

Fri 10/6/05

Club News Sheet – No. 136

Mon 6 th	1 st	Jo/Terry	62%	2 nd	Chuck/Ken	55%
Wed 8 th	1 st	Tonni/Richard (US)	65%	2 nd	Chuck/Ken	58%
Fri 10 th	1 st	Chuck/Ken	64%	2 nd	Mike /Phil	55%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A it's favourable vulnerability and partner opens 1♥ in 4 th seat. RHO overcalls 1♠, what do you do?
♠ KJ94	♠ AKQ	
♥ 75	♥ K3	
♦ 6542	♦ J64	What do you open with Hand B?
♣ AJ6	♣ AKQ105	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C you open 1♥, LHO overcalls 1♠ and this is passed round to you. You play negative doubles, what do you do?
♠ Q83	♠ KJ43	
♥ AKJ97	♥ AQJ109	
♦ QJ	♦ AJ4	With Hand D you open 1♥ and partner responds 1NT. What do you do?
♣ K98	♣ 5	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠, what do you bid?
♠ K2	♠ Q6	
♥ J96543	♥ K7	With Hand F partner opens 1♥ and you respond 1NT. Partner raises this to 2NT, what do you do?
♦ AK7	♦ 98753	
♣ AQ	♣ Q1094	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1♥ and you respond 1♠
♠ J1098	♠ K765	(a) What do you bid if partner rebids 2♥
♥ KQ	♥ Q7653	(b) What do you bid if partner rebids 3♥
♦ J109	♦ QJ5	(c) What do you bid if partner rebids 2NT
♣ J974	♣ J	With Hand H LHO opens 2♦ and this is passed to you, what do you do?
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J you open 2♣, partner bids 2♦ (-ve) and you bid 2NT (showing 22-24 balanced). Partner then bids 3♦, transfer, and you obediently bid 3♥. Partner then bids 3NT, what now?
♠ AK	♠ QJ7	
♥ AK7	♥ A7	
♦ A763	♦ K8762	With hand K partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♦. Partner then bids 1♥, what do you bid (1NT or 2NT)?
♣ KQ92	♣ 1032	

A one-level penalty double?

Board 20 from Monday 6th

Dealer: ♠ A1062
South ♥ Q432
N-S vul ♦ K3
♣ 753

West(C)	North	East(A)	South
-	pass	pass	pass
1♥	1♠ (1)	pass (2)	pass
dbl (3)	pass	pass (4)	pass

♠ Q83	N	♠ KJ94
♥ AKJ97	W E	♥ 75
♦ QJ	S	♦ 6542
♣ K98		♣ AJ6
	♠ 75	
	♥ 106	
	♦ A10987	
	♣ Q1042	

- (1) This is silly of course, especially at unfavourable vulnerability and against reasonably good opposition. Some experts do advocate occasionally overcalling with a 4 card suit at the one level – but that is only with a *much* better hand and with a *much* better suit – it's best left to the experts.
- (2) What did you do with this East hand A in this week's quiz? E-W play negative doubles and so East passed (at this vulnerability defending 1♠ doubled looked attractive to him).
- (3) What did you do with this West hand C in this week's quiz? West re-opens with a double of course when playing negative doubles.
- (4) And East carried through his plan of defending 1♠ doubled.

And what happened? 1♠ doubled should have been a complete massacre (if West returns the ♠Q at trick 2 when in with the ♥K), but West was unwilling to believe that North had overcalled on a 4 card suit! Or perhaps he thought that his partner was day-dreaming? (unlikely). Even with the resultant mis-defence the contract was one down, so 200 away for a complete top to E-W.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not overcall with 4 card suits, especially as poor as Axxx.
- Do not make rubbish overcalls when vulnerable.
- Do not make rubbish overcalls if the opponents know how to double you for penalties.
- If you play negative doubles, then it's usually correct for opener to re-open with a double.
- Even a good 4 card suit can be enough for a lucrative 'penalty double' at the one level.
- Look for the 'golden 200' at pairs scoring.
- Trust partner rather than an opponent. In this auction East is guaranteeing 4+ ♠'s as otherwise he would have bid NT.

Don't use Blackwood to gauge strength

Board 24 from Monday 6th

Dealer: ♠ 108732
West ♥ 42
Love all ♦ AKQ32
♣ 6

♠ J96	N	♠ 54
♥ Q975	W E	♥ AJ1086
♦ 95	S	♦ 1087
♣ J743		♣ 982

♠ AKQ
♥ K3
♦ J64
♣ AKQ105

West	North	East	South(B)
pass	pass	pass	2♣ (1)
pass	2♠ (2)	pass	4NT (3)
pass	5♦	pass	5♠ (4)
all pass			

- (1) What did you open with this South hand B in this week's quiz? I too would open 2♣.
- (2) And what you respond here is up to your partnership style. Some people always bid 2♦ (waiting), others demand an honour or two in a positive suit response. Anyway, I'm not arguing with 2♠ as it's up to you.
- (3) But this is premature, what's the hurry? 2NT, showing a balanced 22-24 is game forcing after a +ve response and is quite sufficient.
- (4) And now we come to the point that I'm trying to make. Blackwood should be used as a tool to check on aces once you have decided that there are values enough for slam. If you bid Blackwood and then back down when there is just one ace missing then you have mis-used Blackwood.

And what happened? Just one pair bid slam (6♠). Nobody bid the laydown 6NT by South.

The bottom lines: -

- There is usually no rush to leap into Blackwood, especially when you are in a game forcing sequence.
- If you bid Blackwood and find just one ace missing then you should bid slam; Blackwood is not a tool to gauge partner's strength, you should know you have values for slam before invoking Blackwood and only back off if there are two aces missing.

How many times should one bid one's hand?

Board 6 from Monday 6th

Dealer:	♠ QJ985				
East	♥ 7632	West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ K932	-	-	1♦	1♥
	♣ -	1NT	2♥ (1)	3♣ (2)	pass
		pass (3)	3♥ (4)	pass	pass
♠ 1043	N	4♣ (5)	4♥ (6)	dbl (7)	all pass
♥ KJ9	W E				
♦ 84	S				
♣ AJ1052					
	♠ 762				
	♥ AQ1085				
	♦ J7				
	♣ Q96				
	♠ AK				
	♥ 4				
	♦ AQ1064				
	♣ K8743				

- (1) I would raise to 3♥ here. Bid your hand to the limit at the first opportunity. A 3♥ bid should be pre-emptive as with a sound raise to 3♥ you cuebid.
- (2) East's hand has improved with the opponents bidding his singleton. He intended 3♣ as forcing here....
- (3) ... but obviously partner did not appreciate this. With this super maximum and superb ♣'s I would bid 3NT.
- (4) What can I say? I would not be in this position as I would have bid 3♥ last go.
- (5) Partner has shown a big hand (but I guess that West did not appreciate this). I would bid 3NT here (actually I would have bid 3NT at (3) of course).
- (6) Talk about bidding your hand twice, here we have it bid three times!
- (7) Since nobody at the table seemed to care that East had a huge hand, he tossed the double card onto the table.

And what happened? Nobody found the 'best' contract of 3NT, maybe even 6♣ can make (although everybody in ♣'s made just 11 tricks). Anyway, at our club we expect a few varied results: - 4♥* went minus 4 for 800 away and the top to E-W. Other results were 4♥*-3, 4♣+1 (twice) and 5♣ making exactly.

The bottom lines: -

- Bid your hand to the limit at the first opportunity.
- Bid your hand just once (and certainly not 3 times).
- I guess that a regular partnership would have to agree if 3♣ at (2) is forcing or not.

Intermediates count – part 1Board 23 from Wednesday 8th

Dealer: ♠ 10952
 South ♥ 532
 Both vul ♦ K6
 ♣ A872

♠ Q6	N	♠ KJ43
♥ K7	W E	♥ AQJ109
♦ 98753	S	♦ AJ4
♣ Q1094		♣ 5

♠ A87
 ♥ 964
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ KJ63

West(F)	North	East(D)	South
-	-	-	pass
pass	pass	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	2NT(1)	pass
3NT (2)	all pass		

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? There are two very reasonable options. The hand is a very good 16 points (that ♥109 are worth far more than their 'allocated' zero points). So it's really too good to pass and the two options are 2NT or a reverse into 2♠. Now partner's 1NT has denied 4♠'s but there may be a good Moysian fit there; however, partner has denied a major and is very likely to have decent ♣'s and I certainly won't argue with my partner's choice of 2NT (showing a good 16-17). Even though this is a very robust ♥ suit I would not jump to 3♥ as I would like a 6 card suit for that bid and 2♥ is a bit feeble (and usually implies a 6 card suit).
- (2) And what did you bid with this West hand F in this week's quiz? Partner has invited game and so with 6-7 (poor 8) you pass and with a good 8-10 you bid 3NT. So how good is this West hand? It's 7 points, but then look at the shape and intermediates. With a 5 and a 4 card suit that's good, the ♣109 are also very good and those intermediates in the 5 card ♦ suit are obviously worth more than their 'allocated' zero points. Add this together with the king in partner's suit and I think it's worth a shot at 3NT.

And what happened? 3NT received the 'obvious' ♣ lead and comfortably made with an overtrick – that ♣109 were golden cards! Two pairs somehow reached 4♥ (if East reversed into 2♠ I would bid 3NT with the West hand). The two other contracts were 1NT and 3♥ and they both scored relatively well as 4♥ went down on both occasions.

The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade a hand with good intermediates, especially combinations like 109 or 987 in long suits.

Intermediates count – part 2

Board 16 from Wednesday 8th

Dealer: ♠ K1064
West ♥ 2
E-W vul ♦ K8652
♣ QJ7

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

♠ AQ8	N	♠ J972
♥ AJ9	W E	♥ KQ863
♦ 1043	S	♦ J
♣ A1052		♣ 843
	♠ 53	
	♥ 10754	
	♦ AQ97	
	♣ K96	

- (1) Would you open 1NT with this West hand or downgrade because of the flat shape? It's 15 points but knock off a point for the 3334 shape. But then the hand contains good intermediates and two tens and that may be just enough to swing the balance back to make it just about good enough for 1NT, but it's close. Either is fine by me.
- (2) Take-out for ♠'s or ♦'s.
- (3) Obviously OK with 3 good trumps and weak ♦'s.
- (4) North's double only promised 4 ♦'s and so he can push on here.
- (5) East knows that partner has just 3 ♥'s and that this is one above the Law, but with a singleton ♦ it looks best to me.

And what happened? 3♥ went one down and would have scored badly for E-W but I did not count my scores on Wednesday as I only played ½ a dozen boards.

Now at the end of the hand East suggested to West that he should have opened 1NT as then that would have kept the opposition quiet. Now I've said that I think it's marginal and I would not criticise the decision to downgrade to 14 pts; but what about the 2nd part of the argument? I don't think that it would keep N-S silent.

Suppose West opens 1NT and North passes, then what does East do? I would bid Stayman but many would bid a 2♦ transfer. Either way N-S will enter the auction and find their ♦ fit:

- (a) 1NT - p - 2♣ - p - 2♦ - dbl
- (b) 1NT - p - 2♦ - dbl

The bottom lines: -

- Even the most experienced of players are not necessarily correct in their criticism of partner (but no names).
- It takes a lot to keep me quiet?

Intermediates count – part 3

Board 10 from Friday 10th

Dealer: ♠ J1098
East ♥ KQ
Both vul ♦ J109
♣ J974

West	North(G)	East	South(E)
-	-	pass	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	3♥ (1)
pass	4♥ (2)	all pass	

♠ A764	N	♠ Q53
♥ 10	W E	♥ A872
♦ Q86	S	♦ 5432
♣ K10853		♣ 62
	♠ K2	
	♥ J96543	
	♦ AK7	
	♣ AQ	

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand E in this week's quiz? It's 17 points with a 6 card major suit. It would be nice to have more points in ♥'s but the hand is well worth a try for game. I think that 3♥ is best (2NT is the alternative).
- (2) And what did you do with this North hand G? Partner is inviting you and you should pass with around 6-7 or else bid game. This is a good 8 (look at all of those intermediates) and the ♥KQ are now good cards after partner has shown a good hand with 6 ♥'s. I would not argue with 3NT but I prefer my partner's choice of 4♥.

Now that all seems very simple, so why is this hand in print? Because 2 out of the 5 tables missed game on Friday. 4♥ made exactly once; 3NT made exactly once and 3NT somehow went down once. 2♥ and 3♥ were the other two contracts.

The bottom lines: -

- With 17 points it's best to make an invitational bid after partner has responded in a new suit at the 1 level to your opening if you can. You can jump to 3 of your suit if it's 6 cards, otherwise 2NT (18-19) if it's a good 17 or else jump support partner. Sometimes a reverse is an option with the correct shape.
- 10's and 9's are often valuable, especially if not isolated. This North hand has 3 jacks (usually poor cards) but they are good when backed up by 10's and 9's. This North hand is worth far more than its face value of 8 points.
- An isolated KQ are usually poor cards, but they are OK if partner bids the suit and excellent if partner shows 5 or 6 cards in the suit.

Taking a gamble

Board 20 from Friday 10th

Dealer: ♠ 1083
West ♥ K98
Both vul ♦ K8
♣ K9875

♠ 2	N	♠ AQJ94
♥ J102	W E	♥ A4
♦ A109432	S	♦ 76
♣ Q62		♣ A1043
	♠ K765	
	♥ Q7653	
	♦ QJ5	
	♣ J	

Table A

West	North	East	South
2♦	pass	2NT (1)	pass
3♣ (2)	pass	3♦ (3)	al pass

Table B

West	North	East	South(H)
2♦	pass	pass (1)	dbl (4)
pass	3♣	pass	3♥ (5)
pass	4♥ (6)	dbl (7)	all pass

Table A: (1) What would you bid with this East hand? You could try 2♠ (forcing) but I believe that this pair play Ogust and 2NT asked how good the 2♦ opener was.

(2) And this showed a poor opener with a poor suit.

(3) So West signed off.

Table B: (1) This East, with very poor ♦'s, did not make a try for game. Who knows, the bidding is not over and something interesting may happen!

(4) What did you bid with this South hand H in this week's quiz? You're in the balancing seat and don't really want to sell out to 2♦, but you don't want to excite partner when holding just 9 points. 2♥ looks about right to me (pass is reasonable but I too would not like to sell out). Now double is simply a gamble, it would be excellent if partner responds in a major – but....

(5) ... what can South do when partner bids 3♣? He chose to bid his ♥ suit...

(6) ... and North assumed that South had a very good hand....

(7) ... but East already had the axe out.

So what went wrong with this auction? The basic problem is that a take-out double means just that – short in the suit bid and playable in the other three suits. The problem is not really that South has few points (double would be acceptable in the pass-out seat holding something like ♠K765 ♥Q7653 ♦J ♣QJ3 – i.e. the same hand but with the ♣'s and ♦'s reversed). No, the problem is that South is not playable in ♣'s and if he removes a ♣ bid from partner then that shows a good hand.

The bottom lines: -

- A take-out double is approximately opening values in the direct seat; it is playable in the other 3 suits.
- Such a double can be less in the pass-out seat, but it still has to be playable in the other 3 suits.
- If you double and bid again then that shows a good hand wherever you are sitting.

Nobody found the excellent 5-3 fitBoard 14 from Friday 10th

This deal was played 5 times on Friday and nobody found the best contract of 4♥ :-

Dealer:	♠ 6432			<u>Table A</u>				
East	♥ 108			West	North	East(J)	South	
Love all	♦ K9			-	-	2♣	pass	
	♣ AJ1043			2♦	pass	2NT	pass	
				3♦ (1)	pass	3NT (2)	all pass	
♠ J109	N	♠ AK						
♥ QJ943	W E	♥ AK7		<u>'Expert' Table</u>				
♦ J8	S	♦ A763		West	North	East(J)	South	
♣ 765		♣ KQ92		-	-	2♣	pass	
	♠ Q875			2♦	pass	2NT	pass	
	♥ 652			3♦ (1)	pass	3♥ (2)	pass	
	♦ Q10542			3NT (3)	pass	4♥ (4)	all pass	
	♣ 8							

- Table A (1) Now after the sequence 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT you should play exactly the same as if the bidding had started with a 2NT opener. If you play Stayman and transfers after a 2NT opening then it's exactly the same after this sequence; so 3♦ here is a transfer.
- (2) But this East did not realise this and thought that 3♦ was natural.
- 'Expert' Table (2) Our experts know to complete transfers, and only super-accept with 4 trumps.
- (3) And with just 5♥'s West rebids 3NT of course.
- (4) But what did you bid with this East hand J in this week's quiz? Passing 3NT is a poor bid in my opinion (see bottom lines below for the whole list of reasons). I would go for the 5-3 major suit fit and bid 4♥.

And what happened? 3NT was bid and either made or made +1. It looks like a fairly easy 11 tricks to me (so a top) when playing in ♥'s. If South had the ♣A then 3NT would even go down!

The bottom lines: -

- If you play Stayman and transfers over 2NT then it's the same after 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT.
- Go for the 5-3 major suit fit if you have a doubleton (you score an extra trick with a ruff).
- Go for the 5-3 major suit fit if you have a weak suit.
- Go for the 5-3 major suit fit if you have very good trumps (like AKx).
- Go for the 5-3 major suit fit if you have a very strong hand and partner has the weak hand with 5 trumps (you then have entries to dummy).
- Most certainly go for the 5-3 major suit fit if all of the above apply!

Unwarranted stick?

Board 11 from Friday 10th

My bidding partner (Bob) was criticised (in his absence) on this deal from Friday when I was choosing random bidding partners; I totally agree with his bidding: -

Dealer:	♠ AK93				
South	♥ Q98	West	North(me)	East	South(Bob)
Love all	♦ AKQJ4	-	1♦	1♥ (1)	pass (2)
	♣ 2	2♥ (3)	2♠ (4)	pass	pass (5)
		pass			
♠ 104	N	♠ Q652			
♥ K752	W E	♥ A10643			
♦ 753	S	♦ 98			
♣ Q1074		♣ K6			
	♠ J87				
	♥ J				
	♦ 1062				
	♣ AJ9853				

- (1) With this type of shape, as we saw earlier, an overcall of 1♥ is far better than double.
- (2) Now South would have responded 1NT without the overcall but he has to pass now.
- (3) With 4 trumps, West has an obvious raise. A weak 3♥ is an alternative.
- (4) Opposite a passed partner this shows a good hand
- (5) South knows that partner has a good hand, but his major feature is a 'useless' ♣ suit and so I think that settling for the 4-3 ♠ fit is fine as he has no ♥ stop.

And what happened? N-S made 2♠ but it scored a zero as 3NT was making or making +1 at other tables. One opponent said the South should have bid on. I don't see it, once E-W have bid (and agreed ♥'s) there is no game after the 'obvious' ♥ lead. 2♠ making should have scored well.

But at other tables ♥'s were apparently not bid and so 3NT by South makes. My partner and I were always going to get a poor score if 3NT is allowed to make at other tables. Once East overcalled 1♥ (and so prevented South from bidding 1NT) it was all over. N-S have a ♥ stop only if South is declarer in NT and this is impossible if East overcalls in ♥'s. 3NT by South would also go down if West chose the ♥K as his lead (unlikely if South bids NT).

The bottom line: -

- The only real question is – why didn't every East overcall 1♥?
- With a 4 card major and a 5 card major, overcall rather than double unless you have 3 decent cards in the other minor.

Play Quiz

DUMMY ↓

♠ QJ7	N	♠ A82
♥ A7	W E	♥ 10865
♦ K8762	S	♦ AQ3
♣ 1032		♣ A76

You are declarer in 3NT and North leads the ♣K, how many times, if any, should you hold up? p.s., I got it wrong at the table!
The full deal is on the next page.

How good a 10 count?

Board 2 from Friday 10th

When partner opens and you have 6-9 points then you bid 1NT (not by-passing a major of course); with 11-12 it's 2NT. With 10 points you have to determine 'how good' a 10 count it is, my bidding partner (Tom) got this spot on: -

Dealer:	♠ 64				
East	♥ KQ3	West(K)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ J94	-	-	1♣	pass
	♣ KQJ85	1♦	pass	1♥	pass
		2NT (1)	pass	3NT (2)	all pass
♠ QJ7	N	♠ A82			
♥ A7	W E	♥ 10865			
♦ K8762	S	♦ AQ3			
♣ 1032		♣ A76			
	♠ K10953				
	♥ J942				
	♦ 105				
	♣ 94				

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand K in this weeks quiz? Ten points in on the border between 1NT and 2NT, but for me the 5 card suit swings it – shape is all important – and I agree with the 2NT bid.
- (2) East also has a decision, he is max but the 3433 shape is bad. The deciding factor for me here is the AQx in partner's suit.

And what happened? Only 2 out of the 5 tables bid 3NT but one went down. Other contracts were 1NT and 2NT.

Now with West as declarer you get the ♣K lead, how should West play the hand? I'm not really an expert here but I think that West should duck just one round of ♣'s, win the 2nd round and then try the ♠Q. I think that, although I made the contract, I misplayed it. I ducked two rounds of ♣'s and won the 3rd round. Of course I'm then making after North leads a 3rd round of ♣'s (who can blame him) but a ♥K switch at trick 3 would have set me I think. But who would find that? – please don't answer that Chuck. The point is that West can cope with a 4-3 ♣ split and so only needs to duck once as if South get in with the ♠K and has a 3rd ♣ to return then it's a 4-3 split and so no problem (West then loses just 3 ♣'s and one ♠).

The bottom lines: -

- When playing in NT it's usually best to hold up with just one stop in an opponent's suit, (this cut off communication between defenders). The good players know exactly how many rounds to hold up, the rest of us get it right sometimes.
- If my memory serves me right there is some sort of 'rule', something like subtract the number of cards you and dummy have in the suit from 7 and hold up that many times.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass (or double if you do not play negative doubles). 1♠ is going down and defending 1♠ doubled will net an excellent score at this vulnerability, especially as you know that overcaller does not have an opening hand.
- Hand B: 2♣. Now some players play an opening bid of 2NT as 20-21 and others play it as 20-22; I prefer 20-21 but that is not important here as that great ♣ suit makes the hand worth 23-24 points (so open 2♣ with a 2NT rebid, 23-24 or 23-24 resp.).
- Hand C: Double. A (semi) automatic re-opening double in case partner has a penalty pass hand.
- Hand D: 2♠ (a reverse) or 2NT. The hand really is a bit too good to pass and I don't like 3♥ with just a 5 card suit.
- Hand E: 3♥. Invitational with a 6 card suit. Seems perfect to me but I guess that 2NT is a reasonable alternative.
- Hand F: 3NT. The excellent intermediates and good shape make it worth a shot at game.
- Hand G: (a) Pass, not quite good enough to make a move.
(b) 4♥, partner is inviting game and has 6♥'s. This hand has excellent ♥'s (partner knows that you probably have at most two) and has excellent intermediates.
(c) 3NT. Easily enough to raise 2NT (18-19) to game.
- Hand H: 2♥. You are in the balancing seat and so can bid with a minimal hand. Double will work out well if partner responds in a major but you are completely fixed if he bids 3♣, so it really is a big gamble.
- Hand J: 4♥. Go for the 5-3 major suit fit (I give a very comprehensive list of all the reasons why where this deal is described in this news-sheet).
- Hand K: 2NT. 10 points is on the borderline between 1NT and 2NT, but a 5 card suit is a big + and so it's worth 2NT. With 2344 type shape I would settle for 1NT.
- Play Quiz: You should hold up just one time. If you duck two rounds of ♣'s then you are sunk if they find a ♥ switch.