	Dir: N	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ AQ72	Vul: Both		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	D♦ J4		N	-	-	1	2	-
	C♣ 863		S	-	-	1	2	-
S♠ 8		S♠ A7	E	7	7	-	-	4
H♥ JT983		H♥	W	7	7	-	-	4
D♦ T962		D♦ AKQ875						
C♣ 742		C♣ AKQJ5						
	S♠ T96532							
13	H♥ K654							
1 23	D♦ 3							
3	C♣ T9							

How would you bid the East hand after North's weak no-trump opening? Your hand has just the one loser if playing in a diamond contract, while no amount of bidding science is going to tell you that West has diamond support and second round spade control.

My choice would be an immediate six diamonds.

When I Didn't Count My Points

Third to speak, you pick up the following hand:

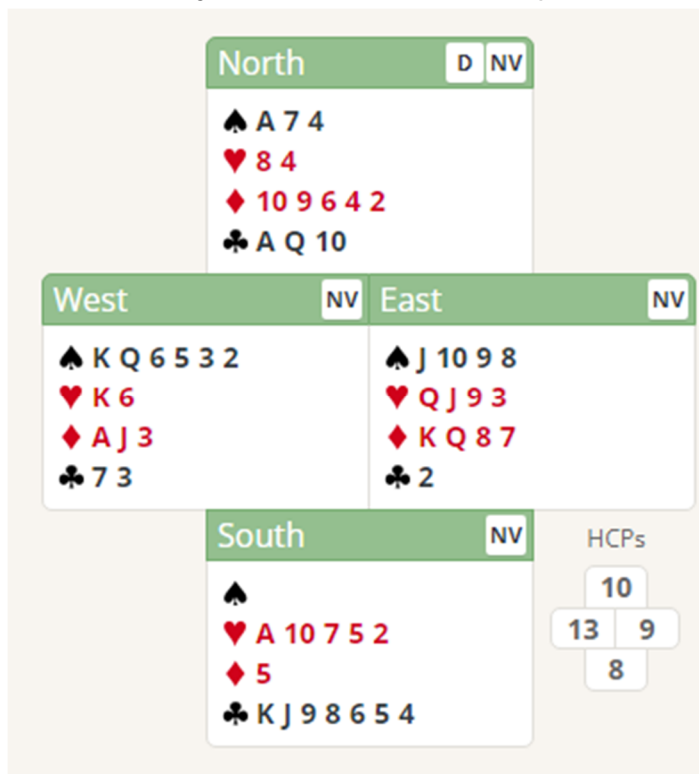


I know it's only 8 high card points, but is there a better opening bid than 1♣? The system of counting your points, then using that to determine what to bid, is OK for balanced and semi balanced hands, however for more distributional hands the true playing potential should be the major factor. Such a hand as this deserves respect, so 1♣ was my choice.

Our auction proceeded as follows:

N	E	S	W
P	P	1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣*	2♥	3♠
P	4♠	5♣	5♠
X	all pass, one down.		

(the 2♣ call by East showed a sound spade raise, game interest)



They make 4♠, we make 5♣.

Modern Losing Trick Count, or Bidding with a Fit

How is it that the better players continue to bid and make suit game contracts with as few as 21 points between them, whilst your partnership plays in a part score? You make ten tricks as well, but this is poor consolation. Then, next time you bid a light game of your own and go two down, while your betters played in a part score. Where are you going wrong?

The top players use their years of experience to help them with their bidding decisions, however this is of cold comfort to you. You keep on bidding the wrong light games and, after a while, your game bidding becomes emotional, rather than rational. Is there an easy answer?

The Losing Trick Count theory has been around, in its various forms, for several years. It has been tested on countless hands and proven to be a more than effective bidding tool. It is certainly not infallible, however it does tell you whether game or slam is a reasonable expectation on a pair of hands and, when used with bidding conventions such as trial bids, cue bids, Blackwood, etc., will certainly improve the bidding record of your partnership.

This is how it works. First you count the losers in your own hand (more about this later). Next you count partner's losers - obviously you can't look at his cards, however a fair estimate may be had from the following table.

Add the losers of the two hands together, then deduct this total from 24. The balance has proven to be an excellent estimate of the number of tricks that you can reasonably expect to make.

Counting Your Own Losers

To count the losers in your own hand, you should apply the following rules:

- Minimum response – nine losers
- Near opening – eight losers
- Minimum opening – seven losers
- Stronger opening (e.g. a jump raise or rebid) – six losers
- Eight playing trick hand – five losers
- Strong 2NT opening – five losers
- Game force – three losers
- Minimum response - nine losers
- If holding neither the Ace, nor King, nor Queen in a suit then the number of losers in that suit = the length of that suit, with a maximum of three.
- No suit may have more than three losers.
- If holding the Ace of a suit you should reduce the losers in that suit by one.
- Holding the King of a suit of two or more cards then again you should reduce the losers in that suit by one.
- Holding the Queen in a suit of three or more cards, together with another honour, reduce your losers by one.
- If holding an unsupported Queen in a suit of three or more cards then you should reduce your losers by half a trick.

To practice this method of evaluation let's look at three different hands. On each occasion partner has shown heart support.

One	Two	Three
♠A5	♠754	♠QJ3
♥QJ1032	♥AQ974	♥K8743
♦Q96	♦2	♦K
♣742	♣J643	♣KQ10

Hand One has one spade loser, two heart losers, two and a half diamond losers, and three club losers, for a total of eight and a half losers.

Hand Two has three spade losers, one heart loser, one diamond, and three clubs, for a total of eight losers.

Hand Three has two spade losers, two heart losers, one diamond, and one club, for a total of six losers.

The Theory

The answer to your calculation will provide an estimation of the total number of tricks that you will take, presuming that half of your finesses work, and the trumps divide reasonably. This remains just an estimate and, particularly where slams are concerned, you should use the Losing Trick Count to determine whether slam should be considered, then follow up with cue bids or Blackwood.

Adjustments

Add a loser if you expect a bad trump break, or if the necessary finesses are unlikely to work.

Deduct a loser for an excellent nine cards or more combined trump fit, or a second fit in a side suit.

Examples

I had the computer deal a set of hands where both opener and responder have at least four spades. The following hands are from that set.

North	South	South's Losers
♠ KQ98	♠ AJ632	2
♥ K4	♥ 1076	3
♦ 1064	♦ 982	3
♣ AQ62	♣ K3	1

The auction:

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♠	P
2♠	P	?	

North's bidding indicates a seven loser hand, South has nine losers, so South should pass.

North	South	South's Losers
♠10762	♠AKQJ84	0
♥K93	♥AQ65	1
♦K1076	♦3	1
♣97	♣62	2

The auction:

N	E	S	W
P	P	1♠	P
2♠	P	?	

South has a four loser hand, North has shown nine losers, $24 - 13 = 11$ tricks, so bid the game.

North	South	South's Losers
♠KJ54	♠AQ1087	1
♥A3	♥KJ2	2
♦K83	♦-	0
♣Q842	♣K1073	2

The auction:

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♠	P
2♠	P	?	

Opener has implied a seven loser hand, South has a five loser hand, $24 - 12 = 12$, so slam is a possibility, and should certainly be investigated.

In Closing

Remember that these principles only apply when you have an eight card (5-3 or 4-4) fit or better - with a lesser fit, add one loser.

Finally, for those seeking further information on this topic, I refer you to "The Modern Losing Trick Count", by Ron Klinger, or "Secrets of Winning Bridge" by Jeff Rubens.

Bridge in the City GRADED PAIRS CONGRESS

Sunday november 19th

10:00 a.m. Start

Monthly Winners

MONDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Anne Connelly & Margaret Dawson
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- 2 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 3 Sharmini Anderson & Eleonora Truskewycz

FRIDAY B GRADE SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 2 Mary Adlington & John Blundell
- 3 Jill Stone & Sue Wilksch

Prepayment Scheme - Please Check the Account Number

Bridge in the City has its own prepayment scheme, allowing players to pay their table fees in advance.

Players then get a weekly email advising them of their balance, while containing a link to an internet schedule of all their deposits and deductions.

Payments can be made either to the Director on duty, or else online into the following Bridge in the City bank account. BSB **805-050**, account number **102-790-715**. **Note this is a different account from the one used initially.**

Finally, when making an online deposit, please make sure that you give your name.

No Trump Bidding - Bidding Balanced Hands

Playing Standard or similar, balanced hands should be treated as follows:

- *12-14 high card points*. Open a suit at the one level and, unless you have good support for partner, rebid 1NT. Incidentally, I firmly disagree with opening 1♣ with a doubleton, preferring 1D, even with a 4-4-3-2 both majors
- *15-17*. Open 1NT. Don't worry about needing a stopper in all suits, since if you do your subsequent bidding will be distorted. The modern approach is to open 1NT with a five card major.
- *18-19*. Open one of a suit, then unless supporting partner jump to 2NT.
- *20-22*, balanced Open 2NT
- *23-24*, balanced Open 2♣, then rebid 2NT.

Note. You should upgrade a hand with a good five card suit, or several tens. A 4-3-3-3 shape, or holding potentially useless honour cards, e.g. QJ doubleton should be downgraded