



## 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 (Julian Foster, Marcia Scudder and Paul Roach) answer them.

## #97380 BBO – Wednesday morning session 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

15	♠ A8753	Dir: S																									
	♥ 5	Vul: N-S																									
	♦ A																										
	♣ T98652																										
♠ QJ964	♠ K2																										
♥ J92	♥ K864																										
♦ 74	♦ K985																										
♣ A43	♣ KJ7																										
8	♠ T	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	N	♠	♥	♦	NT	1	2	1	-	-	S	1	2	1	-	E	-	-	2	1	W	-	-	2	1
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11	♣ Q																										

Last week we saw how really big fits can make slam on minimal values. This week we'll look at the opposite! Sometimes in bridge there are hands which are complete "misfits" - we have shortage in our partner's suits and vice versa. Board 15 last week was a good example.

Hands like this can often lead to disaster as each partner keeps bidding their own suits until they get too high - and then the opponents find the X card! The art is to get out of the bidding as low as possible but you need to recognise the warning signs to be able to do that. Better still you want the opponents to come into the bidding so you can defend instead!

Let's see what might happen on this board. South will usually open 1♦ (although some might try 1♥ - see advanced section). These days some Wests might overcall 1♠ at favourable vulnerability to get in the way but let's suppose they don't. North will now respond 1♠ (even though their clubs are longer they are not strong enough to bid at the 2 level). Now what?

South needs to rebid 2♦. Bidding 2♥ is a mistake. That is a "reverse" (it forces partner to the 3 level to go back to your first suit when they have only responded at the 1 level so might only have 5-6 points). You need at least 16 points to do this. South only has 11 and 2 of those (♣Q) might be worthless. What would poor North do over 2♥ here?! 2NT maybe. Now the partnership is already too high and it might get worse if South decides to bid 3♥ to show their full shape!

After 2♦ North should recognise that this is not looking good. Partner doesn't have spade support and didn't bid clubs either. The other big clue is the hearts. Where are they? If the opponents really had lots of them there's a fair chance one of them would have bid (they must have points too since we only have 8 and partner has only rebid 2♦). Given we only have 1 heart, partner is very likely to have quite a few. North should pass 2♦ and get out before things get worse.

Yes of course occasionally North will have a hand like Axxxx Kxxx x xxx. And will still pass 2♦ even though hearts is a much better contract. Tough! You can't get every hand right. It is far more likely that the hand is a misfit and bidding on will lead to disaster. (North cannot afford to bid 2♥ with that hand over 2♦ because that is forcing and they only have 7 points opposite a minimum opening bid).

What about the play? Most tables that played in diamonds made 9 tricks. Although the Deep Finesse analysis says it can be held to 8.

On the face of it the defence will score the ♦K, one ♣ and 2♥s. Where can they get another trick? Probably by first leading a trump (to stop declarer scoring a H ruff in dummy) and then by forcing declarer. Suppose they lead a ♦. Declarer might start on ♥s, finesse the Q and then lose the third round. But now the defence can exit a ♠ to leave declarer in dummy. They will have to play a black card which will lead to them being forced. When they lose the 4th ♥ they are forced again and now they are down to 3 trumps, the same as East. After East wins the ♦K they force declarer a 3<sup>rd</sup> time and now have more trumps than declarer. They will therefore score another small trump. Declarer will only score 1♠, 2♥ and 5♦ – even if declarer can set up their 5<sup>th</sup> heart they will not also be able to draw trumps so they can cash it.

### *Key points to note*

- If you recognise a misfit get out of the bidding low! It is far better to occasionally play the wrong partscore than to keep bidding and bidding until you get too high and get doubled for -800 (or more)!
- Misfits can be suspected when partner is bidding your short suits or the opponents are bidding your long suits.
- In a partscore hand (i.e. where points are distributed roughly evenly between the two sides) if you are very short in a suit and the opponents have not bid it, there's a good chance partner has some - also indicating a misfit.
- When defending against misfits it is often good to try to force declarer to trump. With everything breaking badly they may well lose control.

### *More advanced*

Some players holding South might think ahead to what is likely to happen after opening 1♦ and deliberately decide to open 1♥ with the intention of rebidding 2♦. That has a few advantages:

- it shows more of your hand;
- it won't miss a heart fit if one exists; and
- it doesn't create a reverse on the 2nd round.

But it is not without risk. Its big disadvantage is it mis-states the length of your suits (1♥ followed by 2♦ is usually x54x and could be x64x). Often partner will give "preference" back to what they think is your longer suit (hearts). You might easily end up playing in a 5-2 heart fit instead of a 6-3 diamond fit. And if the opponents force you to trump you can then easily lose trump control.

Personally I have never got a good result when I have tried opening 1♥ on this sort of hand. But I have watched my partner and my opponents do it regularly and not have a problem! So it's perhaps personal preference or just paranoia on my part!

If West does overcall 1♠ what should North do? Once again the opponents bidding our 5 card suit is indicative of a misfit. North might venture 1NT but certainly nothing more. One thing North should not do is attempt to penalise 1♠ by passing and then passing a reopening double. They are nowhere near strong enough and they don't have good enough trumps (you need tricks to defend, more so than points).

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

## **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.