

## Bridge Basics by Bruce

The Margaret River Bridge Club runs sessions every Monday night and Friday afternoons. Most players play “Standard American” so this column will concentrate on bidding using this system and some basic playing techniques, applied to hands that we have recently encountered.

### Round 1 - 22<sup>nd</sup> October

<b>Dlr</b> - North	♠ AKJ 10 5 3		
<b>Vul</b> - Nil	♥ Q 10		
	♦ Q 8 3		
	♣ A K		
♠ Q 9 7 6	N	♠ 8 2	
♥ K 8 7 4		♥ J 6 3	
♦ K 9	W	E	♦ 7 3
♣ 7 5 3			♣ QJ10 8 4 2
	S		
	♠ 4		
	♥ A 9 5 2		
	♦ AJ10 6 5 2		
	♣ 9 6		

<b>Bidding</b>			
N	E	S	W
1S	P	2D <sup>1</sup>	P
3S <sup>2</sup>	P	3NT	P
4C <sup>3</sup>	P	4S <sup>4</sup>	P
5C <sup>5</sup>	P	5D <sup>6</sup>	P
6D	P	P	P

This was an interesting hand to start the night. 1S indicates a five card suit and 13+ points. An aggressive response of 2D indicates 10+ points (1). North followed by a jump indicating 16+ points and length (2). 3NT shows lack of support in spades but North pushed on by asking how many Aces his partner had (3, Gerber). Partner responded 2 Aces (4). Kings were then asked for (5) and when partner responded none (6), North chose to still push on to a slam in diamonds.

The 7 clubs was lead, taken by the Ace in dummy. A small diamond is lead to the Jack, over taken by the King. A second club is lead back taken by the King in dummy. The contract at this stage seems doomed with losers in spades and hearts.

Can you see a way to make the contract?

The key to this hand is to be able to strip West of spades and still be able to get back to dummy. Lead the Ace of spades and then a low spade, trumped in hand. A small diamond is returned, taken by the Queen. Another small spade is lead and trumped in hand. You can now lead a low diamond to dummy's eight. Lead the King of spades, which takes out the Queen, discarding a heart. Run the rest of the spades, the Ace of hearts and the contract makes. Easy when you can see all the hands, but this play would work on most occasions if we could only think of it early enough.

Although this is a complex hand to play, most players would have found themselves in 3NT, 4S or 5D which all make so long as you play the spades carefully.

Winners on Monday night were Bruce Darby and Sally O'Rourke. Handicap winners were Linda Andrews and Barbara Webster. To find out more about local bridge, look us up on the internet or phone Alistair Campbell 9757 2490.