

Monday 5/7/04

Friday 9/7/04

1st Kenneth/John 61%
 2nd Hans/Dave 58%

1st Clive/Martin (Hol) 63%
 2nd Yvonne/Dinie 50%

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

Hand A Hand B With Hand A you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♥, what is your rebid?

♠ QJ10 ♠ A8
 ♥ K642 ♥ 73
 ♦ AKJ842 ♦ AQJ109873
 ♣ - ♣ J

What do you open with Hand B?

Hand C Hand D With Hand C partner opens 1♦ and you bid 1♠. Partner then rebids 1NT (12-14), what do you bid?

♠ AK9863 ♠ KQ10943
 ♥ AQ8 ♥ 3
 ♦ 92 ♦ AK105
 ♣ 84 ♣ K2

With Hand D you open 1♠ and partner bids 1NT. What do you bid? 2♦, 3♦, 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠?

Sequence F

	W	N	E	S
Is 3♠ invitational or forcing?	-	pass	pass	1♠
	pass	1NT	pass	3♠?

Sequence G

	W	N	E	S
Is 3♠ invitational or forcing?	-	1♦	pass	1♠
	pass	1NT	pass	3♠?

Play Quiz

Dummy(S)	You (North)	West	North	East	South
♠ QJ10	♠ AK93	-	-	-	1♦
♥ K642	♥ A1087	pass	1♥	pass	3♥
♦ AKJ842	♦ 3	pass	6♥	pass	pass
♣ -	♣ AK98	pass			

You are declarer in 6♥. East leads a ♣ which you choose to ruff in dummy. You now tackle ♥'s.

- Which ♥ do you lead from dummy?
- Does it matter in which hand you win the first ♥?
- Suppose that you cash the ♥K and both follow (♥3 from West, ♥5 from East). You then lead the ♥2 from dummy and West plays ♥9, which ♥ do you play from hand (North)?

Which is the best slam? 6♥ or 6NT?

Board 7 from Monday 5th

Dealer:	♠ AK93	West	North	East	South (A)
South	♥ A1087				
Both vul	♦ 3	-	-	-	1♦
	♣ AK98	pass	1♥	pass	3♥ (1)
		pass	6♥	all pass	
♠ 75	N	♠ 8642			
♥ QJ93	W E	♥ 5			
♦ Q965	S	♦ 107			
♣ J73		♣ Q106542			
	♠ QJ10				
	♥ K642				
DUMMY→	♦ AKJ842				
	♣ -				

Three out of the 4 tables on Monday reached 6♥ and this was the bidding at one of them. South's 3♥ is OK, although some may prefer a 4♣ splinter or a direct 4♥ at (1). The 4th table somehow reached 6NT, Maybe South rebid 3♦ at (1)? Anyway, I would always prefer some sort of ♥ support bid, especially with a void.

So then, which is the best contract, 6♥ or 6NT?

6♥ makes if trumps are 3-2 and it does not need the ♦Q outside. 4♥'s with West are also manageable, so 6♥ fails only if trumps are 5-0 or 0-5 or 1-4 with East.

So	♥'s 3-2	68%		
	♥'s 4-1 but not with West	14%	Total	82%

The chances of 6NT making are different. Only 2♥ tricks are required but the♦ suit must come in for at most one loser. So 6NT makes if ♦'s are 3-3 or if the ♦Q is outside Qxxx or less.

So	♦'s 3-3	36%		
	♦Q outside, (Q, Qx or Qxxx)	20%	Total	56%

The odds are rough but near enough. So 6♥ is clearly the better slam. But is it? At teams scoring, definitely; but things are different at pairs. Let's assume that everybody else is in the 6♥ slam. Then you score 50%, a joint top, for 6♥ making. But if you bid 6NT then your average score is better. You get 100% of the match points if both slams make or if 6NT makes and 6♥ goes down. These odds are 56% + 10% = 66%. So you get a top 66% of the time and you get an average 10% of the time (when both contracts fail). Thus 6NT, a far 'inferior' contract is better at pairs scoring! That's just the way it is at pairs scoring, an inferior contract may be mathematically best. And 56% may be better than 82%!

The play's the thing. Now I said that QJxx with West is no problem in 6♥. But how did you play this week's play quiz? You should cash the ♥K and then play towards hand, inserting the ♥10 if West plays low. This is a safety play and ensures just one ♥ loser.

And what happened? I lied. I have altered the E-W hands slightly. The ♥ safety play was not needed as West held ♥Qx and East ♥Jxx. But this was the actual ♦ position and so 6♦ went down. Tough luck Martin/Clive, serves you right for ignoring the 4-4 fit?

What's Your Rebid? – part 1

Board 1 from Monday 5th, love all.

North South (D)

♠ 5	♠ KQ10943
♥ KJ942	♥ 3
♦ Q86	♦ AK105
♣ 9643	♣ K2

Table A:

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

Table B:

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

Table C:

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	2♦
all pass			

Table A: So what did you bid at (1) with Hand D in this week's quiz? Basically, is the hand worth a force to game or not? This South considered the hand worth just an invite.

Table B: This South chose the simple approach - 4♠. This was my choice, the hand does not have game forcing high card strength, but the 10's and 9 in the long suits, a good 6 card major and lack of useless quacks was enough for me.

Table C: This South chose to bid his 2nd suit. Unfortunately 2♦ is a weakish bid (max about 15 points) and North obviously passed. I would always rebid a good 6 card major in preference to a 4 card minor.

And what happened? 4♠ made and 3♠ was +1.

The bottom lines: -

- Sequences where you jump rebid in your suit are mostly non-forcing. In this particular case 1♠ - 1NT - 3♠ is invitational but non-forcing.
- Rebid a 6 card major in preference to a 4 card minor.
- You need about 16-17 points for a jump rebid, but 6 card suits and intermediates in long suits are a big +.

What's Your Rebid? – part 2

Board 8 from Monday 5th, love all.

North South (C)

♠ J5 ♠ AK9863
♥ 976 ♥ AQ8
♦ AQ1086 ♦ 92
♣ AK7 ♣ 84

Table A:

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

Table B:

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	4♠ (1)
all pass			

Table A: So what did you bid at (1) with Hand C in this week's quiz? The hand is worth a game force and this South thought that 3♠ was forcing – it is not. As to whether North should pass or not, that's another story. It's a decent 14 count but with only Jx in partner's suit, it's debatable. I would bid 4♠ but that's not the issue here.

Table B: This South chose the simple approach - 4♠. That is what I would bid. A forcing 3♣ or 3♥ are possibilities, but with a good 6 card suit and a partner who almost certainly has 3 or 2 card support, I would simply bid game.

And what happened? 3♠ made +1 at two tables but Table B got it wrong and went one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Sequences where you jump rebid in your suit are mostly non-forcing. In this particular case 1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT - 3♠ is invitational but non-forcing.
- Rebid a 6 card major in preference to messing about. If it's worth game, then bid game.

A 2♣ opener?

Board 23 from Friday 5th, both vul.

North	South (B)
♠ K6	♠ A8
♥ KQ105	♥ 73
♦ 5	♦ AQJ109873
♣ A8653	♣ J

Table A:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	3♦
pass	3NT	all pass	

Table B:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♣
pass	2♥	pass	3♦
etc to 6NT			

6NT is a poor contract. It requires ♦K doubleton or singleton outside. Let's look at the bidding at these two tables.

Table A: Quite sensible.

Table B: This South chose to open with his strongest bid - 2♣. It has 8½ playing tricks and he told me afterwards that he remembered me writing that you should open 2♣ if you would feel sick if partner passed a 1 level opening. I did say that, but if partner passes then I would not feel sick with this South hand. It will not make game – it is not good enough if partner cannot respond to a 1♦ opening.

Hand E Remember this Hand E from news-sheets 60 and 61? I opened it with 2♣. It is 9½ playing tricks + ♣K and ♥J. Now this obviously is a 2♣ opener, but Hans said that it was not! Indeed, Chuck even agreed with Hans although I suspect that he was not being serious? Anyway, if one (or two) of our leading players believe that Hand E is not worth 2♣, then Hand B certainly is not!

And what happened? A ♣ was not led and the ♦K was doubleton outside so the poor slam rolled home. 5♦ was bid at the 3rd table. The Bottom lines: -

- A 2♣ opener is 23+ points or one trick short of game.
- 2♣ openers are defined in news-sheet 61, it's in the 2003 Yearbook.
- If your hand does contain oodles of tricks but not many points, then consider a high level pre-empt.
- But I consider this particular South hand too good for a 5♦ opening and I prefer to be ace-less for such a bid.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 3♥. You know me, I would always support partner in a major suit 4-4 fit. I would not argue if you consider the hand worth game and bid 4♥ (or a 4♣ splinter). 3♦ is also a possibility, it is encouraging but not forcing, but I prefer to support partner.
- Hand B: 1♥. Not good enough for 2♣. If you play strong twos then it's good enough for a strong 2♦. I think it's a bit too good for a 5♦ pre-empt. I guess that one (absent) member would open a silly 4♦?
- Hand C: 4♠. 3♠ is not forcing and I cannot see much point in messing about with forcing bids of 3♣ or 3♥. Partner must have at least two ♠'s for his 1NT rebid.
- Hand D: 4♠ or 3♦. The hand is far too strong for 2♦ or 2♠. 3♠ is not forcing and I think it's worth a shot at game. 3♦ is forcing and is an equally good alternative to 4♠. With a good 6 card suit I would simply bid the 4♠ game although this time partner's 1NT bid does not promise any ♠'s. As it turned out partner had a miserable 6 count with a singleton ♠ but 4♠ still made.
- Sequence F: Invitational
- Sequence G: Invitational. An experienced Acol player maintained that 3♠ in this sequence is forcing (the 1NT rebid shows 15-16 in Acol). Even in Acol this sequence is not forcing but highly invitational - refer to Crowhurst p160.

Play Quiz Answers

- (a) The ♥K.
- (b) Yes. You must lead the 2nd ♥ from dummy ...
- (c) ... because if West plays low (the ♥9) to the 2nd ♥ then you can insert the ♥10 to ensure just one loser in the suit regardless of where the remaining ♥Q and ♥J are.