

Monday 14/6/04

Friday 18/6/04

1<sup>st</sup> Hans/Dave 69%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Clive/Richard (Ire) 51%

1<sup>st</sup> Kenneth/John 64%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian/Terry 63%

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

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A you are dealer. (a) Do you open? Would you open it if you were (b) 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat, or (c) 4 <sup>th</sup> seat?
♠ Q932	♠ 84	
♥ A3	♥ KJ2	With Hand B you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦. What is your rebid?
♦ A963	♦ K75	
♣ J83	♣ AQ1092	With Hand C you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♠. (a) What is your rebid? (b) Suppose that you choose 2♠, then what do you do if partner then bids 4♠? (c) Suppose that you choose 3♠, then what do you do if partner then bids 4♠?
Hand C	Hand D	
♠ KQ84	♠ K7	
♥ QJ10	♥ A64	
♦ 7	♦ J108653	
♣ KQJ108	♣ A5	What do you open with Hand D?
Hand E	Hand F	Do you open with hand E?
♠ K10973	♠ A75	
♥ AK32	♥ AKQ74	(a) What do you open with Hand F?
♦ 4	♦ A94	(b) Suppose that you choose 1♥, then what do you rebid after partner responds 1♠?
♣ 752	♣ 76	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1♠. (a) what do you respond? (b) what do you respond if RHO overcalls 2♣?
♠ Q62	♠ J754	
♥ J1094	♥ Q10	
♦ A1075	♦ 6	With Hand H partner opens a weak 2♦. (a) What do you do? (b) What do you do if RHO overcalls 2♥?
♣ J9	♣ AQ10962	
Hand J	Hand K	Do you open in 1 <sup>st</sup> seat with hand J?
♠ AJ965	♠ 102	
♥ A10873	♥ K97	(a) Do you open Hand K?
♦ J7	♦ Q108754	(b) Suppose that you open 2♦ (weak). LHO overcalls 2♥ and partner bids 3♣. What do you do?
♣ J	♣ K7	

## A Moysian Fit

Board 9 from Friday 11<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul.

North	South
♠ J1094	♠ -
♥ KJ102	♥ Q85
♦ J107	♦ KQ93
♣ 43	♣ AQJ1082

## Table A:

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♥	1♠	2♦ (1)
2♠	pass	pass	3♣ (2)
pass			

## Table B:

-	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♥	1♠	3♣ (1)
3♠	pass	pass	pass (3)

## Table C:

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♥	1♠	3♣ (1)
pass	3NT (1)	all pass	

Table A: What would you bid at (1)? There are a number of fairly reasonable options: - 2♣, 3♣, 2♦, 2♥, 3♥ or a Support Double (showing 3♥'s). This South chose a 2♦ reverse; it does not quite have the values, but partner's ♥ bid and the opponent's ♠ bid have improved the hand immensely, so 2♦ is not too bad. Fine, but what to do at (2)? I would bid 3♥, even a 4-3 fit will play superbly when you can ruff with the short hand.

Table B: 3♣ at (1) was the choice of the other 2 tables. Reasonable I guess but I prefer the reverse (with the intention of bidding ♥'s later) or else direct ♥ support (either 2♥ or a Support double). The reason that I like the reverse followed by ♥'s is that this hand has the values for a 3♥ bid but a direct 3♥ would promise 4♥'s. Anyway, having not supported ♥'s and raised the bidding level, South has a problem now at (3) as the 4♥ may be too high.

Table C: South again chose 3♣, reasonable. But what about North's 3NT. Unreasonable! ♠J1094 is certainly a stop, but the opponents probably have 3 top tricks in the suit and East has 5♠'s. If you cannot run 9 tricks (unlikely) once you get the lead with a ♠ then you are down. I would pass 3♣.

And what happened? 3♠ made +1, 3♣ made exactly and 3NT went two down.

The bottom lines?

- With just 6 points and no fit, do not accept an invitational bid.
- When you have a void and 3 card support for partner, think of playing in a (major suit) Moysian fit.

### After partner redoubles

Board 15 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul

North	South (A)	West	North	East	South
♠ K10	♠ Q932	-	-	-	1♦ (1)
♥ Q1076	♥ A3	dbl	redbl (2)	pass	pass
♦ Q108	♦ A963	2♠	3♥ (3)	pass	pass (4)
♣ AQ96	♣ J83	pass			

The 4-2 fit did not play well, was anyone to blame?

- (1) First of all, the opening bid. Did you open Hand A in this week's quiz? It is borderline and two aces are a +, but it does not conform to the rule of 20 and I would pass.
- (2) This redouble shows 10+ points and usually no fit for partner.
- (3) So what is North's best bid here? Actually pass is best, assuming that partner knows that this is forcing – *after a redouble the opponents are not allowed to play in a contract that is not doubled*. Anyway, North was unsure if his partner would realise this. North has game values but anything could be right; 3NT, 5♦ or 4♥ if partner has 4♥'s. So South bid 3♥, forcing, hoping for a 4-4♥ fit.
- (4) Unfortunately North passed. What should he bid? These ♠'s are probably just good enough for 3NT; alternatively, you could bid 3♠ to ask partner for a stop.

What happened? 3♥ went one down for a bottom. At other tables N-S scored +200 for 3♠ going 4 down (undoubled!) and 1NT by South made +2.

The bottom lines: -

- Even if you open with a sub-minimum hand, do not pass a forcing bid.
- After a redouble, any pass is forcing. Overcaller's side should not be allowed to play in any contract that is not doubled.
- A new suit at the 3 level by an unlimited hand is forcing.

### Don't open a weak two with 12 points and a rubbish suit.

West	East (D)	West	North	East	South
♠ 52	♠ K7	-	-	2♦ (1)	pass
♥ KJ7	♥ A64	pass	pass		
♦ AKQ2	♦ J108653				
♣ J9	♣ A5				

An easy 3NT missed, was anyone to blame?

East was quick to blame West's pass, I disagree. What did you open with Hand D in this week's quiz? 1♦ I hope. The culprit was clearly East, this is a terrible pre-empt because: -

- The suit really is too weak,
- It has two outside aces,
- It has 12 points!

The bottom line? Don't open a weak two with 12 points and a rubbish suit.

## A con-trick?

Board 20 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, both vul

Dealer: ♠ 102  
North ♥ K97  
Love all ♦ Q108754  
♣ K7

West	North (K)	East	South (H)
pass	2♦ (1)	2♥	3♣ (2)
pass	3NT (3)	all pass	

♠ A986	N	♠ KQ5
♥ A86	W E	♥ J5432
♦ 32	S	♦ AKJ9
♣ 8543		♣ J
	♠ J754	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AQ10962	

3NT would appear to be too high with this combined 17 count, was anyone to blame?

- (1) 2♦ was weak. Looks OK to me.
- (2) Now this was the problem. What sort of hand should a new suit after partner's pre-empt show? Standard is that it is a good hand and forcing.
- (3) North certainly assumed this, and with his max and the key ♣K he bid 3NT.

And what happened? With the ♦ AKJ9 sitting over the North hand E-W can take the first 9 tricks; but it did not work out that way! :-

♠ 2		East led the ♦ A and switched to the ♣ J won by North's ♣ K. North led a ♥ to dummy's ♥ 10 and West won with the ♥ A and returned the ♥ 8.	
♥ K		Declarer could now run out for just minus two, but since things had gone remarkably well he decided on a con-trick.	
♦ Q10875		North now led ♠ 4 from dummy, West played low and East won North's ♠ 10 with ♠ Q.	
♣ 7		What should East do in this position?	
♠ A98	N	♠ K5	He assumed that North had the ♠ A and so cashed ♦ K (♠ discard from dummy) and then led a ♥. Declarer claimed the remainder for the contract.
♥ 6	W E	♥ J54	
♦ 3	S	♦ KJ9	
♣ 854		♣ -	
	♠ J75		
	♥ -		
DUMMY →	♦ -		
	♣ AQ1096		

Clearly E-W's tally of 4 tricks was 5 tricks less than they were entitled to, what went wrong? Perhaps West's ♥ 8 return at trick 4? But then East had bid the suit. So should East have led ♠ K instead of the ♦ K or a ♥ when he was in later? It's not that obvious, one would assume that any sane declarer had the ♠ A. But East really should be suspicious here, North's 2♦ opening promises 6-9 points. He has shown up with the ♣ K and presumably has the ♦ Q. West's ♥ A at trick 3 denied the ♥ K so North has it and that's a total of 8 – he cannot have the ♠ A? But would declarer really be leading ♠'s without it? It's not obvious, maybe North doesn't have the ♦ Q? – and people have been known to open 2♦ with 12 points and a rubbish suit!!

And at other tables? 4♥ was bid and made +1 by East at another table.

The bottom lines: -

- Remember RONF (Raise Only Non-Forcing). The only non-forcing bid after partner has opened with a pre-empt is a raise of his suit.
- A new suit at the 3 level by an unlimited hand is forcing.

**A Competitive Deal?**

Board 14 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ KJ64  
 North ♥ A5  
 Love all ♦ 32  
 ♣ J10852

♠ A97 N ♠ 108  
 ♥ Q872 W E ♥ J1064  
 ♦ 97 S ♦ KQ864  
 ♣ A943 ♣ KQ  
 ♠ Q532  
 ♥ K93  
 ♦ AJ105  
 ♣ 76

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
pass	pass		

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	2♥	pass
pass	pass		

Table C

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1♥	dbl (1)	pass (2)	1♠
pass	pass	pass (3)	

At least it was slightly competitive at Table C.

Table A: So do you open this East hand? I would. It conforms to the rule of 20. The ♣KQ are bad but the ♦KQ are excellent. The deciding factor is the two 10's (the ♥J10xx is worth more than 1 point).

Table B: All fairly sensible, except that I would have made a noise with the North hand.

Table C: Now this North made the right noise at (1), promising both black suits. East has a minimal opener, but you should always support partner, 2♥ at (2) is correct; it generally shows 4 card support and does not promise extra values. And, of course, having passed at (2) East should bid 2♥ at (3).

And what happened? 2♥ was bid twice, either making or making +1. 1♠ made +2.

The bottom lines: -

- You do not need an opening hand to compete at a low level, just good shape.
- Support partner with 4 cards, even if your opening was light.

## A Negative Double

Board 17 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AJ85  
North ♥ 87  
Love all ♦ J8632  
♣ K4

### Table A

West (G)	North	East (E)	South
-	pass	1♠ (1)	2♣
pass (2)	pass	pass	

♠ Q62	N	♠ K10973
♥ J1094	W E	♥ AK32
♦ A1075	S	♦ 4
♣ J9		♣ 752
	♠ 4	
	♥ Q63	
	♦ KQ9	
	♣ AQ10863	

### Table B

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

### Table C

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass (1)	1♣
pass	1♦	dbl (5)	2♣
pass (6)	pass	pass	

E-W have an easy ♥ partscore, so why did the bidding subside at 2♣ at three tables on Monday?

Table A: West's pass is the problem at this table. What can West bid at (2) after South has pushed the bidding up to the two level? You need 11 points to respond with a new suit at the two level. If not playing negative doubles then 2♠ is very clear.

Table B: I was this West, I can't remember who my bidding partner was but (s)he obviously played negative doubles. Double at (2) only promises 4 ♥'s and values to compete, so 6+ points. And 3♥ at (3)? It's one above the Law; but West knows that it's a double fit (♠Qxx opposite a 5 card suit).

Table C: This East chose to pass initially. Did you open this week's Hand E? The hand does not quite conform to the rule of 20, but you can add on a bit for the ♠109. This, and the fact that the other 4 card suit is ♥'s and is excellent would make me open, especially as I have a very easy rebid. If you do not open you will probably not be able to show both 5 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s later. The double at (5) promised ♥'s and ♠'s, but only 4-4. West should bid 2♥ at (6), perhaps he was afraid to opposite a passed partner?

And what happened? 2♣ was the contract at 3 tables and it made +1. 4♣ went -1. Nobody played in ♥'s but it looks like 9 tricks to me.

The bottom lines: -

- K10973 is worth more than 3 points.
- AKxx is worth more than 7 points.
- Play negative doubles.
- Support partner's major suit opening if you hold Qxx.

### Play in a 4-3 fit?

Board 10 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, both vul

North	South (B)	West	North	East	South
♠ Q653	♠ 84	-	-	pass	1♣
♥ 73	♥ KJ2	pass	1♦ (1)	pass	2♦ (2)
♦ A942	♦ K75	all pass			
♣ KJ3	♣ AQ1092				

A silly contract, where did it go wrong?

(1) Should North respond 1♦ or 1♠ with this North hand? Standard is to bid 'up the line' and most players bid 1♦ with this hand type.

(2) This is where it went wrong, South's rebid is 1NT (12-14).

And what happened? 2♦ was -1, 1NT made +2 or +3 at other tables.

A decent 4-3 fit is occasionally better when a major suit but not with a minor. This is because there may often be an extra trick, in which case a major suit contract scores more than NT. I.e. 1NT scores 90 but 2♠ scores 110; and if both make overtricks then the ♠ contract still scores more. The same is not true with minor suits; 1NT and 2♣ score the same if making exactly, but NT is better if there are overtricks.

The bottom line. Don't go out of your way to play in Moysian fits, especially in a minor.

### Nine cards in the majors opposite 1NT

Board 3 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

North	South	West	North	East	South
♠ A9	♠ J1084	-	-	-	pass
♥ J42	♥ Q10975	pass	1NT	pass	2♣
♦ AKQ9	♦ -	pass	2♦	pass	4♥
♣ K954	♣ AJ102	all pass			

This table got to the very sensible 4♥ contract. After North opens 1NT this South hand is easily worth game. Quite how two pairs subsided in 2♥ baffles me. Even with the hand being a bit of a mis-fit there is a ♥ fit and 4♥ was easy.

And about the bidding. I've been through this before, once South realises that he has a game forcing hand he simply chooses which way to go. I prefer the Stayman route but 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ (2<sup>nd</sup> suit, game forcing) etc. is an equally good way.

And what happened? 4♥ made and two pairs made +2 in 2♥. One pair somehow found 3NT.

The bottom lines: -

- 10's are worth a bit, especially in conjunction with other honours.
- 3 such 10's are a big +
- 5440 type shape is very powerful, especially with both majors.
- 25 points is usually enough for game.

## An easy slam?

Board 5 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul

North (C)	South
♠ KQ84	♠ AJ952
♥ QJ10	♥ A97
♦ 7	♦ AJ2
♣ KQJ108	♣ 93

### Table A:

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

### Table B:

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

### Table C:

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

Slam was bid at only one table on Monday, let's look at the bidding. I don't really like the bidding at any of them: -

Table A: The first two bids are obvious. What did you bid with Hand C at (1) in this week's quiz? 3♠ is game invitational and usually around 16-17 points. This North hand is worth it. But South's 4♠ is too feeble. He would accept the game invitation with an ace less. South should press on and I would cuebid 5♦ (a no ace response to Blackwood does not help).

Table B: This West chose just 2♠ at (1). A bit of an underbid perhaps. However, after partner jump to game West should come to life.

Table C: This West again chose the conservative 2♠ at (1) but mad up for it later.

After the Monday session somebody did ask me about the wisdom of bidding Blackwood when you yourself have no ace – he had read somewhere that you need an ace yourself to bid Blackwood. Fiddlesticks. If partner has shown a strong hand then 3 aces may well be enough for slam. Now with this particular North hand it could just be that the ♥AK are both missing. Perhaps, but then the opponents have to find that lead.

And what happened? Slam was bid at only one of the 4 tables. 12 tricks were easy. Notice that the location of the ♥K is irrelevant when South is declarer.

The bottom lines.

- A 5 card suit like ♣KQJ108 is a big +
- A useful singleton (especially in a suit that partner has denied, so the ♦ here) is a big +
- KQxx in partner's suit is a big +
- If you have a 5 card suit with 3 aces and partner shows a good hand (3♠ at (2)) the go for it, make a slam try.
- You do not necessarily need an ace yourself to bid Blackwood.

## Dig up a minor

Board 11 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, love all

North                      South (F)

♠ J9432

♠ A75

♥ 103

♥ AKQ74

♦ K109

♦ A94

♣ KJ3

♣ 76

### Table A:

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

### Table B:

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

### Table C:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT (1)
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	2NT	pass	3NT (5)
all pass			

So 3 different contracts, and at the 4<sup>th</sup> table N-S somehow stopped in 3♠. Which is best? Debatable; maybe 3NT, maybe 4♠. I suspect that most experienced bidding pairs will reach 4♠ and I give my recommended auction below. But first, let's look at these auctions: -

Table A: The first two bids are pretty obvious, but what about 3♥ at (2)? This is not forcing and with an enormous 17+ points (it's worth 18 or 19) you want to be in game. I would manufacture a game forcing 3♣ bid and await developments. And West's pass at (4)? This hand has enough for game and 3NT looks best to me.

Table B: This South chose a different bid at (2). Again, this suffers from the drawback that it is not forcing. It also implies 4 card support. As I said, 3♣ (or 3♦) is best.

Table C: What did you open with hand F in this week's quiz? 1♥ I hope. This South chose an off-beat 1NT opener, this hand is *far* too good. And 3NT at (5)? With the weak doubleton and good 3 cards support, 4♠ looks right to me.

Give West ♠KJ943 ♥103 ♦K109 ♣J53 and 3NT is silly.

And how should the bidding go? How about 1♥ - 1♠ - 3♣(or 3♦) - 3♠ - 4♠.

The bottom lines: -

- If your hand is worth far more than 17 points, then don't open 1NT.
- If you open 1NT and partner transfers then it's usually best to support his suit later with 3 cards and a weak doubleton.
- If you have game forcing values then don't make an invitational bid - so don't bid 2NT, 3♥ or 3♠ at (2).
- Very occasionally you may have to invent a 3 level bid **in a minor** in order to achieve this last point.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) Pass. A decent 11 points with reasonable shape but it's not good enough - and it does not conform to the rule of 20. Pass in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> seat.  
(b) 1♦. You can open light in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat if you wish and 1♦ would be acceptable.  
(c) 1♦. In 4<sup>th</sup> seat if you open with a weak hand then a competitive auction is likely to follow. The ♠ suit is all important and the rule of 15 applies (points + ♠ length). This is a sound opener in 4<sup>th</sup> seat (11 + 4 = 15).
- Hand B: 1NT. 2♣ is a poor alternative.
- Hand C: (a) 3♠, game invitational. This bid shows about 16-17 points but this hand with its great shape and good intermediates is worth it. 2♠ is acceptable but a bit feeble. The hand is not worth game here, with a little more than a 4♦ splinter would be in order.  
(b) If you chose just 2♠ then this should work out well after partner has jumped. Look for slam now, so 4NT Blackwood.  
(c) If you chose 3♠ as your rebid then you have said your hand, so pass.
- Hand D: 1♦.
- Hand E: 1♠. The hand does not quite conform to the rule of 20; but the suits are excellent, they are majors and they are in the right order for easy bidding. A singleton plus the fact that all the points are in the long suits would induce me to open this one.
- Hand F: (a) 1♥. Some players will open 1NT with this type of hand, I don't like it with such a good suit. But the main problem with a 1NT opening is that this hand is far too strong. With a 5 card suit headed by the AKQ and also two outside aces this hand is worth 18-19 points.  
(b) 3♣ or 3♦! Partner's 1♠ response has improved this already very strong hand and your next bid needs to be game forcing. So 2NT, 3♥ and 3♠ are all out (non-forcing). 3NT is a possibility but is not flexible (and I don't like NT with these weak ♣'s). If partner has 5 ♠'s then you want to be in the 5-3 ♠ fit and if partner has 3 ♥'s then you want to be in the 5-3 ♥ fit. How do you find out?  
'Dig up a minor'! A 3♣ or 3♦ bid here is game forcing and is, in principle, a 2<sup>nd</sup> suit. However, in practice, it asks partner to support your major with 3 card support or to rebid his major if 5 cards.
- Hand G: (a) 2♠. It's not good enough to bid a new suit at the two level and so you have to bid 2♠. This is a good hand for playing 2/1. Then you would bid 1NT (forcing) and then 2♠ unless partner bids 2♥ (and then you've found the better ♥ fit).  
(b) If you do not play negative doubles, then bid 2♠. If you play negative doubles then the overcall has helped you! You can now double, promising 4 ♥'s. If partner does not have 4 card ♥ support then you will bid 2♠. Easy.
- Hand H: (a) pass, (b) pass. 3♣ shows a strong hand and is forcing.
- Hand J: 1♠. This is a hand from last week and a member queried the 1♠ opening. He pointed out that the two minor suit jacks may be worthless. I agree, but I would still open even if these two jacks were replaced with small cards. Why? With 9 points it's just one short of the rule of 20, but two 5 card suits both headed by the ace (especially majors) are a very big +. Also, there is the very important point mentioned with Hand E and that is the rebid. You open 1♠ and have a very easy rebid (2♥).
- Hand K: (a) 2♦. Perhaps not everybody's choice but quite reasonable.  
(b) 3NT. Partner's 3♣ bid is strong & forcing. With the ♣K and a ♥ stop bid 3NT