

**Club News Sheet – No. 118**

4/2/2005



	<u>N-S winners</u>		<u>E-W winners</u>	
Mon 31/1/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Sirthale/Lehtinen	66 %	1 <sup>st</sup> Jim(Can)/Ian	60 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Norman/Joe	60 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ken/Clive	59 %
Wed 2/2/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Austin/Mike(Can)	59 %	1 <sup>st</sup> Jim(Sco)/Richard(Irl)	57 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ken/Jeff	54 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bjorn/Kees	56 %
Fri 4/2/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Michael/Ole	66 %	1 <sup>st</sup> Norman/Terry	59 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> = Dinnie/Sheila	56 %	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bob/Dave	58 %
	2 <sup>nd</sup> = Alex/Thorlief	56 %		

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

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A LHO opens 1♣ and partner overcalls 1♦. RHO passes, what do you do?
♠ Q1085	♠ Q82	
♥ J8	♥ KJ7	With Hand B you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦, what do you rebid?
♦ Q643	♦ 63	
♣ K102	♣ AKJ83	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ K7	♠ AJ74	
♥ KQ5	♥ Q54	With Hand D partner opens 1♣ and you respond 1♦. Partner then bids 2♣, what do you do?
♦ AKJ752	♦ QJ42	
♣ J4	♣ 75	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 1NT. You transfer and partner obediently bids 2♥, what do you bid now?
♠ AQ	♠ K3	
♥ Q10652	♥ AK3	What do you open with Hand F?
♦ Q9	♦ A104	
♣ AK85	♣ QJ1098	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1NT and so you bid 2♣, Stayman. Partner responds 2♥, what do you bid now?
♠ K873	♠ AQ109	
♥ A9	♥ 7542	With Hand H you open 1NT and partner bids 2♣. You respond 2♥ and partner bids 3NT, what do you do?
♦ A32	♦ K106	
♣ Q1093	♣ AK	

### A Sound Overcall

Board 16 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

Dealer: ♠ Q1085  
West ♥ J8  
E-W vul ♦ Q643  
♣ K102

West	North (C)	East	South (A)
pass	pass	1♣	1♦ (1)
pass	pass (2)	pass	

♠ J632	N	♠ A94
♥ A963	W E	♥ 10742
♦ 1098	S	♦ -
♣ 97		♣ AQ8653
	♠ K7	
	♥ KQ5	
	♦ AKJ752	
	♣ J4	

Now 3NT is a fairly comfortable contract for N-S (especially if played by North) but only two tables out of ten managed to reach it, so what went wrong here?

(1) So what did you bid with this South hand A in this week's quiz? You cannot bid 1NT (15-18) with no ♣ stop. You could double and then bid ♦'s over partner's expected major suit response. But I am actually with Austin (South) here and think that 1♦ is fine - if game is on for N-S then partner can surely muster up a bid. Incidentally, a simple overcall at the one level is defined as 8-16 points or 7-17 points or similar (depending upon where you read it).

(2) So what did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? As I said above, partner's overcall may be anything up to about 16 or 17 points and this North hand has improved because of the ♦ fit. I would most certainly bid 1♠. In fact I cannot see any logical reason for passing – perhaps Chuck can enlighten me?

And how should the bidding then go? North should bid 1♠, South would then bid 2♣ (in principal asking for a ♣ stop and inviting 3NT if partner has anything to spare). North, with a decent hand, a good ♣ stop, and the all-important ♦Q then has an easy 3NT bid.

### A Sound Sacrifice?

Board 26 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A4  
East ♥ AJ53  
Both vul ♦ J107  
♣ Q974

Now N-S have a comfortable 3NT, usually making with overtricks. But E-W have a good save in ♥'s - 3♥ by West was the final contract at four tables. And even when doubled it was a very sound sacrifice as it went just one down for a miserable 200 to N-S. At one table E-W bid to 4♥ and this went two down doubled (so -500) but was still a good save against the opponents 630 or 660 in NT.

♠ J	N	♠ 98753
♥ K1098762	W E	♥ 4
♦ -	S	♦ 986542
♣ KJ863		♣ A
	♠ KQ1062	
	♥ Q	
	♦ AKQ3	
	♣ 1052	

But things are obviously different when (Alex and) Jeff (E-W) are in full swing. I don't know the exact bidding at their table but the final contract of 4♣ by West, doubled, went minus 6 for a penalty of 1700. This is not a sound

sacrifice. My personal preference is to play in the 7-1 fit rather than the 5-1 fit. I believe that Alex (West) overcalled in ♥'s and then bid ♣'s twice. Jeff (East) said that Alex should simply have bid 4♥. I'm on Alex's side – bid out your shape. West promises more ♥'s than ♣'s and East should give preference back to ♥'s.

## Totally automatic?

Board 6 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

There were 4 different contracts and 8 different results on this board from Monday: -

Dealer:	♠ K107	<u>Table A</u>				
East	♥ 1063	West(B)	North	East(D)	South	
Love all	♦ AK9	-	-	pass	pass	
	♣ 10962	1♣	pass	1♦ (1)	pass	
		2♣ (2)	pass	2NT (3)	pass	
		pass (4)	pass			
♠ Q82	N	♠ AJ74	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ KJ7	W E	♥ Q54	West	North	East	South
♦ 63	S	♦ QJ42	-	-	pass	pass
♣ AKJ83		♣ 75	1♣	pass	1♠ (1)	pass
	♠ 965		pass (5)	pass		
	♥ A982					
	♦ 10875					
	♣ Q4					
			<u>Table C</u>			
			West	North	East	South
			-	-	pass	pass
			1♣	pass	1♦ (1)	pass
			1NT (2)	all pass		

- Table A: (1) It's a matter of style if you respond 1♦ or 1♠ here.  
(2) But what did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? No less than 3 players chose 2♣, I simply don't understand it! 2♣ is a very poor bid. See Table C for the correct bidding.  
(3) What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? Now there are a few members who are confused about what the 2NT bid means. By responder it is usually 11-12 points (whenever it is bid) and that is the case here. This East hand is a mis-fitting 10 count and should pass.  
(4) Having chosen this route (I would not have bid 2♣ at (2)) partner's 2NT is invitational and I would bid 3NT. One table bid this way and justly went down, as did this 2NT contract.
- Table B: (1) This East chose the 1♠ response and West can happily pass this at (5) as East is a passed hand.
- Table C: (2) Back to the 1♦ response at (1), but this time West chose the correct rebid – 1NT. This seems totally automatic to me, why on earth anybody would want to rebid a 5 card ♣ suit (as Table A) rather than NT when they have tenaces in both majors is beyond me.

And what happened? Just one table stopped in 1NT and just one in 1♠. These both scored well. All the other tables bid too high and most went down.

The bottom lines: -

- With a balanced hand in the 12-14 point range, rebid 1NT.
- A 2NT bid by responder shows 11-12 points, whether bid on the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

## How to bid the grand?

Board 13 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

Just about every N-S pair reached 6NT on this board from Monday, but I was asked how a grand could confidently be bid?: -

Dealer:	♠ K3			<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ AK3			West	North(F)	East	South(E)
Both vul	♦ A104			-	1NT (1)	pass	2♦
	♣ QJ1098			pass	2♥ (2)	pass	4♣ (3)
				pass	4♠ (4)	pass	6NT (5)
				all pass			
♠ J10864	N	♠ 9752					
♥ 87	W E	♥ J94					
♦ J8765	S	♦ K32		<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♣ 7		♣ 964		West	North (F)	East	South(E)
	♠ AQ			-	1NT	pass	2♦
	♥ Q10652			pass	2♥ (2)	pass	3♣ (6)
	♦ Q9			pass	4♣ (7)	pass	4NT (8)
	♣ AK85			pass	5♠ (9)	pass	5NT (10)
				pass	6♥ (11)	pass	7♣ (12)
				all pass			

Table A: This auction was fairly typical.

(1) What did you open with this North hand F in this week's quiz? It's a top-of-the-range 1NT opener. Some would consider it too strong (and in that case reaching the grand is easy after a 1♣ opening followed by 2NT).

(2) North simply accepts South's transfer. A super-accept is possible with this max and great ♥'s, but most players (including me) prefer 4 trumps for a super-accept.

(3) Ace ask

(4) Two aces

(5) 32-34 points with no known fit, so 6NT should be just right.

'Expert' Table Let's assume that our 'expert' again opens with a heavyweight 1NT, can a grand slam still be bid with confidence?

(2) With just 3 trumps a normal accept is fine despite the super-max.

(6) What did you bid with this South A in this week's quiz? 3♣, a 2<sup>nd</sup> suit and game forcing is best – if there is a ♣ fit then 6♣ or 7♣ may be better than 6NT.

(7) Now South's 3♣ bid could just be bidding out the shape with 3NT or 4♥ in mind, or it may be looking for slam. North certainly does not mind playing in 4♥ if South has a minimum hand and so he supports ♣'s just in case slam is in the offing.

(8) Roman Key card Blackwood. Now actually a real expert pair would not use 4NT as the key-card ask when ♣'s are trumps and 4♦ (Kickback) is to be preferred. Anyway, that's a bit advanced so let's assume that 4NT is RKCB.

(9) 2 key cards + the ♣Q.

(10) kings?

(11) two

(12) South knows that all the aces and kings are present, that just one king is missing, and that partner has at least 4 ♣'s including the ♣Q. 7♣ is safer than 7NT if partner has just 4 ♣'s.

Now the ‘experts’ did fairly well, but bidding the grand was a bit of a gamble as South did not know which king was missing - clearly the ♥K is a much better card than the ♦K. So what’s the real solution? There are a few possibilities. Some players play that the 5NT king asks for the suit of the lower ranking king and there are numerous other schemes in use. So what’s really best? It’s all explained in the NT book – use Kickback in conjunction with Double Roman Keycard Blackwood!

‘Real Expert’ Table

West	North	East	South
-	1NT (1)	pass	2♦
pass	2♥ (2)	pass	3♣ (3)
pass	4♣ (4)	pass	4♦ (5)
pass	4♥ (6)	etc to	7♣ (7)

- (3) A 2<sup>nd</sup> suit after a transfer completion is natural and game forcing. It may just be an attempt to find the best contract between 3NT and 4 of the major or it may be looking for slam (as here).
- (4) Now obviously West will co-operate if East is slam-seeking, and if East is not looking for slam then 4♥ will be fine.
- (5) With ♣’s as trumps you may well get in a tangle if you use 4NT as the ace-ask. The best solution is to use ‘Kickback’ whereby 4 of the suit above trumps is the ace-ask. So here it’s 4♦. But there is also another possible improvement. North is known to be balanced and south has shown a two-suiter, obviously the key cards in both of South’s suits are important and so the 4♦ bid here is in fact Double RKCB, where the kings of both ♣’s and ♥’s are counted in the reply.
- (6) (zero or) three key cards.
- (7) South knows that North has the ♥A, ♥K and ♦A. There are now various options to discover the ♠K and the ♣Q and 7♣ is then reached.

The bottom lines: -

- With a minor suit as trumps then 4NT as Blackwood is often too high and there are various options. Some play that 4 of the agreed minor is Blackwood but my preferred version is to play Kickback, so 4♦ is Blackwood when ♣’s are trumps (and 4♥ is Blackwood when ♦’s are trumps).
- QJ1098 is worth more than 3 points - and so this North hand is too strong for a 1NT opening.

## An automatic Squeeze

Board 26 from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AK3  
 East ♥ 52  
 both vul ♦ J542  
 ♣ A854

### Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	2♥	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

♠ QJ5	N	♠ 97
♥ 9	W E	♥ AJ8763
♦ AQ87	S	♦ 10963
♣ J9632		♣ 10
	♠ 109642	
	♥ KQ104	
	♦ K	
	♣ KQ7	

### Table B

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

Table A: Pretty straightforward. A weak two and an overcall which was raised to game. This was the auction at most tables.

Table B: (1) But the Multi 2♦ really is a formidable weapon – it's difficult for non-experienced pairs to defend against. Here 2♦ was either a weak two (in either ♥'s or ♠'s) or a strong hand.

(2) South's pass is best here – assuming that East has a weak ♥ or ♠ hand he does not know which suit it is, and he gets another bid anyway.

(3) 2♥ is the bid by a responder who has no game ambitions opposite a weak two. Opener will then either pass or correct to 2♠.

(4) But North has a reasonable hand and so made a take-out double.

(5) And this pass would usually indicate a weak ♥ hand.

(6) South's ♥'s are well-placed and so he bid the ♠ game.

Now the bidding may have been interesting, but the play's the thing this time. Four South's played in a 4♠ contract. At Table B the ♥9 was led and East won and returned the ♥8. Obviously West is void and so South played the ♥10 and West trumped. Now come the interesting bits; what should West do? To open up either ♣'s or ♦'s seems foolhardy (what would you play?) and I agree that a trump switch is reasonable. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds, leaving this position with the lead in dummy. How would you continue as declarer?

DUMMY → ♠ 3  
 ♥  
 ♦ J542  
 ♣ A854

♠ -	N	♠ -
♥ -	W E	♥ J763
♦ AQ87	S	♦ 10963
♣ J9632		♣ 10
	♠ 1096	
	♥ KQ	
	♦ K	
	♣ KQ7	

Now in this sort of situation with a singleton king in the closed hand it is often best to lead from dummy and hope that if East has the ace he will not play it. However, on this occasion it is unlikely that East has the ♦ ace.

But there is another possibility of getting all of the remaining tricks, have you spotted it? South knows that West now holds 9 cards in the minors and that he probably has the ♦ ace. All declarer has to do now is play three rounds of trumps followed by the two top ♥'s: -

DUMMY → ♠ -  
 ♥ -  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A854

That leaves this position with the lead in the South hand when declarer leads the ♥Q. What can West discard on the ♥Q? It's impossible, South makes the remainder of the tricks whatever West does. 4♠ made +1.

♠ -	N	♠ -
♥ -	W E	♥ J7
♦ A	S	♦ 109
♣ J963		♣ 10

♠ -  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ KQ7

This is a very simple 'automatic' squeeze. It may well be that South had no idea what he was doing, but he did it very well! A well-earned (or was it just lucky?) top.

And what happened at other tables? Three other N-S pairs were in 4♠ and they all made exactly. One pair stopped in 2♠ (+2) and East was left in peace in 2♥ at the remaining two tables going two or three down for excellent scores to E-W.

The bottom line: -

- When you have all of the remaining tricks except one it's often best to just keep on playing out your winners. Even if there is not a legitimate squeeze one of the defenders may make a mistake.

### A few words about The Multi-2♦

Now most players in the club play 2♥ and 2♠ openings as weak, but there are all sorts of variations of opening two bids and one that a few of our visitors play is the 'multi 2♦'. Here is a very brief description: -

2♦ means one of a number of things, typically it is: -

- A hand that you (or I) would open 2♥ or ...
- A hand that you (or I) would open 2♠ or ...
- Some sort of strong hand.

The responder usually bids 2♥ which is not natural – it is simply a relay that opener will either pass or correct to 2♠ if he has a weak two type opening.

### Defending against the multi

This can be tricky, but the defence has the advantage that the player directly after the 2♦ bidder gets two bids (LHO must bid over 2♦). It's best to assume that the 2♦ opener has a weak hand (he usually does) but if you are next to bid over the 2♦ opening it's best not to bid a major suit – wait and see which 6 card major the opener has.

I have witnessed countless mishaps when either the opening side or the defenders end up in totally ridiculous contracts because nobody knew which major the opener had.

## How the tables turn - An Outright Psyche

Board 26 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Chuck (justifiably) called me over at the end of this deal a week ago. I'm not sure of the exact bidding but it was something along these lines: -

Dealer:	♠ K876				
East	♥ K63	West	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ A53		(Chuck)		(Austin)
	♣ AKJ	-	-	1♣	pass
		1♠ (1)	pass	1NT(2)	pass
♠ -	N	2♣	2NT	pass	pass
♥ Q975	W E	3♣	3NT	pass	4♥
♦ J8742	S	all pass			
♣ 9532					
	♠ J109543				
	♥ AJ102				
	♦ 96				
	♣ 7				

- (1) An outright psyche, aimed at preventing the opponents from finding their ♠ fit. Note that West knows that N-S have at least an 8 card ♠ fit as his partner did not open 1♠.
- (2) I'm not sure if East rebid 1NT or 2♣ here but that is irrelevant.

And what happened? 4♠ was bid by most N-S pairs and usually made exactly or with an overtrick. This N-S went minus two in 4♥ – the psyche worked like a treat on this occasion. Now psyching is not illegal, but all psyches must be reported and psyching at this club (with a large number of non-experienced players) is *strongly* discouraged. I did not adjust the score at this table, but a 2<sup>nd</sup> psyche by a partnership is 'an established pattern' and will be dealt with by an adjusted score. Any subsequent psyche will receive a more harsh punishment (Thorlief, Jeff and Chuck have all psyched more than once and all understand – I hope – that they will receive a suspension if they psyche again).

Some might say it's fitting retribution – Chuck has psyched on previous occasions but now gets a complete zero as a result of an outrageous psyche.

The bottom lines: -

- Please do not psyche at this club.
- Please report all psyches to the director.

## The rules concerning Bidding Boxes

A few people have complained to me about people 'fumbling around' and dithering in the bidding boxes. Here's a quote from the rules: -

A call is regarded as made when a bidding card has been taken out of the bidding box with apparent intent. The player is obliged to make up his mind before he touches any bidding card in the box. Hesitation between bids, when touching the bidding cards, is liable to penalty as unauthorised information.

A call may be changed without penalty when all three of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- 1- The player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and
- 2- the player corrects, or attempts to correct, without pause for thought and
- 3- the player's partner has not called subsequently.



## That 4-4 fit again – Part 1

Board 17 from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dealer: ♠ Q753  
North ♥ Q  
Love all ♦ AJ8  
♣ AKQ52

♠ KJ	N	♠ A108
♥ J976	W E	♥ 852
♦ KQ1065	S	♦ 974
♣ 96		♣ J1073
	♠ 9642	
	♥ AK1043	
	♦ 32	
	♣ 84	

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

- (1) 2♠ is a sound alternative here.
- (2) As North's 1♠ is non-forcing, this 2♠ bid shows a non-minimum
- (3) Now South's 2♠ bid could just be 3 card support, but South has shown a non-minimum hand and I would jump to 3NT here, expecting partner to convert to 4♠ if holding 4 ♠'s.
- (4) With 4 ♠'s a 4♠ contract seems obvious to me, but then you all know about me and my 'thing' about 4-4 fits.

Now normally I like to give the bidding at another table but nobody else bid to 4♠! Maybe North bid 2NT at (1)? But then you have to have a mechanism to find the 4-4 ♠ fit. Best is to play some form of Checkback Stayman or New Minor Forcing so that a bid of 3♣ (or 3♦) over the 2NT rebid is artificial and forcing and asks partner to define his major suit holdings (if he holds 3 ♥'s and/or 4 ♠'s).

And what happened? Making 4♠ was fairly easy, one line is to pitch two ♦'s from the North hand on the ♥AK. At this table declarer simply led ♠'s whenever he was in as the opponents did not attack ♦'s and eventually pitched a ♦ on the 5<sup>th</sup> ♣. All sensible plays lead to 10 tricks, losing just 3 trump tricks. So this N-S scored a clear top for 4♠ making. No less that 4 other tables ended up in 3NT!! Will they never learn? 3NT just made once but went one or two down on the other three occasions. The other two tables were in ♠ part-scores. 4♠ making was a clear top.

The bottom lines: -

- Look for the 4-4 major suit fit.
- As this deal shows, the quality of the 4-4 fit is not important – it's numbers that count and 8 trumps divided 4-4 is excellent.
- Sort out with your partner what you do after a 2NT (18-19) rebid. You cannot afford to lose 4-4 fits and I think it's best (and simplest) to play any bid other than pass as game forcing.

## That 4-4 fit again – Part 2

Board 20 from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 42  
West ♥ KJ106  
Both vul ♦ QJ74  
♣ 764

West(H)	North	East(G)	South
1NT	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	3NT(1)	pass
4♠ (2)	all pass		

♠ AQ109	N	♠ K873
♥ 7542	W E	♥ A9
♦ K106	S	♦ A32
♣ AK		♣ Q1093
	♠ J65	
	♥ Q82	
	♦ 985	
	♣ J852	

- (1) Now this is how I think that the hand should be bid. What did you bid with this East hand G in this week's quiz? 3NT is correct. East should obviously try Stayman and after the 2♥ response he simply bids the 3NT game.
- (2) But what did you bid with this West hand H in this week's quiz? West knows that East has 4 ♠'s (as he would not have bothered with Stayman otherwise) and should convert to 4♠ at (2).

And what happened? 4♠ was reached at four tables but the other two played in 3NT. As 'always' the 4-4 fit scores an extra trick and so the 3NT bidders deservedly shared the bottom score.

The bottom line: -

- Much the same as I say week after week after week.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1♠. Partner's overcall does not deny a 4 card ♠ suit and with a known ♦ fit this hand has improved and must bid. On a good day there may even be game if partner has a good hand.
- Hand B: 1NT, automatic. No less than 3 players found a poor 2♣ bid on Monday. A 2♣ rebid promises 6 ♣'s in this auction.
- Hand C: 1♦ (or double followed by a ♦ bid). You cannot overcall 1NT (15-18) with no ♣ stop. Marty Bergen defines a one-level overcall as 7-17 points and I prefer 1♦ to double. If it's your side's hand then partner will bid.
- Hand D: Pass. It's a mis-fit. A 2NT bid here shows 11-12 points and this hand is nowhere near good enough.
- Hand E: 3♣. Natural and game forcing – bid out your shape. You make your move towards the best slam after partner's next bid.
- Hand F: 1♣ (with a 2NT rebid in mind). I guess that most of you chose 1NT? This hand is, in my opinion, too good for 1NT. It is 17 hcp but has two tens and that QJ1098 is worth far more than 3 points.
- Hand G: 3NT. Your Stayman bid has promised a 4 card major and you have game values. So bid game (3NT) and partner will convert to 4♠ if he has 4 ♠'s.
- Hand H: 4♠. Partner has 4 ♠'s.