



CELEBRITY SPEAKER

with Andy Hung

HOW EXPERTS DEAL WITH PESKY PREEMPTS

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Join **ANDY HUNG's** **NOOSA BRIDGE HOLIDAY!**

Monday 4th – Saturday 9th May 2020 (6 Days 5 Nights)



Andy Hung invites you to a relaxing getaway Bridge Holiday at the Ivory Palms Resort in Noosaville. There will be four fantastic lessons covering the dilemmas that we face on a regular basis at the bridge table! Other than bridge, there will be plenty of time to enjoy the warm temperatures and relax by the pool, go on a nature walk, or indulge in Noosa's great restaurants!

The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ Five nights at the Ivory Palms Resort
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions, and hand analysis and discussion
- ♥ All meals including breakfast, afternoon tea, and dinners (except for one dinner where you are free!); from Monday lunch on arrival, to Saturday lunch (including wine and prize giving) prior to departure (*Your only expense will be the one dinner, drinks with dinner and personal items*)
- ♥ Farewell drinks with Friday lunch

Pricing: ♦ Single: \$1749 ♦ Double or 2 bed 1 bath: \$1549 pp
♦ 2 bed 2 bathroom: \$1649 ♦ Enquire for other possibilities

The Bridge:

- ♣ Professional bridge seminars with Andy
- ♣ Topic focus: Cuebids
 - How to describe strong hands with cuebids
 - Cue raises, and its importance in competition
 - When to cuebid to ask for a stopper in opp's suit

Contact, or for the full Brochure:

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ST. PETERSBURG BRIDGE HOLIDAY

“Excellent and outstanding!” “Brilliant and Enjoyable”

Friday 2nd – Sunday 11th October 2020 (9.5 Days 9 Nights)



After the great success of this holiday in 2016/17/18, Andy Hung once again invites you to enjoy a fantastic Bridge Holiday in Russia's St. Petersburg, also known as the “Venice of the North”. This action-packed holiday includes lots of private tours (bus, walk, and boat) around St. Petersburg, visits to museums (i.e. The Hermitage), and of course, let's not forget the bridge!

The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ Nine nights at the 4-star Hotel Holiday Inn
- ♥ Hotel transfers on the starting/finishing day
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions, and hand analysis and discussion
- ♥ All breakfasts (fully cooked + continental) and dinners (Russian cuisine!) with non-alcoholic drinks (except for one night where you are free to roam around)
- ♥ Many fantastic tours with our own private English-speaking tour guide (Not included: Airfare, visa, personal items)

Pricing: ♦ Single: \$3495 ♦ Double or T/S: \$3095
Non-bridge players welcome – cost is reduced by \$350

The Bridge:

- ♣ Professional bridge seminars with Andy
- ♣ Topics include: Card Play Technique, Beating More Contracts on Defence, and Winning Competitive Bidding Battles! (All new topics)
- ♣ For all standards of player (everyone is welcome!)

Any Enquiries:

♣ **Andy Hung**
Email: hung.andy.p@gmail.com
Phone: 0425-101-094

EARLY BIRD

Book before 1st March 2020 to receive \$250/person discount!

HOW EXPERTS DEAL WITH PESKY PREEMPTS

Preempts are and will always be annoying! Regardless of however many masterpoints one has, dealing against preempts is everyone's worst nightmare. The trick is to work out how to try and survive it.

Here are four tips I can suggest that can help you deal with these pesky preempts.

Doubles by the Opener may be more Flexible than Bidding

In a competitive auction, sometimes when the bidding gets a bit high, it may be better for opener to double instead of bidding to keep more options open.

For example:

South	W	N	E	You
♠ AK975 ♥ KQT6 ♦ J ♣ K75	3♦	Pass	Pass	1♠ ?

You are certainly not going to pass, so the question is do you bid 3♥ or do you double?

Doubling here is the most flexible action. This keeps 3♦X as a potential contract (if partner is trap passing), and partner can still bid 3NT if he feels a bit uncomfortable with 3♦X. Doubling also allows us to find clubs, and we can still play in hearts also if partner has them.

For example, give partner something like: ♠ 63 ♥ 73 ♦ A85 ♣ JT9642. Had we balanced with 3♥, partner will correct that to 3♠ and we would have lost our club fit.

Another example:

South	W	N	E	You
♠ AKQ3 ♥ void ♦ AQJ973 ♣ J86	2♥	Pass	4♥	1♦ ?

You certainly do not want to be passing out 4♥ with this hand. Although partner didn't act, he may still have 6-8 points that could not do anything over 2♥. So what's best?

4♠ would get your shape across, but making a takeout double here is a much better action. It keeps the club suit alive (nothing is stopping partner from having 6+♣) as well as the spade suit, but it also allows the partnership to defend 4♥X if partner's hand is more suited for defence.

Partner may have something like: ♠ 754 ♥ K83 ♦ 85 ♣ KT532 – in which case, defending 4♥X seems like the best option.

Shape is King in Competitive Auctions

In a constructive auction (opponents are silent), we generally try to bid game when we have 24 or 25 combined points. However, in a competitive auction, distribution (e.g. the number of trumps that you have, as well as having singletons and voids) now plays a much more important role as you often won't need the traditional 24-25 combined points.

For example:

South	W	N	E	You
♠ 643 ♥ J65 ♦ 7 ♣ KT8653	4♠	1♦ X	2♠ Pass	Pass ?

What do you do here?

Partner's double here is not for penalties. With the opponents bidding and raising, partner seems to be short in spades with a good hand, along with support in the unbid suits. Here, with a six-card club suit, it should be clear to bid 5♣.

It is true that 4♠X is unlikely to make, but it's doubtful that we would be able to take that many tricks. Making a vulnerable 5♣ game contract should compensate us even more.

Dealing with 4♠ Preemptive Opening Bids

Here is a typical (and annoying) problem against a 4♠ opening:

South	W	N	E	You
♠ - ♥ KQ852 ♦ AQ96 ♣ AT86			4♠	?

What would you do?

Do you have firm agreements about what a double means? Or what's a 4NT overcall?

Some people like to play X as penalties, as a 4NT overcall would be "takeout". So that means with this hand, they would have to overcall 4NT. Unfortunately, there are two very serious problem with this method. Firstly, overcalling 4NT commits us to playing at the 5-level when 4♠X might be our last chance at a positive score. For example, partner might have ♠QJx ♥xx ♦Kxxx ♣xxxx and now we'll be playing in 5-minor (possibly doubled) with the suits likely breaking badly due to the distributional nature of the deal.

Another problem is, say partner holds ♠xxx ♥xx ♦Kxxxx ♣Qxx. What does he bid over our 4NT 'takeout'? You'll of course say 5♦, but what if we, the 4NT overcaller, had a 5-5 shape, say we had something like ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦xx ♣AKJxx. Now 5♦ (or 5♥) would not be the best contract to be in, but is advancer meant to bid 5♣ with the 3=2=5=3 shape? If he does, we might end up in a 4-3 fit if we, the 4NT overcaller, has the first hand above! Essentially, we'll be doing a lot of guessing at the 5-level, and this is probably not a good time to be guessing!

Thus, you are better off playing X as "Values/Takeout", and a 4NT overcall to be a two suited hand, at least 5/5+. "Values/Takeout" usually means that you usually have a takeout type of shape, but advancer is not forced to take out the double – in fact, he usually passes and defends 4♠X. Besides, when the opponents open 4♠, it is rare for us to have lots of spades to want a pure penalty double.

If you play X as "Values/Takeout", these are example hands where we would double a 4♠ opening bid:

(1) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>♠ 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ A Q 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ K Q T 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ A J 7 2</td></tr> </table>	♠ 4 2	♥ A Q 2	♦ K Q T 5	♣ A J 7 2	(2) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>♠ A 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 8 5 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A K J 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K Q 3</td></tr> </table>	♠ A 7	♥ 8 5 4 3	♦ A K J 4	♣ K Q 3	(3) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>♠ Q 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ A 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A K Q 10</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K J 8 5 4</td></tr> </table>	♠ Q 4	♥ A 5	♦ A K Q 10	♣ K J 8 5 4	(4) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>♠ 8 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ A K 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A K 9 6 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K 7 4</td></tr> </table>	♠ 8 2	♥ A K 2	♦ A K 9 6 3	♣ K 7 4
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♥ A K 2																			
♦ A K 9 6 3																			
♣ K 7 4																			

As you can see, there's a lot of flexibility of the type of hands we have for the double – that's because we might not always have the perfect takeout-type of shape for the double as the auction is at a high level!

So, let's hop over to the advancer's seat.

South	W	N	E	You
♠ 5 ♥ K9852 ♦ Q9532 ♣ 86	4♠	X	Pass	?

What would you do?

Firstly, when you are faced with this auction, you should be passing the double whenever you have a balanced hand. Why? Because a 5-level contract often won't be making as you have too many losers! You will be better off defending and take four tricks against 4♠X. E.g. You hold ♠xx ♥Kxxxx ♦Qxx ♣xxx, you should pass partner's double of 4♠, do not bid 5♥!

Back to the problem above. You should almost always have a very distributional hand to be taking out the double (typically a hand with a 5-5 shape, or a 6331 shape, etc.). Here, we have a 5-5 shape so we want to bid. But what? It is a very good idea to use 4NT here as "2 places to play" so it allows you to get to the right game contract. Both 5♥ and 5♦ are game contracts, so there's no need to prioritise the hearts. In fact, diamonds could easily be the right spot, say partner has ♠63 ♥QJ3 ♦AKT6 ♣AQ52. If you bid 4NT, partner will bid 5♣ (as you could have clubs), but you then 'correct' it to 5♦ implying ♥+♦'s.

High Level Competitive Decisions

No one likes to deal with a high level competitive bidding problem, but it's a problem that every single bridge player will have to face from time to time.

For example:

South	W	N	E	You
♠76 ♥AQT862 ♦K5 ♣AQ5	2♠	3♥	4♠	1♥ ?

What do you do here?

Two very important factors must be considered when faced with these 5-level decisions.

1. **Distribution:** You should have some distribution to be bidding on – else you usually defend
2. **Opponent's Suit:** Number of cards you have in the opponent's suit – do we potentially have two losers here? If so, better to defend.

The worst number of cards you can have in the opponent's suit is a doubleton. Although your opponents may have bid aggressively to the four or even the five level quite often, they're not guaranteed to have a ten-card fit (particularly when they're not vulnerable). Thus, if the opponents are in a nine-card fit and you hold a doubleton in their suit – guess what – your partner also has a doubleton! This means you have two losers in that suit. Better to have a singleton, or three cards (marking partner with at most a singleton).

Back to the problem above – with a doubleton spade and only a semi-balanced hand, it is better to defend. Bidding 5♥ will likely see the contract fail by one trick, so it's better to take the plus score and double 4♠.