

8/4/05

Club News Sheet – No. 127

Mon	4/4/05	1 st Chuck/Paul	70%	2 nd John G/Emil	61%
Wed	6/4/05	1 st Dave/Gene	57%	2 nd Ian/Mike	53%
Fri	8/4/05	1 st Alex/Thorlief	71%	2 nd = Tomas/Philip	58%
				2 nd = Bob/Dave	58%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A (1 st seat, both vul)?
♠ Q8	♠ KQ10532	With Hand B you bid ♠'s, partner bids ♥'s which you support and the opponents bid ♦'s. Partner bids 4NT (normal Blackwood) but the next hand bids 5♦, what do you do?
♥ Q104	♥ AQ93	
♦ KQJ1097	♦ 3	
♣ 65	♣ J3	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♣, what do you do?
♠ K1097	♠ J974	What do you open with Hand D (1 st seat, just you vul)?
♥ KQ62	♥ AJ8	
♦ 953	♦ AJ3	
♣ K10	♣ J74	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E LHO opens 1♣ and partner doubles. RHO then bids 1NT, what do you do?
♠ Q64	♠ Q	With Hand F partner opens 1♣. (a) What do you bid? Suppose that you choose to bid 1♥ and partner rebids 1♠, then (b) what do you bid now?
♥ 1074	♥ A1086432	
♦ KJ72	♦ Q875	
♣ 865	♣ K	

The play's the thing – quiz Board 19 from Friday 8th

<u>You</u>		<u>Dummy</u>	You are West in a 4♥ contract. You get the ♦10 lead and win. You then play ♠AK and ruff the 3 rd round. You play a low ♥ from dummy and your ♥Q wins. You then play the ♥8 in this position: -
♠ AK94	N	♠ 52	
♥ Q8	W E	♥ K97532	
♦ AKQ	S	♦ 82	
♣ Q1096		♣ K84	
♠ 9	N	♠ -	So here you lead the ♥8 and North covers with the ♥J, what card do you play from dummy?
♥ 8	W E	♥ K975	
♦ AK	S	♦ 8	
♣ Q1096		♣ K84	

The play's the thing - answer

Board 19 from Friday 8th

Dealer:	♠ Q108						
South	♥ J106			West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ 10964	DUMMY		-	-	-	pass
	♣ J73	↓		2NT	pass	3♦ (1)	pass
				3♥	pass	4♥	all pass
♠ AK94	N	♠ 52					
♥ Q8	W E	♥ K97532		(1) transfer			
♦ AKQ	S	♦ 82					
♣ Q1096		♣ K84					
	♠ J743						
	♥ A4						
	♦ J753						
	♣ A52						

This bidding is pretty standard (but I note that only two out of the six tables reached the good 4♥ contract). Anyway, this time it's about the play.

North leads the ♦10 and West wins. He correctly leads ♠AK and ruffs the 3rd round in dummy. The ♥2 was led from dummy and the ♥Q won the trick. He then played the ♥8 up to dummy and North played the ♥J:

♠ 9	N	♠ -
♥ 8	W E	♥ K975
♦ AK	S	♦ 8
♣ Q1096		♣ K84

So in this position you lead the ♥8 and North covers with the ♥J. What card did you play from dummy in the play quiz? You know that South has the ♥A (North would have taken your ♥Q if he had it) and

so must play low and hope that South's ♥A is now singleton. It's a 50% chance, but far better than the 0% chance of playing the ♥K.

At this table West played the ♥K and muttered something about how unlucky he was when this lost to the ♥A. Quite so, he was unlucky in that he had a partner good enough to point out his zero % play.

And what happened? 4♥ should still make exactly of course (and would have scored a 2nd top) but this declarer somehow managed the seemingly impossible and went one down.

And at other tables? Chuck/Paul presumably had the same auction and obviously made 4♥+1, following the line of play I suggested above I guess. The 4 other tables were all in silly contracts: 5♥ (-1), 5NT (-3), 3NT (½) and 2♠ (+1).

The bottom line: -

- If you know that one opponent has a particular card, then don't play his partner for it!
- Don't continually grumble about never being able to find a decent partner if you routinely go down in contracts that are cold for +1.

It's not forcing

Board 18 from Monday 4th

4♥ is where E-W want to be on this deal, but how should it be bid?

Dealer: ♠ A87642
East ♥ Q5
N-S vul ♦ 109
♣ J84

♠ Q N ♠ J1093
♥ A1086432 W E ♥ 97
♦ Q875 S ♦ AK
♣ K ♣ A7652
♠ K5
♥ KJ
♦ J6432
♣ Q1093

Table A

West(F)	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	pass
1♥ (1)	pass	1♠	pass
3♥ (2)	pass	4♥ (3)	all pass

Expert Table

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

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this West hand F(a) in this week's quiz? The simplest solution is a strong (game forcing) jump to 2♥. 1♥ is fine as long as you know how to keep the bidding forcing and show partner that you have long ♥'s.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand F(b) in this week's quiz? If you do not play strong jump shifts at (1) then you have a slight problem here - 3♥ is not forcing and 4♥ is too unilateral.
- (3) Lucky for this West that I was not East, with a minimum opener and poor ♥ support I would have passed.

- Table B (2) This is how to bid the hand if you chose not to make a strong jump shift at (1). Set up a forcing situation by using the 4th suit.
- (4) With a ♦ stop 2NT is correct here.
- (5) And now, having invoked the 4th suit, this 3♥ bid is forcing
- (6) And East knows that two trumps are good enough for partner.

The bottom lines: -

- The jump rebid like 3♥ at (2) is strong but not forcing.
- You can use 4th suit forcing to set up a forcing situation.
- Of course it's so much easier if you simply bid a strong (game forcing) jump shift at (1).
A typical sequence might be 1♣ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♥ - 4♥.

Overbidding?

Board 5 from Monday 4th

N-S cannot make anything, so did anybody overbid here or was it just unlucky?

Dealer: ♠ J974
North ♥ AJ8
N-S vul ♦ AJ3
♣ J74

Table A

West	North(D)	East	South
-	1♣ (1)	pass	1♥
pass	1NT	all pass	

♠ KQ105	N	♠ 63
♥ 3	W E	♥ KQ107
♦ Q76	S	♦ K954
♣ Q8532		♣ A109
	♠ A82	
	♥ 96542	
	♦ 1082	
	♣ K6	

Table B

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

To answer the question, North overbid at every table on Friday.

Table A (1) So did you open with this North hand D in this week's quiz? If you did then you need to read up on hand evaluation. If you opened it and then later tried to justify the bid (as one unnamed 'distinguished' player did) then you really need some lessons. This North hand is garbage, totally flat (4333), four isolated jacks (the most overvalued card in the deck), the only 4 card suit headed by the jack, and vulnerable to boot; to say nothing of the rule of 20. As an American might say, if you still think it's an opener then I guess you took the short bus to school?

Table B (1) Now this North player was the only one (I believe) to get it right and pass.
(2) It would be nice to have some points in the suit, but this overcall is just about acceptable these days when the emphasis is always on finding a major suit fit.
(3) But then North undid his good initial pass and got it all wrong here! Partner has simply overcalled (so 7-16 points) and a ♥ suit opposite does not particularly improve this North hand. 2♥ is quite sufficient with this flat heap.

And what happened? Every North overvalued their hand and all N-S's went down in whatever they ended up in when they declared the hand, and especially since they were vulnerable that's a poor score.

The bottom lines: -

- Deduct a point for the totally flat 4333 type shape.
- Jacks are overvalued. They are not worth one point, especially if not accompanied by the ten or queen nor in a long suit.
- 4 such jacks are an *enormous* minus!
- An overcall does not promise opening values.

Just one final point. Some players do say that an opening hand should contain two 'quick tricks'. I don't adhere to this policy myself but even if you do the reverse is not true: i.e. just because a hand contains two quick tricks that does not make it an opener.

Pass opponent's 1NT with a flat handBoard 11 from Friday 8th

Remember this title from last week's news-sheet? It went wrong again here when one player simply did not want to let the opponents play (un)peacefully in 1NT. Was East or West to blame?

Dealer:	♠ 852				
South	♥ AJ853		West(C)	North	East(E)
Love all	♦ Q4		-	-	-
	♣ Q97		dbl (1)	1NT (2)	2♦ (3)
					dbl
					all pass
♠ K1097	N	♠ Q64			
♥ KQ62	W E	♥ 1074			
♦ 953	S	♦ KJ72			
♣ K10		♣ 865			
	♠ AJ3				
	♥ 9				
	♦ A1086				
	♣ AJ432				

- (1) So what did you bid with this West hand C in this week's quiz? A take-out double should be playable in the other 3 suits. This hand just about is and most experienced players put the emphasis on the majors these days. Swap the ♦ suit with one of the major suits and I would pass but with this actual hand I think that double is fine.
- (2) Redouble (9+ points) is a reasonable alternative.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? Pass is the only sensible action; E-W would have been in trouble if North had redoubled, but East has been let off the hook and no longer needs to respond to partner's take-out double. To bid freely at the two level here shows a much better hand and a much better suit.
- (4) South knew that East's bidding skills were comparable with his playing skills and so doubled.

And what happened? 2♦ doubled went minus 3 for 500 away and a clear top to N-S. Other scores were all over the place and 1NT may or may not have made.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't remove the opponent's 1NT with a mediocre and/or flat hand.
- A free bid (i.e. responding to partner's double after the next opponent has bid) should be about 6-10 points with a reasonable suit. At the two level it needs to be around 8-10.

When they interfere with Blackwood

Board 3 from Friday 8th

Dealer:	♠ -					
South	♥ 8		West(B)	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ AJ1075		-	-	-	pass (1)
	♣ AQ108542		1♠	2♣	2♥ (2)	3♦
			3♥	4♦ (3)	4NT (4)	5♦
♠ KQ10532	N	♠ AJ984	5♥ (5)	pass	6♠ (6)	pass
♥ AQ93	W E	♥ K7654	pass	double	all pass	
♦ 3	S	♦ 2				
♣ J3		♣ K9				
	♠ 76					
	♥ J102					
	♦ KQ9864					
	♣ 76					

- (1) Obviously a weak 2♦ would be spot on, but this North does not play weak two's.
- (2) Any ♠ bid would be non-forcing, so with a possible 6♠ in mind, East chose a (forcing) 2♥ bid.
- (3) 5♦ would be a far better bid here.
- (4) North's feeble 4♦ has enabled East to get in Blackwood.
- (5) But unfortunately the last time that I mentioned DOPI was way back in news-sheet 35 and this West player 'forgot'. What did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? 5♥ here shows 2 aces. Pass (one ace) is correct.
- (6) 6♠ is obvious opposite partner's advertised two aces.

Since 4 out of the 7 tables on Friday reached slam we need to repeat **DOPI (Double 0 Pass 1)**

It does not matter if you play 4♣ or 4NT to ask for aces (or key cards), if the opponents bid over your asking bid then obviously things change.

Let's assume you are playing simple Blackwood, you have 2 aces and partner bids 4NT to ask. Your response is 5♥, but what if RHO sticks in a bid of 5♦? The answer is the DOPI convention: -

Double	=	1 st step	(0 aces)
Pass	=	2 nd step	(1 ace)
Next bid (so 5♥ here)	=	3 rd step	(2 aces)
Next but 1 bid (5♠)	=	4 th step	etc.

The same principle applies if you play RKCB, Gerber or whatever. Note that the lower responses (double or pass) allow for a possibility of defending against a doubled contract by opponents. Often a good idea if you are short of aces/key cards!

If RHO doubles the asking bid, then there is a similar convention (ROPI): -

Redouble	=	1 st step	(0 aces)
Pass	=	2 nd step	(1 ace)
Next bid (so 5♣ here)	=	3 rd step	(2 aces) etc.

Now I have said aces here. If you play standard RKCB then 1st step = 0 or 3 key cards, 2nd step = 1 or 4 key cards etc.

A little agro?

Board 13 from Monday 4th

Dealer: ♠ 1072
North ♥ -
Both vul ♦ KQJ1083
♣ J943

♠ K9	N	♠ 864
♥ AJ1072	W E	♥ Q9654
♦ -	S	♦ 7654
♣ KQ10765		♣ A

♠ AQJ53
♥ K83
♦ A92
♣ 82

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	3♦ (1)	pass (2)	3♠ (3)
pass (4)	pass (5)	all pass	

- (1) What would you open with this North hand? This North does not play a weak 2♦ and so opened 3♦. Even if playing a weak 2♦ I think that 3♦ is OK with such a good solid suit.
- (2) I believe it was East at this stage who asked South what the opening 3♦ bid was.
- (3) And South said that he thought that it was strong.
- (4) West has an obvious double here, but perhaps he was put off by the suggestion that North had a strong hand?
- (5) Now this pass caused a problem. North is not allowed to take notice of what his partner tells the opposition and South's 3♠ bid is forcing opposite a weak 3♦ opening. North freely admitted that he passed because he heard his partner say that he thought he had a strong hand.

Now North has blatantly acted against the rules, so should I give an adjusted score? E-W have obviously missed game or slam in ♥'s. I did think about it but the damage had already been done by South's incorrect explanation and it mattered little if North bid or not at (5) as they have presumably bought the contract. The real problem was caused by East asking a silly question. He should assume that the opponents play standard and if it turns out to be otherwise and there was no alert then he *will* then get an adjusted score.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't ask silly questions.
- Don't ask the opponents a question if the answer is not going to affect your bid – you can always ask at the end of the auction.
- You are not allowed to let your partner's explanation to the opponent's question affect your bidding. You must always respond as if you had heard nothing and must always assume that partner knows the system.
- This North now knows, I hope, the rules. If there is another similar infraction in the future then there will be a suitable penalty imposed.
- If you pre-empt and partner bids a new suit below the game level, then it's forcing.

A little more agro

Board 27 from Monday 4th

Dealer: ♠ J4
South ♥ 9865
Love all ♦ 432
♣ K872

♠ Q8 N ♠ K972
♥ Q104 W E ♥ AKJ7
♦ KQJ1097 S ♦ A5
♣ 65 ♣ Q109
♠ A10653
♥ 32
♦ 86
♣ AJ43

Table A

West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
2♦ (1)	pass	3NT	all pass

Table B

West(A)	North	East	South
-	pass (2)	1NT (2)	pass
3♦ (1)	pass	3NT	all pass

Table A: (1) What did you open with this West hand A in this week's quiz? I feel that the West hand is possibly a bit strong for a weak 2♦ at (1) but that's up to you and I won't argue. 3♦ anyone? Anyway, this hand is not in print because of the bidding, but what happened at Table B.

Table B: (2) This North passed out of turn and the director was called. I explained the situation and East sportingly said that it was no problem, he would simply accept the pass out of turn and opened 1NT himself.

(3) You have to agree what 3♦ here means. In Standard American it is a 6 card suit and invitational to game. This hand is too good and should simply bid 3NT.

South led a small ♠, West put down the dummy and then left the table (for a smoke?). This left East playing both his hand and the dummy's and he unfortunately revoked at trick one, winning the ♠Q but unfortunately discarding a ♣ from hand and play continued with nothing said. I was wandering around as usual and noticed that there was no dummy at this table and so came over at about trick 8 and played the rest of dummy's cards. East made 11 tricks but then North and South simultaneously told East that he had revoked at trick one and they wanted their two trick penalty. East said to take what they want and walked off in a huff. N-S suggested to me that East had behaved as if they had done something wrong. I'm with East, what do you think?

First of all, I'll tell you a little story about the finals of the World Championship last year between Italy and USA. It was extremely close and the outcome hinged on the last board: - Italy were playing in a doubled contract; if they made it they were World champions, if it went down then USA were the champions. What happened? The USA defence slipped up and gave declarer a chance, but declarer was left playing both his hand and the dummy's because dummy 'could not stand the pressure' and had left the table. Declarer played an incorrect card from dummy and USA were the World champions. Who would you blame? I put the blame squarely on the shoulders of the dummy – he should have been there for partner.

Anyway, back to my thoughts on what happened at our club, let me know what you think:

- 1- Most players are here to play bridge and I believe it is impolite for dummy to repeatedly leave the table. Dummy could have pointed out the revoke to declarer if he was present.
- 2- This is a friendly club, isn't it? If I was either North or South and knew that East had revoked at trick one then I, especially as East is not that experienced, would have told him so immediately and let him play the correct card from hand.
- 3- It seems that winning is all important to some people. One individual in particular knows the rules off by heart and knows exactly how to extract his pound of flesh.
- 4- Dave and I discussed this incident and Dave totally agrees with me, N-S were unsportsmanlike. If it were a club of equals then OK, but?
- 5- I realise that the only reason for this particular North player and his gendre to play any game is to win, but I really am disappointed with his partner.

And what happened? The score was adjusted to 3NT making exactly, but this was still a near top for East as only one other player bid and made 3NT (+2).

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: Pass, 1♦, 2♦ or 3♦. I'm an easy goin' guy and think that any is acceptable and it probably depends upon your partner. I personally feel it's a bit good for 2♦ but others would expect a hand this good when vulnerable.

Hand B: Pass. You need some convention to answer partner when the opponents interfere with your Blackwood. The most popular is DOPI – Double = 0; pass = 1, next bid = 2 etc. So with just one ace here pass is correct playing DOPI.

Hand C: Double. With both majors I think that double is better than passing.

Hand D: Pass. This is a terrible opener and does not conform with the rule of 20. It is totally flat (4333 shape). Jacks are bad cards, especially if not backed up by the queen or ten; four such jacks are four terrible cards. Anybody who says that you should open this hand because 'it contains two quick tricks' really needs to have some lessons in hand evaluation.

Hand E: Pass. Nowhere near enough for a free bid at the two level.

Hand F: (a) 2♥, a strong jump shift. 1♥ is OK as long as you get the next answer right.
(b) 2♦, 4th suit forcing. 3♥ is wrong as it's not forcing and 4♥ may turn out badly if partner has no ♥'s. It really is better for players who are not totally happy with 4th suit forcing (i.e. if you did not bid it here) to play strong jump shifts at (a).

Play Quiz A low ♥, you know that South has the ♥A and you must hope that it is now singleton.