

15th July 2005

Club News Sheet – No. 141

Mon	11 th	N-S	1 st	Jim(Sco)/John Gavens	63%	2 nd	Bob/Dave	60%
Mon	11 th	E-W	1 st	Kenneth//Terry	60%	2 nd	Tobjorn/Gunn	58%
Wed	13 th	N-S	1 st	John Gavens/Terry	64%	2 nd	Bob/Monte	60%
Wed	13 th	E-W	1 st	Chuck/Louis	60%	2 nd	Tobjorn/Gunn	57%
Fri	15 th		1 st	John Gavens/Terry	63%	2 nd	Bob/Dave	62%

Editorial

Two players managed the elusive treble this week (one time not playing together). The ‘treble’ is defined as winning all 3 sessions in one week. This is only the 5th (and 6th) time that this miraculous feat has been achieved. Congratulations to both John Gavens and the other local beach bum.

After a few teething problems and a few (tens of) thousands of baht, the web site is finally fully functional. It's www.pattayabridge.com. Results will be put up every Mon, Wed and Fri evening (or the next morning) and the (uncensored) news-sheet will be put up every week. It has cost me a lot of money (and you a little) but I will not be blackmailed. I will continue to write the news-sheets in the same manner as I have for the last 2½ years – most people appreciate them; and most people also approve of the way the club is run. Please have a look at the web-site and let me know of any improvements that I may be able to make.

The annual membership fee (or 100 bht playing fee for visitors) has been generally accepted with good will by almost everybody. There were only two ‘regulars’ refusing to join, but their reasons are ‘political’.

I always bring along loads of magazines and a few books for people to borrow. – Simply ask.

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A?
♠ 10	♠ J	
♥ AKQ5	♥ 8	What do you open with Hand B in 1 st seat, love all?
♦ AKJ5	♦ J64	
♣ A1043	♣ QJ1097543	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C everybody is vulnerable. You open 1♦, LHO doubles, partner passes and RHO bids 1♠. What now?
♠ 6	♠ 7	
♥ K	♥ A10984	With Hand D it's favourable vulnerability. LHO opens 1♦, partner overcalls 1♥ and RHO bids 1♠. (a) What do you bid?
♦ AQ7543	♦ J8	(b) Suppose you bid 4♥ and LHO bids 4♠. Partner then bids 5♥ and RHO bids 5♠, what do you do?
♣ AQ1042	♣ 109532	

That 4333 type shape again

Board 12 from Monday 11th

Dealer: ♠ K64
North ♥ 9653
E-W vul ♦ J4
 ♣ J754

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

♠ 1053	N	♠ Q98
♥ KJ82	W E	♥ A107
♦ Q1053	S	♦ A876
♣ Q10		♣ AK9
	♠ AJ72	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ K92	
	♣ 8632	

(1) West has invited East to go to 3NT if he is max, but is he? It's 17 points but knock off a point for the 3343 shape and it's 16, so in the middle. Most people would then look at the top cards and good intermediates and bid 3NT anyway. But not my partner on this occasion; he considered that 16 was not max and passed the invitation, and I'm not arguing.

And what happened? Virtually everybody was in 3NT and they all made exactly 8 tricks, so 2NT making was an absolute top.

The bottom line: -

- One cannot overemphasise how bad the 4333 type shape is.

Open a 4 card major?

Board 19 from Wednesday 13th

Now I have written a piece on the merits of opening a 4 card major with a very strong hand (one where you would hate to be passed out in 1♣/♦) but it is not generally accepted. But on this particular occasion my partner played Acol where 4 card majors are allowed: -

Dealer:	♠ 875		<u>Table A</u>			
South	♥ 106432		West	North	East	South(A)
E-W vul	♦ 1084		-	-	-	1♣ (1)
	♣ 95		pass (2)	pass	pass	
♠ KQJ4	N	♠ A9632	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ J8	W E	♥ 97	West	North	East	South(A)
♦ 762	S	♦ Q93	-	-	-	1♥ (1)
♣ KQJ2		♣ 876	dbl (3)	4♥ (4)	4♠ (5)	5♥ (6)
	♠ 10		all pass			
	♥ AKQ5					
	♦ AKJ5					
	♣ A1043					

- Table A (1) What did you open with this South hand A in this week's quiz? The 4441 type shape is notoriously difficult for most systems that do not have a specific bid for it (often 2♦). The hand is not good enough for a 2♣ opening and 2NT is out with a singleton. So that really only leaves 1♣ (or 1♦ if you really prefer that). But with a hand this good I rather like to open 1♥ even if playing Standard American; sure, partner will assume it's a 5 card suit but the hand is good enough to stand anything that partner throws at you. Anyway, that's just my personal opinion and not mainstream thought and so I guess you have to open 1♣.
- (2) West has to pass when holding ♣'s.
- Table B (1) Now I was South here and, as I said above, I rather like to open a major with a super strong hand like this (I don't like being passed out in 1♣/♦). But fortunately I was playing Acol so 1♥ is automatic.
- (3) Over a 1♥ opening West has a reasonable double.
- (4) And being non-vul North sportingly raised to 4♥.
- (5) With 5 ♠'s this looks reasonable to me.
- (6) And South had to choose double or 5♥; as it happens either earns a top.

And what happened? 5♥ made exactly. Just one other pair reached 4♥ making. 1♣ was passed out as was a 1♦ opening and both scored badly for N-S.

The bottom lines. As some of you may know, I have written a few Bridge books (but nothing published yet). I have thought about this problem (of 1♣/♦ being passed out when 4♥/♠ can make) and I'll put it on the web soon – it's rather lengthy and needs to be read in context.

Vulnerability and 'The Law'

Board 19 from Friday 15th

Dealer:	♠ 94				
South	♥ KQJ765	West	North	East	South(D)
E-W vul	♦ K96	-	-	-	pass
	♣ K4	1♦	1♥	1♠	4♥ (1)
		4♠	5♥ (2)	5♠ (3)	6♥ (4)
♠ KJ3	N	♠ AQ108652	dbl		all pass
♥ 2	W E	♥ 3			
♦ AQ1052	S	♦ 743			
♣ QJ87		♣ A6			
	♠ 7				
	♥ A10984				
	♦ J8				
	♣ 109532				

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand D(a) in this week's quiz? Partner has 5+ ♥'s, so follow the Law 5+5=10.
- (2) Partner has 5 ♥'s, so follow the Law 6+5=11.
- (3) With ♠ support opposite East bids 5♠ here to make.
- (4) But what did you bid with this South hand D(b) in this week's quiz? It seems to me that this hand has no defence to 5♠ and since partner presumably has 6 ♥'s he may also have little defence. It looks like 5♠ is making. It's one above 'the Law' but at this vulnerability a sacrifice looks good to me.

And what happened? There was similar competitive bidding at all 5 tables on Friday but at the other 4 tables E-W were allowed to play in 5♠. 5♠ made for 650, 6♥ doubled was two down and cost only 300 for a complete top to N-S.

The bottom line: -

- If you are non-vul against vul opponents, you can afford to go 3 down doubled and still make a profit if they can make game.
- Look at the vulnerability.

Play Quiz Quickie

With ample entries everywhere, how do you play this suit? Answer overleaf.

♥ J876 W E ♥ AQ542

Six-Five come alive

Board 20 from Friday 15th

Dealer: ♠ 6
West ♥ K
Both vul ♦ AQ7543
♣ AQ1042

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

♠ K9743	N	♠ AQ105
♥ J876	W E	♥ AQ542
♦ KJ9	S	♦ 6
♣ 7		♣ 983
	♠ J82	
	♥ 1093	
	♦ 1082	
	♣ KJ65	

- (1) I think that this West hand is worth a jump to 2♠.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? 4♣ seems about right to me, 3♣ is also acceptable but 5♣ may be too much vulnerable.
- (3) With these great ♣'s South has no problem going one more – it's lousy shape but partner obviously has great shape.
- (4) 5♥ may be a better bid here – it looks like a make to me provided that the ♥'s are played correctly (*low to the queen – did you get that right in the play quiz?*).

And what happened? It was a tricky one for the defence and 5♣* slipped through to make exactly and score a top. Another table found 5♣* but that went down one for an average score. One E-W pair were left in peace in 4♥ just making (see lay quiz) and another E-W pair decided to push on to 5♠ which made for the top their way.

The bottom lines: -

- 6-5 is excellent shape and has great trick making potential – especially with suits headed by the ace.
- Don't let the opponents play peacefully in 4 of a major if you are 6-5 in the minors.

Play Quiz Quickie Answer

You should play low to the queen. There is no gain in leading the jack as you are missing the 10 and 9. So leading low wins when North has a singleton king.

♥ J876 W E ♥ AQ542

No natural 4♣ opener?

Board 24 from Wednesday 13th

Dealer: ♠ 9432
North ♥ K973
E-W vul ♦ A952
♣ K

Table A

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

♠ J N
♥ 8 W E
♦ J64 S
♣ QJ1097543
♠ AQ875
♥ Q4
♦ 107
♣ A862

Table B

West(B)	North	East	South
5♣ (1)	pass	pass	dbl (4)
all pass			

- Table A (1) What did you open with this West hand B in this week's quiz? With a 'solid' 8 card suit I don't think that 3♣ is enough. 4♣ may be right (if you don't play Namyats) but I prefer West's bid at Table B.
(2) And now it's pretty easy for South to enter the auction
(3) And for North to choose to go to game.
- Table B (1) This West considered 3♣ too feeble (I agree) and as they play Namyats (so 4♣ would show a sound 4♥ opener) he bid 5♣.
(4) And now South is in a spot. 5♠ would be a wild gamble and so double is the only real alternative.

And what happened? 5♣ doubled went 2 down but E-W scored far better than at other tables where N-S were allowed to play in 4♠.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1♣ (or 1♦ if you prefer that), unfortunately, in Standard American. Strong 4441 type hands are a problem in all systems that do not have a specific bid (such as 2♦) to cater for them. I personally would open 1♥ with this hand (because of the dread of a 1♣/♦ opening being passed out) but I'm sure that most Standard American players would not approve?
- Hand B: 5♣. 3♣ is not enough and even 4♣ may enable the opponents to bid a making 4♥/♠. If you play Namyats then you obviously have to open 5♣ as 4♣ shows ♥'s.
- Hand C: 3♣ or even 4♣. This is a huge hand for offence and you should be playing rather than defending a possible 4♠. 5♣ is probably too high if partner has nothing.
- Hand D: (a) 4♥. Follow the Law.
(b) 6♥. Now there is a saying that 'the 5 level belongs to the opponents' which indicates pass. You and partner have pushed them up to the 5 level which may be too high for them. But this hand has nothing in the way of defence and it looks like 5♠ may well be making. At this vulnerability a 6♥ sacrifice bid (one above 'The Law') looks like a good bet to me.