

**Club News Sheet – No. 115**

14/1/2005



Mon 10/1/05	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Clive/Ken	65 %	1 <sup>st</sup> Lars/Terry	70 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> = Dave/Joe	54 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> David/Ursula	55 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> = Norman/Ian	54 %		
Wed 12/1/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Clive/Terry	63 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chuck/Austin	60 %
Fri 14/1/05	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Chuck/Austin	63 %	1 <sup>st</sup> Gerard/Derek	60 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Clive/Ken	59 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alex/Jeff	57 %

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

Hand A	Hand B	(a) What do you open with Hand A? (b) Suppose that you choose 1♥ and partner bids 1♠, what now?
♠ QJ6	♠ Q4	
♥ Q10432	♥ A976	
♦ A74	♦ J852	With Hand B partner opens 1NT, (a) do you bid?
♣ AQ	♣ 843	(b) What do you do if RHO overcalls 2♠?
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1♦ and RHO double, (a) what do you bid? (b) Suppose that you bid 1♠ (or a –ve double to show 4♠'s) and partner bids 2♣, then what do you bid now?
♠ 10874	♠ AK93	
♥ KQJ	♥ KJ97	
♦ J632	♦ J102	With Hand D partner opens 1♥, what do you bid?
♣ KJ	♣ 42	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 3♥, what do you bid?
♠ AK765	♠ 43	
♥ J	♥ 10875	With Hand F partner opens 1♠, what do you bid?
♦ KQJ	♦ AKQ7	
♣ J1098	♣ K84	
Hand G	Hand H	(a) Do you open with Hand G? (b) Suppose you elect to pass; LHO opens 3♦ and partner doubles, what do you bid?
♠ AQJ763	♠ 982	
♥ 9754	♥ 32	
♦ -	♦ KQ92	With Hand H partner passes and RHO opens 3♦, what do you do?
♣ K95	♣ Q763	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J partner opens 2NT (20-22). What do you bid?
♠ 6543	♠ Q9	
♥ A4	♥ 8763	With Hand K partner opens 1NT. What do you bid?
♦ 963	♦ AK6	
♣ K743	♣ J652	

## Cheating yet again?

Dealer: ♠ AQJ763  
North ♥ 9754  
Love all ♦ -  
♣ K95

♠ K5	N	♠ 104
♥ AJ1086	W E	♥ KQ
♦ J5	S	♦ A1087643
♣ AJ42		♣ 108
	♠ 982	
	♥ 32	
	♦ KQ92	
	♣ Q763	

## Board 1 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

West	North(G)	East	South(H)
(Lars)	(Alex)	(me)	(Jeff)
-	pass (1)	3♦	dbl (2)
pass	pass (3)	pass (4)	

What do you make of the N-S bids here?

I asked a few people -

'*Inexplicable*' - Chuck

'*Was it Alex and Jeff?*' - Clive

'*Cheating*' - Austin

Let me (and Alex) know what you think.

- (1) What would you bid with this North hand G at (1)? Pass is reasonable but I would open 1♠. A 2♠ opener would be a poor choice as it's a bit good and contains a 4 card ♥ suit.
- (2) Presumably you passed with this South hand H in this week's quiz? Double here is, of course, *totally ridiculous* and is currently the top candidate for worst bid of the year. Now Jeff has made many very dubious bids before and I have defended him by simply saying that he does not have a clue, but with consistent good results in harness with Alex (North here) that cannot be the case – he is not stupid and knows exactly what he is doing?
- (3) But what can we say about this pass? Even worse than his partner's ridiculous double? This is, of course, more than just ridiculous from an experienced partnership. North thought for a while before passing – I can only assume that he got some sort of signal/indication from his partner. The double is take-out; bog standard.
- (4) East (me) asked about the double after North passed and North said that it could mean anything.

What can we say?

- 1- Alex's explanation of his partner's double as '*it could mean anything*' is totally unacceptable from an experienced long-standing partnership.
- 2- In fact the rules do not allow you to have a bid that '*can mean anything*'. If a double in this situation is anything but take-out then it must be alerted.
- 3- A pair who continually chatter away before, during and after each hand must surely have an agreement on something as basic as this?
- 4- There is no other explanation than that offered by Austin. Cheating. This pair have been accused of cheating before (Alex/Jeff in news-sheet 110 and Alex in news-sheet 114), and they are up to it again, this possibly being the most blatant example to date.

And what happened? The contract went one down for a poor score to E-W. When I saw all the hands I discussed it with a few of the club's top players and gave E-W their average for the session and N-S got a zero.

Now I said above that I believe that Jeff is not stupid; but I now believe that Alex and Jeff are both rather stupid, pulling a stunt like this when I was at the table (East). Any further *hint* of cheating or psyching by this pair and they are out.

Alex claims that everything is above board and that he will send the hand off to the Netherlands Bridge Bond to get their opinion. Go ahead, I would love to know what they have to say about your shenanigans.

OK, so you've heard what I (and other members of the club) think of Alex/Jeff's bidding here. Alex, of course, does not agree and so he wrote 4 pages of scrawl about themselves and also what he thinks of other members of the club. Here is a printable extract that I managed to decipher (Alex's hand writing is what one would expect from a doctor). I have inserted the numbers in brackets for later comment: -

*A double can be - lead directing - penalty - showing points*

*but partner is always allowed at almost any level to change it's original meaning and turn a penalty double for instance into a competitive bid (1). But sometimes the precise nature of the double is unclear, cannot be clear (2). Nobody ever complained when a penalty double by Jeff gave them an absolute top. Nobody ever said that the double was used on naught (3).*

*When you ask the wrong questions, Terry, you tend to get the wrong answers. You should ask whether your partner (West) shouldn't have said redouble (Law of total tricks) or bid 3♥ !! (4)*

*I am at a total loss in understanding your decisions. I believe it was Chuck who called your rulings those of a kangaroo court, I tend to agree there is some substance to that remark (5).*

My response: -

- (1) '*Change the meaning of a double*'. You cannot 'change the meaning', but of course you can convert partner's take-out double into penalties; that is usually when you have excellent trumps – most people would not consider a void to be excellent trumps.
- (2) '*The meaning of double is unclear*'. The meaning of double here is most certainly clear – it is take-out, bog standard. You are not allowed to have a bid that 'can mean anything'.
- (3) '*Nobody ever said that (a Jeff) double was used on naught*'. Oh yes they have! One example was when Jeff wanted to double a freely bid 4♠ contract after you had made a long pause and passed when he held ♠9742 ♥Q104 ♦1043 ♣1093 (News-sheet 110).
- (4) '*Wrong questions*'. I most certainly did not ask my partner why he did not make any of the silly bids you suggest. You clearly do not understand the simple arithmetic involved in the Law of total tricks. East usually has 7 ♦'s, West had 2 ♦'s, that adds up to 9 ♦'s and so the 3 level is where you want to be – you may or may not make the contract but the Law says that it is 'safe', it is not 'safe' if re-doubled. Pass is the only sensible bid by West, 3♥ would be forcing and re-double would be that he expects 3♦ to make and to penalise you wherever you land (here he obviously does not relish ♦'s and has little defence against ♠'s).
- (5) '*Kangaroo court*'. I only awarded E-W their average and you a zero after discussing the hand with many of the club's leading players – I put some of their comments earlier. Everybody agreed that your bidding was 'ridiculous' (Joe), 'incomprehensible' (Clive) or 'cheating' (Austin) and they all agreed that you should get a zero for your efforts. If you want to appeal the adjusted score, then how about putting up 500 bht (refunded if you win) and we'll have a meeting of the club 'experts' appeals committee to decide upon it?

So, Alex, there have been a few members who have tried to cross swords with me in a battle of (written) words and wit. Do you really think that you can do better than Chuck and Hans? Is your bridge knowledge that much better than theirs? They both came a distant second. If you want to continue this battle I'm game, but can you please improve the legibility of your writing or else type it up. I'm sure that readers find your views amusing and would love to have some more.

And it's nice to see that at least you and Chuck finally agree upon something.

## Should I give an adjusted score?

Board 27 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

Not quite so controversial, but I was asked to adjudicate on this board: -

Dealer:	♠ Q4			<u>Table A</u>			
South	♥ A976			West	North(B)	East	South
Love all	♦ J852			-	-	-	1NT
	♣ 843			2♠ (1)	2NT (2)	pass (3)	3NT (4)
				pass	pass	dbl (5)	all pass
♠ J98652	N	♠ A		<u>Table B</u>			
♥ 3	W E	♥ KJ1052		West	North (B)	East	South
♦ Q103	S	♦ 76		-	-	-	1NT
♣ 762		♣ AJ1095		pass	2♣ (6)	pass	2♠
	♠ K1073			pass	2NT (7)	pass	3NT
	♥ Q84			pass			
	♦ AK94						
	♣ KQ						

- Table A: (1) Obviously a ridiculous overcall of a strong NT.  
(2) But what did you bid with this North hand B(b) in this week's quiz? With or without the overcall it's a clear pass to me.  
(3) East did not know what was going on – too many points in this pack. Anyway, he passed.  
(4) With a sound maximum and excellent cover in the suit overcalled South has a clear 3NT bid.  
(5) And with an excellent 13 count and a partner who overcalled a strong NT East has a clear double.
- Table B: (6) Did you bid with this North hand B(a) in this week's quiz? Pass is best...  
(7) ... because if partner bids 2♦ or 2♠ you have to overbid with 2NT.

And what happened? 3NT doubled went two down for an absolute bottom to N-S and I was asked to adjust the score at Table A because of West's outrageous overcall. Should I?

I don't believe so. The poor score was of North's making. If he had simply passed the 2♠ overcall then he would have got a good score. N-S claimed that they would have made 1NT if left in peace. True, but would North have bid 2♣ and ended up in 3NT as at Table B? (That happened twice). In fact not a single table was left in peace in 1NT. Since North bid 2NT in this sequence despite being warned of values (ho, ho) and a ♠ suit on his right I can only conclude that he would have bid if there was no overcall? Or would he have bid later if he passed and East then suck his oar in over the pass? I discussed it with another experienced player and he said that an adjusted score would be unfair to other N-S pairs, I agree. Sorry guys, but you have to be accountable for your own actions.

The bottom lines: -

- You need a decent 8 or 9 points to raise partner's 1NT to 2NT, and if RHO has overcalled you really need something reasonable in his suit in addition. Pass is a bid.
- You need a decent hand/suit to overcall a strong NT. I have spoken to this West, maybe he'll have a point or two more next time?

## How many points for game? – part 1

Board 13 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A10  
 North ♥ J107632  
 Both vul ♦ 102  
 ♣ J107

♠ K876	N	♠ 876	
♥ KQ	W E	♥ K84	
♦ 953	S	♦ AQ8764	
♣ Q654		♣ 932	
	♠ Q954		
	♥ A964		
	♦ KJ		
	♣ AK8		

### Table D

West	North	East	South
-	pass	2♦ (2)	dbl (9)
pass	3♥ (10)	pass	4♥
all pass			

### Table A

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

### Table B

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♦ (3)	dbl (6)	2♥ (7)
pass	pass		

### Table C

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♦ (3)	dbl (6)	3♥ (7)
pass	4♥ (8)	all pass	

Table A: (1) A weak 2♥ would be a poor opening with this hand, especially vulnerable.  
 (2) Looks like a weak 2♦ opener to me.  
 (3) But pass here is silly. Playing natural methods then 2♥ is called for; playing transfers it's obviously a 2♦ transfer.  
 (4) In the balancing seat East bid his ♦'s.  
 (5) North finally bid his ♥'s, but it's too late for South to take any further action.

Table B: (3) This North did transfer.  
 (6) And so East showed his ♦'s with a double.  
 (7) After a transfer bid has been doubled I play that pass shows two of partner's suit, completing the transfer shows three of the suit and any other bid shows four (a super accept) except re-double which suggests playing in the doubled contract.

Table C: (7) And this is how it should be bid. South has a clear super-accept and the double is irrelevant (except that it slightly improves the South hand).  
 (8) Now this North hand may possibly not normally look for game, but after partner has super-accepted then it is clearly worth 4♥, especially if partner's super-accept promises 4♥'s (that's the way I prefer it).

Table D: (2) This East opened a weak 2♦.  
 (9) South has two sensible options, 2NT or double. With both majors I prefer double.  
 (10) Normally one needs about 10-12 points to jump here, but with a six card suit where you know partner also has that suit, I think that a jump is in order.

And what happened? 4♥ was reached at most table. The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade your hand when a fit is discovered. This North hand is a monster once South has shown ♥'s.
- Play transfers. And play super-accepts!
- Four tens are worth a point or two.



### How many points for game? – part 3

Board 4 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

So the last two deals have illustrated that points are not everything and that a fit is all important. Here we have a cold game with just 23 points but not everybody bid it. I was asked who, if anybody, underbid at Table A on this deal, what do you think?

Dealer:       ♠ QJ10  
West           ♥ 4  
Both vul      ♦ KQ7643  
                 ♣ 1075

Table A  
West   North   East (D) South  
1♥ (1) pass (2) 3♥ (3) pass  
pass (4) pass

♠ 72           N       ♠ AK93  
♥ Q10862     W E     ♥ KJ97  
♦ 95           S       ♦ J102  
♣ AKQ3       ♣ 42  
  
              ♠ 8654  
              ♥ A53  
              ♦ A8  
              ♣ J986

Table B  
West   North   East   South  
pass (1) pass (5) 1♥ (6) pass  
4♥ (7) all pass

Table C  
West   North   East   South  
1♥ (1) pass   1♠ (3) pass  
2♣       pass   4♥ (8) all pass

To answer the question first, East was at fault at Table A: -

Table A: (1) A marginal opener? It conforms to the rule of 20 and with all of the points in the long suits is a clear opener in my opinion.  
(2) A weak 3♦ overcall is an alternative to pass, but dodgy when vulnerable.  
(3) 3♥ here shows 11 or a poor 12 points, so fine? What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz?

This is not a poor 12, it's a great 12. Excellent *four card* support, another suit headed by the AK, it's easily worth 4♥. Now you can simply bid 4♥ but most players play that as pre-emptive. I like the auction at Table C.

(4) With a minimum opener pass is correct here.

Table B: (1) This West chose to pass. Up to you.  
(5) A weak 2♦ opening is a reasonable alternative to pass.  
(6) I believe that this pair play 4 card majors and a strong NT.  
(7) 4♥ is best by West here unless you play that 3♣ is fit-showing by a passed hand (you have to agree that – it's not standard).

Table C: (3) This is the best bid – you can support ♥'s later and there may even be a superior 4-4 ♠ fit.  
(8) And 4♥ here shows a sound raise to 4♥ (as opposed to an immediate 4♥ at (3) which would be pre-emptive).

And what happened? 4♥ was bid at every table except Table A and made easily.

The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade 4 card support.
- A side suit headed by the AK is a great +.
- Aces and Kings are great cards (quacks are not).

## How many points for game? – part 4

Board 21 from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

So points are not everything. 3NT was hopeless on this combined 25 pts, was anyone at fault?

Dealer:	♠ 10874				
North	♥ KQJ	West	North(C)	East	South
N-S vul	♦ J632	-	pass	pass	1♦ (1)
	♣ KJ	1♥	1♠ (2)	pass	2♣ (3)
		pass	2NT	pass	3NT
		pass			
♠ KQJ	N	♠ 963			
♥ A10843	W E	♥ 965			
♦ 4	S	♦ K1097			
♣ 9753		♣ Q106			
	♠ A52				
	♥ 72				
	♦ AQ85				
	♣ A842				

To answer the question, North overbid: -

(1) I would open 1♣, but that's not the issue here.

(2) So what did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? Now you know me - never deny a 4 card major, but there are always (very rare) exceptions.

Let's assume that the North hand is worth a game try, then you obviously bid 1♠ (or a negative double if that is your style) and then bid 2NT next go, excellent; showing 4 ♠'s, a ♥ stop and invitational (a good 10 - poor 12 pts) values.

But is this North hand worth an invitation? I would not put it as worth 11 points. After the ♥ overcall you can deduct a point from the ♥ holding. And KJ doubleton is not worth 4 points. I would downgrade the hand to a poor 10 and not make an invitational bid. So 1♠ or 1NT? Now if you accept my hypothesis that the hand is not worth an invitation you now face the real problem. With no overcall you would respond 1♠ and pass a 1NT rebid from partner; but with the overcall partner cannot have anything in ♥'s and may well not rebid 1NT (indeed, with this actual hand he would probably bid 2♣) and you would play in 2♦ which may well score less than 1NT if that makes an overtrick. So given that the North hand is only worth one 'shot', should you bid the 4 card ♠ suit or show the excellent ♥ stops by bidding 1NT? Close, and on this one occasion I would not argue if you chose 1NT at pairs scoring. At teams I would always show the ♠'s as you don't mind playing in 2♦ at IMP scoring.

(3) I would bid 2♠ here, 2♣ promises 5 ♦'s.

And what happened? 4 out of the 5 pairs overbid to 3NT, making either 8 or 7 tricks. Just one pair stopped in 2NT but that too went down. 1NT would have scored a well-deserved top, as would 2♦ or 2♠. The bottom lines: -

- Deduct a point for KQJ trippleton if the opponents have bid the suit.
- KJ doubleton is a poor holding.
- A combined 25 points (without adjustment) does not always make 3NT.
- One possible exception to never denying a 4 card major is when you have values for only one bid and have to choose between showing good stops in an enemy suit or showing a 4 card major of your own. Typically when partner opens 1♣/♦, RHO overcalls in a major and you have 6-10 points with good stops in the overcalled suit and 4 cards in the other major. This is one situation where Acol may win out over a 5-card major system.



## How many points for game? – part 5

Board 18 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

A combined 25 points again with an 8 card fit, so why didn't 4♥ make here?

Dealer:	♠ AK765				
East	♥ J	West	North(E)	East	South
N-S vul	♦ KQJ	-	-	pass	3♥ (1)
	♣ J1098	pass	4♥ (2)	all pass	

♠ J10832	N	♠ 94
♥ 5	W E	♥ K1096
♦ 854	S	♦ A1072
♣ AK72		♣ 654

♠ Q  
♥ AQ87432  
♦ 963  
♣ Q3

Answer:

All those quacks and poor trump intermediates.

- (1) Would you open this South hand? Now a 3 level pre-empt at unfavourable vulnerability should be a good one. It would be nice to have a sturdier suit but I think that most people would open 3♥? Looks reasonable to me.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand E in this week's quiz? It has 5 losers in ♥'s, ♦'s, and ♣'s. If you assume that partner has ♥AKQ then you probably lose one ♦ and 3 ♣'s. If partner is short in ♣'s then there may be a ♠ loser. And, of course, partner may have a ♥ loser or two. All in all I don't think it's worth 4♥ and I would pass, but it's close.

And what happened? 4♥ went two down, with East being able to cash the ♥10 and 9 half way through. It would have been a different story if South had the ♥109 in place of the ♥32 but it would still be one down (East would not cover a ♥J lead and thus score his ♥K).

The bottom line. 15 points is often good enough to raise a vulnerable 3♥/♠ pre-empt to 4♥/♠, but probably not with just a singleton trump.

## Intervening over a strong 2♣

Board 2 from Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ K92  
East ♥ KJ7  
N-S vul ♦ 6  
♣ KQJ1032

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

♠ -	N	♠ QJ73
♥ AQ1082	W E	♥ 9543
♦ AKQ4	S	♦ 10872
♣ A854		♣ 6
	♠ A108654	
	♥ 6	
	♦ J953	
	♣ 97	

- (1) A weak 2♠ is probably not a good opening at this vulnerability.
- (2) It's not good enough for a 2♣ opening by my standards. With no system to show a strong 3-suiter I would open 1♥ – it's unlikely to be passed out when you have a ♠ void.
- (3) Without some other agreement a double of a strong 2♣ shows ♣'s – it is not for take-out and does not invite partner to bid anything (except ♣'s).
- (4) If this hand was not good enough for a weak 2♠ opener then it is certainly not good enough to bid now when LHO has opened with a strong 2♣! Coming in with garbage is dangerous once one opponent has bid, and if he's opened 2♣ .....!!
- (6) An obvious double if partner has anything resembling a 2♣ opener.

And what happened? 2♠ doubled went two down so minus 500 for a near top to E-W. If E-W were left to their own devices then they would have reached 4♥ – West would have bid 2♥ at (5) and East (me) would have bid 4♥, weak (fast arrival). At other tables 4♥ was reached five times but made on just one occasion.

The bottom lines: -

- A double of a 2♣ opening (or of the negative 2♦ response) simply shows that suit and does not show a particularly strong hand. Partner is not invited to bid any other suit.
- If a hand is not good enough to open a weak two then it's not good enough to come in at the two level when LHO has opened 2♣!

## The direct raise to 4♥/♠ is weak

Board 23 from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

If partner opens 1♥/♠ then a direct raise to 4♥/♠ (with or without intervention) is best played as weak: -

Dealer:	♠ 5				
South	♥ AQJ63	West	North	East(me)	South
Both vul	♦ Q9654	-	-	-	pass
	♣ AQ	1♠	2♥ (1)	4♠ (2)	pass
		pass	5♦ (3)	pass	5♥
		all pass			
♠ AQJ42	N	♠ K9873			
♥ 75	W E	♥ 82			
♦ K3	S	♦ 872			
♣ J987		♣ K62			
	♠ 106				
	♥ K1094				
	♦ AJ10				
	♣ 10543				

- (1) I think a 2♥ overcall is best here, with the intention of bidding ♦'s next go if you can.
- (2) You know me (The Law). I do not like to make life easy for the opponents. 4♠ is not bid here to make (of course it may make on a good day or if partner has a strong hand) – it is bid to make life difficult for N-S.
- (3) Difficult! Pass could be right on some days, 5♦ could be right on some days. This was a day when 5♦ was wrong.

And what happened? Actually, N-S are always getting a bad score once East bids 4♠. 4♥ was bid twice and made exactly. 4♠ was bid twice and went just one down. 5♥ went one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't make life easy for the opponents.
- Pre-empt to the limit first go (the 4♠ raise here is pre-emptive).
- A raise of partner's 1♥/♠ opening to 4♥/♠ is pre-emptive whether RHO intervenes or not.

## The Law of Total Tricks

Low and behold, the Law works again. There are a total of 19 trumps (9 ♥'s and 10 ♠'s); N-S can make 10 tricks in ♥'s, E-W can make 9 tricks in ♠'s. Total 19.

Time for our recurring old chestnut. We had numerous attempts by various people on Wednesday to prove me wrong by denying a 4 card major. I note that Kees/Bjorn even tried it twice on these three boards. Let's see how well these aspiring theorists all fared: -

**Look for the 4-4 major suit fit – part 1**

Board 10 from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ Q1085  
 East ♥ 2  
 Both vul ♦ J83  
 ♣ QJ1097

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

♠ 43 N ♠ AKJ62  
 ♥ 10875 W E ♥ AKQ9  
 ♦ AKQ7 S ♦ 6  
 ♣ K84 ♣ 652  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ J643  
 ♦ 109542  
 ♣ A3

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

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand F in this week's quiz? You have the values for game so bid it? No, you may miss a 4-4 ♥ fit. So bid 2♥? No, that promises 5 ♥'s. 2♦ is correct, this does not deny 4 ♥'s and if there is a 4-4 ♥ fit then partner will bid ♥'s.

Table B: (1) This West bid 2♦.  
 (2) Now this East hand is probably worth a jump but E-W were playing 2/1 and so the 2♦ bid was game forcing. This is the main advantage of playing 2/1 – there is no need to leap about consuming much needed bidding space.  
 (3) West was very happy to find a fit, but with a bare minimum for his game forcing 2♦ bid he now bid 4♥ - fast arrival and warning partner off slam.  
 (4) East wisely heeds partner's warning.

And what happened? 4♥ was bid at 3 tables and either made exactly or with an overtrick (twice). 3NT made an overtrick and got an undeserved average because the contract at the last table was 6NT going two down.

The bottom lines: -

- Always look for the 4-4 fit. Here 4♥ is far better than 3NT (4♥ should always make +1) despite the adverse 4-1 ♥ break.
- Playing 2/1 may help in avoiding silly slams like this one? (I don't know how they bid the poor NT slam - 6♥ would be a better slam but that fails also).

Playing 2/1

Now look at Table B again and suppose that it's Standard American. So the bidding goes: - 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♥ - 4♥ - ? It would not be silly if East then tried Blackwood and upon finding just one ace missing bid slam. The problem is that in this sequence West has had no chance to state if he is minimum or not. That's the big advantage of 2/1 – more bidding space.

**Look for the 4-4 major suit fit – part 2**

Dealer: ♠ 1097  
 South ♥ 765  
 Love all ♦ QJ85  
 ♣ Q93

♠ 6543 N ♠ AKQ8  
 ♥ A4 W E ♥ KJ109  
 ♦ 963 S ♦ A10  
 ♣ K743 ♣ A105  
 ♠ J2  
 ♥ Q832  
 ♦ K742  
 ♣ J86

Board 11 from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>Table A

West(J)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
pass	pass	2NT	pass
3NT (1)	all pass		

Table B

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

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand J in this week's quiz? You have the values for game so bid it? No, you may miss a 4-4 ♠ fit. 3NT is a very poor bid.

Table B: (1) 3♣, Stayman is obviously correct. The quality of the ♠'s is largely irrelevant.  
 (2) Partner has promised 4 ♠'s and so the correction to 4♠ is obvious.

And what happened? 3NT made +1 for a well deserved undisputed bottom. 4♠ was bid at all of the other 4 tables and made either +1, +2 or +3.

The bottom line: - Always look for the 4-4 fit; as I say to my wife, size is immaterial.

**Look for the 4-4 major suit fit – part 3**

Dealer: ♠ Q9  
 South ♥ 8763  
 N-S vul ♦ AK6  
 ♣ J652

♠ 8642 N ♠ KJ53  
 ♥ 1052 W E ♥ KJ  
 ♦ Q985 S ♦ J432  
 ♣ 93 ♣ Q104  
 ♠ A107  
 ♥ AQ94  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ AK87

Board 15 from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>Table A

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

Table B

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

(1) Here we go again. What did you bid with this North hand K in this week's quiz? You have the values for game so bid it? Let's hope that everybody is getting fed up with this by now (including the pairs who repeatedly do this). Table B got it right.

And what happened? Just 3 tables bid 4♥, all making +1. 3NT was bid at the other two, making exactly once for a 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom and deservedly going down once.

The bottom lines: - How many times do I have to keep on saying the same thing?

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There was not enough room in this news-sheet for Friday's hands, so they will appear in the next issue.

### **Bidding Quiz Answers**

- Hand A: (a) 1♥. The hand is not good enough for 1NT (points in the wrong places).  
(b) 1NT (12-14), it's not worth 15 points.
- Hand B: (a) Pass. You cannot bid 2♣ as you cannot cope with a 2♦ or 2♠ response; a subsequent 2NT would be an overbid.  
(b) Pass. 2NT would be an overbid.
- Hand C: (a) 1♠ (or a -ve double) or 1NT. It depends upon what you intend to do next. If you think that the hand is worth a game invitation then you obviously start with either 1♠ or a -ve double. If you think that the hand is not worth an invitation then 1NT is acceptable as you will then be in the best spot if partner does not have 4♠'s.  
(b) 2♦. This is the real point; I do not think that this hand is worth a 2NT game invitation. So I would either bid 1NT at (a) or else retreat into 2♦ here.
- Hand D: 1♠. A direct 4♥ bid is pre-emptive, so bid 1♠ and then probably 4♥ next go.
- Hand E: Pass. Not quite good enough to bid 4♥.
- Hand F: 2♦. You cannot bid 3NT as there may be a 4-4♥ fit. You cannot bid 2♥ as that promises 5♥'s. So bid 2♦ and partner will bid ♥'s if there is a 4-4♥ fit.
- Hand G: (a) 1♠. It conforms with the rule of 20 and with such a nice ♠ suit I would open. Pass is a reasonable alternative. I don't like a 2♠ opener because it's a bit too good and there may be a ♥ fit.  
(b) 4♠ or 4♦. Obviously you want to be in game (or slam) and 4♦ has the advantage that a probable ♥ fit will be located.
- Hand H: Pass of course. Sorry about this one but Jeff did actually find a *totally absurd* double. And what's more, his partner passed with Hand G(b)! They were awarded an adjusted score of zero for their efforts which some people (including me) simply call cheating.
- Hand J: 3♣, Stayman. Look for the 4-4♠ fit.
- Hand K: 2♣, Stayman. Look for the 4-4♥ fit.