



# Club News Sheet – No. 92

6/8/2004



Monday 2/8/04

Friday 6/8/2004

1<sup>st</sup> Mike/Kees 59%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave/Tonni 55%

1<sup>st</sup> Joe/Tonni 69%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Chuck/Terry 63%

## Bidding Quiz

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

Hand A

Hand B

With Hand A

♠ 1084

♠ Q742

(a) partner opens 1♦, what do you respond?

♥ 632

♥ 10

(b) but if LHO opens 2♠ and partner doubles what do you do?

♦ AKQJ87

♦ A94

Do you open Hand B in 1<sup>st</sup> seat vulnerable?

♣ Q

♣ AJ1074

Hand C

Hand D

What, if anything, do you open with Hand C?

♠ AQJ973

♠ 53

With Hand D LHO opens 1♣ and RHO bids 1♥.

♥ J94

♥ Q94

You play weak jump overcalls, what do you bid at unfavourable vulnerability. 2♦, 3♦ or meekly pass?

♦ -

♦ KJ7653

♣ J1053

♣ K5

Hand E

Hand F

With Hand E it's favourable vulnerability. LHO opens 1♣, partner passes and RHO bids 1♦. (a) What do you do?

♠ AK106

♠ 975

(b) Suppose you pass. LHO now bids 1NT round to you.

♥ K63

♥ Q102

What do you do now?

♦ Q97

♦ K106

♣ Q82

♣ AK109

Do you open the totally flat Hand F when vulnerable in 1<sup>st</sup> seat?

Hand G

Hand H

With Hand G partner opens 1♣.

♠ AK6

♠ 102

(a) what do you bid?

♥ AKJ872

♥ AKJ87

(b) Suppose you bid 1♥ and partner bids 1♠. What do you do now?

♦ 102

♦ AK96

♣ 63

♣ 63

With Hand H partner opens 1♣, what do you bid?

## Is it forcing?

Is the last 3♥ bid in these sequences forcing or not?

Sequence J

1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 3♥

Sequence K

1♣ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♥

## Good enough for slam?

Board 18 from Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ 53		<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ Q94		West (G)	North (D)	East (B)	South
N-S vul	♦ KJ7653		-	-	1♣ (1)	pass
	♣ K5		1♥ (2)	pass	1♠	pass
			4NT (3)	pass	5♥	pass
♠ AK6	N	♠ Q742	5NT	pass	6♣	pass
♥ AKJ872	W E	♥ 10	6NT	all pass		
♦ 102	S	♦ A94				
♣ 63		♣ AJ1074	<u>Table B</u>			
	♠ J1098		West	North	East	South
	♥ 653		-	-	1♣ (1)	pass
	♦ Q8		1♥	3♦ (4)	dbl	all pass
	♣ Q982					

Table A: (1) Did you open Hand B this week? Only 11 points, but I too would open this East hand. It conforms to the rule of 20, the ♣ suit is respectable and there is an easy (1♠) rebid.

(2) Did you make a jump shift (2♥) here with Hand G in this week's quiz. It really is better than 1♥ with this particular hand type and I go into it in detail in the quiz answers.

(3) And I don't like this. This is a good 15 count and an excellent suit, but it's not good enough to launch into slam with no fit. There are various options (maybe 2♦ - the 4<sup>th</sup> suit) but 4♥ is reasonable and simple.

Table B: (4) A weak jump overcall. The weak overcall should be a six card suit; but this one has more holes than a sieve. It is nowhere near good enough at adverse vulnerability when both opponents have bid – it is asking for minus 800.

And what happened? 3♦ went for -800 and 6NT was two down. The bottom lines: -

- With no fit you usually need 33 points for 6NT. Somewhat less with a long suit but 26 is nowhere near.
- You need a good suit to pre-empt when both opponents have bid.
- You need a good suit to pre-empt at adverse vulnerability.
- You need a good 7 card suit to pre-empt at the 3 level vulnerable.
- There is often little effect in pre-empting when both opponents have bid.

## A Word about suit quality

KJ7653 is very poor. A worse case scenario is that it makes zero tricks.

QJ10987 is excellent - remember my much-debated 3♣ pre-empt in news-sheet 90?

It is 'only' 3 points but is *guaranteed* to make 4 tricks as trumps. So it could be 4 tricks difference between these two holdings, think about it. Good intermediates are important in a long suit. Holes are very bad. I would not have opened 3♣ with KJ7653.

*'An ideal pre-empt is topless with a good body'.* – Marty Bergen

**With a long solid minor, think 3NT**

Board 22 from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, love all

An easy 3NT was missed at every table on Monday: -

Dealer:	♠ 1084	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ 632	West	North (A)	East (C)	South
E-W vul	♦ AKQJ87	-	-	pass (1)	1♦
	♣ Q	pass	3♦ (2)	all pass	

♠ 62	N	♠ AQJ973				
♥ Q85	W E	♥ J94	<u>Table B</u>			
♦ 1062	S	♦ -	West	North	East	South
♣ A8642		♣ J1053	-	-	2♠ (1)	dbl
	♠ K5		pass	3♦ (2)	all pass	
	♥ AK107					
	♦ 9543					
	♣ K97					

Table A: (1) So did you open 2♠ with Hand C in this week's quiz? I would not pass and prefer either 2♠ or 1♠.

(2) and what did you respond with Hand A(a) in this week's quiz? You have game going values and must find a forcing bid. You know that partner has a miserable ♦ suit and his most likely hand type is a balanced 12-14. If you bid 3♦ partner will pass with that hand type! I go into it in the quiz answers, but 3NT is best if you do not play inverted minors.

Table B: (1) This East chose to open 2♠, fine by me.

(2) and what did you respond with Hand A(b) in this week's quiz? You have game going values and must find a forcing bid. 3♦ is encouraging but not forcing and partner will pass with a minimal double. In this situation with a long running minor all you need from partner for 3NT to make is a ♠ stop and the only way to find that out is to bid 3♠.

And what happened? The bidding was as Table B at three tables, 3♦ was passed at *every* table.

The bottom lines: -

- If you have game going values do not make an invitational bid.
- A cue bid of the opponent's suit often asks for a stop (it does in this situation).
- With a long solid minor, think 3NT.
- Learn inverted minors.

The next page was contributed by Chuck: -

## The Devil's Advocate – Another point of view by Chuck.

The weekly bulletin is usually full of negative comments. On occasion I (Chuck) will give you other points of view that are often neglected.

The following hand is from news sheet 89.

'It is better to live with the devil you know than the one you don't know'.

### **The 3♣/♦ convention over Partner's opening 1NT**

Terry often asks me what I would do on a hand then disagrees only to write about it in his news sheet. With Hand L you were asked what to bid after partner had opened 1NT and this is what Terry said:

Hand L	'3NT. Now I'm sure that somebody out there will tell you that there is a convention where 3♣ shows a hand 5-5 in the minors and weak; and 3♦ shows a hand 5-5 in the minors and strong. I am a fan of good conventions but this one is not good in my view. Anyway, is this hand weak or strong? I'm a simple soul, I don't want to play in 3 of a minor, I don't want to play in 5 of a minor, I want to play in 3NT; so that's what I would bid. And that's what Dave, my partner, did bid at the table.'
♠ 9	
♥ 103	
♦ A9872	
♣ AJ874	

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	It is obvious that I (Chuck) am the only player that plays 3♣/♦ over partner's 1NT opening as weak/strong. Terry claims that his partner made the correct bid of 3NT... Well, I made the same bid at the table because my partner doesn't play the convention.
♠ xxx	♠ Ax	♠ xxx	
♥ Ax	♥ Axx	♥ AK	
♦ KQJ	♦ KQJ	♦ Kxx	
♣ KQxxx	♣ Kxxxx	♣ Kxxxx	

But if he did I would bid 3♦ as a game force. This gives partner a choice of games or slam try. He can always play 3NT if he chooses; I have described my hand and he controls the auction. We have lost nothing. He is in a great position to find the slam. What if he holds a hand like Hand 1 or Hand 2? I can make up a dozen such hands but why bore you? How about a 13 point hand like Hand 3? It has great potential for slam.

Hand 4	Hand 5	As for as playing this 3 of a minor convention, you should have 6 or 7 points with the points in the minors but with 5 points (Hand 4) I would bid 3♣, weak. Terry, don't you transfer to 2 of the major with a hand like Hand 5? Of course you do. For a hand evaluator you can do better.
♠ x	♠ Q10xxx	
♥ xx	♥ xxx	
♦ Qxxxx	♦ xx	
♣ Kxxxx	♣ xxx	

**BECAUSE YOU DISAGREE IT DOES NOT MAKE YOU CORRECT.**  
**That's why there is a game of bridge. Otherwise we would all have the same score...**

So there you have it, this is me (Terry) again. As Chuck finished his article with a question and a challenge for me to do better I feel entitled to reply and I don't need big bold capital letters to put my views across: -

The bidding quiz is Basic Standard American. 3NT is the best bid in this scenario and is what Chick admits to bidding with his partner.

He correctly says that I would transfer to 2♥/♠ with a weak 5 card major (as Hand 5). But that is at the two level. I would take my chances in 1NT with Hand 4 as opposed to playing in a minor at the 3 level. Either may work out best but the 3♣ bid can be used for another useful purpose.

I am not disputing that Hand L could investigate slam (but not opposite Hand 3) but you need the tools and most non-advanced pairs do not have them. Now other people have said that the news sheet is sometimes complex and so I avoid more advanced conventions. However, one that I mentioned last week is 4-way transfers. Playing these you can specifically transfer to either minor. If you wish to investigate slam with Hand L then it's easy: -

1NT - 2♠ - 2NT/3♣ - 3♦.

The 2♠ is a transfer to ♣'s and the subsequent 3♦ shows 5-5 and is game forcing, usually with slam interest. Thus you do not need the otherwise very useful direct 3♦ bid; you do it via transfers and this had the additional advantage that opener's 2NT/3♣ bid shows/denies 3♣'s to a top (AKQ) honour.

Now Chuck has quoted a few hands, said to bid 3♦ strong, and simply stated that slam is there. That is not good enough – you have to do better. You have to explain how you bid these slams, and how you avoid bidding bad ones. Let's start with Chuck's Hand 1.

Hand 1	Hand L	How do you proceed after West has opened 1NT and East has bid 3♦ (either via a transfer or Chuck's direct 3♦ bid)?
♠ xxx	♠ x	Simply asking for aces works, but not if the major suits in one of the hands are interchanged. With a weak doubleton East cannot ask for aces and West can only do so if he can establish that East has a singleton ♠. Are you going to explain how West does this next week?
♥ Ax	♥ xx	
♦ KQJ	♦ Axxxx	
♣ KQxxx	♣ AJxxx	

And let's have some more of these strong 5-5 minor suited hands. These are extracted from a recent book on 1NT openings – where all of the bidding *is* explained. It's sometimes a bit complex and so I'll just illustrate some of the problems here.

West	East	Here 6♦ is the contract. Not only does West need to establish that East's singleton is ♠'s rather than ♥'s, but he needs to be sure about the ♣K. Not only do you need to play Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB) but in these situations where a player is 5-5 opposite a 1NT opener you need to play Double RKCB (DRKCB) so that key cards in both suits are counted.
♠ J72	♠ 9	
♥ AJ74	♥ 63	
♦ KQ76	♦ A8532	
♣ AQ5	♣ KJ874	

West	East	And how about this example from the book? How do you get to 7♦? Either West has to establish that East has a ♥ void or East has to use Exclusion Double Roman Keycard Blackwood (EDRKCB). How many people have even heard of it?
♠ KJ4	♠ A32	
♥ Q84	♥ -	
♦ AQ96	♦ KJ732	
♣ KJ5	♣ AQ987	

West	East	And in this example East ends up doing the asking. He immediately discovers that a keycard is missing and so slam is only secure if West has <i>both</i> the minor suit queens. How do you find this out below the level of 5♣ if West has just one or none? Your DRKCB asking bid needs to be at a low level and you need to be able to ask for key queens.
♠ Q92	♠ A	
♥ QJ42	♥ 3	
♦ KQ6	♦ A8753	
♣ AQ5	♣ K98742	

If you start off on the road to slam, you have to know how to reach good ones and avoid bad ones. I note that in the actual deal with Hand L one pair did reach a hopeless 6♣. Just goes to prove my point?

Bidding these minor suit slams is not trivial. Not only because people tend to ignore them and bid 6NT, but because simple Gerber or Blackwood or RKCB with 4NT as the asking bid with a minor suit as trumps are totally unsatisfactory. Chuck, once you have opened a can of worms (3♦ strong) it is not good enough to just leave them wriggling around. You have to tidy it up and tell people how to reach these minor suit slams that are often difficult to bid. I believe that it's too complex for these news-sheets, agreed? Perhaps it is better to bid a simple 3NT after all?

But if anybody does want to know the answers (DRKCB, EDRKCB, shortage ask, minor suit queen ask etc.) then I can copy a few pages from the book or lend it to you.

The bottom lines: -

- Once you start using more advanced tools to invite slam, you also need advanced tools to ensure that you bid only good ones.
- It looks like this 3♣/♦ convention works OK. I'm not so sure about the weak 3♣ but the 3♦ is obviously very descriptive. However, you get exactly the same (and more) using transfers to the minors.
- Using transfers to the minors you still have 3♣/♦ as their normal bid. Standard is that they are single suited looking for slam.
- But playing minor suit transfers it is better to transfer with a big minor suited hand and so you can choose another option for 3♣/♦ (I like splinters - also for 3♥ & 3♠).

♠ xx	And one final point. Bridge is a little like politics, where you can manipulate the facts and figures to mean whatever you wish. In bridge you can always construct a hand to support your point of view. Take this hand which opens 1NT.
♥ Axx	
♦ AKx	
♣ Axxxx	A pretty unspectacular minimal 15 count, but it makes 6♣ opposite Hand 4 where Chuck simply bids 3♣, weak. So does that mean that Hand 4 should go looking for slam?

## Sound Defence

Board 4 from Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, both vul

The Devil says that I concentrate on the negative too much and he suggested that I write up this defensive play from Friday: -

Dealer:	♠ J32	West (F)	North	East	South (E)
West	♥ A954				
E-W vul	♦ 32	1♣ (1)	pass	1♦	pass (2)
	♣ J763	1NT	pass	pass	pass (3)

♠ 975	N	♠ Q84
♥ Q102	W E	♥ J87
♦ K106	S	♦ AJ852
♣ AK109		♣ 54

♠ AK106

♥ K63

♦ Q97

♣ Q82

↑

DUMMY

Pretty straightforward bidding, but a few points are worthy of attention: -

- (1) The West hand has 12 points but is totally flat (so deduct a point) and so not normally worth an opener; but here the three 10's more than compensate.
- (2) Did you pass with Hand E in this week's quiz? To make any sort of noise with this flat hand when both opponents have bid and are unlimited would be foolish. This flat hand has good defensive potential (as we shall see shortly).
- (2) Did you pass again with Hand E in this week's quiz? This flat hand should defend.

So onto the play. North led the ♥4 to the ♥K and the ♥6 was returned – won by West when North obviously ducked. The ♦K came next followed by the run of the ♦10 which lost to South's ♦Q. I believe that this is the correct way to play the ♦ suit. So everything is fairly routine and South is on lead in this ↓ position, what do you lead?

	♠ J32	
	♥ A9	
	♦ -	
	♣ J763	
♠ 975	N	♠ Q84
♥ 10	W E	♥ J
♦ 6	S	♦ AJ8
♣ AK109		♣ 54
	♠ AK106	
	♥ 3	↑
	♦ 9	DUMMY
	♣ Q82	

Obviously you are going to lead the ♥3 for partner, otherwise he will not play with you again; but you should always try to help partner. If you simply lead the ♥3 now is partner going to find the killing shift of the ♠J once he has cashed his ♥ tricks? Possibly, but it's so much simpler if you tell him what you have.

The answer is to lead the ♠K and then the ♥3. North took his two ♥'s and the ♠J back ensured two down.

And what happened? 1NT going minus two was a gratifying result for N-S, especially as 2NT was made by E-W at the other table.

The bottom line. Try to help partner.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 3NT. If you do not play inverted minors then this type of hand is difficult. Neither 2♦ nor 3♦ are forcing in standard methods. You cannot bid a 3 card major and the 'usual' solution is to bid 2♣. This really is absurd with a singleton and so the best bid is 3NT unless you play inverted minors.
- (b) 3♠. This promises a long solid minor and asks partner to bid 3NT with a ♠ stop.
- Hand B: Open 1♣. It's a good ♣ suit, it conforms to the rule of 20 and has an easy ♠ rebid.
- Hand C: I would open 2♠ with 1♠ a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some players will not open a weak two with a void; some players will not open a weak two with a 3 card ♥ suit; some players will not open a weak two with another 4 card suit. And me? I think 2♠ is fine. A 1♠ opening is also very reasonable - it's one short of the rule of 20 but the excellent ♠ suit, the void and the 3 card ♥ suit are adequate compensation. If the ♠ suit was weaker with more points in the other two suits then pass would be best.
- Hand D: Pass. Meow. A two level overcall (2♦) should be close to an opening hand. A weak jump shift at the 3 level needs to be *much* better than this. Anyway, when both opponents have bid a pre-empt has less effect and, what's more, a double by the next player would be for penalties. Pass is the only sensible option.
- Hand E: (a) Pass. It is too dangerous to bid with a flat hand when both opponents are unlimited. This is a good defensive hand and if you set the opponents you will get a good score. If you set them by two tricks you get the magic +200.
- (b) Pass. This flat hand should be happy defending 1NT. Getting 6 or more tricks in defence should be better than declaring and trying to make 8 tricks with this flat hand when you may not even have a fit.
- Hand F: It's worth a 1♣ opener. The three 10's and sound ♣ suit easily compensate for the totally flat shape.
- Hand G: (a) 2♥. The jump shift is played a strong by most players and this hand is a classic example. It should be a long (5+, preferably 6), strong, virtually self-sufficient suit, strongly suggesting that suit as trumps (when a major). It is forcing to game.

Time for a minor digression. I have witness countless occurrences of people making a jump shift with a suit like AQ97 just because they have an opener opposite partner's opening. This is incorrect. You should make the jump shift only with a very good (5+, usually 6 card) suit, especially if you would be fixed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid if you do not jump shift. Once you have made a jump shift you can then take it easy as the auction is forcing to game.

Remember: -	1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 3♥	is not forcing	Sequence J
but	1♣ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♥	is game forcing.	Sequence K

- Hand G: (b) If you chose 2♥ at (a) then you have no further problems now. After 1♥ it's cont. a bit difficult. It's not so easy to show this great ♥ suit as 3♥ is not forcing. A 4<sup>th</sup> suit 2♦ or a simple 4♥ are sensible but not totally satisfactory options. The hand is not good enough to launch into slam with Blackwood when there is no fit. This is a classic example of why you should jump shift at (a) – you have no sensible 2<sup>nd</sup> bid.
- Hand H: 1♥. I made this hand up (it's not just the Devil that can make up hands) to emphasise the points I mentioned above. Here you should not jump shift as you are not sure that ♥'s is the best strain and you have an easy forcing ♦ bid next go.