

Fri 24th June

Club News Sheet – No. 138

Mon 20 th	1 st Ian/Gilli	73%	2 nd Bob/Dave	56%
Wed 22 nd	1 st Noreen/Kevin	57%	2 nd Kenneth/Tonni	55%
Fri 24 th	1 st Noreen/Kevin	57%	2 nd Bob/Dave	56%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A	Hand B	(a) What do you open with with Hand A? (b) Suppose you open 1♥, LHO overcalls 2♣, partner doubles (negative showing 4♠'s and 6+ points) and RHO bid 2NT. What do you do?
♠ AJ4 ♥ A108752 ♦ 3 ♣ J92	♠ A865 ♥ A10862 ♦ 32 ♣ 104	With Hand B partner opens 1♦ and RHO overcalls 2♣, what do you do?
Hand C	Hand D	(a) What do you open with Hand C? (b) Suppose you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦, what is your rebid?
♠ A9 ♥ Q105 ♦ 108 ♣ AKQJ75	♠ Q1097 ♥ QJ97 ♦ - ♣ KJ1085	With Hand D you are vulnerable and the opponents are not. Partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♥, what do you do?
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 1♠, what do you bid? With Hand F RHO opens 1♦ and you pass. LHO raises to 2♦ and this is passed round to you, what do you do?
♠ J92 ♥ J107 ♦ QJ4 ♣ KQ92	♠ K105 ♥ J643 ♦ Q9 ♣ 10763	

Membership Fees

It is fully defined on the next page, but basically people now have to pay an annual fee to be members.

It's 1,00 bht a calendar year. For this year the fee is 500 bht which lasts from now through to 31st Dec.

Members will continue to pay 50 bht per session and for non-members it's 100 bht a session (Mon, Wed and Friday)

The Price of Bridge is going up

I listed in news sheet 135 many of the improvements that have been made in the club over the last 10 years and hinted that perhaps it's about time that the playing fee went up. This was favourably received and numerous members said that they thought that paying more was fine.

Now some of you may know what has been going on over the last 3 months although I have said nothing in the news-sheets. Dave and I decided to have a web-site for the club but unfortunately the person responsible for setting it up decided to quit and we were stitched. I had to hire a professional to finish the job (it's still not going yet) and it as cost me an awful lot of money (which I simply don't have!). I have also been spending a lot of money buying two new sets of boards, cards, a dealing program and bidding boxes etc. etc. in preparation for the expected huge numbers (now we have better premises and a web site?) next high season. It would also not surprise me if the Diana Inn decided to raise the fee we pay for playing here – they are not totally happy with their 'profit' at the moment and I don't want to move again. In discussion with a number of regular members we came up with the following: -

- 1- There will be an annual membership fee of 1,000 bht. It will be based on the calendar year but will start on July 1st this year. So for July – end December this year it will be 500 bht.
- 2- People wishing to join later in a year will pay 100 bht for each month left in that year.
- 3- The playing fee will remain at 50 bht a session for paid-up members (Mon, Wed & Fri).
- 4- Visitors and non-members will be charged 100 bht per session (Mon, Wed & Fri).

I believe that some sort of agreement like this is pretty standard throughout the World. If you do the maths you will discover that it is worthwhile being a member if you expect to play more than 20 times a year. If you play twice a week (about average for most of our residents) then that's 100 sessions and the extra charge is a mere 10 bht per session; once a week and it's 20 bht extra.

In addition to the weekly news sheet I will also arrange at least one day a week when we get printouts at the end of the session (it's a lot of work but I'll do it for every session when we expect to have enough people for a Mitchell movement – so every session in the peak season). And people past the beginner's stage are welcome at my free Bridge lessons; 10.30 – 12.00 every Wednesday and Friday.

As soon as the web site is really up and running then we will get the results posted on the web that evening (or the next morning). And I'm sure that people who are outside Thailand will like to read the news-sheets from the web or get their results from their last session.

And there are also other improvements around. We have two computer Bridge playing programs which you can borrow to load into your computer. Bridge Baron is probably best for less experienced players and the Wednesday club (Dave) has a program called Jack which has won the World Computer Bridge Championships for the last 5 years – it bids and plays better than any member of this club. We also have a very entertaining DVD of 4 ½ hours of the latest world championships – it was shown over 6 weeks on Sky TV in the UK, the commentary is excellent and players of all levels will enjoy it. Just ask to borrow it. All of the above and numerous books (I'll make up a list sometime) and magazines are free to members to borrow.

We are moving our club into the 21st century but unfortunately that has a small financial cost. I am sure that most members will be quite happy with this membership fee and I expect only the usual ½ dozen or so complainers. I understand that the originator of all of the current ill-feeling will be playing privately and inviting all of the mal-contents to play with him; Absolutely Fabulous.

You don't need to rebid if RHO bids Board 27 from Monday 20th

Dealer:	♠ 10753				
South	♥ 4	West	North	East	South(A)
Love all	♦ AJ1082	-	-	-	1♥ (1)
	♣ Q76	2♣ (2)	dbl (3)	2NT(4)	3♥ (5)
		pass	pass	dbl	all pass
♠ Q62	N	♠ K98			
♥ K	W E	♥ QJ963			
♦ K954	S	♦ Q76			
♣ A10843		♣ K5			
	♠ AJ4				
	♥ A108752				
	♦ 3				
	♣ J92				

- (1) What did you open with this South hand A(a) in this week's quiz? It's certainly at the top end for a weak 2♥, and with 3 decent ♠'s I slightly prefer a 1♥ opening to 2♥; it does not conform to the rule of 20 but the 2 aces, the shape and intermediates in the ♥ suit are compensation. If I decided it was not good enough for 1♥ then I would open 2♥ - I do not have a 'gap' so if I have a hand with a 6 card major and around 10 points then I never pass – it's either 1♥ or 2♥ in this situation.
- (2) It's refreshing to see a 2-level overcall up to strength! Some players would prefer to have a 6 card suit for a two level overcall but I think 2♣ is fine here. A reasonable alternative is double but I prefer to usually have 4 ♠'s if I double ♥'s.
- (3) A negative double, promising only 4 ♠'s and 6 points at this level (just the same as a 1♠ bid if there had been no overcall.
- (4) With both majors well stopped East is looking for game (3NT).
- (5) What did you bid with this South hand A(b) in this week's quiz? This is a marginal opener and now that RHO has shown a strong hand with both majors you should certainly pass.
If RHO had passed then South could bid 2♥ or possibly 2♠, but after RHO has bid then a bid here at the 3 level should be much stronger as partner has not promised much.

And what happened? 3♥ doubled went 3 down for a complete bottom. At 3 tables a 2♥ opening was passed out. At the last table 2NT by West made +1, so I guess that 3NT would have made but doubling 3♥ scores more anyway.

The bottom lines: -

- If you have a weakish opener, partner responds and RHO bids then you are now under no obligation to find a rebid.
- And if you rebid at the 3 level when partner has promised only 6+ points then you need a very good opener.
- On this particular day the 2♥ opening worked. On another day 1♥ will work better. But one thing is for sure, I would never pass with this South hand.

Upgrade a hand with AKQxxx

Board 21 from Monday 20th

Dealer: ♠ A9
North ♥ Q105
N-S vul ♦ 108
♣ AKQJ75

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

♠ Q874 N ♠ K53
♥ AK87 W E ♥ J93
♦ A52 S ♦ 763
♣ 82 ♣ 10963
♠ J1062
♥ 642
♦ KQJ94
♣ 4

Table B
West North(C) East South
- 1♣ (1) pass 1♦
pass 1NT (2) all pass

Table C
West North(C) East South
- 1♣ (1) pass 1♦
pass 2NT (2) pass 3NT
all pass

- Table A (1) What did you open with this North hand C(a) in this week's quiz? It's not really suitable for 1NT (and too good anyway) so 1♣ is best.
(2) But here's the point, what did you rebid with the North hand C(b) in this week's quiz? It's 16 points, but what a 16! A 6 card suit headed by the AKQJ is an enormous + and with good intermediates everywhere it's more like an 18 count. 2♣ is far too timid for me and with stoppers in both majors I prefer 2NT or 3NT to 3♣.
- Table B (2) Now this pair were playing Acol, and when playing a weak NT a 1NT rebid shows 15-16 points; so this seems fine? It is if you consider this North hand to be just 16 points, but I evaluate it as much more.
- Table C (2) Now this is more like it, a jump to 2NT. In Standard American it shows 18-19 points and in Acol it shows 17-19 points. 3NT is an equally good bid; most players play that 3NT shows a good hand with a good long minor, this is a better system than 3NT to show 19 points.

And what happened? 1NT made +2, 2♣ was bid and made overtricks and 3NT was bid and made (or made +1) at the other two tables.

The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade a hand with AKQJxx

A game try or just competing?

Board 24 from Wednesday 22nd

Dealer: ♠ Q92
West ♥ KJ43
Love all ♦ 10843
♣ 107

♠ AJ874 N ♠ 10753
♥ Q1092 W E ♥ 76
♦ K5 S ♦ AQ62
♣ Q3 ♣ J54
♠ K
♥ A85
♦ J97
♣ AK9862

Table A

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

'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	pass	2 ♠ (1)	3 ♣
pass (2)	pass	3 ♠ (4)	pass
pass (5)	pass		

- Table A (1) This is obviously correct, 6-10 with 3 or 4 card support.
(2) But what does 3 ♠ mean here? Is it invitational or simply competitive? Without the overcall most would play it as invitational. But with the intervening overcall it is simply competitive; with any other bid being a game-try. Anyway, whatever 3 ♠ was meant to mean it is a very poor bid; West should have 6 ♠'s to compete further (The Law) and he is not strong enough to make a try for game opposite a simple raise from partner.
(3) Now clearly East thought that West was making a try for game and with a reasonable hand with 4 trumps he decided to 'accept'.
- 'Expert' (2) Pass is correct here.
- Table (4) As I said, East has just the values to raise to 2 ♠ at (1). But with 4 trumps he should compete to the 3 level (the Law).
(5) And West obviously passes again.

And what happened? 4 ♠ went three down. At all of the other tables E-W bid correctly to 3 ♠ and went either 1 or 2 down; this being sound as 3 ♣ would have made.

The bottom lines:-

- In a competitive situation a raise to 3 of your major is purely competing; with a hand worth a game try make any other bid.
- In a competitive situation obey The Law. Compete to the number of combined trumps.

You need 11 points to respond at the two level

Board 21 from Wednesday 22nd

Dealer:	♠ Q107	<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ QJ3	West	North	East	South(B)
N-S vul	♦ AQ104	-	1♦	2♣	2♥ (1)
	♣ K72	pass	3♥ (2)	all pass	

♠ J942	N	♠ K3	<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♥ K74	W E	♥ 95	West	North	East	South(B)
♦ J87	S	♦ K965	-	1♦	2♣	dbl (1)
♣ J93		♣ AQ865	pass	2♥ (3)	all pass	
	♠ A865					
	♥ A10862					
	♦ 32					
	♣ 104					

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? You cannot allow the opponent's into 'bullying' you into overbidding if there is a way out. It is the opponents who have forced the bidding up to the two level and not partner, you still need the normal 11+ points to respond in a new suit at the two level and so you cannot bid 2♥ here.
- (2) With a really good 14 count North could (should?) easily have bid 4♥ here.
- 'Expert' Table (1) Fortunately there is a solution, the negative double, and this hand is perfect. It's up to you exactly what a negative double here means; some guarantee both majors and others just one. Either way this hand is perfect.
- (3) And here we see yet another example of supporting with just 3 cards. South could easily have only 4♥'s but it surely is the only sensible rebid here.

And what happened? Results were all over the place but 3♥ went 2 down and scored badly. No N-S pair found the best contract of 2♥.

The bottom lines: -

- You need 11 points to respond with a new suit at the two level.
- But you only need 6+ points for a negative double in this situation.
- Opener may sometimes have to support with just 3 cards.

Stayman after intervention

Board 18 from Wednesday 22nd

Dealer: ♠ KJ62
East ♥ 32
N-S vul ♦ AK2
♣ AQ97

Table A

West	North	East	South(D)
-	1NT	2♥	dbl (1)
pass	pass	(2)	

♠ A542	N	♠ 8
♥ 10	W E	♥ AK8652
♦ 109865	S	♦ QJ743
♣ 642		♣ 3
	♠ Q1097	
	♥ QJ97	
	♦ -	
	♣ KJ1085	

'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South(D)
-	1NT	2♥	2NT (1)
pass	3♣ (3)	pass	3♥ (4)
pass	3♠ (5)	pass	4♠
all pass			

Table A (1) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? Double here is for penalties; in previous news-sheets I have recommended that the 'stolen bid' philosophy applies only as far as a 2♦ overcall, and then only by agreement. The overcall has robbed you of your Stayman bid, but there is a solution if you have game forcing values. The simplest solution is to cue bid 3♥, asking partner to bid 3♠ with 4♠'s or else bid 3NT. But see our expert table for the complete solution.

(2) North assumed this was a penalty double.

'Expert'
Table

When the opponents overcall partner's 1NT opening with 2♣ then it's probably best to play that double is Stayman. But when the overcall is 2♦/♥/♠ then you have lost Stayman. Now I mentioned that simplest is to cue bid the enemy suit as Stayman, but those of you who have read the Lebensohl booklet know that you can differentiate between hands with a stop in the overcalled suit and hands without.

(1) With a stop in the overcalled suit, we start off with a Lebensohl 2NT.

(3) Forced response.

(4) Stayman, but now showing a ♥ stop having gone via 2NT.

(5) North has 4♠'s so he bids 3♠. Without 4♠'s he would have bid 3NT.

And what happened? Two N-S pairs bid and made 4♠. One was pushed into 5♠ and went one down. But 2♥ doubled was a disaster for N-S as it made, scoring -470.

The bottom lines: -

- After partner's 1NT opening, a cue bid of the opponent's suit is Stayman.
- It's up to you how high you play 'stolen bid'. I recommend either over 2♣ only or over 2♣/♦ only. A double of a higher bid is penalties.
- Partnerships have to agree on this; standard is that all doubles are penalties and any other agreement should be alerted.
- The very best solution is to play Lebensohl, but that's probably a bit complex for most of our club.

Opening in 4th seat – the rule of 15

Board 26 from Friday 24th

Now most of you know that one can open light in 3rd seat. The reason behind this is that 4th seat probably has a good hand and that since partner has passed there is no game your way, so try to confuse the issue. 1♥ and 1♠ openings in 3rd seat are often light (and indeed even in America they often open 1♥/♠ in 3rd seat with a decent 4 card suit) and there is actually a convention, Drury – common in America, which simply asks if the opening bid was sound.

Anyway, 4th seat is different again. If you do not expect to make a contract your way then you can always pass and the deal is passed out. But it's different if you have around 10 points and have the all-important ♠ suit. Then you may wish to open 1♠ with a minimal hand knowing that you have the highest ranking suit should a bidding war evolve.

There is, in fact, a separate 'rule' for a 4th seat opening. The rule of 15 – add up your points and the length of the ♠ suit and if the answer is 15 or more then open. This means that 1♣/♦/♥ openings in 4th seat are always very sound but a 1♠ opening may not be and many Americans also play Drury over a 1♠ opening from partner in 4th seat.

Anyway, here's an example of it going wrong at the club this Friday: -

Dealer:	♠ AQ865				
East	♥ K54	West	North	East	South(E)
Both vul	♦ 73	-	-	pass	pass
	♣ J73	pass	1♠ (1)	pass	3♠ (2)
		all pass			
♠ K10	N	♠ 743			
♥ A986	W E	♥ Q32			
♦ A982	S	♦ K1065			
♣ 1085		♣ A64			
	♠ J92				
	♥ J107				
	♦ QJ4				
	♣ KQ92				

- (1) Now North could simply pass, but the odds are that he can make a ♠ partscore his way and in 4th seat 1♠ is correct. If the ♥'s and ♠'s were reversed then North should pass. The ♠ suit is all important in the pass-out seat and the rule of 15 is applicable.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand E in this week's quiz? You need 6-9 to bid 2♠ and 11-12 to raise to 3♠ (or bid Drury 2♣/♦ if you play that). With 10 you assess the situation. This hand is totally flat (so knock off a point), has numerous Quacks and has only 3 (poor) card trump support. The reasonable intermediates are nowhere near enough compensation and 2♠ is correct even if you play Drury in this situation.

And what happened? 3♠ was one down. 2♠ was bid and made at other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- Apply the rule of 15 for a 4th seat opener.
- Devalue a hand with 3334 type shape.
- Devalue a hand full of Quacks.
- Devalue a hand with only 3 card trump support.
- And maybe consider playing Drury, although it is not applicable in this situation.

And while we are on the subject of 4th seat openers: -

What does a 2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠ opener mean in 4th seat?

Obviously there is no need for the normal pre-emptive bid as you can simply pass the deal out. There are a couple of sensible alternatives: -

- (1) You can play them as a 'weak' two but a higher point range – say 9-12.
- (2) You can play them as strong (8 playing tricks).

Up to you. And you may want to discuss what an opening 3♣/♦/♥/♠ means in 4th seat! If you play the gambling 3NT then I would suggest that 3♣/♦ are a good long running suit with a few bits and pieces outside (as opposed to 3NT which is nothing outside).

Bidding in the pass-out seat_(balancing)

Board 18 from Friday 24th

Dealer: ♠ K105
 East ♥ J643
 N-S vul ♦ Q9
 ♣ 10763

♠ AQ8	N	♠ J74
♥ Q1082	W E	♥ A93
♦ 10532	S	♦ AJ87
♣ AJ		♣ 984

♠ 9632
 ♥ K7
 ♦ K64
 ♣ KQ52

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

- (1) I would bid 1NT here, especially as 1♦ may be just 3 cards in Standard American.
- (2) What did you do with this North hand F in this week's quiz? The bidding has died and this is where balancing comes into operation. You could pass but I don't (did not, I was North) really want to sell out to 2♦ and I think that a balancing double is just about OK.
- (3) And South knows that North is bidding South's hand and certainly should not jump here, even with a stronger hand.

And what happened? 2♠ went one down and so 100 to E-W. But the other E-W's were left to play peacefully in 1NT or 2♦ scoring 120 and 110 resp. So a top to N-S.

The bottom line: - Understand balancing.

3NT or the Moysian fit?

Board 26 from Wednesday 22nd

Dealer: ♠ Q63
East ♥ KQ72
Both vul ♦ AQ63
♣ 98

♠ AKJ75 N ♠ 109
♥ 65 W E ♥ 10843
♦ 1042 S ♦ K875
♣ J42 ♣ K53

♠ 842
♥ AJ9
♦ J9
♣ AQ1076

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
1♠ (1)	dbl (5)	pass	2♥ (6)
pass	2♠ (7)	pass	3♣ (8)
pass	4♥ (9)	all pass	

Table A (1) A 1♠ overcall looks clear to me here.
(2) It's up to your partnership style if you bid 1♦ or 1♥ here.
(3) With no interference in this auction, I would rebid 1NT here.
(4) But this is where this North and I disagree. This North claims that partner's raise should always promise 4 card support, I disagree. What, for instance, should South bid with ♠2♥AJ9♦J943♣AQ1076? I would rebid 2♥ at (2) with this hand. Anyway, North has shown 4+♥'s at (2) and I would bid 3NT here to show game values and exactly 4♥'s just in case South had supported with just 3♥'s.

Table B (1) This West correctly overcalled 1♠.
(5) A negative double, promising 4+♥'s and 6+ points (i.e. just the same as North's 1♥ bid at Table A).
(6) South now has options but has slightly more information (that West has a 5+ card ♠ suit). The choices are 2♣, 1NT or 2♥. I would not particularly argue with any of these but I slightly prefer my partner's choice of 2♥ provided that North understands that this may occasionally be just 3 card support and knows how to handle the subsequent auction. I was North so no problem(!)
(7) North has values for game but knows that partner may possibly have just 3♥'s in which case 3NT may be a better contract. North has a (tentative) ♠ stop but one stop is clearly not enough for 3NT. So he cue bids to ask partner for help in the ♠ suit. In this situation I play it as asking for a ½ stop.
(8) With no resemblance of a ♠ stop South correctly bids 3♣.
(9) And so North bids 4♥ in the full knowledge that it may be a Moysian fit but there is insufficient ♠ cover for 3NT.

And what happened? Sometimes there is no justice in this world. Two South's bid 3NT and made +1 or +2! Now this is difficult for me to comprehend. The 'obvious' 4th highest ♠ lead clearly sets 3NT by one or two tricks. And I say 'obvious' – with no outside entry West should most definitely not lead a top ♠. And 3NT by North would be equally hopeless when East leads the ♠10 which West ducks. 4♥ looks like a better contract than 3NT to me on these N-S cards, especially if West is known to hold 5♠'s (although both should fail as the cards lie). The 4♥ contracts both went down, but so should the 3NT contracts!

The bottom lines: -

- Partner's raise of your major suit response does not always guarantee 4 card support.
- If you need help from partner in the opponent's suit for 3NT, then cue bid the suit to see if he has it (the help required).

So while we are on the topic, let's look at it a little more: -

Raising with just 3 card support

Hand 1	Hand 2	With Hand 1 you open 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♥ and partner doubles (negative, showing exactly 4 ♠'s). What do you bid? I would bid 2♠.
♠ K104	♠ KQ4	
♥ 32	♥ 3	
♦ AJ94	♦ AQJ8	With Hand 2 you open 1♣ and partner bids 1♠, what do you bid? I prefer 2♠ to 2♣.
♣ AJ87	♣ Q8432	

So, with or without interference, a raise of responder's major suit response does not always guarantee 4 card support.

And responder has to realise this:

Hand 3	Hand 4	With Hand 3 partner opened 1♣ and you responded 1♠. Partner bids 2♠, what do you do? I would bid 3NT just in case partner has just 3 ♠'s.
♠ K1084	♠ K1084	
♥ AQ9	♥ KJ9	
♦ KJ7	♦ KJ7	With Hand 4 partner opened 1♣ and you responded 1♠. Partner bids 2♠, what do you do? I would bid 2NT just in case partner has just 3 ♠'s.
♣ 532	♣ 532	

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 1♥ or 2♥? This is marginal between 1♥ or 2♥ and I would not argue with either (I slightly prefer 1♥). But I would never pass as for me there's no 'gap' when holding a six card major.
(b) Pass. This is a very marginal opener and partner has not promised much. Now that RHO has entered the auction you can happily pass; and you most certainly do not want to bid at the 3 level.
- Hand B: Double. A negative double, you do not have the values (11+) to bid 2♥.
- Hand C: (a) 1♣. 1NT really is a bit too offbeat and this hand is too good anyway.
(b) 2NT or even 3NT. 2NT shows 18-19 points which is what this hand is worth. 3NT is best used to show a good hand with a good long minor and is an equally good bid with this hand. 3♣ is reasonable I suppose but I prefer 2NT or 3NT; 2♣ is simply feeble.
- Hand D: 3♥, Stayman. If you play Lebensohl then you bid 2NT followed by 3♥ which is Stayman but showing a ♥ stop.
- Hand E: 2♠. 10 points is in-between 2♠ and 3♠ and you need a really good 10 to bid 3♠. With a totally flat hand full of quacks and only 3 trumps 2♠ is the bid.
- Hand F: Dbl. You don't need points to bid in the balancing seat (partner has them) and this hand is just about good enough for a take-out double.