

	<u>N-S winners</u>		<u>E-W winners</u>	
Mon 7/2/05	1 st Jan/Jon	58 %	1 st Michael/Ole	60 %
	2 nd Thorlief/Terry	58 %	2 nd Chuck/Ian	59 %
Wed 9/2/05	1 st Chuck/Austin	64 %	1 st Jan/Jean Charles	57 %
	2 nd Ursula/Terry Haddon	58 %	2 nd Kenneth/John	55 %
Fri 11/2/05	1 st Margit/Peter	59 %	1 st Clive/Ken	66 %
	2 nd Mike(Can)/Phil	58 %	2 nd Bob/Dave	63 %

We had another ‘simultaneous’ on Monday and when I refer to ‘Brian’ and the ‘booklet’ it’s Brian Senior’s commentary in the booklet of hands.

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

Hand A	Hand B	(a) What do you open with Hand A? (b) What would you open if you play a weak NT?
♠ J92	♠ QJ543	
♥ K762	♥ 3	(a) What do you open with Hand B?
♦ KQ9	♦ K2	(b) Suppose you choose 1♠ and partner responds 2♦, what do you bid now?
♣ AQ3	♣ AJ1093	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♦, what do you do?
♠ K42	♠ AJ953	
♥ AK5	♥ J93	With Hand D you are dealer and pass. LHO opens 1♦ and partner and RHO both pass, (a) what do you do?
♦ 103	♦ 82	(b) what would you bid if partner had doubled?
♣ A10942	♣ QJ6	
Hand E	Hand F	What do you open with Hand E?
♠ K7	♠ KQ3	
♥ KQ5	♥ J107	With Hand F partner opens 1♥, what do you respond?
♦ AKJ752	♦ A985	
♣ J4	♣ 853	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G you open 1♣. LHO doubles (take-out), partner passes and RHO also passes. What do you do?
♠ K87	♠ J4	
♥ A542	♥ J	
♦ Q62	♦ AK	With Hand H LHO opens 1♣ and partner doubles for take-out, what do you do?
♣ A93	♣ KQJ107642	

A fairly comfortable contract?

Board 16 from Monday 31st

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

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

'Expert' table

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

Table B

West	North	East	South (E)
pass	pass	pass (5)	1NT (6)
pass	2♣	dbl (7)	2♦ (8)
pass	3NT	all pass	

Remember this board from last week's news-sheet? I said that '3NT is a fairly comfortable contract for N-S (especially if played by North)'. Well actually, as Joe pointed out, it's not that comfortable and the 3NT contract reached by South at Table B went down and I was asked for comment.

'Expert' (1) As I said last week, I think that 1♦ is quite acceptable here...

Table (2) ... and that North should bid 1♠.

(3) 2♣ is asking for a stop ...

(4) ... and 3NT is then played from the correct hand

Table B: (5) But at this table East chose to pass his 10 count, fine.

(6) So what did you open with this South hand E in this week's quiz? This South player chose 1NT; I asked around and other players also said 'a balanced 17 count, so 1NT'. I disagree, of course. This hand is far too strong for 1NT. That ♦ suit is worth far more than 8 points and I would open 1♦ with a view to rebidding either 2NT or 3NT.

(7) This is a typical hand for a double of Stayman, it says 'please lead a ♣'.

(8) Now the reason that this deal is in print again is not just because of the poor 1NT opening, but the fact that when we were discussing a 'missed double' on another deal this South told me that he had done it (missed a double) just the previous session (i.e. this hand). He did not notice the double at (7) and so bid 2♦ regardless.

And what happened? 3NT at this table went down on the ♣9 lead.

And how should the bidding go if East decides to pass? How about 1♦ - 1♠ - 3NT.

And if East bids 2♣ over the 1♠ bid then South simply bids 3♣ to ask for a ♣ stop.

The bottom lines: -

- ♦ AKJ752 is worth far more than 8 points.
- If you're looking for 3NT and the opponents have bid, then bid their suit to ask for a stop.
- Anybody (even the club champion!) can fail to notice a double card!

And incidentally, how should the bidding go if South had noticed the double? Now this is up to partnership agreement, but there are now two extra bids (pass and redouble). One possibility (with no 4 card major) is that redouble shows very good ♣'s, 2♦ shows a ♣ stop and pass denies a ♣ stop. Pass is forcing of course (same as for a 2♦ transfer; right, Chuck?).

What went wrong? – part 1

Board 5 from Monday 7th

Slam is hopeless on these N-S cards, so where do you think that the bidding went wrong, or was it just unlucky?

Dealer:	♠ J92				
North	♥ K762	West	North(A)	East	South
N-S vul	♦ KQ9	-	1NT (1)	pass	2♣
	♣ AQ3	pass	2♥	pass	4♣ (2)
		pass	4♥	pass	6♥
		all pass			

♠ 1085	N	♠ Q73
♥ Q	W E	♥ 10843
♦ 1076543	S	♦ A8
♣ 654		♣ 10987

♠ AK64
♥ AJ95
♦ J2
♣ KJ2

- (1) 15-17
- (2) ace-ask

Even with a fortunate lie of the ♥'s so that they can be picked up, slam is hopeless. In the booklet, Brian says that 'It would be no surprise to plenty of pairs getting to the doomed slam, particularly as North will often show a strong NT and now South will need great discipline to stop below six'.

So Brian implies that it's South's 'fault', I totally disagree. With a great 17 count and a 4-4 fit opposite a strong NT it is obvious to me for South to bid the slam. No, the problem is not with South's 'discipline' but with North's! What did you open with this North hand A in this week's quiz? Anyone who regularly reads the news-sheets will know that with it's 4333 type shape and lack of points in it's only 4 card suit, this North hand is simply not worth 1NT. 1♣ is best. I am surprised that Brian did not point that out.

Incidentally, Brian also says that playing a weak NT then North will open 1♥ and it's up to South so try to avoid the slam after North subsequently shows a 'strong' hand. I again disagree, it seems that Brian needs to be told about the 4333 type shape; North should open a weak 1NT when playing Acol.

And what happened? 5 out of the 10 pairs on Monday bid slam. Three went down in 6♥ but somehow two pairs made 6NT. Looks impossible to me.

The bottom lines: -

- Deduct a point for the totally flat 4333 type shape.

What went wrong? – part 2

Board 12 from Monday 7th

This time it's a hopeless slam on these E-W cards, so where do you think that the bidding went wrong, or was it just unlucky?

Dealer:	♠ K1062				
West	♥ QJ82	West(B)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ J86	1♠ (1)	pass	2♦	pass
	♣ 64	3♣ (2)	pass	3♥ (3)	pass
		3NT (4)	pass	etc to 6NT	
♠ QJ543	N	♠ A87			
♥ 3	W E	♥ K10			
♦ K2	S	♦ AQ954			
♣ AJ1093		♣ K85			
	♠ 9				
	♥ A97654				
	♦ 1073				
	♣ Q72				

- (1) What did you open with this West hand B in this week's quiz? Now either 1♣ or 1♠ are fine, it depends upon your style. If you open 1♣ and then rebid ♠'s twice you show the hand, the problem is that you may not be able to bid ♠'s twice. Most players prefer to open 1♠ with this shape, but you then have to be careful!
- (2) Here we see the problem. If partner bids a red suit at the two level then a 3♣ bid is a 'high reverse' – showing a strong hand and forcing to game. Clearly this West hand is not strong and so only 2NT or 2♠ are weak bids. You cannot bid 2NT with a singleton ♥ and so that only leaves 2♠. Now this is not totally satisfactory – is there a better solution? Yes! Play 2/1. As 2♦ is game forcing when playing 2/1 many 2/1 players (including me) play that a reverse no longer shows extra values.
- (3) 4th suit forcing. Quite why East chose to bid this is a mystery. Anyway, if West has a ♥ stop he will bid 3NT
- (4) Promising a ♥ stop, presumably West does not play 4th suit forcing.

And what happened? North found the ♥Q lead and N-S took the first 6 tricks with one more ♣ trick coming later. Three pairs out of ten bid to a hopeless slam on these E-W cards on Monday.

What went wrong? – part 3

Board 10 from Monday 7th

E-W have a comfortable 4♠ here, so where do you think that the bidding went wrong at Table B, or was it just unlucky?

Dealer: ♠ Q1076
East ♥ Q10874
Both vul ♦ A6
♣ 83

Table A

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

♠ K42 N ♠ AJ953
♥ AK5 W E ♥ J93
♦ 103 S ♦ 82
♣ A10942 ♣ QJ6

Table B

West (C)	North	East (D)	South
-	-	pass	3♦
pass (1)	pass	pass (3)	

♠ 8
♥ 62
♦ KQJ9754
♣ K75

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand C in this week's quiz? Either double or pass are reasonable (see Brian's commentary). This West chose to double, fine.
(2) But what did you bid with this East hand D(b) in this week's quiz? 3♠ is not enough; with 9 points and a decent 5 card suit I agree with 4♠.
- Table B: (1) Brian says that there is a 'significant case' for passing and I agree.
(3) Brian goes on to say that we will then see South play in 3♦. I disagree!

Now whether or not West makes a take-out double is not the issue. Obviously a double at (1) would work here, but so should pass. If West passes at (1) (quite reasonable) then what did you bid with this East hand D(a) in this week's quiz? East should most certainly bid 3♠ at (3). This is called balancing, since North did not bid over 3♦ that means that West has values but nothing to bid (as in this case) and East must act. As East is a passed hand, West will expect no more than this but with this nice West hand he has an easy raise to 4♠.

And what happened? Only 3 E-W pairs found 4♠ which made every time.

The bottom lines: -

- Understand balancing.

Guess I have to write off to Brian and explain balancing in addition to devaluing 4333 type shapes?

What went wrong? – part 4

Board 9 from Monday 7th

N-S have a comfortable 6♦ here, so where do you think that the bidding went wrong at Table A, or was it just unlucky?

Dealer: ♠ 6
 North ♥ AQ7
 E-W vul ♦ AKQJ10875
 ♣ 4

Table A
 West North(E) East South
 - 2♣ pass 2♦
 2♠ 5♦ (1) all pass

♠ KQJ1082 N ♠ 97
 ♥ J1062 W E ♥ K9843
 ♦ - S ♦ 43
 ♣ AQ8 ♣ K1075
 ♠ A543
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 962
 ♣ J9632

'Expert' Table
 West North East South
 - 2♣ pass 2♦
 2♠ 4♦ (1) pass 4♠ (2)
 pass 6♦ all pass

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand E in this week's quiz? 5♦ is silly – why take up all of the bidding space when a simple 3♦ is forcing to game?
- 'Expert' Table (1) But actually there is a possibly better bid than 3♦. After a strong 2♣ opening a jump is unnecessary, and so this jump is used to show a solid suit.
- (2) With 3 trumps, an ace and a singleton South must co-operate in the search for slam. A 4♠ cuebid (showing the ace) is best here.

And what happened? Just one pair out of ten reached 6♦ on Monday.

The bottom lines: -

- Once you have opened 2♣ there is no need to leap off to game, any rebid other than 2NT is game forcing in Standard American.
- So if you do make a jump rebid then that shows a solid/self sufficient suit.

What went wrong? – part 5

Board 2 from Friday 11th

The limit for E-W is 2♥, so what went wrong?

Dealer:	♠ AJ1054				
East	♥ 8	West (F)	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ J1072	-	-	1♥	pass
	♣ K104	3♥ (1)	all pass		

♠ KQ3	N	♠ 62
♥ J107	W E	♥ Q9432
♦ A985	S	♦ KQ63
♣ 853		♣ AJ
	♠ 987	
	♥ AK65	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q9762	

(1) What did you bid with this West hand F in this week's quiz? 3♥ is a bad overbid. It's 10 points but deduct a point for the totally flat shape. With better ♥'s then 2♥ is obvious, with weaker ♥'s then 1NT is probably best. This actual hand is, in my opinion, borderline (between 2♥ and 1NT) but I would bid 2♥.

And what happened? Only two pairs managed to stop in 2♥, one made for the complete top (the only + score in the E-W column) and the other went one down for a near top. Two pairs stopped in 1NT; both went one down but got excellent scores. The other 8 pairs all overbid and went anything from 2 to 4 down in various ♥ contracts.

The bottom lines: -

- Deduct a point for the totally flat 4333 type shape.
- A raise of 1♥/♠ to 3♥/♠ is a good 10 to bad 12 points
- You need to be upper range if holding just 3 trumps, and I prefer to do this via bidding a minor first to show just 3 trumps, so the direct raise to 3 always guarantees 4 trumps.
- Playing 2/1, of course, you go via the forcing NT.

The SOS re-double

Board 11 from Monday 7th

Dealer: ♠ 9632
South ♥ 9876
Love all ♦ J975
♣ 8

♠ AQ105	N	♠ J4
♥ KQ103	W E	♥ J
♦ 10843	S	♦ AK
♣ 5		♣ KQJ107642
	♠ K87	
	♥ A542	
	♦ Q62	
	♣ A93	

Table A

West	North	East (H)	South
-	-	-	1♣
dbl	pass	2♣ (1)	pass
2♥ (2)	pass	4♣ (3)	pass
pass (4)	pass		

Table B

West	North	East (H)	South (G)
-	-	-	1♣
dbl	pass	pass (1)	pass (2)

- Table A: (1) This East did not know how to show his ♣ suit, so he bid 2♣. What did you bid with this East hand H in this week's quiz? Most people would regard this 2♣ bid as a cue bid of the enemy suit, asking partner to bid his best (or cheapest) major.
(2) So West bid his most economical major, fine.
(3) I have no idea
(4)... and neither did West.

- Table B: Now at Table A East did not know how to show a good long ♣ suit. This East shows how it should be done! :-
(1) Pass for penalties! This shows an excellent ♣ suit where you expect 1♣ to go down a few!
(2) But with no ♣ suit, South is obviously in trouble. What did you bid with this South hand G in this week's quiz? The best bid here is redouble – S.O.S. and asking North to bid a suit.

And what happened? 1♣ doubled went minus 5 for 1100 to E-W, that's more than a small slam would score!

The bottom lines: -

- If your 1♣ (or 1♦) opening can be two or 3 cards, play that a re-double in this situation is SOS and asks partner to bid his cheapest 4 card suit.
- A pass of partner's take-out double shows excellent trumps.

Another pass of a double of 1♣

Board 23 from Wednesday 9th

Dealer: ♠ Q102
South ♥ 108742
Both vul ♦ J1086
♣ 3

West	North	East(me)	South
-	-	-	1♣
dbl	pass (1)	pass (2)	pass (3)

♠ K863	N	♠ J975
♥ KQ95	W E	♥ A6
♦ A72	S	♦ 95
♣ J2		♣ AQ1095
	♠ A5	
	♥ J3	
	♦ KQ43	
	♣ K8764	

- (1) It would probably have worked out better as it happens, but it is not obvious that North should bid here.
- (2) And again this is not obvious. East took a view that as N-S were vulnerable then leaving the double would get the best result.
- (3) And this time it's different from the last deal, South has a genuine ♣ suit and so a SOS redouble is not applicable.

And what happened? East's view proved to be correct. E-W have no game and 1♣ went two off for a top to E-W.

The bottom line: -

- Only pass partner's take-out double with excellent trumps.

A pairs double

Board 18 from Wednesday 9th

Dealer: ♠ AK10
East ♥ Q65
N-S vul ♦ KJ975
 ♣ 85

West	North	East(me)	South
-	-	pass	pass
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♣ (1)
pass	pass	dbl (2)	

♠ J9653	N	♠ Q87
♥ A2	W E	♥ J874
♦ 10842	S	♦ A63
♣ AK		♣ Q72
	♠ 42	
	♥ K1093	
	♦ Q	
	♣ J109643	

Fairly sensible bidding up to (1),

(1) but 3♣ at (1) with a poor holding in partner's suit was unwise.

(2) East knows that E-W probably have the majority of the points and was aware of the vulnerability. At pairs scoring a double here is a good bid. You expect to make 2♠ (+110), possibly with an overtrick(s), but if you can set the opponents just one trick then that's the 'magic' pairs score of +200.

And what happened? Most E-W played in 2♠, scoring between 110 and 170, 3♣ went one down and 200 was a cold top for E-W. Note that if East had not doubled then N-S would have got the cold top.

The bottom lines: -

- Be aware of the vulnerability, especially at pairs scoring. One down doubled is a top/bottom. Look for the 'magic' 200 at pairs scoring.
- If you strongly suspect that you would have made your partscore contract and the opponents overcall then think about a double, especially if they are vulnerable.
- Don't push the boat out when vulnerable, especially against a pair who may double you!
- And just about the type of scoring. At pairs (matchpoint) scoring you can take risks and double the opponents in search of the 'magic' 200. Doubling for a one trick (vul) set is fine at pairs but not at teams, where the loss if you double them into game and they make is horrendous.

What's it all about ...

Board 23 from Friday 11th

Dealer: ♠ 96
South ♥ 10873
both vul ♦ 84
♣ AK982

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

♠ 732	N	♠ J10854
♥ J	W E	♥ KQ64
♦ KJ765	S	♦ A3
♣ 7543		♣ J10
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ A952	
	♦ Q1092	
	♣ Q6	

I was asked by E-W if some sort of penalty/adjusted score was in order on this deal: -

- (1) So what would you bid with this South hand? 2♥ is totally obvious of course, but this is Jeff.
- (2) North hand no idea what was going on. Was 2NT showing a maximum? Was it showing both majors? Had partner found another ace? Having no idea, North simply bid 3NT.

And what happened? N-S missed their ♥ fit but 3NT played very well on this occasion. So should I penalise South? Now South was Jeff (of course) but he was playing with a non-regular partner and so I let the result stand. To avoid any more confusion/controversy in the future it's best that I clearly state now that Jeff simply does not have a clue when it comes to the bidding. Sometimes he lucks out (as here), more often he gets a complete bottom.

The bottom lines: -

- Unless you really know what you are doing (so that obviously excludes Jeff) it's best to restrict answers to 2♣ Stayman to 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠.
- And let's hear it from a couple of real experts: -

Marty Bergen can be quoted as saying '*never, Never, NEVER respond 2NT to Stayman*'.

Ron Klinger states '*the 2NT response doesn't exist. The idea that it should be to show both majors is totally unsound*'.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 1♣. It's not worth a strong NT with this 4333 type shape
(b) 1NT. 12-14, that's all it's worth.
- Hand B: (a) 1♠. Some players prefer 1♣ when 5-5 in the black suits and that is a reasonable alternative.
(b) 2♠. If you open 1♠ the you have to be careful about your rebid if partner responds at the two level. 3♣ promises a far better game forcing hand, you have to rebid this feeble ♠ suit by bidding 2♠ (that's why some players prefer to open 1♣ with this 5-5 shape with a weak hand and a weak ♠ suit).
- Hand C: Double or pass. I would prefer to have at least one 4 card major for a double and prefer pass, especially if partner understands balancing.
- Hand D: (a) 1♠. This is the balancing seat and partner may well have a strong hand without a suitable bid. This nice ♠ suit is well worth a bid in the pass-out seat.
(b) 3♠ or 4♠. It's easily worth 3♠ with a 5 card suit and nothing wasted in ♦'s. 4♠ would also be very reasonable.
- Hand E: 1♦ (with a view to rebidding 2NT or 3NT). It's too strong for a 1NT opening as that ♦ suit is worth far more than 8 points.
- Hand F: 2♥. The hand is not worth 3♥. 1NT is a very reasonable alternative.
- Hand G: Re-double, SOS. You do not have a real ♣ suit and RHO has a stack. Re-double here asks partner to bid his cheapest 4 card suit (or a 5-carder).
- Hand H: Pass. Partner has asked you to bid a suit (other than ♣'s) but you don't have one! Fortunately, your ♣ suit is easily good enough to inflict a huge penalty and so pass here shows a good ♣ suit.