

The traveller for this board actually ended up with 5 different scores – 3 in 4♥ making 9, 10 and 11 tricks plus 2 in 3♥ making 9 and 11 tricks!

Key points to note

- Traditional weak twos show 6 card suits and 6-10 points but these days many pairs vary that style a lot based on the vulnerability and position in hand. That has a knock-on effect to the sort of hands you open at the 1 level instead.
- Knowing your partnership's style for weak twos and pre-empts in general is critical.
- Hands with big trump fits can make game on far fewer points than the "standard" 25/26 – the point count is at its most accurate with balanced hands. Distribution and large trump fits are far more valuable than points!
- When declaring if you have a key guess to make try to leave the play in that suit until last and play other suits first to find out more about the opponent's high cards and distribution. Sometimes this will give you a clue based on what bids they might, or might not, have made.

More advanced

Traditional weak two bids show 6-10 points and a 6 card suit. But these days there are many variations played. The vulnerability and position you are sitting can have a big impact. Because pre-empts can be so effective it pays to be more aggressive when not vulnerable (where the risk of a large penalty is lower) and open on fewer points and potentially also on a 5 card suit. Provided of course partner allows for that and varies his response accordingly!

The position in hand is also very important. In fact there's a case for the style to be different in all 4 seats:

1. Dealer. If you are the dealer, it pays to be quite aggressive because there are 3 players left and 2 of them are your opponents! That means the odds are 2-1 that one of them has a good hand which your pre-empt will make harder to bid.
2. 2nd seat. This is very different – one of your opponents has already passed so it's now even money whether you are pre-empting your right hand opponent or partner. Here your pre-empts should be sounder in case partner has the good hand.
3. 3rd seat. Different again – now partner has already passed so you know whose hand it is. You can afford to pre-empt on a much wider variety of hands because you aren't going to confuse partner and your left hand opponent is marked with a reasonable hand.
4. 4th seat. There's no-one left to pre-empt! Here there is no point playing weak twos at all – you have the option of passing the hand out so the only reason to bid is to try and make a plus score. A 2♥ opening here is usually played as a constructive hand – around 10-13 with 6 hearts.

If you and your partner agree to vary your style based on vulnerability and position in hand, this should have a knock-on effect onto your 1 level opening bids. If you pre-empt more aggressively on weaker hands, then you may wish to open at the 1 level on lighter hands like this North one. Not doing this makes the range of the pre-empt too wide for partner to know what to do in response (if you could have a 5 card suit and 2 points, or a 6 card suit and 10 points then partner is basically just guessing!) Had North South been non-vulnerable, I would have been opening a weak two on a much weaker hand. Therefore I would open this hand 1♥. Here where we are vulnerable I would open it 2♥. Be aware your opponents are entitled to know your style and you should show it on your convention card and explain it verbally at the table when giving explanations.

Assuming declarer has had a club lead, can he guess spades right to make 4♥? Not necessarily but he can improve his chances by playing other suits first and trying to find out more about the hand. Wherever possible you should always leave the suit where you have a key decision until last. After drawing trumps declarer should play ♦A and another. He wants to set up for his diamond ruff in dummy anyway but, more importantly, this enables him to find out who has the ♦K (East here). It's sometimes referred to as a "discovery play". He could also give up his club loser with a view

to ruffing a 3rd club in hand (not to set up any tricks, simply to find out more about the shape and high cards – here it would confirm that West started with ♣K).

Assuming East led the ♣Q originally, declarer now knows he has ♣QJ and ♦K and 1 heart. If East had the ♠A that would give him 10 points. So isn't there a chance he might have dredged up a takeout double (especially of a 1♥ opening) as he would have suitable shape with the heart shortage? It's not much to go on (East would still be quite light for a takeout double) but it's better than nothing. The way to think about it is if East had ♠Q (i.e. his actual hand) he definitely wouldn't have bid, if he had ♠A then he MIGHT have bid. Therefore I would tend to play him for the ♠Q. Observe you can only make this deduction once you have discovered East also has the ♦K. Had West turned up with that card, there's basically nothing to go on – but it costs nothing to find out!

That means there's lessons for the defence here too. The simple one of course is that East must play low smoothly when declarer leads a spade. If he had the ♠A he would solve declarer's problem by going up with it! The more advanced lesson is about timing. The longer declarer is able to mess around before playing the key suit, the more chance he will find out enough information to get his guess right. Suppose declarer gave up a club after drawing trumps. If East wins that, he should switch to a spade at that point – before declarer has found out who has the ♦K. Now it's a real guess (while a strong East would not underlead the ♠A at trick one, he might well do so later in the hand). The earlier you force an opponent to make a decision, the more chance there is they will get it wrong!

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

Australia Wide Open Pairs on Monday 29th August 2022



Our players really enjoyed the Australia Wide Novice Pairs held earlier this year. Here comes the Open Pairs version! The **SBC Australia Wide Open Pairs** will be held on **Monday 29th August** at **both City and Canada Bay**. Double masterpoints – **GREEN** for sessional results and **RED** for the nation-wide ranking.

\$18 for members (\$15 for concession members) / \$22 for visitors. A souvenir booklet of hand commentaries included.

No need to book in. Walk-ins and visitors are welcome. If you are looking for a partner, please contact office for match making.

Stroke Awareness Day on Wednesday 7th September 2022



An annual SBC fund-raising session for the Stroke Recovery Association. The Stroke Recovery Association is founded by one of our bridge players and provides a range of support and information services for people affected by Stroke and their families / carers. This year, we will run this fun event on Wednesday 7th September 2022, 10am – 1.15pm.

Snack and refreshment throughout the session, great raffle prizes and lots of spot prizes for everyone. **RED** masterpoints.

You don't need a partner. No need to book in, visitors and walk-ins are welcome. \$18 member (\$15 concession member) / \$22 visitor. Come join us for a game of meaning!

F2F Friday Workshop is back!

We are as pleased as you are that Will is running his Workshops again. The Friday Workshops are filling up! Please book in early to avoid disappointment. The next workshop will be held in the City on:

- **Friday 9th September:** No-Trumps Systems and Bidding
- **More are being scheduled:** please keep an eye on the Sydney Bridge Centre website.

\$50 for member (both Sydney Bridge Centre and Strathfield Bridge Club members can enjoy the special rate) / \$55 for visitors. Please find the [details](#) on our website. [Booking](#) essential for catering purpose.

Sunday Funday on 4th September 2022



Sleep in on a Sunday and enjoy a relaxed game in the afternoon! We hope you enjoyed the classic cucumber sandwiches, cheese platter and everything makes a Sunday great. As requested by players the club will now run one, and hopefully two Sunday Fundays each month, whenever the venue on Goulburn Street is available. The next few Sunday Fundays will be held on:

- Sunday 4th September 2022, 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- More are being scheduled! Please keep an eye on the SBC website

You don't need a partner. No need to book in, visitors and walk-ins are welcome. \$18 member (\$15 concession member) / \$22 visitor. Refreshment throughout play and join us for a glass at the end of the session.

Regular F2F and Online sessions at 3 venues

- F2F @ CITY -

- Monday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Open Inclusive
- Tuesday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Two Tiers Open Inclusive
- Tuesday night 7.15pm – 10.00am, Open Inclusive (booking in advance required, please contact office)
- Wednesday morning, 2 separate sessions – Intermediate/Open (9.45am – 1.15pm with a 15mins pre-game talk) and Beginners Supervised (10.00am – 12.30pm)
- Wednesday night 6.30pm – 9.30pm, Beginners Supervised
- Thursday morning 10.00am – 1.15pm, Open Inclusive

- F2F @ CANADA BAY -

- Monday morning 10.00am for 10.15am start – 1.30pm, Open Inclusive
- Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm – 4.30pm, Intermediate Supervised (1-hour lesson plus 2-hours game)
- Thursday morning 10.00am for 10.15am start – 1.30pm, Open Inclusive

Please find the details of [the session timetables](#) and find out [more about our venues](#) on our website.

- ONLINE @ BBO -

If you prefer to play online, there are regular club sessions on Thursday afternoon (1.45pm) and Saturday afternoon (1.45pm) on BBO. To join our online game, please follow this [step by step guidelines](#). BB\$4 for 24 boards.