

Monday 28/6/04

Friday 2/7/04

1<sup>st</sup> Hans/Dave 64%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Clive/Terry 62%

1<sup>st</sup> Dave/Terry 71%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Clive/Martin (Hol) 54%

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

Hand A Hand B

♠ Q10943 ♠ KQJ  
 ♥ 62 ♥ Q32  
 ♦ K7653 ♦ J9864  
 ♣ 9 ♣ 76

With Hand A partner opens 1♠, What do you bid?

With Hand B partner opens 1♣, you bid 1♦, partner bids 1♥  
 and you bid 1NT. Partner then bids 2♣, what do you do?  
 So 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - ?

Hand C Hand D

♠ AQJ10987 ♠ 1043  
 ♥ Q63 ♥ K876  
 ♦ 93 ♦ 3  
 ♣ K ♣ AKQJ5

With Hand C you open 1♠ and LHO overcalls 2♣. Partner bids 2♠, what do you do?

With Hand D you open 1♣ and partner bids 1♦. You rebid 1♥  
 and partner bids 1NT. What now?  
 So 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1NT - ?

**Play Quiz**

Dummy(S)	You (North)	West	North	East	South
♠ AJ42	♠ K10987	-	-	-	1♦
♥ 9	♥ 108632	pass	1♠	dbl	2♠
♦ AK10932	♦ 8	pass	3♥	pass	4♠
♣ J6	♣ A2	all pass			

You are declarer in 4♠. East leads the ♦J which you win with the ♦A in dummy.

- Which card do you play next?
- When (if) you lead trumps, how do you play them?
- What is your general strategy?

## The play's the thing

Board 19 from Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ K10987  
 South ♥ 108632  
 E-W vul ♦ 8  
 ♣ A2

♠ Q3 N ♠ 65  
 ♥ K75 W E ♥ AQJ4  
 ♦ Q7654 S ♦ J  
 ♣ 1083 ♣ KQ9754  
 ♠ AJ42  
 ♥ 9  
 DUMMY→ ♦ AK10932  
 ♣ J6

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

South might consider 3♠ at (1), but this time it's about the play.

So you are North and get the ♦J lead; you win with the ♦A in dummy, what card do you lead next and what is your general game plan?

You should draw 2 rounds of trumps. A cross ruff is not a good idea as East's bidding (and lead) indicate that he is short in ♦'s. At trick two you should lead a ♠ to the ♠K and a ♠ back to the ♠A. If the ♠Q does not fall then leave it out and play the ♦A throwing the ♣2 from hand. Note that with this particular ♠ layout it is usually best to lead the ♠A from dummy so that you are then able to pick up the ♠Q in the West hand if it is guarded 3 times. However, you cannot afford to do that here as you would then be short of entries to establish the ♦ suit and you cannot afford to draw 4 rounds of trumps anyway.

As it happens the ♠'s split and everything is fine. Having cashed the ♦K you are still in dummy. East's lead must be a singleton or a doubleton, so lead the ♦10. West should duck this and you throw a ♥ from hand – this is a ruffing finesse. The ♦9 follows which West covers and you ruff. You now concede a ♥ and a ♣ is returned. You win in hand (North) and we have: -

♠ 109  
 ♥ 1086  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ -

You have just won the ♣A in the North hand. The plan is simple and 100%. Ruff a ♥ in dummy and lead a ♦. Ruff it and you can get to dummy's master 3♦ with a ♥ ruff. 12 tricks.

♠ - N ♠ -  
 ♥ K7 W E ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ 7 S ♦ -  
 ♣ 108 ♣ Q9  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥  
 DUMMY→ ♦ 32  
 ♣ J

And what happened? Everybody was in 4♠ and two North's made 12 tricks. Well done. Yvonne/Dinie and Martin/Rosemary. But I'm afraid to say that perhaps the club's two leading pairs failed dismally. One made just 11 tricks and the other actually went down (he attempted a cross-ruff line).

The bottom lines: -

- It's usually best to draw trumps, especially if you have 9 of them.
- If an opponent initially leads a jack and you can see the ten, then it's probably a singleton or doubleton.
- With 9 trumps missing the queen, lay down the ace and king, and it's often best to leave the queen out if it does not drop.
- Remember the ruffing finesse, and sometimes you have to be careful about entries.
- If dummy has a 6 card suit, think about setting it up.

**Way too high** Board 18 from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, N-S vul.

West	East (C)	West	North	East	South
♠ K43	♠ AQJ10987	-	-	1♠	2♣
♥ 10985	♥ Q63	2♠	pass	4♠ (1)	all pass
♦ K107	♦ 93				
♣ J63	♣ K				

4♠ was bid twice on Friday (and it was 5♠ at the 3<sup>rd</sup> table!). The ♦A was with South and so it was only two off. Just unlucky or poor bidding?

West's 2♠ bid is beyond reproach, so did East push the boat out too far? What did you bid with Hand C in this week's quiz? It's a super 7 card ♠ suit – but look at the rest of the hand! East can see 7 potential losers and partner's 6-9 points will probably only cover two, maybe three of them. East should pass at (1) and only press on if pushed by South.

And what happened? West covered just two of East's losers and so it made just 8 tricks. 5♠ was doubled and cost 500.

The bottom lines: -

- A singleton king in the opponent's suit may well be worthless.
- Count your losers.

**Raise partner's major to 4 with 5 card support.** Board 3 from Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ Q10943	West	North (A)	East	South
South	♥ 62				
E-W vul	♦ K7653	-	-	-	1♠
	♣ 9	dbl	4♠	all pass	
♠ K	N	♠ J7			
♥ KJ98	W E	♥ 107543			
♦ J102	S	♦ A98			
♣ AKJ102		♣ Q54			
	♠ A8652				
	♥ AQ				
	♦ Q4				
	♣ 8763				

N-S have only 17 combined points but 4♠ is unstoppable, even with the ♥K offside. A 5-5 fit is enormous, that's why you should always raise partner to the limit of the LAW.

And what happened? 4♠ made exactly at one table, it made +1 at another and also made +1 at yet another table when it was doubled. Quite why either East or West would want to double 4♠ is a mystery to me. Perhaps they are points pundits and believe that a singleton king is worth 3 points, or that AKJ102 is going to get oodles of tricks in defence?

The bottom lines: -

- A singleton king in the opponent's suit may well be worthless.
- When partner opens 1♥/♠, raise to 4♥/♠ with 5 card support and 4 to about 10 points (with more, make a constructive noise).

### What's best, a 5-2 or 4-3 fit?

Board 16 from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, E-W vul.

West (B)      East (D)

♠ KQJ      ♠ 1043  
♥ Q32      ♥ K876  
♦ J9864    ♦ 3  
♣ 76      ♣ AKQJ5

### Table A

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♣	pass
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	pass (1)	pass

### Table B

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

Table A: Here East decided not to pull 1NT into 2♣ at (1).

Table B: And this East decided that the fact that he had 9 cards and all his points in two suits warranted a 2♣ bid.

Who's right? We need to look into it a little deeper: - Often when you are 5-4 with the 4 carder suit lower ranking it is best not to play in NT. But I think that East at Table A got it right this time. West has bid your singleton and his NT bid should show a ♠ stop. Also, the likely ♠ lead will go up to partner and the ♣AKQJ5 are 5 tricks in NT. But it's not that obvious and Table B's 2♣ at (1) is not that bad. So what should West do at (2)? East is known to have 4 ♥'s and 5 or 6 ♣'s, if West retreats into the 4-3 ♥ fit then ♦ ruffs will need to be taken in the long trump hand and the contract falls apart, the 5-2 ♣ fit is to be preferred, so pass.

And what happened? The 2♥ contract fell apart and went minus 2. 1NT made exactly or + 1 at other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- A suit like AKQJx plays very nicely in NT.
- A 5-2 fit is usually better than a 4-3 fit.

### Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 4♠.

Hand B: Pass. Partner does not like NT. He has 4♥'s and 5 or 6 ♣'s. Even if he has only 5 ♣'s the 5-2 fit usually plays better than a 4-3 fit.

Hand C: Pass. Too many losers.

Hand D: Pass. You are worried about ♦'s but partner has bid that suit. You will probably get a ♠ lead, but partner should have a ♠ stop and it's best for the lead to go up to his hand. Your ♣ holding provides 5 quick tricks in NT, lovely.

### Play Quiz Answers

- You should draw two rounds of trumps. You plan to set up the ♦ suit, so you need entries to dummy. Thus lead a low ♠ to the ♠K.
- You then lead a ♠ to the ♠A.
- You are now in dummy. You should play a ruffing ♦ finesse and set up the ♦'s. This gives you 11 tricks and 12 tricks if the ♠'s split (they did).