



Monday 13/9/2004

Friday 17/9/2004

1<sup>st</sup> Bob/Eddie 59%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan/Jon 57%

1<sup>st</sup> Phil/Eddie 63%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Frode/Tomas 58%

Funny how it goes sometimes. I played 18 boards on Monday and could not find a single one interesting enough to write up. On Friday I played just 14 boards but wrote up ten of them. Could it be that the return of Jeff/Alex has livened up the club?

**Bidding Quiz****Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.**

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A LHO opens 1♦ and RHO bids 1♥, what do you do?
♠ KQJ	♠ A32	
♥ K106	♥ KQ3	What do you open with Hand B?
♦ K872	♦ Q973	
♣ A104	♣ A92	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ A3	♠ A432	
♥ K10	♥ Q875	With Hand D partner opens 1♦ and you bid 1♥. Partner then bids 1NT (12-14). What do you bid?
♦ AQ107	♦ A6	
♣ KQ632	♣ J52	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you open 1♠ and partner raises to 4♠. What do you do now?
♠ KQJ1063	♠ 2	
♥ Q42	♥ K97	With Hand F it's favourable vulnerability. You open 3♦, LHO doubles, partner bids 4♦ and RHO bid 4♥ What do you do?
♦ AK6	♦ A987654	So it's 3♦ - dbl - 4♦ - 4♥ - ?
♣ 6	♣ 97	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G LHO opens 1♠ and partner overcalls 2♥. What do you bid?
♠ KQ75	♠ A8	
♥ AKJ43	♥ Q10985	With Hand H RHO, you and LHO all pass and partner opens 1♥ in 4 <sup>th</sup> seat. RHO then overcalls 1♠, what do you bid?
♦ 2	♦ Q76	
♣ 1082	♣ K53	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J RHO opens 1♦, what do you bid?
♠ KQ1097643	♠ A972	
♥ K4	♥ 76	With Hand K partner opens 3♣, what do you bid?
♦ -	♦ AKQ7	
♣ Q95	♣ K108	

## Finding the 5-3 fit

Board 16 from Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

North		South		<u>Table A</u>			
				West	North	East	South
♠ AK10	♠ QJ7	pass	1♣ (1)	pass	1♣ (1)	pass	1♥
♥ 432	♥ Q9876	pass	1NT	pass	1NT	pass	2♣ (2)
♦ A6	♦ 5	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass	
♣ K9432	♣ AQ106						

Table A: (1) North chooses to open 1♣, fine. This hand is a good 14 count and with the 5 card suit I would not argue with a 1NT opener.  
(2) If this was natural it is feeble. South knows of the ♣ fit and there will be game if North has 3♥'s, but how do you find out? Be patient, all will be revealed.

The board was played 5 times on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> but only one pair found 4♥. So how should it be bid?

<u>(My) Recommended Bidding - 1</u>				<u>(My) Recommended Bidding - 2</u>			
West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
pass	1NT	pass	2♦	pass	1♣ (1)	pass	1♥ (2)
pass	2♥	pass	3♣ (1)	pass	1NT (3)	pass	2♣ (4)
pass	4♥ (2)	pass	pass	pass	3♥ (5)	pass	4♥ (6)
pass				pass	pass	pass	

Recommended Bidding – 1 Of course it's easy if North elects to open 1NT. After the transfer South's 3♣ at (1) is natural and game forcing. North then has an easy 4♥ bid. But most people would not open 1NT and so let's see how the 5-3♥ fit is located: -

### Recommended Bidding – 2 **Checkback Stayman, or New Minor Forcing.**

Now South wants to play in 4♥ if there is a fit. 2♥ at (4) would be weak and 3♥ is played as either a 6 card suit or invitational by many players. Playing **Checkback Stayman** a 2♣ bid at (4) is totally artificial (similar to 2♣ Stayman after a 1NT opening) and is at least invitational to game in strength. It asks North about his hand, especially his major suit holdings. The replies are: -

- 2♦ = minimum, not 3♥'s and not 4♠'s
- 2♥ = 3♥'s (maybe also 4♠'s)
- 2♠ = 4♠'s but not 3♥'s
- 2NT = maximum, not 3♥'s and not 4♠'s

There are numerous variations and this is a simple one. A popular (but I think inferior) alternative is the **New Minor Forcing** convention. It is inferior because when the ask is 2♦ there is one less response. So in this example, South would have to bid 2♦ at (4) when playing NMF and we have similar responses but no strength indication.

The bottom lines: -

- Checkback Stayman or, if you prefer, New Minor Forcing are very useful gadgets to use after partner has opened with a minor suit and rebid 1NT.
- The combined number of trumps is more important than their quality.

## Worth a 1NT Overcall?

Board 13 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 1098  
North ♥ AJ4  
Both vul ♦ QJ54  
♣ KQ9

♠ KQJ	N	♠ 765
♥ K106	W E	♥ 932
♦ K872	S	♦ 1093
♣ A104		♣ 8763

♠ A432  
♥ Q875  
♦ A6  
♣ J52

### Table A

West (A)	North	East	South
-	1♦	pass	1♥
1NT (1)	pass	pass	dbl (2)
pass	pass	pass	

### Table B

West	North	East	South (D)
-	1♦	pass	1♥
pass (1)	1NT	pass	2NT (3)
pass	pass	pass	

### Table C

West	North	East	South (me)
-	1♦	pass	1♥
pass (1)	1NT	pass	pass (3)
pass			

Table A: Did you bid at (1) with Hand A in this week's quiz? There are two very good reasons why you should not overcall 1NT (15-18) here: -

(a) This hand is totally flat and so is not worth 16 points.

(b) Both opponent's have bid, they are both unlimited, and partner has passed. If you make a noise you will probably go for a large penalty, especially vulnerable. West should pass. South's double (penalties) was just what West deserved.

Table B: This time West was sensible and it's all obvious up to (3). But what did you bid with Hand D at (3) in this week's quiz? Partner is 12-14 and 11 points is normally enough to invite with 2NT. But this hand should not! Why? Apart from the fact that it's a miserable collection with no long suit and no intermediates, it is totally mis-fitting! How do you know that? Partner (North) has opened your 2 card suit and his 1NT rebid denies a 4 card major – a total mis-fit, so pass!

Table C: And yes, I do practice what I preach. I was South here. My bidding partner said that he would have bid 2NT with my hand at (3). I hope the above paragraph and the bottom lines below are sufficient to convince him of the error of his ways?

And what happened? N-S scrambled 8 tricks because the ♠'s broke 3-3. And the West in 1NT doubled? Here N-S mis-defended and made only 7 tricks, but 200 is still a top for them.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not overcall 1NT when partner has passed and both opponents have bid – you are asking to go for a huge penalty.
- If partner rebids 1NT showing 12-14, then a reasonable 11 points is enough to invite with 2NT. But take into account intermediates and, most importantly, long suits and (lack of) a fit.
- Hand evaluation is more than simply counting points – deduct for flat shape, deduct for no fit, deduct for poor intermediates. Hand D is nowhere near 11 points on this bidding.

**A Quickie**Board 6 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

North (B)

Table A (playing a strong NT)Table B (playing Acol)

♠ A32  
♥ KQ3  
♦ Q973  
♣ A92

North      South  
1NT      ....

North      South  
1♦      1♠  
1NT      ....

So does this bidding look OK to you? I hope that regular new-sheet readers will realise that it is not, but it's the way it was bid at two tables on Friday. What did you open with Hand B in this week's quiz? It is totally flat with most of the points outside the only 4 card suit. The hand is not worth a strong 1NT opener (or a 15-16 1NT rebid playing Acol). The above auctions are correct if you reverse them (open 1NT playing Acol and open 1♦ playing Standard American). The bottom line. Knock off a point for totally flat 4333 type shape.

**Poor Slam bidding? – part 1**Board 17 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, love all

North

South (C)

West

North

East

South (me)

♠ K5  
♥ AJ8  
♦ J85  
♣ A10754

♠ A3  
♥ K10  
♦ AQ107  
♣ KQ632

-  
pass  
pass  
pass

1♣  
1NT  
4♦  
5♣ (4)

pass  
pass  
pass  
all pass

1♦ (1)  
4♣ (2)  
4NT (3)

A shambolic auction to a miserable contract. What went wrong?

What did you bid at (1) with Hand C in this week's quiz? When you have enormous support for opener's suit it is often best to introduce a new suit and find out about his hand. South cannot bid ♣'s at (1) (unless you play inverted minors); 2♣ and 3♣ are both non-forcing. At (2) 4♣ is best played as Gerber after partner's last bid is a natural NT bid. North though that it was a raise in ♣'s. But then quite why he bid 4♦ baffles me, surely if he thought that 4♣ was agreeing ♣'s then a 4♥ cue bid would be in order? South obviously took 4♦ as zero aces. If 4♣ was natural then 4NT at (3) was then obviously ace-asking, so North re-confirmed zero aces with 5♣ at (4)? It's all too much for my ageing brain cells.

And what happened? ♦K was onside and the ♦9 dropped on the second round of ♦'s and so 13 tricks were trivial. 6♣ would have been a good contract and is what South would have bid if he knew North had two aces (or even 1 ace). And other tables? It was played 4 times and the contracts were 3NT twice and 5♣ again.

Amazing! Do people not realise that 16 points and KQxxx in the suit that partner has opened is worth slam? And this South hand is an enormous 16 – bristling with aces and kings, a couple of tens, a 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 card suit, and 5 card support for partner! Wild horses could not keep me out of a 6♣ slam (but my partner found the only way to do so!). The bottom lines: -

- 28-30 is often enough for a small slam *if you have a fit*.
- Take it slowly. South's 1♦ at (1) should have worked out well as the 1NT rebid not only told South how many points North had, but also that the 1♣ opening was at least 4 cards so therefore a ♣ fit and enough for slam.
- 4♣ after partner's last bid was 1NT or 2NT is best played as ace-asking regardless.
- It takes a BIG noise to convince me that partner's earlier bids were nonsense. 5♣ here was not a big enough noise. Guess I trust partners too much?

## Poor Slam bidding? – part 2

Board 16 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

North (E)	South
♠ KQJ1063	♠ 97542
♥ Q42	♥ KJ5
♦ AK6	♦ J
♣ 6	♣ K1073

### Table A

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	4♠ (1)
pass	4NT (2)	pass	5♣
pass	5♠	dbl	all pass

### Table B

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	4♠ (1)
pass	pass	pass	

Table A: (1) With this sort of hand it's best to raise partner directly to 4♠ (take a slower approach with a strong hand). Now North has a very strong hand, but it is missing 3 aces and is not good enough to press on at (2) opposite partner's weak raise to 4♠. East had all three missing aces and so doubled!

Table B: Perfect.

And what happened? 4♠ was bid and made exactly at 3 tables, 5♠ was one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Raising partner's 1♥/♠ opening directly to 4♥/♠ is a weak bid, usually with 5 trumps.
- You need a very good hand to press on when partner has made such a raise.

## Poor Slam bidding? – part 3

Board 3 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

North	South
♠ AKQ6	♠ J8754
♥ K103	♥ A62
♦ K8	♦ AQ5
♣ K1062	♣ A9

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠ (1)
pass	4NT (2)	pass	5♠
pass	6♠	all pass	

I did not play this hand and I'm not absolutely sure that this was the bidding at this table, but was certainly similar.

First of all, the opening bid. Do you open 1♠ or 1NT at (1)? I prefer 1NT (no good rebid) but it's matter of style. Anyway, the 1♠ opening should have worked out well as the fit is immediately discovered. There may have been a couple more bids but eventually North bid Blackwood at (2). He knew that all the aces and all the kings and the ♠ Q were present, so what do you bid? 6♠, 6NT or 7♠? With a 5-4 fit, solid trumps and all the aces and kings, 7♠ would normally be there. Perhaps it would have been easier if North had opened 1NT (thus showing 15-17)? Who knows?

And what happened? 6♠ + 1 scored above average as it was equalled at one table but just 3NT was bid at the third.

The bottom line.

- Aces and kings are good cards, quacks are not. Note that there is not a wasted Quack in the above deal.
- 4-4 fits are good, so are 5-4 fits.

## Poor Slam bidding? – part 4

Board 4 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ KQ1097643  
West ♥ K4  
Both vul ♦ -  
♣ Q95

West	North (J)	East	South
1♦	1♠ (1)	dbl (2)	pass
2♥ (3)	3♠ (4)	4NT (5)	pass
5♥	pass	pass (6)	

♠ A	N	♠ 2
♥ 9653	W E	♥ AQJ7
♦ AKQ103	S	♦ J8654
♣ 1083		♣ AK6
	♠ J85	
	♥ 1082	
	♦ 972	
	♣ J742	

I only know the bidding at this table, but with 6♦/♥ making and 7♦/♥ being there if it were not for the total duplication in shape it is surprising that nobody bid slam.

So what did you overcall with Hand J at (1) in this week's quiz? For me there is only one bid - 4♠. Anyway, North chose a perhaps pathetic 1♠. Double at (2) is negative showing 4♥'s and 6+ points. 2♥ at (3) is simply a weakish acceptance of ♥'s as trumps. 3♠ at (4) is silly. It probably occurred to North that he should have bid more on the first round – it's too late now – E-W have found their fit(s). 4NT at (5) is Blackwood with ♥'s agreed and it's plain sailing from now on. I have no idea why East passed at (6), is all four aces not enough? I suppose that they were playing Roman Keycard Blackwood, but with just one key card missing one should still bid a small slam.

And what happened? At another table N-S went for 800 in 5♠ doubled, quite why they reached the 5 level is beyond me (the 5 level belongs to the opponents – if they bid 5♦ or 5♥ then let it be). The other two contracts were 5♦. Do people not know about negative doubles? 4♥ scores more than 5♦ even if it makes a trick less.

As it happens, 6♥ is not that great. Played by East it goes down with an opening ♦ ruff. Played by West it needs the ♥K onside doubleton (no safe entry to the West hand after an initial ♠ lead). But 6♦ looks fine to me. The bottom lines: -

- With a weakish shapely hand, bid to the limit **first go**.
- Once you let the opponents find their fit it's too late to pre-empt.
- Play negative doubles.
- A negative double of a 1♠ overcall after partner's 1♣/♦ opening simply promises 6+ pts and 4♥'s, just the same as if RHO had passed and you bid 1♥.
- ♥'s score more than ♦'s. 10 tricks in ♥'s scores more than 11 tricks in ♦'s.
- But if you are slamming it's usually best to go for the safer contract. A 5-5 ♦ fit may be better than a 4-4 ♥ fit.
- Do not bid Blackwood to gauge partner's strength! If you have a hand that is good enough to bid Blackwood and find that there is just one ace (or keycard) missing then bid the small slam. If you needed more then you have mis-used Blackwood.
- The 5 level belongs to the opponents. If you push the opponents up to the 5 level then it's usually best to let them play there; maybe they will go one down, maybe they have slam?

**Cuebid the enemy suit to show a sound raise.**Board 14 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ KQ75	<u>Table A</u>				
East	♥ AKJ43	West	North (G)	East	South	
Love all	♦ 2	-	-	1♠ (1)	2♥ (2)	
	♣ 1082	pass	3♥ (3)	pass	pass	
		pass				
♠ 64	N	♠ J10932				
♥ 76	W E	♥ 2	<u>Table B</u>			
♦ KJ985	S	♦ A1043	West	North	East	South (H)
♣ Q964		♣ AJ7	-	-	pass	pass
	♠ A8		pass	1♥	1♠	2♣ (4)
	♥ Q10985		pass	pass		
	♦ Q76					
	♣ K53		<u>Table C</u>			
			West	North	East	South
			-	-	pass	pass
			pass	1♥	1♠	3♣ (4)
			pass	pass		

This board generated considerable discussion on Friday when I was asked to check the scores of two N-S pairs apparently playing in a silly 3-3 ♣ fit: -

- Table A: This East believes in the 'rule of 19' for opening hands. I've never heard of it (the rule of 20 is generally accepted). Anyway, a dubious opener and I suspect that most would pass at (1), as would I. 2♥ at (2) is obvious but what about that 3♥ bid at (3)? Pathetic is an understatement. What did you bid with Hand G in this week's quiz? Either 4♥ or a cuebid of 2♠ followed by 4♥ (to show a good raise to 4♥) or a 4♦ splinter are far better.
- Table B: This East and South both know about the rule of 20 (not 19) and so both sensibly passed. But South has a problem at (4). He is too good for 3♥ or even 4♥ so he bid a new suit, 2♣, forcing? If South were not a passed hand then this would be a sensible way to bid the hand, but 2♣ is no longer forcing with standard methods (whether there had been an overcall or not) by a passed hand. Fortunately the 1♠ overcall has helped! It's now simple, bid 2♠ and then 4♥ next go.
- Table C: This South realised that 2♣ at (4) was no longer forcing from a passed hand and so chose 3♣ - with a similar result! Whether 3♣ is forcing or not is up to you, but one thing is for sure - 2♠ is forcing!

And what happened? The 4<sup>th</sup> table bid sensibly and got to 4♥ making exactly. 3♥ made +2 and the ♣ contracts are not worthy of mention. I was asked how South should have bid if there was no overcall. The best answer is to play Drury. Then 2♣/♦ by a passed South are both forcing (and show ♥ support!). In this case 2♦ followed by 4♥ would show a sound raise with 4♥'s when playing 2 way Reverse Drury. The bottom lines: -

- In a competitive auction bidding the opponent's suit is a useful tool. It is usually to ask partner if he has a stop for NT, but if you subsequently support his suit it shows a hand that was too strong to support directly.
- A two level overcall is close to opening hand strength.

**Pre-empt with 6 ♣'s?**

Board 19 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A972  
 South ♥ 76  
 E-W vul ♦ AKQ7  
 ♣ K108

Table A

West	North (K)	East	South
-	-	-	3♣ (1)
pass	5♣ (2)	pass	pass
pass			

♠ 63	N	♠ QJ104
♥ AKJ95	W E	♥ Q10832
♦ 1042	S	♦ 863
♣ J43		♣ 2
	♠ K85	
	♥ 4	
	♦ J95	
	♣ AQ9765	

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass (1)
pass	1NT (3)	pass	2♠ (4)
pass	3♣ (5)	pass	3♥ (5)
pass	3♠	pass	4♣ (6)
pass	pass (6)	pass	

This board generated considerable discussion on Friday.

Table A: Chuck has gone now so a 3♣ opening at (1) will not get much criticism. North's 5♣ raise looks very sensible to me. 6♣ is cold but difficult to bid?

Table B: This was the bidding that generated the discussion. South chose to pass and North's 1NT opener at (3) is obviously fine. 2♠ at (4) was a transfer to ♣'s. Now here is where it started to go wrong. Playing specific transfers to the minors (2♠ → 3♣ and 2NT → 3♦) then North should super-accept with 2NT at (5). Anyway, he failed to do so and the question is what does 3♥ at (5) mean? South meant it as asking for a ♥ stop and North apparently also thought that that was the case. I guess that you could agree to play it that way, but it is not standard. Standard is that it is natural, i.e. a 2<sup>nd</sup> suit. Anyway, North showed no ♥ stop in their system and South bid his ♣'s again. The question is – is 4♣ forcing here? Remember that South is a passed hand.

Difficult. Everything would have been so much simpler if North had acknowledged the ♣Kxx with a super-accept at (5). Then 5♣ (or perhaps 6♣ on a good day) would have been reached. This was not a good day.

And what happened? 5♣ made +1 and 4♣ +2. At other tables 3NT went one down and 3♥ by E-W went 2 down.

And how should the N-S bidding go assuming that South passes originally and you play 4-way transfers? How about :-

North	South	(1) transfer to ♣'s
1NT	2♠ (1)	(2) super-accept, 3 ♣'s to an honour
2NT (2)	4♦ (3)	(3) RKCB. It's up to you what you play as Blackwood when a
4♥ (3)	6♣	minor suit is agreed. 4NT is too high. Some play 4-of-the-
pass		minor and some play the suit above (Kickback).
		A 4♥ splinter at (3) is an alternative approach.
		(4) (0 or) 3 key cards.

The bottom lines: -

- AQxxxx is a golden holding if partner is known to hold Kxx(x). Playing 4-way transfers tells you this.
- Pre-empting with a decent 6 card ♣ suit is perfectly acceptable, that's what Marty sez.



**Don't bid again after pre-empting unless invited**Board 18 from Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ AJ10	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ J10653	West	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ 10	-	-	3♦	pass (1)
	♣ AQ85	pass	pass (2)		

♠ 87643	N	♠ 2	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ 82	W E	♥ K97	West	North	East	South
♦ K	S	♦ A987654	-	-	3♦	dbl (1)
♣ KJ1042		♣ 97	3♠ (3)	all pass		

♠ KQ95	<u>Table C</u>			
♥ AQ4	West	North	East (F)	South
♦ QJ32	-	-	3♦	dbl (1)
♣ 63	4♦ (3)	4♥	5♦ (4)	dbl
	all pass			

Another board that generated discussion on Friday: -

- Table A: It's not obvious what South should do at (1). With length and strength in ♦'s it's difficult. It's not quite enough for 3NT. I suspect that most would double but pass is fine. But pass is not fine at (2); this North hand is different – it is playable in 3 suits and should double. 3♥ is also a very reasonable alternative. Pass is not.
- Table B: This South chose to double at (1), fine. But West should pass at (3), 3♠ is terrible. Do not pull partner's 7 card suit into your 5 card suit!
- Table C: Now I said that West should pass at (3) (I would), but this 4♦ bid is not totally unreasonable – why make it easy for the opponents? But what did you bid with Hand F at (4) in this week's quiz? I don't like 5♦. Once you have pre-empted you have said it all – this hand has nothing more to say. Partner's 4♦ is NOT an invitation to bid on – it is merely a bid designed to make it difficult for the opposition. East has pre-empted and West is the captain and, what's more, this East is a good defensive hand. East should not bid again.

And what happened? 3♦ was minus 3 for the top to E-W. 5♦ was minus 5 for -1100 and the bottom to E-W. 3♠ was minus 6, so -300 for an undeserved average.

The bottom lines: -

- Once you have pre-empted, do not bid again unless partner invites. A raise from partner is simply upping the pre-empt and is not an invitation.
- When partner pre-empted he usually has a 7 card suit. Do not 'rescue' him into a 5 card suit.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass. Both opponents are unlimited and partner has passed. You can only make a noise in this situation with a *shapely* hand. You are asking for a huge penalty if you bid 1NT (15-18).
- Hand B: 1♦. An easy one for regular news-sheet readers. This hand is totally flat (so deduct one point) and with most of the points outside the 4 card suit it has no redeeming features. It is not worth a strong NT (or an Acol 1NT rebid).
- Hand C: 1♦. If you do not play inverted minors then you cannot support ♣'s with a forcing bid. So bid 1♦ for now and see what happens.
- Hand D: Pass. This is a miserable 11 count. Partner has opened your doubleton suit and has denied both of your four card suits. It's a mis-fit. You will go down (in either 2NT or 3NT) far too many times if you bid on to make up for the odd occasion when everything is right and you make 3NT.
- Hand E: Pass. Partner's 4♠ is weak, usually 5 trumps and little else.
- Hand F: Pass. Partner is in charge. You have no more than your initial pre-empt. Maybe partner can set 4♥, maybe the opponents will miss slam, only partner knows. Under no circumstances should you bid again here.
- Hand G: 4♥ or 2♠ or a 4♦ splinter. The hand is too good for 2♥ or 3♥. And even 4♥ in my style. You can bid the opponent's suit and then bid 4♥ to show a sound raise to 4♥. A 4♦ splinter (♦ shortage and agreeing ♥'s) is also a good bid.
- Hand H: 4♥ or 2♠. Partner has opened 1♥ in 4<sup>th</sup> seat – this is a sound opener. You most certainly have game values. 4♥ is reasonable but you might miss slam. I prefer the cue bid of the opponent's suit and then 4♥ next go to show a sound raise to 4♥.
- Hand J: 4♠. It could be anybody's hand. You may have slam (unlikely). They may have slam (much more likely). 4♠ is where you will usually want to play, so bid it now before anybody finds out who's got what.
- Hand K: 5♣. Maybe 6♣ makes, maybe the opponents can make 4♥. Who knows? Maybe the opponents will bid over 5♣ and you can double them. 3NT is silly and 5♣ will normally make.