

What's happening? 9 tables again on Monday and 7 on Friday! Perhaps I should take up Chuck on that offer of a computer scoring program? Not quite sure what the offer was – is he going to donate a lab-top *and* program? I may have got it wrong, but I think that he said the 'computer' in my head was not up to the task – in America they have the results 10 mins after completion of the last round. I guess that if I charged \$10 a session I could get a computer? Or perhaps we should all be satisfied with my woefully inadequate brain cells and be happy with getting the results the next week? Anyway, let's all wish Chuck a pleasant trip back to the USA and hope that the World is much the same when he returns.

Now there's nothing like a compliment to get what you want. One of our regular visitors (Bob) told me that he loved the news-sheets and thought that I could maybe include the names of the previous week's winners. Everybody likes to have their name in print, don't they? So, here goes: -

Monday 27/01/03	N-S winners Paul/Kas	57%	E-W winners Alex/Jeff	59%
Monday 20/01/03	N-S winners= Don/Garry	59%	E-W winners Odd/Bjarne	71%
	N-S winners= Per/Prim	59%		
Friday 31/1/03	winners Malgosia/Ian	61%		
Friday 24/1/03	winners Chuck/Terry	71%		

### Passed Out

Now the rules are pretty clear here. If all 4 players pass then the hands should be restored to the wallet and 'passed out' entered on the score sheet. However, this is a social club; and rather than having loads of people twiddling their thumbs it is obviously sensible to deal again if the board had not been played before. Against the rules! – so sue me.

With this philosophy we don't get too many pass-outs, so it was a bit of a surprise to me when I saw Malgosia sitting all alone after 8 minutes of a round on Friday. Two of their three boards had been passed out and everybody else had gone outside for a puff. As the boards had been *played* before, I had a look at them. In both cases, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> player who perhaps should have opened.

East 25	South 26	Let's consider South 26 first. 12 points, a fairly decent 5 Card suit and reasonable shape. A clear 1♣ opener, especially as you have an easy rebid (1♠). Hand 25E has one more point but is much closer to a pass. All the points are concentrated in two short suits. Pass may well work out best (although I probably would open – but not if my partner is likely to leap off to 2♣ or 2NT on a flat 10-11 points). It really depends upon the style of your partner. I would open 1♦ playing with Chuck but pass playing with Hans (I would be too afraid of one of Hans' 10 point 2♣ bids). Playing a weak NT I would open 1NT opposite anybody – you have no rebid problem.
♠ 732	♠ A432	
♥ AK9	♥ A8	
♦ 86432	♦ 97	
♣ AQ	♣ A10954	

## Roman Key Card Blackwood.

East 5            At the end of the Friday session, Chuck wandered up to me and asked how I would have bid this hand after partner had opened 1♠ (five card major).

♠ AQ54        The opponents may interfere by bidding in the red suits.

♥ 6

♦ K

♣ AK108532

Now Bridge really can be a simple game: -

Terry:            I bid 4NT and then 5,6 or 7♠ depending upon how many key cards my partner has.

Chuck:           Your partner bids 5♥ - two aces, he does not play RKCB.

Terry:            Oh dear. Then I guess you have to ask for kings, so 5NT.

Chuck:            6♦ - one king.

Terry:            The hand is unbidable. It is now a lottery. 6♠ or 7♠? Who has ♠K?

Chuck:            So what do you do?

Terry:            Give partner a copy of last week's news sheet where RKCB is explained.

There really is no excuse for people well past the beginner's stage not to play RKCB. If you can last 27 boards playing with Chuck then you are certainly good enough to play RKCB – give it a go!

## Responding to Partner's 1♣ Opening.

When partner opens the bidding with one of a suit, you generally need 6+ points to reply. However, when you play 5 card majors (and particularly if you play the prepared ♣ as Malgosia, Alex/Jeff, most of our European visitors and myself all prefer) then you sometimes have to stretch in order to avoid partner playing in a silly 1♣ contract.

West - Alex	East - Jeff	Alex opened 1♣ (absolutely the correct bid) and Jeff passed. 4♠ was bid and made at other tables and 1♣ was passed out on one other occasion. So, unlucky?
♠ QJ53	♠ A10984	I commented that I would respond 1♠. The ♠ suit is excellent, you have a singleton and a fit. This hand is well worth a bid because you have a fit. Bbbbu...but what fit?
♥ AQ65	♥ 9	Partner may have a doubleton ♣! This is where some people do not understand the prepared ♣ system.
♦ AQ9	♦ 843	
♣ A9	♣ 10732	

If opener has 2 ♣'s then he must have 4 ♠'s. If opener has 3 ♣'s then he must have at least 3 ♠'s. You *must* have at least an 8 card fit in a black suit. And with a singleton ♥, a black suit contract (hopefully ♠'s) is where you want to play. Now partner may not have such a big hand. Again, a very good argument for bidding. Your side may well be able to out-bid the opponent's ♥'s if partner has 3 or 4 ♠'s; and bidding 1♠ may make it difficult for the next player.

Now I firmly believe that you should not pass with this hand. I gave it to Hans and he passed like a shot. When I gave it to Chuck he said he would bid 1♠ over any opening 1 bid. I believe I have mentioned earlier that these two guys are poles apart in their bidding styles. On this particular occasion I am with Chuck (at least over a 1♣ opening – when you are assured of a fit).

Incidentally, one West player opened the hand 1NT (16-18) - against Chuck! I really can see no 'excuse' for this. It is a respectable 19 points. If you do this often, then you should state your correct 1NT range (16-19?). Please do not open 1NT outside your declared range. Especially against Chuck.

Note. Playing a prepared 1♣, a 1♣ opener is only 2 card when exactly 4432 (♠♥♦♣). And a 1♦ opening is always 4+ cards. I definitely prefer this to 'better minor' where both 1♣ and 1♦ openings may be 3 card. The Prepared ♣ is more popular on mainland Europe and Better Minor is more common in the States. Brits have no problem – they play Acoll.