

Mon N-S	1 st Bob/Dave	58%	2 nd Phil/Mike	53%
Mon E-W	1 st Chuck/Hans	65%	2 nd Jim/Tomas	57%
Wed N-S	1 st Jim/Tomas	55%	2 nd = Dave/Allan	55%
			2 nd = Chuck/Lewis	55%
Wed E-W	1 st Monte/Terry	63%	2 nd = Clive/Ken	56%
Fri 13/5/05	1 st Clive/Ken	65%	2 nd Jan/Tom	57%

Don't forget that there's an accompanying 'beginner's' news sheet – no. 132. This week it covers big hands when RHO opens.

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

Hand A	Hand B	
♠ Q	♠ 6	With Hand A partner opens 1♠. (a) What do you bid?
♥ 954	♥ Q10964	(b) Suppose you bid 1NT, what do you do if partner bids 2♣?
♦ AJ10863	♦ 10	With Hand B partner opens 2NT (20-21), (a) what do you bid?
♣ 108	♣ AKQ1072	(b) And what do you plan to bid next go?
Hand C	Hand D	
♠ KJ93	♠ A1052	With Hand C partner opens 1NT but the next hand overcalls 2♥. That's put a spanner in the works – your 2♣ Stayman bid has disappeared. So what do you do?
♥ K83	♥ AQ54	
♦ 7	♦ K5	With Hand D you open 1NT and partner bids 2♣, Stayman.
♣ Q10852	♣ Q102	You reply 2♥ and partner bids 3NT. What do you do?
Hand E	Hand F	
♠ Q93	♠ AQ854	With Hand E RHO opens 1♦, you pass and LHO bids 1♠. Partner overcalls 3♣ (weak) and RHO passes, what do you do?
♥ 10542	♥ K	
♦ 87	♦ AJ106	With Hand F you open 1♠ and partner responds 2♦, what do you bid? – assuming that 3♦ is not forcing.
♣ AQ32	♣ A87	
Hand G	Hand H	
♠ AJ108	♠ J943	(a) What do you open with Hand G? (b) Suppose you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦, what is your rebid?
♥ A32	♥ Q2	
♦ K8	♦ A5432	With Hand H you open 1♦ and partner responds 1♥, what is your rebid?
♣ AQ76	♣ AJ	
Hand J	Hand K	
		With Hand J partner opens 1♠, what do you bid?
♠ K3	♠ J876	With Hand K partner opens 1NT. (a) what do you bid?
♥ AJ42	♥ K10	(b) Suppose that you bid 2♣, then what do you bid after partner responds 2♦?
♦ K952	♦ AQ1074	
♣ 1054	♣ K7	

Editorial.

I was asked a few months back (it was not my idea) if we could have a 'committee'. It failed at the very first hurdle and has been disbanded. Basically 'the committee' could come to no agreement; the resulting ill-feeling has caused me considerable expense and caused enormous problems in the running of the club; the individual who initially asked for it to be set up has resigned. I don't think that this sort of club can sensibly accommodate a committee (most members agree) and I am most certainly not going to be messed about like this again. So the Director's decision (mine) will generally be final and I'm in charge on Mondays and Fridays. Full stop. The vast majority of the club think that that's fine and that I do a difficult 'job' fairly well and fully back me.

The Wednesday club is very slightly different. Dave and I basically run it together, but as we totally agree on just about everything there has never been a problem there. The club's general policies (encouraging new players, always guaranteeing a game etc.) also apply to Wednesdays. If a Wednesday problem should occur then we can always have a vote amongst Wednesday regulars. There has been talk amongst some members of changing the format of the Wednesday club and I have written a separate sheet on that for those who are interested; I'm happy with the current format as, I believe, are the majority.

Raise partner's pre-empt to the limit

Board 21 from Wednesday 11th

Dealer:	♠ K6				
North	♥ J986	West	North	East(E)	South
N-S vul	♦ AK106432	-	1♦	pass	1♠
	♣ -	3♣ (1)	pass	5♣ (2)	5♦ (3)
		pass (4)	pass	pass (4)	
♠ 10	N	♠ Q93			
♥ AK7	W E	♥ 10542			
♦ Q9	S	♦ 87			
♣ K1098754		♣ AQ32			
	♠ AJ87542				
	♥ Q3				
	♦ J5				
	♣ J6				

- (1) This hand is a bit too good for a pre-empt, but fine opposite a passed partner.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? Partner has promised 7 ♣'s and the 'Law' says to compete to 5 ♣, so that's what I did.
- (3) And so South is in a spot.
- (4) And this E-W pair know better than to bid again having pre-empted (or raised partner's pre-empt). A further bid by East or West would be very poor.

And what happened? 5♦ was minus one for a joint top to E-W. At other tables I note that two N-S pairs were allowed to play peacefully in 4♠ and just one was pushed up into 5♠ (also -1). But the interesting result was one table where E-W bid on to 6♣ and lost 500 for a bottom. I don't know the bidding but presumably one of them broke the cardinal rule of not bidding again after pre-empting? The bottom lines: -

- Do not bid again having pre-empted (pre-empt to the limit first go).
- Do not bid again having raised partner's pre-empt (raise to the limit first go).

Nobody landed in the best contract with these E-W hands from Monday: -

Dealer:	♠ A4		<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ QJ762		West	North	East(A)	South
N-S vul	♦ 54		1♠	pass	2♦ (1)	pass
	♣ J973		3♣ (2)	pass	3♦	pass
			3NT (3)	all pass		
♠ K8632	N	♠ Q	<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♥ 103	W E	♥ 954	West	North	East(A)	South
♦ K9	S	♦ AJ10863	1♠	pass	1NT (1)	pass
♣ AKQ10		♣ 865	2♣ (4)	pass	2♦ (5)	pass
	♠ J10975		pass (6)	pass		
	♥ AK8					
	♦ Q72					
	♣ 42					

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this East hand A(a) in this week's quiz? It's a mis-fit for partner but with 7 points and two tens it really is too good to pass (just one East passed on Monday). But then it's not good enough to bid a new suit (2♦) at the two level unless you play Acol. The solution is that you have to bid 1NT. Over a major suit opening this shows the expected 6-10 points but may be virtually any shape – just indicating not enough points to go to the two level.
- (2) After a 2-level response from partner this is game forcing in Standard American.
- (3) Now West was expecting more from partner, but even so you cannot simply bid 3NT without a stop in the unbid suit (opponents are obviously going to lead that suit). The answer is 4th suit forcing. A 3♥ bid from West here is the 4th suit and not natural – it would ask East to bid 3NT with a ♥ stop, otherwise bid something else. Of course in this actual situation E-W are way too high already.
- 'Expert' Table (1) So with the East hand A(a) we bid 1NT.
- (4) With 5-4 distribution it's usually best to bid the 4 card suit here as long as it's not a reverse (i.e. it's lower ranking than the suit opened).
- (5) And what did you bid with the East hand A(b) in this week's quiz? This is the point - in an auction like this when responder has a poor hand with a long suit, if he bid 1NT to start with then a new suit here shows a weak hand with a 6 card suit and opener is expected to pass.
- (6) And opener is happy to have located a 6-2 fit. Note also that in situations where both partners have a long suit it's usually best to play in the suit of the weaker hand – East playing in ♦'s is the best spot as he has entries to West. Playing in ♠'s (or ♣'s or NT) there is only 1 entry to the East hand.

And what happened? 1♠ passed out was the only + score in the E-W column, every other E-W pair got too high and nobody found a ♦ contract.

The bottom line: - Generally in natural systems you bid your suit first and then show your points. This is a very important exception – a 1NT response to a 1♥/♠ opening followed by a new suit at the two level is weak.

Transfers really make life easy ...

Board 4 from Monday 9th

Dealer: ♠ J975
West ♥ 852
Both vul ♦ K84
♣ J84

Table A

West	North	East(B)	South
2NT	pass	4♥ (1)	pass
pass (2)	pass		

♠ AQ10	N	♠ 6
♥ AKJ7	W E	♥ Q10964
♦ AQJ3	S	♦ 10
♣ 53		♣ AKQ1072
	♠ K8432	
	♥ 4	
	♦ 97652	
	♣ 96	

'Expert' Table

West	North	East(B)	South
2NT	pass	3♦ (1)	pass
4♥ (3)	pass	4NT (4)	pass
5♦ (5)	pass	7♥ (6)	all pass

Table A (1) I believe that this pair do not play transfers; thus 3♥ would be a weak bid and so East bid 4♥.

(2) Now West has a very good hand for ♥'s and did think for a while, but I totally agree with the pass (and the opening bid). You have said your hand (a balanced 20-22) and partner has bid game – so be it.

'Expert' (1) Our 'experts' play transfers of course.

Table (3) Now East's 3♦ transfer may be very weak, but West does not care; any 5♥'s opposite and West wants to play in 4♥ (and note that transfers enable the contract to be played by the stronger hand with the tenaces). So West super-accepts; there are various options as to what to bid for the super-accept but let's keep it simple here.

(4) Now that East knows that West has 4♥'s he is certainly in slam mode. Our 'experts' play RKCB (Roman Key-Card Blackwood) of course, the normal 0314 variety.

(5) (1 or) 4 keycards.

(6) Playing RKCB East now knows that partner has the 3 missing aces and also the ♥K, 7♥ must be lay-down. East even knows that if ♥'s are 4-0 with the ♥J missing it can always be picked up from either hand! What a lovely contract (7NT may fail with a bad ♣ break). Shame nobody at our club bid 7♥ - that certainly would have received a good write-up.

And what happened? 3 pairs settled for game and the other 3 pairs bid a small slam. So everybody missed 'the big boat'.

The bottom lines: -

- Play transfers, and also over 2NT.
- Play super-accepts, especially after a 2NT opening.
- Play RKCB – we have a booklet on RKCB.

When they overcall our 1NT opening...

Board 16 from Monday 9th

What do you do if you want to bid Stayman 2♣ but can't? :-

Dealer:	♠ AQ64	<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ 107	West	North	East	South (C)
E-W vul	♦ AK52	pass	1NT	2♥	3NT (1)
	♣ K63	all pass			

♠ 872	N	♠ 105	<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♥ 963	W E	♥ AQJ54	West	North	East	South
♦ QJ109	S	♦ 8643	pass	1NT	2♥	2NT (1)
♣ 974		♣ AJ	pass	3♣ (2)	pass	3♥ (3)
	♠ KJ93		pass	4♠ (4)	all pass	
	♥ K83					
	♦ 7					
	♣ Q10852					

Table A (1) So what did you bid with this South hand C in this week's quiz? There is no sensible answer unless you have some agreements. It's probably best to play that a cue bid of the overcalled suit (so 3♥ here) is (game forcing) Stayman.

But you also need to be able to show/ask about stops in the overcalled suit. But surely you can't do everything, can you? The answer is yes (just about)!

The only real solution is to play Lebensohl. It is perhaps a rather complex convention but well worth mastering, as far as I know only Chuck, Clive and myself play it at our club. I believe that this situation occurred 3 times on Monday. I wrote a few pages on Lebensohl and they are available if you want a copy. Anyway, let's see how our 'experts' handle the problem playing Lebensohl: -

- 'Expert' (1) A 'puppet' bid, opener **must** respond 3♣.
Table (2) Forced.
(3) Stayman, but since responder went via 2NT/3♣ (Lebensohl) this also shows a ♥ stop in addition to 4♠'s. (A direct 3♥ would still be Stayman but would deny a ♥ stop).
(4) And the correct contract is easily reached.

And what happened? 3NT was bid twice and went down on both occasions. The other four tables played in 4♠ by North (making 11 or 12 tricks) and so I guess there was no 2♥ overcall?

The bottom lines: -

- Sort out with partner how you can bid Stayman after interference. I recommend Lebensohl, there is a booklet around.

Don't miss that 4-4 fit – part 1

Board 13 from Wednesday 11th

Dealer: ♠ A1052
North ♥ AQ54
Both vul ♦ K5
♣ Q102

♠ KQ3	N	♠ 94
♥ 98762	W E	♥ J3
♦ 9	S	♦ J8632
♣ A963		♣ J854
	♠ J876	
	♥ K10	
	♦ AQ1074	
	♣ K7	

Table A

West	North(D)	East	South(K)
-	1NT	pass	2♣
pass	2♥ (1)	pass	3NT (2)
pass	pass (3)		

Table B

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

- Table A (1) Always bid 2♥ in response to Stayman when holding both majors.
(2) What did you bid with this South hand K in this week's quiz? With no ♥ fit and game values, South correctly bid 3NT. There is no need to mention the ♠ suit as 2♣ promises a 4 card major.
(3) But this is wrong. Partner's 2♣ Stayman promised a 4-card major....
- Table B (3) ... and so North should correct to the known 4-4 ♠ fit.

And what happened? 4♠ was bid at 3 tables and they all scored 450 to share the top. The other three tables all played in 3NT and all scored less.

The bottom lines: -

- Look for the 4-4 fit.
- A Stayman bid always promises a 4 card major, so if it's not ♥'s then it must be ♠'s.

There are more advanced systems (such as 4-way transfers) when a 2♣ Stayman bid does not guarantee a 4 card major, but in my opinion the 2♣ bid should then be alerted. But hardly anyone plays 4-way transfers in our club.

Only one pair (Jim/Tomas) out of 5 tables found the correct contract on this deal from Friday: -

Dealer:	♠ K9			<u>Table A</u>				
West	♥ 1075			West	North	East(G)	South	
Both vul	♦ QJ9642			pass	pass	1NT(1)	pass	
	♣ 53			2♣	pass	2♠	pass	
				3♠	pass	4♠	all pass	
♠ Q543	N	♠ AJ108		<u>Table B</u>				
♥ K98	W E	♥ A32		West	North	East(G)	South	
♦ 10753	S	♦ K8		pass	pass	1♣ (1)	pass	
♣ K4		♣ AQ76		1♦ (2)	pass	2NT (3)	pass	
	♠ 762			3NT (4)	all pass			
	♥ QJ64							
	♦ A							
	♣ J10982							

Table A Now actually this is the bidding from the beginner's table, where they also reached the correct contract.
 (1) East asked me if he could open 1NT. I said that it was probably a slight overbid but with these tenaces to protect it may well work out best.

And our beginners then easily reached the best contract with no further assistance from me.

Table B (1) What did you open with this East hand G(a) in this week's quiz? Most people would consider the hand too strong for a 1NT opening (so jump rebid in NT to show 18-19) and I am certainly not arguing.

(2) Now whether you bid ♦'s (so up the line) or ♠'s in this situation is partnership agreement. Up the line, so 1♦, is standard here. My personal preference is to play 'Walsh' (bypass a ♦ suit to bid a major with a weak hand) but as far as I know Clive is the only other member who has even heard of this.

(3) But now we come to the point. What did you bid with this East hand G(b) in this week's quiz? 2NT shows a balanced 18-19, but does it deny a 4 card major?
 It's up to you, but I prefer to be able to bid 2NT in this situation.

(4) And here's the problem. This West thought that 2NT denied a 4 card major and the best contract of 4♠ was missed. What's the solution?

In my opinion 2NT does not deny a 4 card major. There are various ways of finding a major suit fit after the 2NT jump. You can play 3♣ as (Checkback) Stayman; in some situations you can play new minor forcing; but I prefer to keep it simple – any bid after the 2NT jump is natural and game forcing. Isn't that simple!

And what happened? In the main competition only one pair found 4♠, scoring 650 (I don't know their bidding). 3NT was bid and made twice but scored just 600. The two other pairs failed to reach game.

The bottom lines: -

- The jump rebid to 2NT shows 18-19 points and does not deny a 4 card major.
- So you need to decide how to bid on to locate a possible major suit fit.

Don't miss that 4-4 fit – part 3

Board 6 from Friday 13th

And a couple of pairs somehow failed to locate the 4-4 fit on this board: -

Dealer: ♠ Q652
 East ♥ K74
 E-W vul ♦ QJ6
 ♣ 752

<u>Table A</u>				
West	North	East(H)	South	
-	-	1♦	pass	
1♥	pass	1♠ (1)	pass	
4♠	all pass			

♠ AK108	N	♠ J943
♥ J1083	W E	♥ Q2
♦ K9	S	♦ A5432
♣ K109		♣ AJ
	♠ 7	
	♥ A96	
	♦ 1087	
	♣ Q8643	

(1) What did you bid with this East hand H in this week's quiz? Unlike with the 2NT jump rebid of the previous deal, a 1NT rebid here (12-14) by East would be denying a 4 card major. 1♠ is the correct rebid – never deny a 4 card major.

Now the above auction seems automatic to me, and even if East elected to pass initially then 4♠ should also easily be reached after a 1NT opening by West (it's worth 1NT) and Stayman (pass - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3NT - 4♠). And even if East passes initially and West just opens 1♣ then 4♠ should still be reached (possibly pass - 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠). Quite how two pairs landed in the inferior 3NT is a mystery to me.

And what happened? 3NT was bid twice and made 600. 4♠ was bid twice and made 420 or 450. Note that 4♠ scored better even though there was a 4-1 trump split.

The bottom lines: -

- You've heard it all before numerous times and I want to save ink.

No rebid?

Board 7 from Wednesday 11th

Dealer: ♠ K3
South ♥ AJ42
Both vul ♦ K952
♣ 1054

West	North(J)	East	South (F)
-	-	-	1 ♠
pass	2♦ (1)	pass	3♦ (2)
pass	3NT (3)	pass	pass (4)
pass			

♠ 1072	N	♠ J96
♥ Q73	W E	♥ 109865
♦ Q43	S	♦ 87
♣ J962		♣ KQ3
	♠ AQ854	
	♥ K	
	♦ AJ106	
	♣ A87	

- (1) What did you bid with this North hand J in this week's quiz? 2♦ is the correct response with this hand. 2NT would show the points and balanced nature of the hand but it denies a 4 card ♥ suit. 2♥ would be incorrect because it shows a 5 card suit.
- (2) But what did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? This South chose 3♦ but I have my doubts if that is forcing. It is certainly not forcing in Acol and I'm sure that many of our members would consider it as non forcing in their 'Standard American' style. Playing 2/1 it is forcing of course. Anyway, assuming that 3♦ is not forcing, what should South bid? See answers to the bidding quiz for my recommendation.
- (3) Anyway, North really has no option here but to bid 3NT and hope that there's a ♣ stop opposite or that ♣'s are not led.
- (4) As South has not yet shown his power he should make a move here.

And what happened? Two pairs bid the slam and three stopped in 3NT making 12 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- When you have a monster, don't make a weak (passable) bid.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 1NT. 6-10 points. You cannot bid 2♦ as that would promise 11+ points. Acol players can bid 2♦ here – that is one of the advantages of playing a weak NT.
(b) 2♦. This should be a 6 card suit and you expect partner to pass.
- Hand B: (a) 3♦, a transfer.
(b) If partner super-accepts then it's easy; 4NT (RKC) Blackwood and onto slam. But if partner simply bids 3♥ there is a slight problem. Is 4♣ a 2nd suit or Gerber? Is 4NT quantitative or Blackwood? Now I've been checking through my library and Sally Horton ("Responding to 2NT") explicitly states that 4NT is quantitative and that a 2nd suit is natural and a slam try. Looks like a problem to me, no ace ask available? I have written off to Bridge magazine to ask their opinion.
- Hand C: 3♥. 2♠ would be weakish (to play) and 3♠ is forcing but both should be a 5 card suit. You have to agree that a cue bid of 3♥ is Stayman. But how do you let partner know that you have a ♥ stop if there is no 4-4 ♠ fit? There is a solution if you are prepared to read up on Lebensohl.
- Hand D: 4♠. Partner's 2♣ bid promises a 4 card major. Since it's not ♥'s it must be ♠'s, so play in the 4-4 fit.
- Hand E: 5♣. Raise partner's pre-empt to the limit straight away *and do not bid again*.
- Hand F: 3♣. This is (in principle) natural and definitely game forcing. It's only a 3 card suit but it's the only possibility; with this monster you have to make a forcing bid (or bid game). When you rule out the impossible
3♦ or 2♠ are not forcing. 3♠ promises better ♠'s. You cannot bid NT or ♥'s with a singleton – so that only leaves ♣'s!
- Hand G: (a) 1♣ or 1NT. It a trifle too strong for 1NT but with these tenaces it may turn out to be the best opening and I certainly would not argue with 1NT on this occasion. But most will prefer to open 1♣ ...
(b) ... and rebid 2NT. This shows 18-19 points. I prefer this to a ♠ rebid. I play that the jump to 2NT does not deny a 4 card major and that a jump to 2♠ here would show a more shapely hand with 5 or 6 ♣'s.
- Hand H: 1♠. 1NT is incorrect as it denies 4 ♠'s.
- Hand J: 2♦. The hand has the values (11-12) for 2NT but that would deny a 4 card ♥ suit. You cannot bid 2♥ as that promises 5 card suit. So you bid your longest minor and if partner has 4 ♥'s he will bid them.
- Hand K: (a) 2♣. If you don't play 4-way transfers then bid 2♣ Stayman.
(b) 3NT (or 3♦). If you play that 3♦ is natural and forcing here (so showing 4 ♠'s and 5+ ♦'s) then you can bid that. But the simpler option is to just bid 3NT. That shows game values and 4 ♠'s.