

Fri 17/6/05

Club News Sheet – No. 137

Mon 13 th	1 st	Chuck/Louis	62%	2 nd	Ian & Gilli	60%
Wed 15 th	1 st	Monte/Richard	63%	2 nd	Gilli & Kenneth	58%
Fri 17 th	1 st	Ian/Terry	63%	2 nd	Noreen & Kevin	56%

What a Friendly Club!

Our Irish visitors (Kevin and Noreen) remarked to Richard what a nice, quiet, friendly club this is! Richard told them that that's the way the director tries to keep it (and has to put in a lot of effort just to do that). I could give a list of ½ a dozen or so players who are noticeably absent at the moment – but no names!

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A RHO opens 1♣, what do you do?
♠ A54	♠ AK2	With Hand B you open 1♦, partner bids 1♠ and you correctly rebid 2NT (18-19).
♥ K653	♥ Q10	(a) What do you do if partner bids 3♠?
♦ AJ4	♦ AQJ84	(b) What do you do if partner bids 3NT?
♣ Q87	♣ Q102	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♣ and this is passed round to partner who doubles. (a) what do you bid?
♠ K1074	♠ AK10862	(b) what do you bid if RHO bids 2♣?
♥ 63	♥ 4	With Hand D you open 1♠ and partner responds 2♣, what do you bid?
♦ Q1095	♦ AKQ5	
♣ A107	♣ J7	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you open 1♠ and partner responds 2♥, what do you rebid?
♠ AK1062	♠ 9	With Hand F partner opens 1♠, what do you respond?
♥ 74	♥ Q987	
♦ KJ532	♦ J862	
♣ 4	♣ AK106	

Don't double with a flat hand

Board 27 from Friday 15th

E-W got way too high here, why?

Dealer:	♠ 10					
South	♥ J972		West(A)	North	East	South
Love all	♦ Q62		-	-	-	1♣
	♣ J10654		dbl (1)	4♣ (2)	4♠ (3)	dbl
			all pass			
♠ A54	N	♠ 87632				
♥ K653	W E	♥ AQ94				
♦ AJ4	S	♦ 1093				
♣ Q87		♣ 2				
	♠ KQJ9					
	♥ 10					
	♦ K874					
	♣ AK93					

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? It's a totally flat 14 count, and when you knock off the point for the 3433 shape it's a miserable 13 count. So it's nowhere near a 1NT overcall and is totally the wrong shape for a take-out double. Pass is correct.
- (2) Now this pre-emptive raise really put the pressure on East.
- (3) What should East bid here? It's only 6 points but there could easily be a game opposite a normal take-out double. Double (asking partner to pick a major) is probably best but this was an unfamiliar partnership and so East went for the game in his 5 card suit.

And what happened? 4♠* went down two for a bottom. The bottom lines: -

- A take-out double should be short in the suit opened.
- Keep quiet (pass) with flat hands with less than 15 points when RHO opens.

Responding to a take-out double

Board 17 from Friday 15th

Now we all know, I hope, to bid 4 card suits up the line; but there are always exceptions: -

Dealer:	♠ -				
North	♥ 54	West	North	East(C)	South
Love all	♦ AK2	-	1♣ (1)	pass	pass (2)
	♣ K9865432	dbl (3)	2♣ (4)	2♦ (5)	pass
		2♠ (6)	pass	4♠	all pass
♠ AQJ82	N	♠ K1074			
♥ KQJ2	W E	♥ 63			
♦ J87	S	♦ Q1095			
♣ J		♣ A107			
	♠ 9653				
	♥ A10987				
	♦ 643				
	♣ Q				

- (1) This is fine, the hand really is too good for a pre-empt.
- (2) I would bid 1♥ here.
- (3) It's a toss up here between 1♠ or double, with ♣ shortage I slightly prefer the double.
- (4) 3♣ or 4♣ or even 5♣ here would be more effective.
- (5) Now what did you bid with this East hand C(b) in this week's quiz? East does not have to bid after North has bid and so any bid here shows some values. But unfortunately 2♦ here is not forcing and the ♠ fit will be lost if partner passes. If North had passed at (4) – so case C(a) in this week's quiz - then I would jump to 2♠. In this actual situation where North has bid it's close between a free bid of 2♠ or a jump to 3♠. This is a good 9 points with excellent intermediates and I would bid 3♠, that ♣ A looks very useful.
- (6) It's debatable if West should bid on here, but I think it's good enough after a free bid and it all worked out OK in the end. Note that if West has a weaker double (say 11-12 points) then he would pass and 2♦ would be a poor final contract.

And what happened? 4♠ made exactly and scored a top. Two N-S pairs found the sound 5♣ sacrifice (only two down) and one E-W pair stopped in 3♠.

The bottom lines: -

- One normally responds 'up-the-line' to partner's opening bid...
- ... but it's different when responding to partner's take-out double as a simple suit bid is not forcing, so it's important to bid a major.
- So bid a 4 card major in preference to ♦'s if partner doubles a ♣ opening.
- With a long suit in a hand that is too good to pre-empt, you should pre-empt next go if partner passes your 1 level opening and RHO doubles

Bid a new suit or rebid a 6-carder?

Board 22 from Friday 15th

Dealer: ♠ 7
East ♥ K532
E-W vul ♦ 9743
♣ Q542

♠ AK10862	N	♠ 9
♥ 4	W E	♥ Q987
♦ AKQ5	S	♦ J862
♣ J7		♣ AK106
	♠ QJ543	
	♥ AJ106	
	♦ 10	
	♣ 983	

Table A

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

Table B

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

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? This 2♣ bid is the correct response. You need 5♥'s to bid 2♥ and a 2NT response (+- 11 points) would deny a 4 card ♥ suit.
- (2) And what did you bid rebid with this West hand D in this week's quiz? You have game going values after the two level response so have to bid game or make a forcing bid. I guess that 3♦ is technically correct but I prefer the bidding at Table B.
- (3) East has a choice now between 3NT or pushing on to 5♦.

- Table B (3) Now I guess that many people bid 3♦ here and I won't argue. But this is a really good ♠ suit and I prefer to emphasise that rather than bidding a minor. Many players play that 3♠ is not forcing here and so I think that 4♠ is best. This suit is virtually self-sufficient – I would not bid 4♠ (but 3♦) if the ♠ suit were not headed by the AK.

And what happened? The bidding was similar to Table A at two tables, with 3NT and 5♦ being reached and making exactly. At the other two tables 4♠ was bid and made exactly so shared the top (see what I mean about this ♠ suit being self-sufficient – it could even cope with this horrendous trump split. The bottom lines:-

- Rebid a good 6 card major in preference to a 4 card minor.
- Six card suits headed by the AK are excellent.

Always a 6 card suit?

Incidentally, I was asked if opening and re-bidding a major always promises a 6 card suit. I was given the auction 1♠ - 2♥ - 2♠. The answer playing Standard American is usually!

- ♠ AK1062 With a hand like this (Hand E) I would open 1♠ but partner's 2♥ response
♥ 74 gives me a headache. To support with 74 seems silly and 2NT seems equally
♦ KJ532 silly with a singleton ♣. 3♦ is game forcing and this hand is obviously not good
♣ 4 enough. So 2♠ really is the only alternative. Is there a 'real' solution?
Yes! Play 2/1 – then a 3♦ bid here is perfect as it does not show extra values.

How many ♠'s?

Board 22 from Monday 11th

Dealer: ♠ Q954
South ♥ A43
Both vul ♦ 10532
♣ K9

♠ 1076	N	♠ J83
♥ K72	W E	♥ J9852
♦ 976	S	♦ K
♣ 8743		♣ AJ65
	♠ AK2	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ AQJ84	
	♣ Q102	

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

(1) 18-19

(2) Now here it's up to your partnership understanding, but I prefer to play that any bid by North over South's strong 2NT rebid is forcing. North has nothing more to say and so correctly bid 3NT. If he had 5 ♠'s then he would bid 3♠ (forcing of course). Some players prefer to play new minor forcing in this situation.

(3) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? This South did not like his ♥Qx holding and chose to bid 4♠, knowing that partner had only promised 4 ♠'s. I don't like this decision and actually have already written something on the Qx holding; it is reproduced below.

And what happened? A ♥ was led and declarer guessed wrong. 4♠ still made with an overtrick but scored badly as most pairs were in 3NT making +3 or +2.

A Word about Qx.

This is an extract from new-sheet 67:

The Qx is an interesting holding; if partner has Axx (as in this case) then the suit is immune to the opening lead without conceding two tricks to you. Qx holdings usually belong in declarer's hand, not dummy.

A 2-level overcall is close to an opening hand

Board 2 from Friday 15th

Dealer:	♠ J95	West	North(me)	East	South
East	♥ 864	-	-	pass	1♥
N-S vul	♦ AKQJ10	2♣ (1)	4♥ (2)	dbl (3)	all pass
	♣ 63				

♠ Q4	N	♠ 1063
♥ QJ	W E	♥ A10
♦ 9875	S	♦ 632
♣ 109872		♣ AQJ54
	♠ AK875	
	♥ K97532	
	♦ 4	
	♣ K	

- (1) What would you bid a favourable vulnerability with this West hand. I 'suppose' that there are options. You could make a weak jump overcall of 3♣ but I would like a better suit with 6 cards. You could consider the infamous UNT but everybody knows my opinion that it should be 5-5, and preferably with a few points in the minors. Now you can overcall just 2♣, but a two level overcall should promise around 11+ points and this hand is nowhere near. The only realistic option is pass.
- (2) Now the overcall has changed North's options. Normally he would bid 2♦ and subsequently raise ♥'s. But the ♣ overcall probably means that a NT contract or a slam are out and so North simply raised to the ♥ game.
- (3) Now East is in a spot. East knows this North pretty well and knew that the raise to 4♥ could easily be on just one or two points with 5 ♥'s. He expected two tricks in his hand and hoped that partner's presumed 11+ points would provide two more tricks (since West had at most 3 points in ♣'s then he must have a lot outside?).

And what happened? West's hand did not live up to East's expectations and 4♥* made an overtrick. The bottom line: -

- An overcall at the two level should be around 11+ points, i.e. close to an opening hand.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass. You need a 5 card suit to overcall and you need 15-18 points to overcall 1NT. And double is very poor as a take-out double should be short in the suit opened and playable in the other 3 suits.
- Hand B: (a) 4♠. I like to play that any bid over the strong 2NT jump is forcing. So this shows 5 ♠'s and it looks like the 5-3 ♠ fit will be better than 3NT.
(b) Pass. If you accept (a) above then partner has only 4 ♠'s and you should choose to play in 3NT. A Qx holding is usually better in declarer's hand than dummy.
- Hand C: (a) 2♠. This hand is worth a jump (about 8-10 pts) and as the bid is not forcing it is important to bid the 4 card major suit rather than the 4 card ♦ suit.
(c) 2♠ or 3♠. Again, bid the major rather than a minor. The hand is just about in between a free bid of 2♠ or a more encouraging 3♠.
- Hand D: 4♠. With 3♠ or 3♦ as possible alternatives, it depends upon your style/system. I personally would prefer to rebid this great 6 card ♠ suit and would bid 4♠ if there is the slightest chance that partner may pass 3♠. But, anyway, this ♠ suit is self-sufficient and I would remove a 3NT bid (over my 3♠) to 4♠ anyway – so why not bid it straight away? A 3♦ bid runs the risk of playing in 5♦ when 4♠ scores more. Of course, I don't expect everybody will agree with me here?
- Hand E: 2♠. It would be nice to have a 6 card suit but there really is no alternative here. 2NT is silly with a singleton ♣, you cannot support ♥'s with just xx and 3♦ is game forcing and overstates the value of the hand. The best solution is to play 2/1 when partner's 2♥ is then game forcing and a reverse into 3♦ does not show extra values when playing 2/1.
- Hand F: 2♣. An easy one to finish with. You should not bid 2NT (11-12) as that denies a 4 card ♥ suit and you should not bid 2♥ as that promises 5 ♥'s. So bid 'up the line' - so 2♣ (rather than 2♦).