Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	1st N-S	_	& Sally	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob P & Mike	57%		
	1st E-W		& Kenneth	57%	$2^{nd}$	Ivy & Wolfgang	52%		
Wed 1st	1 <sup>st</sup> N-S		& Terry	57%	$2^{nd}$	Phil & Tomas	55%		
	1st E-W		& Gerard	61%	$2^{nd}$	Dave & Kenneth	60%		
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> N-S		& Royd	59%	$2^{nd}$	Alan & Lewis	56%		
	$1^{st} E-W$	Paul S	cully & Terry	62%	$2^{nd}$	Paul Kelly & Dave	56%		
Bidding Q	<u>uiz</u>		Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.						
Hand A	Hand	В	With Hand A you bid?	With Hand A partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♠. What do you bid?					
<b>♦</b> KJ42	<b>♦</b> K97	764							
<b>♥</b> Q953	<b>♥</b> J2		With Hand B	partner ope	ens 1N	T and you transfer with	2♥.		
<b>♦</b> J943	♦ KJ8	3	Partner bids 2	♠, what do	you b	id now?			
<b>♣</b> 4	<b>♣</b> Q5								
Hand C	Hand D		With Hand C	RHO oper	ns 1♣, '	what do you do?			
<b>♣</b> 7 <b>♥</b> A1092	<b>♠</b> Q98 <b>♥</b> K	37653	With Hand D (a) what do y		urable	vulnerability and RHO o	pens 1♣		
◆ J10975	♦ AQ	8	. ,		1 <b>4</b> II	HO bids 1NT and RHO	raises to		
<b>♦</b> KJ7	<b>♣</b> A7	O	` ' 11 '	at do you d			ruises to		
Hand E	Hand	F	With Hand E RHO opens 1♠, what do you bid?						
					, ,	,			
<b>^</b> -	<b>★</b> 532								
▼ A10543	♥ AK	1095		LHO open	s INT	and RHO transfers with	12♥. What		
♦ K10985	<b>♦</b> 62	0.0	do you do?						
<b>♣</b> K42	<b>♣</b> K10	02							
Hand G	Hand	Н	With Hand G you do?	partner op	ens 1♥	and RHO overcalls 1♠.	What do		
<b>★</b> K9742	<b>♦</b> J852	2	-						
<b>y</b> 9	<b>♥</b> KQ	103	With Hand H	you open 1	l <b>♣</b> and	LHO overcalls 1♦ pass	ed to you.		
♦ K2	♦ J					se you double and LHC	•		
♣ A10432	♣ AK	.53	• •			2♦. What now?	,		
			•						

Club News Sheet – No. 209 www.pattayabridge.com

4th Nov 2006

This week's **Bidding Sequences Quiz** is on the next page.

I was asked if I could write something about responding to partner's take-out double. There is actually already something on the website: Basic bidding  $\rightarrow$  begin news No 133. In fact the series (130-134) covers all of the actions by the intruding side and I've put a couple of copies of the set in the conventions folder.

J	1 <b>♣</b> dbl	pass	1NT	2♠	What is the double by opener?
K	1 <b>♣</b> dbl	1♦	pass	pass	What is the double by opener?
L	1 <b>♣</b> dbl	1 <b>♦</b> 1 <b>♠</b>	pass dbl	pass	What is the double by responder?
M	1♠	dbl	2♠		What is the 2♠ after RHO has doubled?
N	1♠	dbl	3♠		What is the 3♠ after RHO has doubled?
P	1♠	dbl	4♠		What is the 4♠ after RHO has doubled?
Q	1♠	dbl	2♠	dbl	What is the double by advancer?

(Advancer is the partner of overcaller).

## **The Championship Races**

**Bidding Sequences Quiz** 

The current standings for all competitions are in the results folder and on the web. There are currently 6 members qualified for the gold cup (30 results above 53%): -

1	Dave Cutler	1861.5
2	Bob Pelletier	1795.8
3	Michael Guin	1759.1
4	Bill Noe	1747.5
5	Phil Lovell	1743.9
6	Kenneth Johansson	1739.9

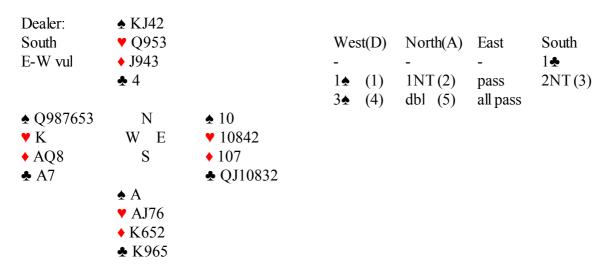
### **The Conventions Folder**

There are a number of conventions written up with copies in the 'conventions folder'. It's a red folder that I bring along every session. A few of the conventions (Multi-Landy and Lavinthal) are 'standard' in the club. Feel free to take copies of whatever you want.

#### A Reverse Limerick - Ode to John

There once was a member named John who thought he was never wrong. He was a noisy dude and so incredibly rude that the result is that he is long gone.

His reverse was four-four and I'd told him before that reversing shows strength and as for the length the first bid should always be more. West stuck his vulnerable neck out here and prevented the opponents from bidding a hopeless game.



- (1) What did you bid with this West hand D(a) in this week's quiz? It's far too good for a weak jump to 2♠ or 3♠. 1♠ is correct.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week's quiz? Should North show his 4 ♥'s with a negative double or should he show his ♠ stop(s) by bidding 1NT? Either is fine so it really boils down to which feature is more important. With ♠'s of this quality I prefer 1NT although I would not argue with double. Pass (going for the penalty when partner re-opens with an 'automatic' double) is reasonable but I would prefer more points and/or another ♠.
- (3) This shows about 17-18 points and is a gross overbid.
- (4) What did you bid with this West hand D(b) in this week's quiz? You should pass because: -
  - . LHO has freely bid 1NT, showing at least one stop.
  - . RHO has shown a very big hand (17-18).
  - . E-W are vulnerable and N-S not, so you are more likely to get doubled.
  - . A double by LHO would be for penalties.
  - . Most of the points are outside the \( \Delta \) suit so will be good in defence.
  - . The singleton ♥K is worthless as declarer but will probably score in defence.
  - . This particular South is not renowned for his accurate bidding or play. He has already overbid and will not make 2NT, yet alone 3NT.
- (5) North was all set to bid 3NT (he thought partner had 17+ points) when he saw West's 3♠ bid. A quick glance at the vulnerability was all it needed to pull out the red card instead.

And what happened? And what happened? 3♠ went two down for 500 and a clear top for N-S. No N-S pair ended in a sensible ♥ or NoTrump partscore; two N-S's reached 4♥ (minus two) and there were the usual spurious results.

The bottom lines.

- When you open and partner bids 1NT, then a raise to 2NT is about 17-18 points.
- Make a note of all of the reasons stated above as to why 3♠ here is a poor bid.
- At unfavourable vulnerability, be careful if the opponents have the points.
- And be especially careful at the three level when opponents have already exchanged information.

We saw on the last deal that this particular South had little idea about bidding. At the end of the session Mike Poustie came up to me and mentioned that there were a lot of strange contracts/results from our table. Clearly Mike and Angela have been away too long and forgotten about the eccentricities of bidding/play at the Pattaya Bridge Club. So here are just a few of the "strange results". It's the same N-S for the next eight deals.

## Strange results – part 1

Board 5 from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

This deal is rather similar to the previous one, with West bidding in the 'sandwich' seat.

Dealer:	♠ AKJ4					
North	<b>♥</b> K754		West	North	East(C)	South
N-S vul	<b>♦</b> 3		-	1♣	pass (1)	1NT
	<b>♣</b> Q854		<b>2</b> ♠ (2)	dbl (3)	pass (4)	pass
			pass			
<b>♦</b> Q9652	N	<b>★</b> 7				
<b>♥</b> Q8	W E	<b>♥</b> A1092				
◆ A842	S	◆ J10975				
<b>♣</b> 106		<b>♣</b> KJ7				
	<b>▲</b> 1083					
	<b>♥</b> J63					
	<b>♦</b> KQ6					
	♣ A932					

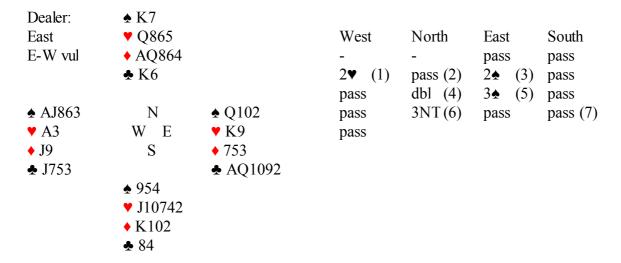
- (1) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? A 1♦ overcall looks fine to me, but then there would be no tale to tell.
- (2) This is very dangerous; at the two level with a miserable suit. Even at favourable vulnerability it's very dangerous as a double by LHO is for penalties (sequence J).
- (3) North had no problem applying the axe.
- (4) E-W have a ♦ fit but it would be foolhardy to try to rescue partner with no known better spot. There really would have been no problem had East overcalled 1♦ initially at (1).

And what happened? 2♠ went two down and the resultant 300 was a clear top for N-S as it's only a partscore deal.

The bottom lines: -

- Be wary of bidding in the 'sandwich seat'; especially if RHO has bid 1NT – you are asking to be doubled (for penalties).

The very next board. This time it's N-S who got into rather a strange contract – a hopeless 3NT when there is a 5-4  $\heartsuit$  fit.



- (1) This was some form of multi bid; showing a weak hand with ♠'s and a minor or else some sort of strong hand I believe. It looks a bit strong for a 'weak' bid to me; I would open 1♠.
- (2) North decided to wait and see. A double now might confuse partner.
- (3) Saying that East is quite happy to play in 2♠ if West has the weak hand type.
- (4) So it's confirmed that West has a weak hand with ♠'s and so North made a perhaps ambitious take-out double.
- (5) Upping the ante.
- (6) Both East and West appeared to be bidding with weak hands so North assumed that his partner had something, so he chose to bid 3NT.
- (7) Partner has doubled an effective 2♠ bid for take-out and with 5 ♥'s South should obviously bid 4♥. But he was "confused" by West opening 2♥, despite the fact that it was very clearly explained to him that West had a weak hand with 5♠'s and a minor suit.

And what happened? 3NT went three down for a quiet 150 away for slightly above average for N-S as some E-W's were making 170 or 200 in a ♠ contract.

The bottom lines: -

- If the opponents play a strange system and you ask what the bids mean, then listen?

# <u>Strange results – part 3</u>

Board 11 from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Our same N-S pair blundered into a decent 4-3 fit on this deal.

Dealer:	<b>♦</b> Q52					
South	<b>♥</b> 53		West	North	East	South
Love all	♦ AQ65		-	-	-	pass
	<b>♣</b> K642		1NT	pass	pass	<b>2♣</b> (1)
			pass	2♠	all pass	
<b>♦</b> K10	N	<b>♦</b> 8763	-		-	
♥ AQ2	W E	<b>v</b> 10976				
<b>♦</b> K84	S	<b>♦</b> J10	(1) both maj	jors (should	be 9 or 10 o	eards)
♣ A8753		<b>♣</b> J109				
	<b>♦</b> AJ94		And what ha	ppened? 2♠	made exac	tly for an
	<b>♥</b> KJ84		absolute top	to N-S as n	nost E-W's	scored
	♦ 9732		anything from	n 90 to 150	playing in N	o Trumps.
	<b>♣</b> Q		_			_

# <u>Strange results – part 4</u>

Board 15 from Monday 23rd

This time we have South raising partner's weak Unusual NoTrump to 3NT with a nine count.

Dealer:	<b>♠</b> 10						
South	<b>y</b> 98		West	North	East	South	
N-S vul	♦ A9854		-	-	-	pass	
	♣ AK865		1♠	2NT(1)	pass	3NT (2)	
			all pass				
<b>♠</b> AJ8764	N	<b>♦</b> 93					
<b>♥</b> AK103	$\mathbf{W}$ $\mathbf{E}$	<b>♥</b> QJ742	(1) A trifle str	rong for the i	unusual N	oTrump, but	
♦ QJ	S	<b>◆</b> 106	opposite	this South it	always he	lps to have	
<b>♣</b> 2		♣ Q1093	a little in reserve.				
	<b>♦</b> KQ42		(2) Apparent	ly having no	idea what	2NT meant.	
	<b>v</b> 65						
	♦ K732		And what hap	pened? For	some stra	inge reason	
	<b>♣</b> J74		East led the	3. Dummy's	s <b>♣</b> J won	and another	
			revealed th	e bad split th	nere. So d	eclarer ran the	
			♦'s and E-W	both threw t	heir ♥'s. I	Declarer then made the	
			contract with	3 <b>♣</b> 's, 5 <b>♦</b> 's	and one	<b>.</b>	

Needless to say, 3NT making by North was a complete top. And what happened at the sensible tables? Most E-W's were scoring anything from 140 to 450 in sensible ♥ contracts.

Here we have our same South passing a take-out (Responsive) double with a void in trumps.

Dealer:	<b>♦</b> J76		Table A			
East	<b>♥</b> K87		West	North	East	South(E)
N-S vul	<b>◆</b> J643		-	-	1♠	dbl (1)
	<b>♣</b> AJ5		2 <b>♠</b> (2)	dbl (3)	pass	pass (4)
			pass			
<b>▲</b> A10984	N	<b>♠</b> KQ532				
<b>♥</b> Q2	W E	<b>♥</b> J96	<u>'Expert'</u>	<u> Table</u>		
<b>→</b> 72	S	♦ AQ	West	North	East	South(E)
<b>4</b> 10976		<b>♣</b> Q83	-	-	1♠	<b>2♥</b> (1)
	<b>_</b> -		<b>3</b> ♠ (5)	<b>4♥</b> (6)	pass	pass
	<b>♥</b> A10543		<b>4</b> ♠ (7)	pass	pass	5♥
	♦ K10985		all pass			
	<b>♣</b> K42					

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand E in this week's quiz? How many times have I said not to double with two suited hands? Double is a terrible bid here as you may well miss a 5-3 ♥ fit. A Michaels cue bid (2♠ to show ♥'s and a minor) is a possibility if you play them this strong (it's not my style).

- (2) 3♠, or even 4♠ is to be preferred; but not against this South!
- (3) A responsive double. North cannot bid ♥'s as South has shown four at most and will be forced on a ♠ lead. This double asks South to bid his best suit.
- (4) Let's get another absurd contract onto the score sheet. The news-sheet next week (i.e. this one) should be interesting.

Sensible Table

- (1) This sensible South simply overcalled 2♥, with the intention of bidding ♦'s later if necessary.
- (5) The value bid. 4♠ is better if you play that as a weak hand (you should do).
- (6) Obviously it's much easier for North knowing that there are 5 ♥'s opposite.
- (7) Perhaps I should have bid this last go?

And what happened? 2♠ doubled made +1 for a top to E-W. South then tried to blame North, saying "my double shows ♥'s so why did you double". I shan't print what I (North) said.

- Don't "do a Chuck". For those who don't know, that is immediately after the hand is over blame partner for your mistakes. Chuck was the undoubted master at it.
- Sequence Q is called a responsive double and asks partner to bid his best suit.
- Do **NOT** NOT **not** not double 1♠ with 5 ♥'s. If you have a 5 card major, then bid it!
- A double of 1♠ generally shows four ♥'s (or a very good three).

Here we have a poor 3NT making when the opponents have 5 ♥ tricks off the top.

Dealer:	<b>♠</b> Q108		Table A			
East	<b>v</b> 8743		West	North	East(B)	South(F)
E-W vul	<b>♦</b> 4		_	-	pass	pass
	<b>♣</b> J8763		1NT(1)	pass	2♥	pass (2)
			2♠	pass	3NT(3)	all pass
<b>♠</b> AJ	N	<b>★</b> K9764				
<b>♥</b> Q6	W E	<b>♥</b> J2	<u>'Expert'</u>	<u> Table</u>		
◆ AQ10975	S	♦ KJ83	West	North	East	South
<b>♣</b> A94		<b>♣</b> Q5	-	-	pass	pass
	<b>★</b> 532		1NT(1)	pass	2♥	dbl (2)
	<b>♥</b> AK1095		pass (4)	pass	<b>3</b> ♦ (5)	pass
	<b>♦</b> 62		<b>4♣</b> (6)	pass	<b>4</b> ♠ (7)	all pass
	♣ K102		5♦	all pass		

Table A: (1) I have no problem with opening 1NT with a 6 card minor and honours (at least Qx) in all of the outside suits but I think that this hand is far too strong. I would open 1♦ with a view to jumping to 3♦ next go.

- (2) What did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? A double of a transfer bid shows that suit and double is totally obvious.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand B in this week's quiz? With a decent 2<sup>nd</sup> suit I prefer a (game forcing) 3♦. This does not particularly invite a minor suit game but warns partner about the shortage in the other two suits.

'Expert' (1) Le

(1) Let's suppose that this West also opens the off-beat 1NT.

Table

- (2) South finds the double to show ♥'s.
- (4) It's best to play that pass shows two of the transfer suit and that completing the transfer shows three (or four but not good enough to super accept).
- (5) East correctly shows his 2<sup>nd</sup> suit.
- (6) West obviously wants to play in ♦'s, but East is unlimited and there may be slam so he cue bids his ♣A.
- (7) Pass or correct. East has no slam ambitions but is unsure about the trump suit.

And what happened? At Table A North had to find a lead against 3NT. With scant values himself he led the \$4 in the hope of finding partner's suit. Unfortunately it was declarer's suit and West quickly claimed 9 tricks.

And what happened at sensible tables? One other pair bid to 3NT going one down. Two pairs bid sensibly to 5♦ and also scored 600 and the rest were in partscores.

- A double of a transfer bid (or of Stayman) shows the suit bid and asks partner to lead that suit should opener end up as declarer.
- AK 1095 is certainly a good enough suit to want to it led.

Here we have our dynamic N-S pair playing in a 4-2 fit.

<b>★</b> 1042		•	West	North	East	South
<b>♥</b> K4		-	-	pass	1♦	pass
<b>♦</b> J109			1♠	pass (1)	1NT	pass
<b>♣</b> KQ863		1	pass	<b>2♣</b> (2)	pass	pass
		(	dbl	pass	pass	<b>2♥</b> (3)
N	<b>♦</b> K95	(	dbl	all pass	_	
W E	<b>♥</b> QJ87			-		
$\mathbf{S}$	♦ AK83	(1)	North has	nowhere ne	ar the valu	es to bid
	<b>♣</b> 52	i	in the sand	wich seat.		
<b>♠</b> AQJ		(2)	But now, v	vith both op	ponents lin	nited,
<b>♥</b> 9652		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
◆ Q7652		(3)	If South ha	d paused to	think he v	vould realise
<b>♣</b> 10		1	that North	cannot have	more that	n 3 ♥'s as he
		•	would have	e doubled in	stead of b	idding 2♣.
	<ul> <li>V K4</li> <li>◆ J109</li> <li>◆ KQ863</li> <li>N</li> <li>W E</li> <li>S</li> <li>◆ AQJ</li> <li>◆ 9652</li> <li>◆ Q7652</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>V K4</li> <li>◆ J109</li> <li>◆ KQ863</li> <li>N</li> <li>◆ K95</li> <li>W E</li> <li>◆ QJ87</li> <li>S</li> <li>◆ AK83</li> <li>◆ 52</li> <li>◆ AQJ</li> <li>◆ 9652</li> <li>◆ Q7652</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>V K4</li> <li>◆ J109</li> <li>◆ KQ863</li> <li>N</li> <li>◆ K95</li> <li>W E</li> <li>◆ QJ87</li> <li>S</li> <li>◆ AK83</li> <li>(1)</li> <li>◆ 52</li> <li>◆ AQJ</li> <li>◆ 9652</li> <li>◆ Q7652</li> <li>◆ Q7652</li> <li>◆ 10</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>★ K4</li> <li>→ J109</li> <li>→ KQ863</li> <li>→ Pass dbl dbl</li> <li>N</li></ul>	<ul> <li>★ K4</li> <li>→ J109</li> <li>★ KQ863</li> <li>N</li></ul>	<ul> <li>V K4</li> <li>J109</li> <li>L pass (1) 1NT</li> <li>Pass (2) pass dbl pass pass dbl pass pass</li> <li>N L K95</li> <li>M E L V QJ87</li> <li>S L AK83</li> <li>L AQJ</li> <li>V 9652</li> <li>Q7652</li> <li>Pass (2) pass dbl all pass</li> <li>(1) North has nowhere near the value in the sandwich seat.</li> <li>(2) But now, with both opponents limate a protective bid is acceptable.</li> <li>(3) If South had paused to think he was a pass of the pass p</li></ul>

And what happened? 2♥ went two down and 300 was a top for E-W. 2♣ was a far better contract. The bottom lines: -

- 4-2 fits do not play well.

# Strange results - part 8

Board 2 from Monday 23rd

We finally come to the last of the 'strange results' that Mike and Angels commented upon. This time we have a 5♠ phantom sacrifice that should make just 9 tricks making 11 tricks.

Dealer: East N-S vul				West - 4♠ pass	North - 5♥ dbl	East 3♠ 5♠ (1) all pass	South 4♥ pass
<ul><li>♠ AK3</li><li>♥ Q5</li><li>♦ 632</li><li>♠ 107654</li></ul>	N W E S • Q9 • K9876 • Q4 • AK93	<ul><li>10876542</li><li>✓ AJ</li><li>✓ A9</li><li>✓ J8</li></ul>	(1)	and this ex		pecially bad	g pre-empted I with a very

Anyway, this time it's not the bidding but the play. How on earth can East make 11 tricks? South led the  $\triangle$ A upon which North played the  $\triangle$ Q. For some strange reason South took this as a signal for a  $\forall$  switch and led the  $\forall$ K. Declarer still must lose a  $\triangleright$  and a  $\triangle$  to go one down of course but when South eventually got in with his  $\triangleright$ Q he led the  $\triangle$ 3 and declarer's bare  $\triangle$ J scored.

#### The bottom lines: -

- I have nothing more to say. I could mention a couple more hands but nine really is enough from one session isn't it? I will not recover from Monday for months.

A recurring topic.

Dealer: West Love all	<ul><li>♠ 6</li><li>♥ 10762</li><li>♦ QJ3</li><li>♠ KQ865</li></ul>		Table A West(G) pass 1NT (1)	North pass all pass	East 1♥	South 1♠
<ul><li>★ K9742</li><li>♥ 9</li><li>★ K2</li><li>★ A10432</li></ul>	N W E S ◆ AQ853 ◆ Q83 ◆ 10875 ◆ 7	<ul><li>♣ J10</li><li>♥ AKJ54</li><li>◆ A964</li><li>♣ J9</li></ul>	'Expert' T West(G) pass pass (1) pass dbl (3)	North pass pass 2♣ (3) all pass	East 1♥ dbl (2) pass (4)	South 1♠ pass pass

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand G in this week's quiz? It's best to go for the penalty as our experts do.

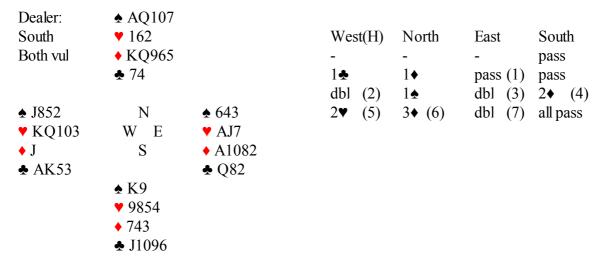
'Expert' Table

- (1) West's best action is to 'double' 1♠ for penalties. Playing Negative Doubles this is achieved by passing and then passing partner's 'automatic' re-opening double.
- (2) 'Automatic'.
- (3) N-S are in for a hiding whether North attempts to run or not.
- (4) Forcing. If West cannot double 2♣ for penalties then he must bid.
- (5) West is very happy to double 2♣ for penalties.

And what happened? I imagine that the bidding started pass, pass, 1♥, 1♠ at most tables yet E-W did not defend a doubled contract at any table. Despite my continually writing about the topic it appears that almost everybody either does not know how to or does not wish to take the penalty. As it happened 1NT at Table A scored a near top as most E-W's were going down in 2NT or 3NT. Getting 800 or 1100 for a penalty is much better than bidding a dubious NoTrump game.

- When partner opens and RHO overcalls in a suit in which you have length/strength, then go for the penalty. This is especially true if you are short in partner's suit or if you have 10-11 points when game is by no means certain.
- With length/strength in RHO's overcalled suit, pass and await partner's 'automatic' re-opening double.
- Remember the automatic re-opening double. When you open, RHO overcalls and this is passed back to you then it is virtually always best to 're-open' with a double if you play negative doubles.
- There are a few rare exceptions when you should not, and they are on the web-site in the conventions section under Negative Doubles.
- I have updated this Negative Double page to say more about when you should make the 'automatic' re-opening double and the rare occasions when you should do something else.

You do not miss your penalties when playing negative doubles. In fact, as I have often stated in the news-sheets, you sometimes get them one or two levels higher: -



Two people didn't understand what was going on in this 'negative double' auction: -

- (1) With 11 points and decent ◆'s, East decided to go for the vulnerable penalty rather that hope for a game contract.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand H(a) in this week's quiz? I think that the 'automatic double' is correct.
- (3) Now this is penalties. Since East did not bid on the first round but finds a double now then that indicates that he has a ♦ penalty hand and is prepared to defend 1♠ doubled.
- (4) South quite sensibly gave preference.
- (5) What did you bid with this West hand H(b) in this week's quiz? This West fell from grace here. Partner is in doubling mode and West should simply pass.
- (6) Fortunately (for E-W) North did not understand what was going on either. He has been let off the hook but jumped right back onto a bigger one. His reasoning at the table was that South had supported ◆'s. That is not so; South simply gave preference to ◆'s over ♠'s and the only person who has shown ◆'s in this auction is East!
- (7) I was after a minnow and now I've caught a whale.

And what happened? 3♦ doubled went for 800. 3NT was bid at some other tables, some making and some going off. 2♦ doubled would have been just above average for E-W.

- Understand negative double auctions.
- When you overcall and LHO passes and so does partner then be wary. LHO may well have a penalty hand sitting over you. And if he subsequently doubles a bid (it's for penalties) then he most certainly has
- Do not bid when partner is in doubling mode.

### **Bidding Quiz Answers**

Hand A: 1NT or double (negative). Unfortunately you cannot show both your 4 card ♥ suit and your great ♠ stops. I prefer 1NT but I won't argue with double. Another reasonable option is to pass and go for the penalty when partner re-opens with a double; but I would prefer more points and/or another ♠.

**Hand B:** 3♦. Show the 2<sup>nd</sup> suit, game forcing. This is much better than 3NT not because you wish to play in 5♦ (unlikely) but it warns partner about the shortage/weakness in the other two suits. Partner will then bid 4♠ with three ♠'s or a good doubleton if he does not have both of the other suits well covered. And (very rarely) 5♦ may be the best spot.

**Hand C:** 1♦. With a shapely 9 count pass is very feeble.

**Hand D:** (a)  $1 \spadesuit$ . It's far too good for a pre-emptive  $2 \spadesuit$  or  $3 \spadesuit$ .

(b) Pass. You a re vulnerable against not, RHO has advertised 17+ points and LHO has 6+ with at least one ♠ stop. If you bid 3♠ then LHO will double (penalties) and you will go for a number.

Hand E: 2♥. Do not double with two suiters. Do not double 1♠ with five ♥'s. Simple. An alternative approach is to bid 2♠ (Michaels) showing ♥'s and a minor if you play them this strong (it is not my personal style).

**Hand F:** Double. Apart from showing decent ♥'s, this asks partner to lead a ♥ if opener ends up as declarer.

**Hand G:** Pass (playing negative doubles) and later pass partner's expected re-opening double. 1NT or 2NT are very poor alternatives.

Hand H: (a) Double. 'Automatic' when playing negative doubles.

(b) Pass (or double). Partner has a decent hand with good ◆'s. Any other bid (like 2♥) lets the opponents off the hook.

# **Bidding Sequence Answers**

J	1♣ dbl	pass	1NT	2♠	The double by opener is penalties. It most certainly is not some sort of take-out for a red suit which partner has denied.
K	1 <b>♣</b> dbl	1♦	pass	pass	The double by opener is 'automatic'. Simply saying that he has a normal sound opener in case partner wants to pass for penalties.
L	1♣ dbl	1 <b>♦</b> 1 <b>♠</b>	pass dbl	pass	The double by responder is penalties. He has a good ♦ holding. and something in ♠'s with a decent number of points.
M	1♠	dbl	2♠		2♠ after RHO has doubled may be very weak.
N	1♠	dbl	3♠		3♠ after RHO has doubled is weak with 4♠'s.
P	1♠	dbl	4♠		4♠ after RHO has doubled is generally weak and pre-emptive.
Q	1♠	dbl	2♠	dbl	The double by advancer asks partner to bid his best suit. It is called a Responsive double but it's common sense really.