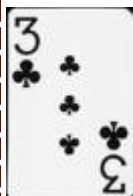


Ballina Bridge Club April 2008



The Power of Three – the Trey

Trey (trā) noun : a playing card with three spots. I used to play bridge in Darwin against a Welshman, who when calling for the three from Dummy, always said deliberately, “The trey of Hearts or the trey of Clubs” and so on. He also called for the “deuce of Spades and the deuce of Diamonds,” when nominating a two.

Three keys worn together are said to unlock the doors of
1) wealth 2) health 3) love.

In Vietnam it is considered unlucky to take a photograph with only **three people** in it.

The three level belongs to the other side. In a competitive auction, it is usually a good idea to **defend** at the three level. The bidding goes (1♦) 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♦) The side bidding Spades should probably surrender at this point. Competitive bidding has pushed the opponents to the three level – now defend well and take the contract one off. **Defend on odd occasions** says Ron Klinger. **Aim to play at the two level and defend at the three level** is another way of putting it.

An opening bid at the 3 level is a pre-emptive bid designed to make life difficult for your hapless opponents. The hand should contain less than 10 high card points. Don't be mean with your pre-empt – bid as high as you dare in one hit. Why do we pre-empt? There must be some good reasons.

1. **DISRUPTION.** Wasting two levels of the auction is the first good reason! You disrupt your opponents' bidding by taking away their space.

2. **DESCRIPTION.** This second reason is also important: a pre-emptive bid gives an accurate description of your hand - a seven-card suit and a weak hand. One of the aims of bidding is to be able to show your hand accurately. To do so in one bid is very handy and means that you don't have to bid again.

Jump Overcalling at the three level is just another form of pre-emption, and promises the kind of hand you would hold if you opened the bidding at the three level.

When you hold a tripleton – three cards in a suit, and you are on lead, it is usual to lead MUD from three useless cards. Eg from 853 you would lead the 5 (middle) followed by the 8 (up) followed by the 3 (down). “This is a crummy lead” says Mike Lawrence and you would probably only choose this suit if partner had bid it. If your suit is headed by the 10 or another honour 1062, J82, Q53, K64, then you would lead your lowest card from the honour. Leading top of partner's suit was popular 40 years ago, but modern theorists have demonstrated that this is bad practice – low from three cards to an honour is the way to go.

Don't go to three without me. This means that if the bidding is competitive and your partner is silent throughout the auction, you would be well advised not to fly solo to the level. Ofcourse, if you open with a pre-empt at the 3 level, the situation is quite different. You aim for disruption and description.



THE GAMBLING 3 NO TRUMP



The Gambling 3NT convention is an Opening Bid of 3NT based on a **long, solid Minor suit** - 7 or more cards, headed by AKQJ. You would **not** make this bid with a long Major suit. Hand 1 is completely wrong for a Gambling 3NT opening. The modern style is to make the bid

with no outside strength as in Hand 2.

♠ A5	♠ 7
1. ♥ K2	2. ♥ 1083
♦ J3	♦ AKQ8432
♣ AKQJ743	♣ J3

The convention serves partly as a pre-emptive bid - a very effective one because your opponents have to come in at the 4 level, and at the same time presents your partner with an accurate picture of your hand. He is in a very good position to judge where the hand should be played. Modern style is truly gambling. The bid promises **NO** outside Ace or King. In fact, there may be no honour outside the long suit.

RESPONSES Responder must assess his hand in terms of outside stoppers. If his hand can withstand an attack on the outside suits, he passes and watches partner bring in his long suit in No Trump play. If Responder cannot control the outside suits, he bids 4♣.

Opener passes if his long suit is Clubs, or bids 4♦ if his strength is in Diamonds. (4♣ says “Pass or correct”). The sequences are quite easy - the hardest part is remembering to use the bid and recognising the appropriate hand. It is so easy to blurt out 3♣ or 3♦ with a 7 card suit, and forget about 3NT. If you hold a hand with 25/26 HCP, you must open 2♣ and then rebid 3NT.

DEFENCE against Gambling 3NT. The best chance for defeat lies in leading an Ace to take a look at Dummy and at the same time obtaining a signal from partner as to how the defence ought to proceed.

One last point, if the opponents interfere after you open 3NT, just pass. Remember, that after pre-empting, you are out of the picture, and 3NT is still a pre-empt. Any decisions as to whether to bid further must be made by your partner. A double from Partner would be for penalty.

A Takout Double says you are playable in **three** suits.

(1♥) X The Double says you are short in Hearts (no more than two) and that you are playable in the **other three suits**. Partner is asked to pick the trump suit for your side. If you are not playable in three suits then you should not be making a Double. To put it crudely, “If you can't stand the answer, don't ask the question”. If you follow this advice, you will find that you must pass on many good hands, but you may be able to enter the auction later. If the opponents find a fit at the two level, and you hold a shortage in that suit, you can now make your Takeout Double – you have a shortage in the enemy suit and are playable in the outstanding suits. The conditions are now perfect.





Don't have three opponents at your table. Remember, your best friend at the table is your partner, so treat him/her well. Regard your partner with affection, respect and understanding. (Three again !) Save your discussions for a time away from the table. Your results will improve and your game will be more enjoyable.

3NT is everyone's favourite contract. You only have to take nine tricks to secure the game bonus, and if your bidding is sticking to the Minors, you should certainly consider finding a game in No Trumps. Sometimes the opponents have been in the bidding and you want to check out for stoppers. Sometimes there are two unbid suits, and you want to make sure that your partnership can control those suits.

RULE : If the opponents have shown **one suit**, a bid of that suit is a stopper ask.

RULE: If the opponents have shown **two suits** in the bidding, a bid of one of those suits shows a stopper.

RULE: If there are **two outstanding suits**, a bid of one of those suits shows a stopper.

The three D's of Trump control.

When you are declaring in a trump contract, you must learn to recognise the three D's of trump control.

DRAW THE OPPONENTS' TRUMPS. You usually draw the opponents' trumps straightaway unless you can find a good reason not to.

DELAY DRAWING TRUMPS. This is usually the strategy when you have some losers in your hand and you must trump them in Dummy before you proceed to draw out the enemy's trumps.

DON'T DRAW TRUMPS. When you hold a singleton (or a void) in each hand, often you can squeeze out extra tricks by cross trumping. We all love to trump in one hand and then trump in the other hand – and so on back and forth. If you have winners in a side suit, remember to cash them first – while you are busy cross trumping, your sneaky opponents might be busy discarding and your side suit winners might get trumped at the end of the hand.

DEFENCE TO THE 3 D'S. If, as defender, you notice that declarer is delaying trumps because he intends to ruff losers with those trumps in Dummy, be sure to spoil his plans. Lead trumps to cut down the ruffs.



If you notice Declarer embarking on a cross ruff, lead trumps at your earliest opportunity.

Sometimes the bidding will alert you to the fact that a trump must be selected for the opening lead. When you are on lead against a suit contract, don't just think you have a choice of **three suits** to lead – remember that a trump lead might be the best lead.



AQJ63 87542

The experts tell me the decision is not even close. The odds in favour of finessing are 3 to 1. Playing the Ace will succeed only 25% of the time.

You hold ten cards in a suit and you are missing the King. The opponents hold **three** cards. Do you play the Ace and hope to drop the King, or do you take a finesse ?

Don't forget to attend the meeting at 10.30am on Saturday 5th April 2008 to discuss the proposed extensions to the Club house. Bridge will commence at 1.00 pm on that day, to allow extra time for discussion and voting.



The first leak from KRUDD'S 2020 Commission on the future of bridge has hit the streets, and we were favoured to have a taste of the vision for Ballina BC. The 20 eminent Australians, who put their minds to the task, included internationally known sector leaders like Norman Gunston and insurance wizard Ray Williams. They concentrated on the layout of the club and congresses.... as one would.

Recommendation 1

- Insert a door between kitchen and the lobby (Richard Wardley area) in place of existing window. Current sliding door remains but inactive
- Remove coffee urns and mugs etc from current position and replace into that lobby area, together with a purpose built servery for wine
- Cover lino in main room with carpet and allow for one more row of tables on busy days
- Replace shade cloth over patio at entrance to lobby with Alsonite or similar, running screen protection round three sides with sliding door entrances (can then remove current entrances to lobby) for protection from rain and sun.

Recommendation 2

- All congresses over 30 tables to be held at local club or convention centre
- All congress catering (within club) to be outsourced – either to members or contractors – and consist of wicker trays of corporate-style sandwiches, fruit and finger friendly dessert – whole tray to be removed after lunch/dinner

Paul Cruickshank

Ballina Bridge Club Teams Congress
April 12th and 13th



Unauthorised Information ! At the end of a hand, an opponent suggested to East and West that they should have alerted the opening 1♣ bid, since it was based on holding which could be shorter than **three cards**. Two deals later, East opened 1♣ and West promptly alerted. West smiled at her partner and said, “No need to alert this time, Partner - I have five Clubs !”

