

Mon 2 nd	1 st N-S	Bob P & Ken	55%	2 nd	Richard M & Kees	54%
	1 st E-W	Ivy & Wolfgang	60%	2 nd	Bob S & Emil	57%
Wed 4 th	1 st N-S	= Bob S & Terry = Alan & Henrik				56%
	1 st E-W	Bjorn & Knud	59%	2 nd	Dave & Jim A	53%
Fri 6 th	1 st	Noreen & Kevin Norris	66%	2 nd	Bjorn & Knud	61%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A Hand B With Hand A it's both vul and RHO opens 1NT, what do you bid?

♠ QJ932	♠ 543
♥ AJ9	♥ 9852
♦ J2	♦ AK
♣ Q73	♣ A865

With Hand B partner opens 1♠, what do you bid and what is your aim?

Hand C Hand D With Hand C you open 1♠ and partner bids 1NT, what do you do?

♠ AQJ64	♠ AQJ876
♥ 106	♥ KQJ865
♦ AJ3	♦ -
♣ QJ5	♣ 3

With Hand D RHO opens 1♣. (a) What do you bid and (b) What do you plan to bid next go?

Bidding Sequences Quiz

All of these sequences occurred last week.

E	1NT	2♠	dbl	What is the double – negative or penalties?
F	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
	1♠	pass	1NT	How many points for 1NT?
G	1♠	pass	4♠	What is the raise to game?
H	1NT	pass	2♣	dbl
J	2♣	pass	2♦	dbl
				What is the double?

Editorial

I have finally succumbed and obtained a mobile phone, I thought it would be a good idea if people could contact me if they are running late. So if you are coming to a session but have been delayed please phone me and your place will be reserved. The number is 0867445386, it's in the member's details on the web-site.

But please don't abuse the system. Habitual late arrivals (the one or two know who they are without me stating their names again) will continue to be turned away if there is already a convenient number.

If you wish to contact me outside bridge days it's still best to use my home phone (it's right next to my computer where I spend most of my time) 038 422924.

Dress Code

Respectable shorts/trousers please. A shirt is preferred, although a T-shirt with sleeves is acceptable. Vest-type T-shirts and stringy things are not allowed.

Some visitors came to Pattaya,
but their attire left much to desire.

There was never a doubt
that they would be thrown out
and from the bridge club they had to retire.

Raising partner's 1NT response to 2NT

Board 2 from Friday 6th

If partner responds 1NT to your opening bid then he is around 6-9. So you need a good hand (about 17-18) to raise to 2NT: -

Dealer: ♠ AQJ64
West ♥ 106
Both vul ♦ AJ3
 ♣ QJ5

♠ 102	N	♠ K9875
♥ AJ732	W E	♥ 954
♦ 107	S	♦ Q62
♣ A843		♣ K7
	♠ 3	
	♥ KQ8	
	♦ K9854	
	♣ 10962	

Table A

West	North(C)	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	2NT (1)	pas	3NT
all pass			

Table B

West	North(C)	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	pass (1)	pass	

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? This raise to 2NT should show about 17-18 points. This hand is nowhere near and should pass; give partner a 6-count and 2NT will probably go down.

Table B: (1) This North got it right

And what happened? According to deep finesse 7 tricks is the limit for North, but both of the two over-bidding tables made 3NT or 3NT+1. Two tables stopped in the sensible 1NT; one making +1 and one going down one.

The bottom lines: -

A raise of partner's 1NT response shows about 17-18 points.

Confused by 'The Law'

Board 8 from Monday 2nd

The simple version of the Law of Total Tricks says that it is sound to compete to the total number of trumps. But that does not mean that you should immediately bid 3♥/♠ opposite partner's 1♥/♠ opening when you have less than 10 points but four trumps.

Dealer: ♠ Q8
West ♥ 1095
Love all ♦ K72
♣ KQ987

Table A

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

♠ J6542	N	♠ A973
♥ AQ32	W E	♥ K4
♦ Q10	S	♦ J8643
♣ 53		♣ 42
	♠ K10	
	♥ J876	
	♦ A95	
	♣ AJ106	

Table B

West	North	East	South
pass (1)	pass	pass	1♣
pass	3♣ (6)	pass	3NT (7)
all pass			

Expert Table

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	pass	1♣
pass	2♣ (6)	pass	2♦ (8)
pass	3♣ (9)	pass	pass (10)
pass			

- Table A: (1) I would never dream of opening this hand – it's two short for the rule of 20 and the ♠ suit is extremely poor.
(2) A trifle light for a 2-level overcall, but I would not argue with 2♣.
(3) I believe that East was confused here. The correct bid is 2♠ showing 6-10 points and 3 or 4 ♠'s. "The Law" only comes into effect later if the opponents push you, then this hand should bid 3♠ to show the 4th ♠.
(4) South should not come in here as it's at the 4-level and he's in the 'Sandwich' seat with an unlimited opener on his left.
(5) And North cannot really balance as it's at the four level.
- Table B: (1) Most players sensibly passed.
(6) With good top cards and intermediates, this hand is worth a limit raise.
(7) It's only 13 'points' but with great intermediates South considered it worth a shot at game. I would not argue, but I do prefer to play inverted minors: -
- 'Expert' Table (6) Our experts play inverted minors (the two/three level raises are inverted). So 2♣ here shows a minimum of around 10 points and is forcing.
(8) After an inverted minor raise, one generally bids stoppers.
(9) North has no major suit stopper to bid.
(10) And with doubtful majors South wisely passes.

And what happened? 3♠ went one down for a near top to N-S. 3♣ is the 'par' contract and went one down. 3NT also goes one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't open on a hand with 18 for the rule of 20, especially when the long suit is very weak.
- Your first raise of partner's opening to the 2/3 level shows your strength.
- You only bid more (later) if necessary and then 'The Law' applies.
- Of course the above does not apply with pre-emptive raises (or Bergen raises).
- Experienced players should have a look at inverted minors.

You need shape to overcall a strong No Trump

Board 10 from Monday 2nd

When RHO opens a strong 1NT, he is strong! Thus you obviously need shape to make an overcall, especially if vulnerable. A natural overcall should be a 6 card suit and there are conventional overcalls (such as Multi Landy) to show two-suiters.

Dealer: ♠ 8654
East ♥ K8
Both vul ♦ KQ864
♣ AJ

♠ QJ932	N	♠ 107
♥ AJ9	W E	♥ 10632
♦ J2	S	♦ 1097
♣ Q73		♣ 9862
	♠ AK	
	♥ Q754	
	♦ A53	
	♣ K103	

<u>Table A</u>			
West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1NT
2♠ (1)	dbl (2)	pass	3♥ (3)
pass	3NT	all pass	

<u>Table B</u>			
West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1NT
2♠ (1)	dbl (2)	pass	pass (3)
pass			

- Table A: (1) What did you do with this West hand A in this week's quiz? With no six card suit and no back-up suit you should simply pass. Overcalling a strong NT with 2♠ is very dangerous, especially vulnerable.
(2) And North doubled for penalties.
(3) Unfortunately South, for some strange reason, thought that it was for take-out.
- Table B: (1) Unbelievably, more than one player found this poor overcall on Monday.
(2) And this North also doubled for penalties.
(3) And his partner knew it.

And what happened? 2♠ went three down for 800 to N-S and a total top. At most other tables N-S were in 3NT making 10 or 11 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't overcall a strong NoTrump with a 5 card suit, especially when vulnerable.
- A double after partner's 1NT opening has been overcalled is penalties – negative doubles do not apply when it's a 1NT opening.

You may think it's cunning and cute

Over 1NT to bid with a 5 card suit.

But the opponents will double

And you'll be in trouble

And lose all of your partners to boot.

It's often good to pre-empt 3♣/♦ with a good 6 card suit

Board 4 from Monday 2nd

Although one ex-member disagrees, it is common practice to pre-empt with 3♣/♦ on just a 6 card suit as long as it's a decent suit. It worked well on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ AK985				
West	♥ AQ5	West	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ J76	3♣	3♠	all pass	
	♣ 106				
♠ Q104	N	♠ 72			
♥ J	W E	♥ 9872			
♦ 1092	S	♦ AK43			
♣ AQJ874		♣ K52			
	♠ J65				
	♥ K10643				
	♦ Q85				
	♣ 93				

And what happened? 3♠ went one down (and two down at another table). 3♣ by West would have made and so would 3♥ by South (according to Deep Finesse) but it's impossible to reach after the pre-empt. At three tables North played peacefully in 2♠ to share the N-S top so the pre-empt always gets a good score whatever.

The bottom lines: -

- If you can't open a weak 2♣/♦, it's OK to pre-empt 3♣/♦ with a **good** 6 card minor.

The Championship Races

Complete results are in the results folder and on the web.

We currently have 6 people qualified for contention (30 results above 53%) in the Gold Cup:

1	Dave Cutler	1857.4
2	Bob Pelletier	1783.4
3	Michael Guin	1752.9
4	Bill Noe	1745.8
5	Kenneth Johansson	1732.8
6	Phil Lovell	1718.9

The top 10 for the Silver Plate (best 10) and Bronze medal (best 5) as calculated on 6th Oct are: -

Silver Plate			Bronze Medal		
1	Dave Cutler	663.4	1	Dave Cutler	338.7
2	Clive Bell	637.8	2	Clive Bell	334.3
3	Bob Pelletier	636.0	3	Bob Short	328.9
4	Bob Short	633.5	4	Bob Pelletier	327.7
5	Hans Bijvoet	624.2	5	Ruth Ibler	327.2
6	Phil Lovell	618.0	6	Jim Wallington	327.1
7	Michael Guin	616.3	7	Hans Bijvoet	325.1
8	Bill Noe	613.1	8	Phil Lovell	323.7
9	Jim Wallington	612.4	9	Tom Grovslien	320.9
10	Jan v Koss	606.9	10	Jan v Koss	317.1

You need 12+ points (or shape) to raise partner's 1♥/♠ to game

Board 2 from Friday 6th

5 different bidding sequences (from 5 tables) but just one table bid it sensibly.

Dealer:	♠ QJ7	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ A7	West	North	East(B)	South
N-S vul	♦ J1092	-	-	pass	pass
	♣ QJ107	1♠	pass	4♠ (1)	all pass

♠ AK1082	N	♠ 543	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ Q104	W E	♥ 9852	West	North	East(B)	South
♦ 87	S	♦ AK	-	-	pass	pass
♣ K92		♣ A865	1♠	pass	2♣ (1)	pass
	♠ 96		2♠ (2)	pass	4♠ (3)	all pass

	♥ KJ63	<u>Table C</u>			
	♦ Q643	West	North	East(B)	South
	♣ 43	-	-	pass	pass
		1♠	pass	2♣ (1)	pass
		2♠ (2)	pass	3♠ (3)	pass
		pass (4)	pass		

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand B in this week's quiz? This direct jump to 4♠ is a very poor/lazy bid. It is especially bad opposite a 3rd seat opener. The direct jump to game should be pre-emptive with (usually) 5 trumps and shape. This hand is nothing like it.

Table B: (1) This East got it right
(2) I think that this is better than the alternative of 2NT. It does not guarantee a 6-card suit playing Standard American.
(3) But having got it right to start with East now considered, for some strange reason, that his hand was worth game.

Table C: (3) This East got it spot on. Bidding 2♣ and then raising to 3♠ shows a sound raise to 3♠ with just 3 card support. That describes this hand exactly.
(4) And with a minimum West obviously passes.

If you 2-way reverse play Drury opposite a 3rd seat major suit opener, then 2♣ at (1) again happens to be the best bid (it shows a sound raise to 3♠ with just 3 card support) and the partnership would be able to stop in 2♣.

And what happened? 3♠ made exactly for a near top. It was only beaten by one pair who somehow managed to bid to 3NT and make it. Two pairs overbid to 4♠ (both down one) and one West actually passed and got an exact average for the pass-out.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't pass a 12 count with an excellent 5 card major.
- The direct jump to 4♥/♠ over partner's 1♥/♠ opening is pre-emptive.
- This undistinguished 11 points and 3 miserable trumps is nowhere near worth a raise to game; it is only just about worth a raise to 3♠.
- Be wary of bidding game opposite a 3rd seat 1♥/♠ opener if your partnership style is to often open light in 3rd seat. More experienced partnerships may like to take a look at (2-way reverse) Drury.

A Strong Michaels Cue Bid

Board 30 from Wednesday 6th

The Michaels Cue Bid over a minor shows both majors. It is usually weak but can be a very strong playing strength hand: -

Dealer:				<u>Table A</u>			
East				West	North	East	South(D)
Love all				-	-	1♣	dbl (1)
♠ 85				2♣	5♦	pass	5♥ (2)
♠ 943				pass	pass	6♣	6♠ (3)
♥ 109				pass	7♥	dbl	all pass
♦ AK543				<u>Table B</u>			
♣ Q94				West	North	East	South(D)
N				-	-	1♣	2♣ (1)
W E				2♦	pass	3♣	4♥ (4)
S				pass	pass	5♣	5♥ (5)
♠ K1052				dbl	all pass		
♥ A3							
♦ -							
♣ AKJ10762							
♠ AQJ876							
♥ KQJ865							
♦ -							
♣ 3							

Table A: I'm not too sure about the bidding at Table A, but South certainly started with a double and subsequently bid 6♠.

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? I do not like to double with two-suited hands. A 1♠ overcall (to be followed by 4♥) is a very sensible alternative but I prefer the choice at Table B.
- (2) Now it's this bid that really led to South's downfall. As I said, I don't really like the double but guess that it's acceptable. Anyway, South now has the rather awkward task of showing his two-suiter at the 5-level and the only way to do that sensibly is to bid the higher ranking (so 5♠) now and then bid ♥'s later if necessary. This 5♥ bid here simply shows a ♥ suit that was too strong to overcall and does not imply a ♥-♠ two-suiter.
- (3) And here we see the problem, South has forced partner to give preference at the seven level!

Table B: (1) This South showed his two suits immediately with a Michaels cue Bid.
(4) I play that if a Michaels bidder bids again (3♥) then it shows a game forcing hand. However, I did not know if North realised this and so I bid 4♥. Note that this is totally different from the scenario above in that South has already shown ♠'s and ♥'s and so never has to bid his ♠ suit.
(5) South is pushed to the 5-level, but again there is no need to bid the ♠'s.

And what happened? 5♥ doubled made but even going down one was a good score as 5♣ is making.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't double with two-suited hands.
- The Michaels Cue bid is very specific about the suits, so use it with a very powerful two-suiter as well as with weak ones.
- Bid 5-5's (and 6-6's) from the top down...
- ... that is unless you have already shown the two suits (with Michaels or whatever) and then you just keep on bidding the cheapest if pushed (partner will correct if necessary).

A Double fit is good

Board 2 from Wednesday 4th

A couple of pairs punted game on a combined 22 points – but how do you sensibly bid it? I have inverted the minor suits for convenience.

Dealer: ♠ K954
East ♥ Q1042
N-S vul ♦ J1083
♣ 5

♠ A86	N	♠ 107
♥ J97	W E	♥ A863
♦ 94	S	♦ K7
♣ KJ1073		♣ Q9642
	♠ QJ32	
	♥ K5	
	♦ AQ652	
	♣ A8	

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♣ (1)	pass	2♠
pass	pass (2)	pass	

Table B

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

(1) is “Garbage Stayman” and North would pass a 2♦ response.

But North has a difficult choice at (2) now. Should he pass (correct if South has ♠QJ32 ♥K53 ♦A8 ♣KQ65) or try for game? The problem is that North has no idea that South is maximum with a superb ♦ fit. Is there a scientific way to bid this hand?

Yes, but it’s really only for more advanced pairs so I have not put it in the news sheets. If you are interested I have put the solution in <http://www.pattayabridge.com/NTbookadditions.htm> and it’s all fully described in the No trump bidding book.

And what happened? ½ the field stopped in 2♠ and ½ bid game. Everybody made 11 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Assuming that your singleton is usefully opposite a 1NT opener is a sheer gamble. More advanced pairs should use more advanced methods – see Stayman Super-accepts in the NT bidding book (or have a look at where this hand is completely described on the web site).

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass. You need a shapely hand to overcall over a strong No Trump, and if it's one-suited it needs to be a decent 6-carder, especially vulnerable.
- Hand B: 2♣. With the aim of bidding an invitational 3♠ next go (thus showing just 3 ♠'s). An immediate 3♠ is played as 4 card support by most players. 2♣ followed by 4♠ over a minimal rebid by opener is an overbid. An immediate 4♠ is an extremely poor bid as it shows a pre-emptive hand with long ♠'s. The only other decent option is to downgrade the hand (3 miserable trumps and a doubleton AK are poor) and raise to just 2♣.
- Hand C: Pass. It's not good enough for a raise to 2NT which shows about 17-18 points. Just work it out, partner is 6-9 and to invite game with just 15 is asking for a minus.
- Hand D: (a) 2♣, Michaels, showing both majors.
(b) 3♥ (or 4♥ if partner does not know that 3♥ is forcing).
There are also a couple of reasonable alternatives:
1- (a) You could overcall 1♠ and then (b) bid 4♥ next go.
2- (a) You could double and then (b) plan to bid ♠'s and then ♥'s. I don't really like this option and using Michaels and subsequently bidding ♥'s to show the strong hand type is clearly the best way to describe this hand.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- E** 1NT 2♠ dbl Penalties. Negative doubles do not apply when partner has opened 1NT
- F** 1♣ pass 1♥ pass 1NT here is 6-9, exactly the same as if responder had bid
1♠ pass 1NT it first go.
- G** 1♠ pass 4♠ The direct raise to game is weak and pre-emptive.
- H** 1NT pass 2♣ dbl The double shows ♣'s and asks for a ♣ lead.
- J** 2♣ pass 2♦ dbl The double shows ♦'s and asks for a ♦ lead.

The double of any cipher bid shows values in the suit bid and asks for that suit to be led.