

Mon 8 th	1 st Bill/Dave	66%	2 nd Kees/Mike	54%
Wed 10 th	1 st John/Gavens /Terry	59%	2 nd Phil/Jean-Marc	56%
Fri 12 th	1 st John/Gavens /Terry	59%	2 nd Chuck/Monte	55%

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

Hand A: Hand B With Hand A partner opens 1♠ and you respond 2♦. Partner then bids 2NT (12-14), what do you do?

♠ 1053	♠ KQJ865
♥ A109	♥ 1086
♦ AKQ1063	♦ Q9
♣ 4	♣ 73

What do you open with Hand B at favourable vulnerability?

Hand C Hand D With Hand C RHO opens 1♦, what do you bid?

♠ K853	♠ 9
♥ Q10986	♥ J74
♦ Q4	♦ AJ1032
♣ AK	♣ AK54

And now for a tricky one. With Hand D LHO opens 3♠ and this is passed round to you, what do you do?

Hand E Hand F What do you open with Hand E?

♠ AKQ	♠ 95
♥ A4	♥ KQJ97653
♦ 83	♦ 105
♣ AKQ642	♣ 10

With Hand F it is favourable vulnerability. What do you do if (a) RHO opens 2♣, or (b) RHO opens 2NT.

Hand G Hand H With Hand G your partner opens 2♣ but RHO overcalls 2♠, what do you do?

♠ A876	♠ Q10864
♥ 83	♥ 83
♦ Q9653	♦ 653
♣ A5	♣ 752

With Hand H your partner opens 2♣ but RHO overcalls 2♠, what do you do?

Hand J Hand K What do you open with Hand J?

♠ 5	♠ QJ10
♥ AKQ652	♥ KJ92
♦ AKJ1042	♦ KJ
♣ -	♣ A952

With Hand K RHO opens 1♦ (a) what do you bid?
(b) suppose you choose 1NT (15-18) and partner bids 2♠ (natural in these player's system). RHO and you pass and LHO bids 3♦ which partner doubles. What do you do?
So for K(b) it's: -

1♦	1NT	pass	2♠
pass	pass	3♦	dbl
pass	?		

Beginner's Play Quiz

		W	N	E	S
		-	-	pass	1♦
♠ 10862	N	pass	1♥	pass	1♠
♥ AQ72	W E	pass	1NT	pass	2NT
♦ K7	S	pass	pass	pass	
♣ 982					

↑ You ♠ KQ73
 ♥ K
 ♦ AQ10963
DUMMY→ ♣ K5

You are West. Partner leads the ♣Q which North wins with the ♣A in hand. He then leads the ♦J and takes the ♦ finesse which you win with the ♦K.
(a) What card do you lead?
(b) And who has the ♠A?

Is 4NT Blackwood?

Board 13 from Monday 8th

Dealer:	♠ 8				
North	♥ J8643	West(A)	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ 94	-	pass	1♠	pass
	♣ Q9865	2♦	pass	2NT (1)	pass
		4NT (2)	pass	pass (3)	pass
♠ 1053	N	♠ KQJ72			
♥ A109	W E	♥ KQ			
♦ AKQ1063	S	♦ 872			
♣ 4		♣ J102			
	♠ A964				
	♥ 732				
	♦ J5				
	♣ AK73				

- (1) The 2NT rebid here is 12-14. I would not argue if you prefer a 2♠ rebid.
- (2) This was meant as Blackwood. What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? I guess that slam may be there if East has the right cards but with 3 poor ♠'s I think that looking for slam is probably a bit pushy and I would settle for 4♠.
- (3) East assumed that 4NT was invitational (to 6NT) and so passed.

And what happened? South led the ♣A and so 4NT went 3 down. Everybody else was in 4♠, doubled three times, and making anything from 9 to 11 tricks.

The bottom line.

Regular partnership have to decide when 4♣ asks for aces and when it's 4NT. I wrote up my thoughts in an old news-sheet (No 80) and it's now on the web in the 'conventions' link.

A lucky hand for the system

Board 18 from Wednesday 10th

Dealer:	♠ 9				
East	♥ J74	West	North(D)	East(B)	South
N-S vul	♦ AJ1032	-	-	3♠ (1)	pass (2)
	♣ AK54	pass	4♦ (3)	pass	5♦ (4)
		all pass			
♠ 7	N	♠ KQJ865			
♥ KQ954	W E	♥ 1086			
♦ K87	S	♦ Q9			
♣ 10986		♣ 73			
	♠ A10432				
	♥ A3				
	♦ 654				
	♣ QJ2				

- (1) What did you open with this East hand B in this week's quiz? 2♠ looks obvious and is what most would bid, but I personally would not argue too much with 3♠ when non-vul. But this E-W pair play strong twos and so East 'had to' open 3♠.
- (2) South has to pass of course as double would be for take-out. On a good day partner will double and you can pass for penalties.
- (3) What did you bid with this North hand D in this week's quiz? Double is possible but I don't like it with just 3♥'s. Partner may well raise with just 3 or 4♥'s and West may well double with a♥ stack. So North is in a real spot after the unorthodox opening – he has the choice between a perhaps feeble pass or a more brazen 4♦. He chose the latter and I'm glad that I was not in this position.
- (4) And now it's South in the spotlight. North has bid at the 4 level, but it is in the balancing seat. South has poor trump support but his ♠ and ♥ holding are perfect. Should he push on to game? Again, another close call and I'm glad it wasn't me.

And what happened? 5♦ was one down for a top to E-W.

The bottom line: Sometimes a hand simply works well for your system; give North a 4th♥ so that he would double and then it's a top to N-S.

Don't Double with two-suitersBoard 27 from Wednesday 10th

Dealer:	♠ J6			
South	♥ AJ42	West(me)	North	East(C)
Love all	♦ AK73	-	-	-
	♣ J84	pass	1♦	dbl (1)
		pass (3)	1NT	pass
		pass (4)		1♠ (2)
♠ A107	N	♠ K853		
♥ 3	W E	♥ Q10986		
♦ 9862	S	♦ Q4		
♣ 76532		♣ AK		
	♠ Q942			
	♥ K75			
	♦ J105			
	♣ Q109			

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? A take-out double is a poor bid as it should be playable in the other 3 suits. You will get into a mess if partner responds 2♣. The correct bid here is a simple 1♥ overcall. A Michaels cue bid is incorrect as the hand is intermediate in strength – I have written a few words on Michaels and UNT recently and it's on the web. Ask me if you want a copy.
- (2) With this flat hand South is not quite good enough for a redouble. I too would bid 1♠.
- (3) Luckily for East, West no longer has to bid (he would have bid 2♣).
- (4) And now we see the problem. I was West and if I were playing with my twin brother I would bid 2♣ - being assured of a ♣ fit. But I know the eccentricities of this particular East (JohnG) and know that he (incorrectly in the view of most experts) will double on two suited hands. So I had a problem – did partner have ♣'s or not? I decided not to risk it and luckily that was the correct choice as partner indeed had the dreaded two-suiter without ♣'s.

And what happened? 1NT was 1 down for a slightly good score to E-W. 2♥ (which East would have been playing in if West had bid 2♣) would have been a poor contract. And if East had unwisely chosen a 2♦ Michaels bid then that too would have led to a poor contract.

The bottom lines: -

- A take-out double should be playable in the other 3 suits (unless it is extremely strong).
- If you double and then bid a new suit over partner's reply, that shows a hand that was too good to simply overcall (so around 17+ with a good suit).
- Thus if you have a two-suiter that is unsuitable for Michaels/UNT then you should simply overcall with the 5 card suit.

How to bid slam?

Board 9 from Wednesday 10th

This board caused some discussion on Wednesday; here's the bidding at our table: -

Dealer:	♠ J103				
North	♥ 1082	West	North	East(E)	South(F)
E-W vul	♦ KQ96	-	pass	2♣ (1)	4♥ (2)
	♣ J87	pass (3)	pass	5♣ (4)	pass
		6♣ (5)	all pass		
♠ 87642	N	♠ AKQ			
♥ -	W E	♥ A4			
♦ AJ742	S	♦ 83			
♣ 953		♣ AKQ642			
	♠ 95				
	♥ KQJ97653				
	♦ 105				
	♣ 10				

- (1) What did you open with this East hand E in this week's quiz? It's much too strong for a 20-22 2NT and 2♣ is certainly correct. Remember, AKQxxx is not 9 points! With 10 playing tricks and just 3 losers this hand is easily a 2♣ opener.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? Anyone worth his salt would bid 4♥ here (look at the vulnerability), over either a 2♣ or 2NT or any other opening.
- (3) Standard is that double is for penalties here, so West really has to pass.
- (4) East really can do nothing else but bid 5♣
- (5) West has a few options here. Partner has obviously set trumps and so a 5♦ bid is a cue bid showing the ace. A less good option is to cue bid the ♥ void but that probably denies the ♦A. Anyway, not many will find the grand at this club and 6♣ should be a good score.

And what happened? 7♣ will make on the 'obvious' ♥ lead. Nobody found the 7♠ grand, but one pair bid 6♠+1 for the E-W top. I believe that a few players undervalued the East hand and opened just 2NT. They then found the ♠ fit but not the slam!

The bottom line:

- Open a 10 playing trick hand (with loads of points) with 2♣.

I got it (slightly) wrong

Last week I talked about a disagreement between Chuck and Guy. Apparently Guy claimed that all passes and doubles need not be alerted. Chuck was of course absolutely correct in saying that some do. I quoted what the ACBL said last week.

But at our club the ACBL rules do not necessarily apply. At our club any bid (including double or pass) that is not 'standard' needs to be alerted.

Our local club rules are on the web-site and I have also printed out a few copies for those without access to a computer. Let me know if you have any comments. I also have a copy of the ACBL alert procedures, it is **twelve** pages long and in my opinion a lot of it is total rubbish. At this club our local rules apply and instead of having to memorise 12 pages of double Dutch we simply say that anything that is non-standard should be alerted or announced. There is a **one** page list in our rules that covers just about everything.

When RHO overcalls your partner's 2♣ opening Board 25 from Friday 10th

This board caused some discussion on Friday. What should you do with a +ve response if RHO overcalls your partner's strong 2♣ opening?

Dealer:	♠ 5	<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ AKQ652	West	North(J)	East	South(G)
E-W vul	♦ AKJ1042	-	2♣ (1)	2♠ (2)	dbl (3)
	♣ -	pass	pass (4)	pass	

♠ K42	N	♠ QJ1093	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ 94	W E	♥ J107	West	North	East	South
♦ 8	S	♦ 7	-	2♣	pass	2♠
♣ J1097643		♣ KQ82	pass	3♥	pass	4♦
	♠ A876		pass	4NT (5)	pass	5♥
	♥ 83		pass	7♦ (6)	pass	
	♦ Q9653					
	♣ A5					

- Table A (1) What did you open with this North hand J in this week's quiz? With virtually slam in your hand anything other than your strongest bid is not enough. Even if playing strong twos I would open 2♣ and if playing Benjamin twos I would open 2♦. Now there are players who say not to open 2♣ with strong two suiters (but bid naturally) and I generally agree with this philosophy – but I think that this hand is simply too strong. You may not even be too high at the six level even if partner is totally bust.
- (2) A rather bold bid over a 2♣ opening, especially at this vulnerability. But this player is not renowned for underbidding. I would pass.
- (3) What did you do with this South hand G in this week's quiz? Double is wrong here – that shows a weaker hand with nothing but reasonable ♠'s. With two aces opposite a 2♣ opener South should be thinking slam. 2NT is probably best.
- (4) But I would pull the double with this North hand. I would bid 3♥ and then 4♦ over partner's expected 3NT reply. Both of these bids (3♥ and 4♦) are forcing.
- Table B (5) 4NT is not generally a good bid when holding a void – if the answer is one ace then which ace is it?
- (6) But fortunately there was no problem when partner turned up with both of the missing aces.

And what happened? Just two of the 4 tables bid 7♦. The 4th table bid 6♥(+1).

The bottom lines: -

- If partner opens 2♣ and RHO overcalls then double is for penalties and is usually a weak hand with little help for partner outside the overcalled suit. Pass is negative (or waiting) and any bid is positive.

There was a rather noisy exchange of views on Friday Aug 5th; let's have a look at the deal in question as I'm sure everybody wants to see the deal that they heard all about: -

Dealer:	♠ 95	West	North	East(me)	South
East	♥ J9863	-	-	pass	1♦
E-W vul	♦ J85	pass	1♥	pass	1♠
	♣ A63	pass	1NT	pass	2NT (1)
		pass	pass (2)	pass	

♠ 10862	N	♠ AJ4
♥ AQ72	W E	♥ 1054
♦ K7	S	♦ 42
♣ 982		♣ QJ1074

	♠ KQ73
	♥ K
DUMMY→	♦ AQ10963
	♣ K5

♠ 95
♥ J98
♦ 85
♣ 63

♠ 10862	N	♠ AJ4
♥ 72	W E	♥ 10
♦ 7	S	♦ 2
♣ 98		♣ J1074

	♠ KQ7
	♥ -
DUMMY→	♦ AQ1096
	♣ K

There's nothing special about the bidding. 2NT at (1) asked partner to bid 3NT if he was max (8-9) The North hand is not good enough and so correctly passed. But it's all about the play: -

East led the ♣Q which declarer took with the ♣A. He then led the ♦J which ran round to West's ♦K. Now West has a couple of winning options. He can cash just the ♥A and then a ♣ but simplest is to return a ♣ immediately. But he chose to cash his ♥AQ first, leaving this position. Unfortunately the obvious ♣ back now no longer defeats the contract as North has the ♦8 entry to his 3 good ♥'s. But West does not know this and a ♣ return obviously defeats the contract if East has the ♦8. But West decided to lead the ♠2. What should East do? Now this East is a rather quiet guy and so he did not simply throw his cards at partner (or say 'I don't accept those ♥ leads!' – those in the know will appreciate the humour in this) but had a think about if the situation could possibly be

salvaged. What would you play - without looking at the other hands? The answer is that the only hope to stop the overtrick now is to play the ♠J. If partner (West) has the ♠10 and the ♦8 then declarer makes just 8 tricks as dummy is left with a losing ♠K7 for his last two cards.

So East played the ♠J and declarer then wrapped up the remaining tricks as he had the ♦8 as an entry for the ♥'s which West had set up for him and then had the ♣K entry to table.

Now I had said nothing and all would have been well if JohnG had simply kept quiet. But he piped up with 'oh dear, oh dear, Terry; fancy not taking the ♠A!'

I don't usually say much when partner makes a mistake, but if he tries to blame me

I waved his ♣8&9 under his nose and asked why he did not defeat the contract by simply returning partner's suit - instead of setting up declarer's suit and then knocking out my entry?

John's answer was that he 'did not fancy it because the ♣K was on the table'. Can anybody explain the logic of this to me?

A pre-beginner's mistake; I understand that our beginners Paul and Chris had no trouble setting the contract which helped them on to a well deserved 2nd place finish.

When you open (or overcall) 1NT you have said it all

Board 27 from Friday 10th

There was a mild disagreement on this board on Friday. Disagreement between whom? Why, John Gavens and the rest of the Bridge playing world!

Dealer:	♠ K63				
South	♥ AQ6	West(me)	North	East(K)	South
Love all	♦ 6543	-	-	-	pass
	♣ KJ6	pass	1♦	1NT (1)	pass
		2♠ (2)	pass	pass	3♦ (3)
		dbl (4)	pass	3♠ (5)	all pass
♠ A9852	N	♠ QJ10			
♥ 93	W E	♥ KJ92			
♦ Q82	S	♦ KJ			
♣ 743		♣ A952			
	♠ 74				
	♥ 10754				
	♦ A1097				
	♣ Q108				

- (1) 15-18 with a ♦ stop
- (2) This East (JohnG) had previously told me that he does not play Stayman or transfers in this position, so 2♠ here was natural.
- (3) A rather bold bid as East has promised a strong hand with ♦ strength and partner may well have only 3 ♦'s in their system.
- (4) West knows that he can contribute two tricks to the defence, and with partner's 1NT overcall promising something in ♦'s and 15+ points, 3♦ is going down.
- (5) What did you bid with this East hand K in this week's quiz? Once you have opened (or overcalled 1NT) then you have said your hand and partner is the 'captain'. He knows the combined strength and is in charge. You do not even have to look at your hand again – partner has said he wants to double and defend and he's in charge.

But not with this particular East (John G) – apparently the only person who knows anything about bridge in this club is him. Chuck (North) tried to politely tell him that once you have bid 1NT you have said it all. JohnG said 'rubbish' and that he was fully entitled to pull the penalty double.

And what happened? 3♠ went one down. 3♦ would have gone one down. This is exactly what you would expect from the Law of Total Tricks. Both sides have 8 combined trumps and the two level is the limit for either side.

Anyway, I was West, we got a bad score, I said nothing further and simply moved on to the next table.....

Now John Gavens has been previously warned (news-sheet 83) that he would be banned from the club if he was rude to anybody else. He is continually criticising partners and a number have refused to play with him. As he only plays (an ancient version of) Acol it is obviously very difficult for me to find a partner for him. However, I am very familiar with Acol and have partnered him when possible recently. As I am a far better player than him (that is not saying much) there have been few problems - apart from the Fri 3rd incident two pages back when he criticised me for letting a contract make an overtrick when all he had to do to set the contract was lead back my suit when he got in (instead he set up declarer's suit and then tried to knock out my entry!). Anyway, things came to a head on this deal from this Friday.

Dealer:	♠ J95	West	North	East	South(me)
North	♥ AQJ7	-	pass	1♥	dbl
Both vul	♦ 873	pass	2NT	all pass	
	♣ K94				

♠ Q63	N	♠ K102
♥ 652	W E	♥ 109843
♦ J96	S	♦ KQ
♣ J863		♣ A102
	♠ A874	
	♥ K	
	♦ A10542	← DUMMY
	♣ Q75	

Pretty straightforward bidding to a comfortable contract. East led a ♥ but North overtook dummy's ♥K with the ♥A. He then led a ♦ which he ducked when the ♦K appeared from East (I have no problem with that). Play continued and he eventually emerged with 8 tricks after E-W led ♥'s every time they got in.

At the end of play I simply asked why he threw away a ♥ trick at trick one (East eventually got two ♥ tricks) if he was (correctly) going to duck a ♦ anyway? The conversation then continued along these lines: -

John: Don't be so stupid, man. Can't you see that I have no entry.

Terry: But you don't need an entry if you are simply going to duck a ♦ - you can lead a low ♦ from dummy.

John: How stupid are you? Can't you see that I have no entry.

Terry: But why do you want an entry if you

John: How damned stupid are you? Can't you see that I have no entry.

I will be giving free drinks all round if anybody can explain *anything* rational John's play/remarks. Anyway, needless to say, he received a suspension.

The bottom lines: - If you want to criticise people at the club, then be prepared to get it back (especially if you choose to criticise me). Everybody makes mistakes and I certainly never mind when somebody politely points out one of mine. JohnG has never made a mistake in his life and is obviously far too good for this club. All agreed?

Anybody can make a mistake but there is no need to be rude about it. And if you know that it (being rude again) will get you suspended from the club - well, who is stupid?

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 4♠. I don't think it's worth a slam try with such weak trumps opposite 12-14. If you do want to ask for aces in this sort of situation then you have to decide whether the asking bid is 4♣ or 4NT. I prefer to play 4♣ as the ace ask if partner's last bid was 1NT or 2NT.
- Hand B: 2♠. But at favourable vulnerability I would not argue too much if you chose 3♠.
- Hand C: 1♥. A take-out double is unsuitable as it is not playable in the other 3 suits and you are fixed over 2♣. 2♦ (Michaels) is also unsuitable as the hand is too good (but nowhere near good enough for the strong variety).
- Hand D: There's no real answer to this one, just what works on the day. I would not double with just 3 (very poor) ♥'s and so for me it's a toss-up between an optimistic 4♦ or a pessimistic pass.
- Hand E: 2♣. It's **far** too strong for 2NT (20-22). AKQxxx is not 9 points and a 10 playing trick hand like this needs a 2♣ opening.
- Hand F: (a) 4♥, make life difficult for them.
(b) 4♥, make life difficult for them.
- Hand G: 2NT. This is a +ve response and promises a stop in the suit overcalled. There are other options depending upon your style and you could pass if you wish (it's forcing). But the one thing that you cannot do is double; in the absence of any other agreement double here is penalties and means that you have a poor hand with reasonable ♠'s and that you think that doubling the opponents is the best spot unless partner has an extremely unbalanced hand.
- Hand H: Double. This shows a poor hand with decent ♠'s. If partner has the usual balanced 22+ hand then doubling the opponents is probably the best spot. If partner does not have the balanced hand type he will normally pull the double and the sequence is then game forcing.
- Hand J: 2♣. Now it is not normally a good idea to open 2♣ with strong two-suiters and it's usually best to bid it naturally. Open the highest ranking and then jump in the other, but this really is so strong that 2♣ is surely best. You would look awfully foolish if 1♥ was passed out and you made 12 tricks opposite a bust partner.
- Hand K: (a) 1NT (15-18). I guess that double is not too bad, but with 4 points in ♦'s and only 3 ♠'s I prefer 1NT. Note that 1NT here does not deny a 4 card major and that most people play that Stayman and transfers apply.
(b) Pass. Automatic. You do not even have to look at your hand. You have bid 1NT and told your story; partner is now in charge.

Beginner's

Play Quiz

- (a) ♣9. You can also cash the ♥A before you lead the ♣ if you wish to inform **Answer:** partner that you have the ♥Q. You have to set up partner's ♣'s and you cannot play the ♥Q after the ♥A as that undoubtedly set's up declarer's suit. What's more, you have to set up partner's ♣ suit before his entry (the ♠A) is knocked out.
- (b) Partner. North has shown up with the ♣A and ♦J and would have gone on to 3NT if he also had the ♠A.