

Mon 1 st	1 st N-S	Bjorn & Knud	60%	2 nd	Dave & Kenneth	55%
	1 st E-W	Lars & Gunnar	64%	2 nd	Bob & Mike	56%
Wed 3 rd	1 st N-S	Douwe & Jacques	56%	2 nd	Paul Scully & gene	54%
	1 st E-W	= Ase Bjornstad & Ole		=	Britta & Terry	58%
Fri 5 th	1 st N-S	Jo & Terry	59%	2 nd	Phil & Tomas	57%
	1 st E-W	Gun & Lennart	63%	2 nd	Lars & Gunnar	54%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A **Hand B** With Hand A partner opens 1NT and RHO doubles. What do you do?

♠ 5432 ♠ 8
♥ 10 ♥ Q1052
♦ 754 ♦ A98
♣ 109876 ♣ 109873

With Hand B partner opens 1♠. (a) What do you do?
(b) Suppose you bid 1NT and partner bids 3♣, what now?

Hand C **Hand D** With Hand C partner opens 1♠, what do you bid?

♠ 97 ♠ K
♥ AJ87 ♥ 932
♦ K832 ♦ K76
♣ AK4 ♣ A106543

With Hand D partner opens 1♠. (a) What do you bid?
(b) Suppose you choose 2♣ and partner bids 3♠, what now?

Hand E **Hand F** With Hand E you open 1♠ and partner responds 1NT, what do you bid?

♠ AKQ73 ♠ K84
♥ K ♥ Q986
♦ J64 ♦ Q965
♣ AQ65 ♣ AK

With Hand F it's love all. Partner opens 1♦ and RHO doubles. You choose to redouble (showing 9+ points). LHO bids 2♣ and this is passed round to you. What do you do?

Bidding Sequences Quiz

G 1♠ pass 1NT pass Is 3♣ invitational, highly invitational, forcing or game forcing?
 3♣

H 1♠ pass 1NT pass Is 3♠ invitational, highly invitational, forcing or game forcing?
 3♠

J 1♠ pass 2♣ pass Is 3♠ invitational, highly invitational, forcing or game forcing?
 3♠

K 1♠ pass 3NT How many points is 3NT? And how many ♥'s and how many ♠'s?

L 1NT dbl 2♣ What is 2♣? Weak or stronger, natural or conventional?

The new location

People seem fairly happy with the new location – at least we are not being blatantly ripped off like we were at the Mercure, Pattaya. We have a contract with the Tropicana until the end of March, but what happens in the low season is not clear yet. So monitor the web-site in case we are on the move again in a couple of months!

Just one in the grandBoard 14 from Wednesday 3rd

With 13 tricks fairly easy, only two pairs bid a slam with these E-W cards.

Dealer: ♠ KQ10432
 East ♥ QJ1054
 Love all ♦ 8
 ♣ 7

♠ A5	N	♠ -
♥ A93	W E	♥ K62
♦ K1094	S	♦ AQ72
♣ 9653		♣ AKQJ104
	♠ J9876	
	♥ 87	
	♦ J653	
	♣ 82	

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣ (1)	pass
1NT (2)	2♠ (3)	3♣ (4)	3♠ (5)
4♣ (6)	pass	4NT (7)	pass
5♥ (8)	pass	7♣ (9)	all pass

'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South
-	-	2♣ (1)	pass
2♦ (10)	2♠ (11)	4♣ (12)	4♠
4NT (13)	pass	6♣ (14)	pass
7♣ (15)	all pass		

- Table A: (1) This pair play Precision and so 1♣ shows 16+ points.
 (2) And in this variation of Precision 1NT says 8-11 points with no 4-card major I believe.
 (3) Any 'cue bid' of ♣'s or ♦'s would be natural and so North does not have a way of showing both majors unless you have agreed a scheme like Truscott after a 1NT response to 1♣. With no such agreement, bidding 2♠ with the intention of showing the ♥'s later if possible is very sensible.
 (4) The sequence is game forcing. 4♣, showing a solid suit may be preferable.
 (5) I would bid 4♠ (The Law).
 (6) Agreeing trumps. As I said in last week's news-sheet, you should only raise partner's 3♣/♦ to 4♣/♦ if you have serious slam ambitions.
 (7) RKCB is not a good bid with a void, but this was a first time partnership and Exclusion Blackwood (5♠) is a bit high anyway.
 (8) Two key cards without the ♣Q.
 (9) East lucked out when partner had both of the missing aces. His only 'problem' was whether to bid 7♣ or 7NT. He 'chickened out'.
- 'Experts' (1) This East hand is 9 playing tricks and just about worth a traditional strong 2♣.
 (10) Waiting (game forcing).
 (11) And North has the same problem about not having agreed any sort of convention for showing two suited hands over after a 2♣ opening.
 (12) This jump, in a game forcing situation, shows a completely solid suit.
 (13) With three important cards West decided to take control with RKCB.
 (14) This jump shows 1 or 3 keycards with a useful void.
 (15) As long as partner does not open 2♣ on 15 counts as one ex-partner of mine continually did, West can be pretty sure that the grand is there. He knows that partner can discard a possible red suit loser on the ♠A.

And what happened? 7♣ was bid just once and made. Just one other pair bid a slam, 6♣, but they made only 12 tricks. I don't know the bidding at their table but if North has shown length in ♠'s then East should play South for a possible ♦Jxxx and play the ♦AQ first as declarer did at Table A. Other results were varied. And I mean that; 5♦, 5♦*, 5♠*, 4NT and 5NT.

The bottom lines: - top of next page.

- Keep your 2♣ opener's up to strength point-wise, I like a minimum of around 18 points.
- The Truscott defence to a strong artificial 1♣ (or 2♣) is easy to remember. A suit bid shows that suit and the next suit up; dbl shows the suit bid and the non-touching suit and NoTrump shows the other two suits (non-touching not last bid).
- There are various treatments for showing a void in response to (Roman Keycard) Blackwood. I outline the only one with any merit below.
- And be sure that if you do adopt this treatment, that the void is a useful one that partner can work out (it should be the opponent's suit if they have bid).

Responding to RKC Blackwood with a useful void.

The responses (with a void) to 4NT are as follows: -

- 5NT = 0 or 2 key cards + a useful void.
 6* = 1 or 3 key cards + a void in * suit if * is lower ranking than trumps.
 6 'trumps' = 1 or 3 key cards + a void in a higher ranking suit.

Truscott defence to a strong 1♣ opening.

Over RHO's strong 1♣ opening: - And over RHO's 1♦ response to a 1♣ opening: -

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| dbl = ♣'s and ♥'s | dbl = ♦'s and ♠'s |
| 1♦ = ♦'s and ♥'s | 1♥ = ♥'s and ♠'s |
| 1♥ = ♥'s and ♠'s | 1♠ = ♠'s and ♣'s |
| 1♠ = ♠'s and ♣'s | 1NT = ♣'s and ♥'s |
| 1NT = ♠'s and ♦'s | 2♣ = ♣'s and ♦'s |
| 2♣ = ♣'s and ♦'s | 1♦ = ♦'s and ♥'s |

Truscott defence to a strong 2♣ opening.

You can use the same as above but one level higher.

It's forcing in Standard American – part 1Board 2 from Friday 5th

I noted a couple of absolutely forcing bids being passed on Friday.

Dealer: ♠ AKQ73

East ♥ K

E-W vul ♦ J64

♣ AQ65

♠ 10962

N

♠ J54

♥ 987

W E

♥ AJ643

♦ KQ52

S

♦ 1073

♣ K4

♣ J2

♠ 8

♥ Q1052

♦ A98

♣ 109873

Table A

West North(E) East South(B)

- - pass pass

pass 1♠ pass 1NT (1)

pass 3♣ (2) pass pass (3)

pass

Table B

West North(E) East South(B)

- - pass pass

pass 1♠ pass 1NT (1)

pass 3♣ (2) pass 3NT (3)

all pass

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand B(a) in this week's quiz? A singleton in partner's suit is bad, but the hand is well worth a response and 1NT is correct. I note that one player did pass for a near bottom.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand E in this week's quiz? 3♣ is fairly obvious and it is game forcing in Standard American.
- (3) But South did not agree that it was forcing. What did you bid with this South hand B(b) in this week's quiz? Even if it was not 100% forcing (it is in Standard American) this South hand is now huge after partner has shown ♣'s; 10987x in a suit that partner has bid is worth way more than zero 'points'! 3♥ would imply a 5 or 6 card suit; 3NT is easily the best bid, with 4♣ or 5♣ being less attractive alternatives. Pass is not an option.
- Table B (3) The rest of the South's (4 out of 6) got it right and bid 3NT.

And what happened? 3NT made exactly, +1 or +2. 3♣ made +1 but scored a clear bottom.

The bottom lines:

- Don't pass partner's forcing bids (sequence G is game forcing).
- 10987x in a suit that partner has bid is huge.

It's forcing in Standard American – part 2

Board 25 from Friday 5th

Dealer: ♠ J6
North ♥ K6
E-W vul ♦ J843
♣ QJ987

♠ AQ109732	N	♠ K
♥ A107	W E	♥ 932
♦ AQ	S	♦ K76
♣ 2		♣ A106543
	♠ 854	
	♥ QJ854	
	♦ 10952	
	♣ K	

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East(D)	South
-	pass	pass (1)	pass
1♠	pass	2♣ (2)	pass (3)
3♠ (6)	pass	4♠ (7)	all pass

- Table A: (1) I guess that 1♣ or 3♣ are options, but especially at this vulnerability pass is easily the best opening bid.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand D(a) in this week's quiz? Assuming that you do not play Drury then either 2♣ or 1NT are both reasonable (playing Drury you have to bid 1NT).
- (3) Even at favourable vulnerability I would never dream of bidding in the sandwich seat with this junk, especially at the two level!
- (4) Forcing after a two level response whether there was a 2♥ overcall or not.
- (5) What did you bid with this East hand D(b) in this week's quiz? Even though you are minimum for your two-level response and have a singleton in partner's suit you cannot pass a forcing bid. The ♠K is a good card and 4♠ is best, with 3NT a poor alternative.
- Table B: (6) Forcing after a two-level response (sequence J).
- (7) All E-W pairs except Table A reached 4♠ easily enough.

And what happened? Everybody made 11 or 12 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't pass partner's forcing bids (sequence J is game forcing).
- If you play Drury then you cannot bid a natural 2♣ over 1♥/♠ having passed.

Rescue partner's 1NT doubled with shapeBoard 27 from Friday 5th

Dealer: ♠ J108
 South ♥ AKQJ9
 Love all ♦ A63
 ♣ J5

♠ A96	N	♠ 5432
♥ 876	W E	♥ 10
♦ KQJ	S	♦ 754
♣ AQ42		♣ 109876
	♠ KQ7	
	♥ 5432	
	♦ 10982	
	♣ K3	

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East(A)	South
-	-	-	pass
1NT	dbl	2♣ (1)	pass (4)
pass	2♥ (5)	pass	3♥ (6)
pass	4♥ (7)	all pass	

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand A in this week's quiz? 1NT doubled will be a disaster so you should run as at table B.

(2) Partner's double is for penalties and South is pleased to oblige.

(3) With a totally flat hand West has no reason to run.

Table B: (1) 2♣ is the answer, without any other agreement 2♣ is natural and weak here. Another sensible treatment is that if responder passes then opener always re-opens with a redouble and then responder would run to 2♣. Either way you need to have 2♣ as a natural weak bid available in one sequence or the other.

(4) South cannot double 2♣ for penalties and so passes.

(5) And North cannot double ♣'s, so 2♥ here shows a ♥ suit and 15-18 points.

(6) With the ♣K probably poorly placed pass may be more prudent.

(7) And with absolutely no tenaces sitting over the NoTrump bidder pass by North may be more prudent.

And what happened? 1NT doubled went for 500 at two tables. 4♥ went minus two and there were the usual spurious results including 5♣ doubled going for just 300.

The bottom lines: -

- With shape, rescue partner's 1NT doubled; points are irrelevant.
- Do not double the opponents for penalties with just two trumps.
- Note the power of shape and a fit. E-W can make 9 tricks in ♣'s with just 16 combined points.

Do not double the opponents for penalties with just two trumps.

Board 1 from Friday 5th

Dealer: ♠ 63
North ♥ 4
Love all ♦ K742
♣ QJ8642

West(F)	North	East	South
-	pass	1♦	dbl (1)
redbl(2)	2♣	pass (3)	pass
dbl (4)	all pass		

♠ K84	N	♠ QJ7
♥ Q986	W E	♥ K1032
♦ Q965	S	♦ AJ1083
♣ AK		♣ 3
	♠ A10952	
	♥ AJ75	
	♦ -	
	♣ 10975	

- (1) With a four card and five card major I generally prefer to overcall. But with a ♦ void and definitely playable in 3 suits I agree with double.
- (2) 9+ points and often a mis-fit for partner.
- (3) Forcing; unable to double for penalties.
- (4) What did you bid with this West hand F in this week's quiz? I would never double (penalties) with just 2 trumps (even AK). 3NT or 3♥ are the good alternatives.

And what happened? 2♣* made +2 for a complete top to N-S. 3NT +1 was the top score for two E-W pairs. The bottom lines: -

- Do not double the opponents for penalties with just two trumps.
- Note the power of shape and a fit. N-S make 10 tricks in ♣'s with just 15 combined points.

The 3NT response to 1♥/♠

Board 23 from Friday 5th

Dealer: ♠ QJ6
South ♥ KQ106
Both vul ♦ 106
♣ Q973

West	North	East(C)	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠	pass	3NT (1)	pass
4♠ (2)	all pass		

♠ AK432	N	♠ 97
♥ 4	W E	♥ AJ87
♦ AJ7	S	♦ K832
♣ J1085		♣ AK4
	♠ 1085	
	♥ 9532	
	♦ Q954	
	♣ 62	

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? 3NT does show 13-15 and usually a doubleton ♠ but it is a poor bid when holding 4 ♥'s. 2♦ is correct.
- (2) Obviously West should pass, but he was apparently unsure what 3NT meant.

And what happened? Two pairs bid 4♠ and scored average. The top spot was 3NT +2 twice. The bottom lines: -

- The jump to 3NT over partner's 1♥/♠ opening is 13-15 points with shortage in the major opened (one or two cards) and denies 4 cards in the other major.
- It does not invite opener to bid again unless he is looking for slam.

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 2♣. This is natural and weak and will be much better than 1NT doubled.

Hand B: (a) 1NT. Even though you have a singleton in partner's suit, the hand is far too good to pass.
(b) 3NT. Partner's 3♣ is game forcing. 3♥ would show a 5+ card suit and 4♣ goes past 3NT.

Hand C: 2♦. 2♥ is incorrect as that promises 5 ♥'s. 3NT does show 13-15 points with poor ♠'s but it's a poor bid when holding 4 ♥'s.

Hand D: (a) 1NT or 2♣. It probably depends upon your style.

(b) 4♠. After you decided to respond at the two-level a jump by partner is forcing. 3NT is reasonable but pass most certainly is not.

Hand E: 3♣, natural and game forcing.

Hand F: 3♥ or 3NT, either is fine. What is not fine is double – it is penalties and you will not get rich as partner's failure to double denies ♣'s.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

G 1♠ pass 1NT pass 3♣ is game forcing.
3♣

H 1♠ pass 1NT pass 3♠ is invitational.
3♠

J 1♠ pass 2♣ pass The 3♠ jump rebid is game forcing after a two level response playing Standard American. In Acol it's highly invitational.
3♠

K 1♠ pass 3NT 3NT is 13-15. It denies 4 ♥'s and generally has one or two ♠'s.

L 1NT dbl 2♣ Standard is that 2♣ is natural and weak.