

## Ipswich Club Newsletter      March 2023

Hello Club Members,

It's been a hotter-than-Hades summer but the cooler weather is just around the corner. News from the Ipswich Pipe Band hall is that the air conditioning arrived a bit late so the work will take an extra week. It is expected that the first day back for us will be Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Garry will keep us updated.

Here is a flyer for the Gold Coast Bridge Congress for 2024 for those organised people who plan ahead.



I have emailed members an entry form for the congress below...

[QBA NOVICE CONGRESS 2023 MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS](#) being held at Sunnybank Bridge Club (An approved QBA red point congress played under QBA Regulations) Sunday 7th MAY 2023 (9am for 9.30am start).

... and here is a flyer for the QBA Festival of Bridge.



QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

# 2023 QBA FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE



**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> –  
MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**



**TBIB QLD OPEN TEAMS**

[for the Reg Busch Trophy]  
THREE SESSIONS OF SWISS TEAMS

+

**MOORE AUSTRALIA QLD OPEN PAIRS**

THREE SESSIONS OF SWISS PAIRS



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**ENTRIES ARE OPEN**



TO ENTER ALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

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Here is a defence to 1NT you might find interesting and useful. (Taken from [https://www.bridgebum.com/meckwell\\_defense\\_to\\_1nt.php](https://www.bridgebum.com/meckwell_defense_to_1nt.php)) I've only copied the defence to a strong 1NT opener because that is what most people play in our club. Just click on the link if you would like to look at the weak NT defence.

## Meckwell Convention - Defence to 1NT

Experts Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell invented the following defence structure against 1NT. It differs from other popular defences in several ways, notably by:

- Accounting for both weak and strong 1NT openings.

- Using 2♥ and 2♠ as entirely natural. Evidently Meckwell prefer the competitive value of showing major single-suiters immediately rather than employing these bids as two-suiters.

## Against a Strong 1NT

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Overcall	Meaning
Double	One of the following (relay to 2♣): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs</li> <li>Diamonds</li> <li>Both majors</li> <li>A good 2♠ overcall or other good hand<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
2♣	Clubs and a major. Advancer can pass or correct.
2♦	Diamonds and a major. Advancer can pass or correct.
2♥	Natural.
2♠	Natural.
2NT	Both minors OR a strong hand with both majors. Presumably advancer normally picks a minor, and overcaller can correct to 3♥ with the majors.

## Examples

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The following examples illustrate Meckwell playing their own invention. These first three deals come from the 2012 Grand National Teams.<sup>2</sup>

Vul: None	Meckstroth	
Dlr: North	♠9653	
	♥T987	
Wooldridge	♦K983	Hurd
♠Q8	♣7	♠K7
♥Q6542		♥AKJ3
♦J74	Rodwell	♦QT65
♣T52	♠AJT42	♣K86
	♥—	
	♦A2	
	♣AQJ943	

Rodwell	Wooldridge	Meckstroth	Hurd
		Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Dbl <sup>2</sup>	2♥	Pass	3♥
4♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1. Strong 1NT
2. A "good" hand that's too strong for a 2♣ overcall, which could get passed
3. Presumably Michaels

Meckstroth ended up making an overtrick.

Vul: N-S	Lev		
Dir: West	♠J2		
	♥K62		
Meckstroth	♦AKT62	Rodwell	
♠T954	♣AQ6	♠K87	
♥QJ7		♥AT984	
♦74	Glubok	♦QJ83	
♣J754	♠AQ63	♣2	
	♥53		
	♦95		
	♣KT983		
Glubok	Meckstroth	Lev	Rodwell
	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Dbl	Rdbl <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♥
3♥	Dbl	3NT	All Pass

1. Strong 1NT
2. Diamonds and a major
3. SOS, denying diamond tolerance

3NT went down one for -100.

Vul: E-W	Bramley		
Dir: South	♠A4		
	♥T63		
Rodwell	♦QJ86	Meckstroth	
♠T98762	♣9732	♠QJ3	
♥AKQ4		♥92	
♦A	Compton	♦KT9752	
♣54	♠K5	♣86	
	♥J875		
	♦43		

♣AKQJT

Compton	Rodwell	Bramley	Meckstroth
1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>
3♣	4♠	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

1. Weak 1NT
2. Spades with either clubs OR hearts
3. Correcting to spades

Chris Compton attempted an offbeat 1NT before clarifying his hand later. This left Bart Bramley with a difficult decision at favorable vulnerability. 5♣-X went down 3 for -500.

This last deal comes from the 2018 United States Bridge Championships.<sup>3</sup>

Vul: None	Meckstroth		
Dir: West	♠AT987		
	♥QT8		
Zia	♦4	Pepsi	
♠532	♣A854	♠Q	
♥AKJ2		♥alt="H"> 97654	
♦K75	Rodwell	♦A9832	
♣KQ9	♠KJ64	♣JT	
	♥3		
	♦QJT6		
	♣7632		
Rodwell	Zia	Meckstroth	Pepsi
	1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	2♦ <sup>3</sup>
2♥ <sup>4</sup>	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

1. Strong 1NT
2. Clubs and a major
3. Transfer to hearts
4. Some type of fit-showing "cue-bid"

Against 4♥, Meckwell took one trick in each suit for +100.

## References

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1. ClaireBridge. [Meckwell Convention Card](#).
2. ACBL. [2012 Grand National Teams Results](#).
3. USBF. [2018 United States Bridge Championships Results](#).