

## Margaret River Bridge #080206c06

by Bruce Darby

In my column today I thought I might go back to basic bidding and explain what each bid means. North-South have a strong hand between them and need to communicate clearly with each other to establish the best contract to end up in.

Dealer - North	♠Q 4 2		
Vul - None	♥A 9 8 2		
	♦A 7 3		
	♣A Q 3		
	N		
♠8 6			♠A J 9
♥T 4 3	W	E	♥Q J 7 6
♦T 8 5 4			♦Q J 6
♣8 7 6 2			♣T 9 4
	S		
	♠K T 7 5 3		
	♥K 5		
	♦K 9 2		
	♣K J 5		

### Bidding

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C	P
2H	P	2S	P
2NT	P	3S	P
4C	P	4D	P
4S	all pass		

1NT indicates 16-18 points in North's hand. The 2C response indicates 8 or more points and is asking if North has four cards in hearts or spades (a convention called Stayman). North goes 2H saying they have four hearts in their hand (this does not deny a four card spade suit). The 2S bid from South indicates that they have at least four spades. North responds 2NT to say that they do not have four spades. 3S from South now tells partner that they have five or more spades. This gets North very excited and North decides to bid 4C, asking partner to tell them how many Aces they have. 4D from South indicates no Aces and North decides to stop the bidding in 4S, which is a game and requires the North-South partnership to take at least ten tricks.

As you can see, North-South carried on a very clear conversation with each other and were able to end up in the best contract given their cards. Since South bid spades first, they will be playing the contract, so West has to lead. With nothing obvious to lead, West decides to lead the four of diamonds, the fourth highest from their longest and strongest suit. This gives partner a bit of a count on this suit. North plays low as is normal (second player usually plays low since there is no need to waste a large card). East puts up the Jack and South wins with the King. How would you proceed from here?

It is possible to make eleven tricks if you play the hand properly, did you manage to make this many?

To achieve this you need to lead up to the Queen of spades. East should win the Ace and lead back a diamond, which will be won by North. North then leads a small spade and covers whatever East plays, hoping that they have the Jack. This means that you will win eleven tricks.

We had another large turn out on Monday night, with 5 tables being played. The winners were our guests from England, Roger and Dianne Last. Handicap winners were Connie Dyer and Bob Taylor. To find out more about local bridge, go to our website at <http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge>