



Club News Sheet – No. 96

3/9/2004



Monday 30/8/2004

Friday 3/9/2004

1st Dave/Tonni 63 %
 2nd Jean-Marc/Terry 62 %

1st Dave/Bob 59%
 2nd = Jan/Tonni 58%
 2nd = Richard/Terry 58%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A Hand B
 ♠ KQ10 ♠ Q10643
 ♥ AQ8542 ♥ 3
 ♦ A ♦ A42
 ♣ A75 ♣ K1075

With Hand A partner opens 1♦, (a) what do you bid?
 Suppose you choose 1♥ and partner rebids 1♠, then
 (b) what do you bid now – so it's 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ - ?

With Hand B partner opens 1NT, you bid 2♥ and he bids 2♠.
 What do you do now?

Hand C Hand D
 ♠ 109762 ♠ AK8
 ♥ QJ92 ♥ J4
 ♦ J ♦ K9853
 ♣ 1052 ♣ A93

With Hand C partner opens 1♦, do you bid (what?) or pass?

What do you open with Hand D?

Hand E Hand F
 ♠ J73 ♠ AKJ4
 ♥ AK8 ♥ A1084
 ♦ 432 ♦ AKQ5
 ♣ Q1092 ♣ 4

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

What do you open with Hand F?

Hand G Hand H
 ♠ 72 ♠ K92
 ♥ AKJ942 ♥ AQ8643
 ♦ - ♦ 85
 ♣ Q7542 ♣ A8

With Hand G RHO opens 1♠, what do you bid?

With Hand H partner opens 1♥(!). What do you bid?

Hand J Hand K
 ♠ Q ♠ 95
 ♥ KJ97 ♥ AKJ4
 ♦ KQ852 ♦ Q9854
 ♣ J82 ♣ QJ

With Hand J partner opens 1♦ and RHO bids 2♠, what do you do?

And much the same again. With Hand K partner opens 1♦ and RHO bids 2♠, what do you do?

How many points?

Partner opens 1♦, RHO overcalls 1♠ and you make a negative double, so: - 1♦ - 1♠ - dbl?
 You play negative doubles, so (a) how many points does dbl here show?
 And (b) how many points if the overcall had been 2♠, so: - 1♦ - 2♠ - dbl?

How do you make a non-forcing bid forcing?

Board 4 from Friday 27th, both vul

North	South (A)	West	North	East	South
♠ A973	♠ KQ10	pass	1♦	pass	1♥ (1)
♥ 63	♥ AQ8542	pass	1♠	pass	2♣ (2)
♦ KQ97	♦ A	pass	2♦ (3)	pass	2♥ (4)
♣ KQ9	♣ A75	pass	2NT (5)	pass	4NT (6)
		pass	6NT (7)	all pass	

South had a problem in that he wanted to show his good ♥'s but his bids had to be forcing. Let's see how to solve the problem: -

- (1) What did you bid with Hand A in this week's quiz? A 2♥ jump shift is very reasonable and will solve any future problems as it is game forcing. But I don't like it too much as the jump shift strongly suggests that suit as trumps when a major and this suit is a bit moth-eaten. So this South chose 1♥ with which I agree.
- (2) But now he has a problem. If you are not familiar with 4th suit forcing there is no sensible bid. 2♥ is weakish; 3♥ is stronger but not forcing; 4♥ may work out, but partner may be void or you may easily miss a slam. 4♥ simply takes up far too much bidding space. The solution? You must bid the 4th suit. A subsequent ♥ bid is then forcing.
- (3) Quite why this West did not bid 2NT here baffles me (but it worked out quite well).
- (4) This 2♥ bid is now forcing (some say game forcing). See how much bidding space is saved by using the 4th suit, no need to leap around.
- (5) I prefer to play sequences like this after the 4th suit as game forcing, so 2NT here is forcing.
- (6) There is no ♥ fit. With 3 ♥'s or ♥Kx North would have supported ♥'s last go. So should South go for slam or not? 4♣ would be asking for aces but even with 19 points opposite an opener it's not enough to leap into slam with no fit. South could just bid 3NT here, but an invitational 4NT seems about right to me.
- (7) North has not shown any extras in the auction and so 14 points is enough to accept the slam invitation.

And what happened? The ♥K was offside and so the slam went down. At the two other tables the contracts were 6♥ and 6NT, both down.

It's marginal if you should bid slam here, but 6NT is much better than 6♥ at pairs. If 6♥ makes, then so does 6NT and it scores more (at pairs). And there are situations where 6NT makes but 6♥ does not. Give East a singleton ♥K and the ♠'s splitting 3-3 then 6NT makes but you lose two trumps in 6♥.

The bottom lines: -

- Understand 4th suit forcing.
- You can make your bid forcing by bidding the 4th suit first.
- It's up to your partnership agreement if the auction is game forcing or not after the 4th suit. Sophisticated partnerships have some sequences forcing to game and others not.
- I think it's easiest to say it's game forcing after the 4th suit.
- I recommend that a jump shift should be a really decent suit. This ♥ suit is not good enough in my style.
- Even 33 points may not be enough for slam with no fit.

Transfer and bid a new suit?

Board 9 from Monday 30th, E-W vul

North (D)	South (B)	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ AK8	♠ Q10643	-	1NT (1)	pass	2♥
♥ J4	♥ 3	pass	2♠	pass	4♠ (2)
♦ K9853	♦ A42	pass	pass	pass	
♣ A93	♣ K1075				

(My) Recommended Bidding

West	North	East	South	<u>Table B</u>			
				West	North	East	South
-	1NT (1)	pass	2♥	-	1NT (1)	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♣ (2)	pass	2♠	pass	pass (2)
pass	4♠ (3)	all pass					

This hand was played 5 times on Monday and the easy game reached only twice: -

Table A: (1) So what did you open with Hand D in this week's quiz? It really makes life easy if you open 1NT with these 15-17 semi-balanced hands as then you never have a rebid problem. South obviously transfers, but what did you then bid with Hand B at (2) in this week's quiz? 4♠ is reasonable but I prefer to have a 6 card suit for the bid.

Table B: This South chose to pass at (2). Now I can't really understand this (it happened at two tables); when partner opens 1NT and you have 8-9 points then that is an invitational hand. With a 5 card major as in this case you obviously transfer but when partner completes the transfer you have to make an invitational bid. The only invitational bids are 2NT or 3 of the major (3♣ is forcing). If you consider this hand only worth an invitation then it's a toss-up between 3♠ (promising 6 ♠'s) or 2NT.

'Expert' Table? But I would not consider this South hand invitational. It's only 9 points but the two 10's, the shape, and the fact that all the points are in long suits are enough to make this hand game forcing in my opinion. So what do you bid at (2)? Actually it's simple with game values – you simply bid out your shape, so 3♣. A new suit here is game forcing and unlimited (could be looking for slam). North now has a decision to make at (3). Obviously he wants to play in ♠'s and 3♠ (still game forcing) would be stronger than 4♠. The hand has excellent ♠'s but is minimum and so 4♠ is fine. 4♠ would be reached here either way.

And what happened? The board was played 5 times on Monday but only two pairs reached 4♠. And since South was declarer in ♠ contracts twice, I guess two North's did not open 1NT?

The bottom lines: -

- With a balanced hand within your 1NT range (15-17), open 1NT.
- With 8-9 points opposite partner's 1NT, invite.
- With this 8-9 points and a 5 card major, transfer first and then invite (2NT or 3 of the major).
- Upgrade with 10's, shape etc.
- After you transfer, a new suit by responder is natural and game forcing.

Pass partner's 1♦ opening?

Board 15 from Monday 30th, E-W vul

West (F)	East (C)	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ AKJ4	♠ 109762	-	-	-	pass
♥ A1084	♥ QJ92	1♦ (1)	pass	pass (2)	pass
♦ AKQ5	♦ J				
♣ 4	♣ 1052	<u>Table B</u>			
		West	North	East	South
		-	-	-	pass
		1♦ (1)	pass	1♥ (2)	pass
		4♥ (3)	pass	pass	pass

Table A: So what did you open with Hand F at (1) in this week's quiz? It's a great hand but not worth a 2♣ opening. So 2NT? One is allowed to open 2NT (unlike 1NT) with a singleton but I would only do so (reluctantly) with a singleton ace or king. So 2NT is out with this hand – that only leaves 1♦. Fine.

(2) but it's not so fine if partner passes! I would never pass with this hand. People who say 'it's only 4 points' simply have to look at what happened here.

Table B: I don't know the bidding at any table but Table A (I was North) but I note that Nick/Bob were the only pair to end up in a ♥ contract by East and so I assume that this was their bidding. I, too, would respond 1♥ at (2). Normally one bids 1♠ with this hand type but this hand is so weak that it only wants to make one bid, and if you bid 1♠ then you may miss a ♥ fit. I would bid 1♥ and pass virtually any bid from partner.

(3) 4♥ is the value bid here, showing about 18-21 points. If you play splinters then it's obviously 4♣ (and pass partner's hasty retreat into 4♥).

What happened? 1♦ was not a success. One pair found 3NT!!!, but scored a 2nd top when the opponents failed to find the ♣ lead. The other 3 tables were in 4 or 5 ♥'s making 11 or 12 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Be very wary of passing partner's 1♣ or 1♦ opening with a singleton in the suit.
- You can stretch with 4 points, especially if you have both majors.

♠ Q762 And don't forget splinters.
♥ KQJ9 It did not feature in this board, but change the East hand to this and 6♥ is an
♦ J8 excellent contract. How would you reach it? Via a 4♣ splinter by West.
♣ 1052

A grand slam on a repeating squeeze!

Board 10 from Monday 30th

Dealer:	♠ K92	West	North (H)	East	South
East	♥ AQ8643	-	-	pass	1♥
both vul	♦ 85	pass	1♠ (1)	pass	3♥
	♣ A8	pass	4NT (2)	pass	5♣
♠ Q104	N	♠ J7653	pass	5NT (3)	pass
♥ 2	W E	♥ -	pass	pass	pass
♦ KJ63	S	♦ Q9742			7♥ (4)
♣ QJ1095		♣ 764			
	♠ A8				
	♥ KJ10975				
	♦ A10				
	♣ K32				

An interesting auction, let's have a look: -

First of all, what did you bid with Hand H at (1) in this week's quiz? It's not often that you have a good hand with 6 card support for partner's opening major! If you do not play conventions such a Jacoby 2NT (we had not agreed this) then you have to improvise. Obviously 2♥ and 3♥ are out (non-forcing) and 4♥ is best played as a weak bid. So you cannot support directly. North could simply bid Blackwood but I (as always) prefer to take it slowly and maybe learn something about partner's hand. So I chose 1♠ at (although, in retrospect, 2♣ is probably better). This slow approach worked fine as South showed a powerful hand with his 3♥ jump rebid. 4NT at (2) was RKCB and 5♣ was 3 key cards. 5NT asked for kings but my partner apparently does not have my preference to take it slowly (I am getting on you know) and leapt to 7♥. Fine if you make it!

DUMMY	♠ K92	West led the ♣Q. Declarer won with the ♣A and
→	♥ 3	cashd 5 rounds of ♥'s. That left this position.
	♦ 85	On the ♥5 West now had to find a discard. Not
	♣ 8	easy if you have no signalling understanding
♠ Q104	N	with partner.
♥	W E	Anyway, West discarded the ♣J and then the
♦ KJ	S	♣ K and then the ♣3 squeezed both West and
♣ QJ		East again (North retained his ♠K92).
	♠ A8	Anyway, both West and East had better ♦'s than
	♥ 5	♠'s and so both discarded ♠'s and the ♠2 made
	♦ A10	the 13 th trick.
	♣ K3	

And what happened? 6♥ (making exactly) was the contract at every other table.

6♥ is easy (ruff a ♠ in the South hand). 7♥ is a lot trickier! Note that the ♣3 and the ♠2 both made a trick!

The bottom lines: - Watch partner's discards (especially in a grand slam!) so that you don't both keep the same suit.

Who wants to play in 5♦? – part 1Board 15 from Monday 30th, E-W vul

West	East	West	North	East	South
♠ 1098	♠ AKQJ	pass	pass	1♦	pass
♥ K975	♥ J	1♥	pass	2♠ (1)	pass
♦ K432	♦ AJ9876	3NT (2)	all pass		
♣ KJ	♣ 75				

East's jump to 2♠ at (1) is a bit of an overbid, but then West has an easy 2NT or 3NT (at least I think it's easy) at (2).

And what happened? 3NT made +2 at all 3 tables where it was bid. But, despite my continual writings, we still had one pair in 5♦ (making the same number of tricks).

The bottom line: - If 3NT is a sensible option, it is usually better than 5♦.

Who wants to play in 5♦? – part 2Board 13 from Monday 30th

Dealer:	♠ K	West	North	East	South (J)
North	♥ Q643		(me)		
both vul	♦ AJ1094				
	♣ AKQ	-	1♦	2♠ (1)	dbl (2)
		pass	4♥ (3)	pass	pass
♠ J1095	N	♠ A876432			
♥ A82	W E	♥ 102			
♦ 763	S	♦ -			
♣ 1075		♣ 9643			
	♠ Q				
	♥ KJ97				
	♦ KQ852				
	♣ J82				

An instructive sequence: -

East's 2♠ overcall at (1) is weak (a weak jump overcall). This is usually a six card suit but this hand is not good enough for 3♠ when vulnerable and I agree with 2♠.

What did you bid with Hand J at (2) in this week's quiz? A singleton in RHO's suit and superb ♦ support, so 5♦? That is, apparently what 4 out of the 5 players did on Monday. I disagree, but no problem as my partner got it right, a negative double. This promises 4♥'s and values to at least compete to 3♥.

But North cannot get lazy at (3); a 3♥ bid here would be non-forcing. With a game going hand opposite partner's 4♥'s and 10 or 11+ points North has to bid game.

And what happened? 4♥ suffered a ♦ ruff and made just 10 tricks. 5♦ was bid at *every* other table. It made 11 tricks but they shared the bottom – deservedly so.

The bottom lines: -

- play negative doubles
- A negative double only promises the unbid major and values to compete.
- 5-5 fits are nice, but 4-4 major suit fits score more.
- don't bid 5♦ if 4♥ is a sensible option!

Who wants to play in 5♦? – part 3

Board 18 from Friday 3rd

It's a similar start to the auction this time: -

Dealer:	♠ J4	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ Q10652	West (K)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ K107	-	-	1♦	2♠ (1)
	♣ 1074	3♥ (2)	pass	4♥ (3)	all pass

♠ 95	N	♠ A32				
♥ AKJ4	W E	♥ 987	<u>(My) Recommended Bidding</u>			
♦ Q9854	S	♦ AJ32	West (K)	North	East	South
♣ QJ		♣ A53	-	-	1♦	2♠ (1)
	♠ KQ10876		dbl (2)	pass	2NT (3)	pass
	♥ 3		3NT (4)	all pass		
	♦ 6					
	♣ K9862					

Table A: (1) 2♠ here is a weak jump overcall. Many would consider it a bit too strong and so simply overcall 1♠. But N-S were vulnerable and I guess that it does not hurt to have a bit in reserve occasionally?
(2) But what did you bid at (2) with Hand K in this week's quiz? It's the same problem as the previous page, you have to make a negative double. This 3♥ bid is wrong because it promises 5♥'s.
(3) Opposite a 5 card suit I would also bid 4♥ with this hand because all the other suits have only one stop for NT and a 3NT contract would be 'wrong-sided'.
'Expert' (2) a negative double, showing 4♥'s (and unlimited values). Knowing that West
Table? has only 4♥'s East makes his natural rebid of NT at (3). Note that this still shows 12-14 points, it is partner (West) who has forced you to bid at a higher level and the cheapest NT bid is still 12-14. West has excellent ♦ support but you know me – if 3NT is a sensible option, then bid it rather than a minor suit game.

And what happened? 4♥ was three down. At another table E-W managed to reach 5♥! That was doubled and went minus two for -300. And at the 3rd table 2♠ was doubled minus one. 3NT may not make (I guess it's one off as South has the ♣K and North the ♥Q) but I think that it's a very sensible contract with the E-W cards, it's certainly better than a ♥ game.

The bottom lines. –

Negative doubles

- I keep harping on about negative doubles, but it really is the only way to show a 4 card ♥ suit when RHO overcalls in ♠'s.
- Remember that a negative double only promises 4 cards in the unbid major.
- A negative double is unlimited in strength. The minimum is values to compete in the major at the lowest level; there is no maximum strength for a negative double.

Who wants to play in 5♦? – part 4Board 11 from Monday 30th

There are, of course, always (very few) exceptions when 5♣/♦ is best: -

Dealer:	♠ -	West	North	East	South
South	♥ 10986542		(me)		
Love all	♦ K8				
	♣ KQ63	-	-	-	1♦
		pass	1♥	pass	2♠ (1)
♠ J10743	N	pass	3♥	pass	3♠ (2)
♥ KJ7	W E	pass	5♦ (3)	all pass	
♦ 74	S				
♣ 987					
	♠ AKQ95				
	♥ -				
	♦ AQJ1063				
	♣ 102				
	♠ 862				
	♥ AQ3				
	♦ 952				
	♣ AJ54				

Another instructive sequence: -

South's 2♠ at (1) is game forcing, 3♠ at (2) promises 5♠'s and thus at least 6♦'s (the 1♦ opening promises more ♦'s than ♠'s). North has a mis-fit but the auction is game forcing and 5♦ looks like the best game, so North bid it – fast arrival (4♦ would show slam interest – slow arrival)

And what happened? 5♦ was a good spot making +1 and scored a joint 2nd. But it was beaten by the pair who bid 3NT! (and made +3). One table was in a silly 4♠ (doubled, minus 4 – I have no idea how the bidding went, but surely North should pull this to 5♦? On a good day that will be doubled too for an outright top). The last table played in 3♥ going one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Only with strange distributional hands is 5♦ better than 3NT.
- And even then you may luck out with mis-defence and score a top for 3NT!

Bid 1NT or raise partner's minor?Board 20 from Friday 3rd, both vul

North	South (E)	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ AK104	♠ J73	pass	1♣	pass	2♣
♥ J953	♥ AK8				all pass
♦ 96	♦ 432	<u>Tables B&C</u>			
♣ AJ6	♣ Q1092	pass	1♣	pass	1NT (1) all pass

(1) 1NT is 6-9 (poor 10). Some players (Jean-Marc is one) play that 1NT over a 1♣ opening is 8-10, very sound. Either way, this hand is totally flat and 1NT is the best bid.

And what happened? Obviously South at Tables B&C got it right. 2♣ made +1 but 1NT was +2 at both the other tables. The bottom lines:-

You should only support partner's opening minor suit with 5+ card support. This is because (a) A NT contract scores more, and (b) opener may have only a 3 card suit.

Big hand bidding

Board 13 from Friday 3rd, both vul

All three table got into a mess with this board on Friday. Obviously you want to be in 4♥ and nobody managed it. I only know the bidding at Table A: -

West	East	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ 864	♠ A109	-	pass	2♦ (1)	pass
♥ 106	♥ AQJ72	2NT (2)	pass	3♥ (3)	pass
♦ J75432	♦ A	pass (4)			
♣ 103	♣ AKQ4				

2♦ at (1) was this pair's strongest bid. Other than that, I don't think that they had discussed anything. The meaning of 2NT at (2) was unclear. 3♥ at (3) was game forcing but presumably West did not realise this.

And what happened? 4♥ is obviously where you want to be 99% of the time. This was the other 1% and E-W lucked out when there was a 5-1 ♥ break and so only 9 tricks. And at other tables? I don't know the bidding but it was obviously equally bad as they both reached impossible slams (6♥ doubled minus 4 and 6NT minus 3). Of course my partner and I got a fat zero on this board as the pair who bid it against us were the ones who lucked out in 3♥.

The bottom lines. Obviously I have to say something about bidding after a 2♣ (or Benjamin 2♦) opener: -

(My) Recommended Bidding

Playing Standard American

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

Playing Benjamin twos

West	North	East	South
-	pass	2♦ (a)	pass
2♥ (b)	pass	3♥ (c)	pass
4♥ (d)	all pass		

- (1) Playing Standard American 2♣ is the strongest bid and the only sequence that is not game forcing is 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT where responder may pass or transfer and pass.
- (2) negative (about 0-8).
- (3) game forcing
- (4) 2nd negative (about 0-3).
- (5) 2nd suit, still game forcing
- (6) fast arrival. Let's get this over with quickly.

I featured Benjamin twos last week and this is my recommendation: -

- (a) This is the big bid and is always 100% game forcing playing Benjamin twos.
- (b) waiting. This actual opening hand is really the only drawback of playing Benjamin twos – if opener has a big hand with a ♥ suit then a round of bidding is lost and the wrong hand will end up being declarer in an eventual ♥ contract.
- (c) still game forcing
- (d) OK.

Note that in the Benjamin sequence there was no room for opener to show his ♣ suit. Playing Benjamin I prefer to say that responder *must always* bid 2♥ at (b).

Obey the LAW

Board from Monday 30th

Dealer:	♠ J10975	West	North	East	South
East	♥ AJ87				
E-W vul	♦ 87	-	-	1♦	pass
	♣ A9	1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠ (1)
		pass	pass	3♣ (2)	pass
♠ KQ62	N	♠ A	pass (3)	3♠ (3)	4♣ (4) pass
♥ KQ654	W E	♥ 2	pass	pass	
♦ 2	S	♦ A109653			
♣ 752		♣ K8643			
	♠ 843				
	♥ 1093				
	♦ KQJ4				
	♣ QJ10				

A top converted into a bottom, let's see how the LAW should have been applied: -

- (1) This is fine, partner's overcall promises 5 ♠'s and so South can support with 3 ♠'s.
- (2) And this is also fine, promising a good hand with 5-5 or 6-5 in the minors.
- (3) And this is also fine, it promises nothing other than more ♣'s than ♦'s (could be a singleton ♣ and void ♦ on a bad day).
- (4) But this is silly. This is an excellent defensive hand, the points are not in the suit, partner has only promised 3 ♠'s, ... there is absolutely no reason to go above the level of the LAW with this hand.....
- (5) ... unless the opposition do not know about the LAW either! This bid is even more silly for the same reasons! It has defensive values (3 tricks). Partner (West) has promised no more than two ♣'s, that's a total of 7 trumps – the one level is safe, the four level is not!!

And what happened? If 3♠ had been passed around to West then that would have been doubled and gone for -500, 4♣ was minus one and got a poor score. There was also a silly result at another table when West went for 800 in 3NT doubled. The other 3 tables played in sensible partscores (3♣ making by East or 2♠ by North minus two).

The bottom lines: -

- Obey the LAW
- Once you have said your hand, that's it.
- Bail out ASAP with mis-fits (West should pass 3♣ and not bid 3NT).

In the above deal both North and East had stated their trump length and had nothing more to say. If anybody wanted to go above the level of the LAW it should have been South or West (and they most certainly did not want to).

Double and bid again?

Board 19 from Friday 3rd, E-W vul

West (G)	East	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ 72	♠ KQ93	-	-	-	1♠
♥ AKJ942	♥ 65	dbl (1)	1NT	2♦ (2)	pass
♦ -	♦ K7642	2♥ (3)	pass	4♥ (4)	all pass
♣ Q7542	♣ 108				

<u>Table B</u>			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
dbl (1)	1NT	pass (2)	pass
2♥ (3)	pass	2NT (5)	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	dbl
pass	pass	pass	

Table A: So what did you bid at (1) with Hand G in this week's quiz? I don't like double – what are you going to do when partner bids 2♦? ...

(2) ... Partner bids 2♦! Now normally when partner doubles then a non-jump is 0-9 points. When RHO has bid then you don't have to, so this is a free bid and shows about 8-9 points.

(3) An initial double followed by a new suit shows a BIG hand. In this case, one that was too strong to simply overcall 2♥. This hand is not. It should have overcalled 2♥ at (1) – this shows opening values at the two level – and subsequently bid 3♣ if possible.

(4) Partner has shown a very strong hand (about 17+ including shape) and 4♥ is fine (if you believe partner).

Table B: We again have the overbid of a double at (1) and this time East chose to pass. 2♥ at (3) again shows a very good hand. Now this East also knew that his partner should have a very good hand and bid 2NT; I would prefer a forcing bid (say 2♠). Anyway, West bid 3♣ and East had an easy 3NT bid. Mind you, there does appear to be about 50 points in this pack and the double cannot have come as a surprise; somebody does not have the values for their bid(s) and it's probably West.

And what happened? Obviously both tables got too high, and it was not East's fault. 4♥ was two down. But somehow 3NT made (how?) for a clear top.

The bottom lines: -

- If you double and then bid a new suit over partner's response then this shows a hand that is too strong for a simple overcall.
- Since a simple overcall is about 7-17 points (11-17 at the two level) then such a sequence is the equivalent of 18+ points.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 1♥ or 2♥? Either is quite reasonable. I would choose 1♥ as I would like the suit to be a little sturdier for the jump shift.
(b) 2♣. The 4th suit. You would like to bid ♥'s but you cannot: 2♥ and 3♥ are both non-forcing and 4♥ is a bit unilateral, taking up loads of bidding space. The answer is to bid the 4th suit and then a ♥ bid next go is forcing.
- Hand B: 3♣. You have values for game and I don't really like to bid 4♠ with just 5 ♠'s. 3♣ is game forcing and promises 5 ♠'s and 4 ♣'s. Perfect, leave it up to partner.
- Hand C: 1♥. You will never get agreement on this issue. I am not sadistic enough to leave partner floundering in 1♦ in a possible 3-1 fit. This is a weak hand and so cannot make two bids and so I would bid 1♥ and pass whatever comes next.
- Hand D: 1NT. If you open 1♦ then what is your rebid over 1♥? This motley ♦ suit again?
- Hand E: 1NT. A flat 10 count so that's all it's worth. You should not support partner (with 2♣ here) with only 4 card support, partner may have only 3 ♣'s.
- Hand F: 1♦. It's 21 points but 2NT with a singleton ♣4 is unwise and the hand is not worth a game forcing 2♣.
- Hand G: 2♥. This hand is not strong enough to double and then bid ♥'s over partner's expected 2♦ response. A 2♥ overcall is about 11-17 points, so overcall 2♥ and bid ♣'s later if you get the chance.
- Hand H: 2♣ or 1♠. You cannot support ♥'s directly now unless you play something like Jacoby 2NT. 2♥ and 3♥ are non-forcing and the hand is far too good for 4♥. You could jump straight into your ace-ask bid but I, as always, prefer to take it slowly. So you have to 'manufacture' a forcing bid. I chose 1♠ at the table but in retrospect I think that 2♣ may be better as it is lower ranking (you do not want to end up in 6♠).
- Hand J: Double. This is a negative double simply promising 4 ♥'s. It is unlimited. If partner bid ♥'s you raise to 4♥ and if partner doesn't bid ♥'s then you have ♦'s in reserve.
- Hand K: Double. ditto.

How many points?

How many points does your dbl show here?

- (a) 1♦ - 1♠ - dbl? Six points with no upper limit. Exactly the same as if RHO had passed and you had bid 1♥. The bid guarantees 4 ♥'s and most players these days say that is says nothing about ♣'s.
- (b) 1♦ - 2♠ - dbl? Ten-eleven points with no upper limit. This time partner would have to bid ♥'s at the 3 level with a minimum hand and so you need a decent 10.