

Last week's winners: Monday 11/8/03

Friday 15/8/03

1st = Hans/Dave 56%1st = Clive/Ken 56%

only 6 players,

so no results

Chuck has decided that the news sheet is no longer worthy of his comment. Probably just as well this week as 90% of the content (and 100% of the agro/controversy) this week seems to involve Chuck. I understand, there is no sense in even trying to defend his bids this time. But no names!

Bidding Quiz

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A, RHO opens 1♦, what is your bid?
♠ AQ	♠ 7	
♥ AJ2	♥ 8753	With Hand B, partner opens 2NT (20-21).
♦ QJ652	♦ 97643	Do you bid? and if so, what?
♣ A106	♣ KJ10	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C you hear LHO open 3♦. Partner bids 4♦, showing a very big hand and RHO bids 4♠. What is your bid?
♠ -	♠ KJ10875	
♥ 109862	♥ KQJ7	
♦ Q6	♦ 6	With Hand D you open 1♠ and partner replies 1NT.
♣ K97542	♣ K7	What do you rebid?
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you are vul against not. Partner passes and RHO opens 1♦. Do you bid?
♠ 106	♠ KJ2	
♥ 76	♥ KJ2	With Hand F you are playing Standard American.
♦ 742	♦ KJ	What is your opening bid?
♣ KQJ653	♣ K10972	

Worth a Bid?Board 12 from Friday 8th

North (B) Partner opens 2NT (20-21), do you bid? and if so, what?
After partner has opened with 2NT there is little room for manoeuvre.

♠ 7 You cannot bid a weak 3♦ (that is a transfer). So it's either pass or
♥ 8753 go to game. If partner has 4♥'s then 4♥ will be a good bet but if he
♦ 97643 does not, then 3NT is very likely to be defeated. If you want to take the
♣ KJ10 plunge then bid 3♣, Stayman. If partner replies 3♦ then pass is probably
prudent. If partner bids 3♥ then have a shot at 4♥. If partner bids 3♠ then
you have no choice but to bid the dicey 3NT. So should you bid 3♣? I think it's very close. Hans and
Chuck said that they would. Clive and his partner would not. Me? I would if one of the ♣ honours was in
the ♦ or ♥ suits. What happened? Opener had ♦ AKQ and ♣ Q8. The ♦J falls and there is an entry to
the last 2♦'s. Lucky.

Do You Overcall?

Board 21 from Monday 11th

South (E) You are vulnerable, opponents are not. Partner deals and passes. RHO opens 1♦ (playing 5 card majors). What action, if any, do you take?

♠ 106 One player overcalled 2♣ and the opponents bid to 4♥. Partner doubled
♥ 76 and the contract proceeded to make an overtrick. Instead of just keeping
♦ 742 quiet (impossible for this individual) he proceeded to lay into partner for
♣ KQJ653 doubling with his eight count. A vulnerable overcall at the two level
promises opening strength. This hand is way too weak. A weak jump
overcall is possible, but most players would prefer to pass when vulnerable (Hans, Clive and myself would
all pass). If your hand is not worth a weak jump overcall, do not make the mistake of making a simple
overcall. The overcaller in question claims it's OK because partner is a passed hand. What's that got to do
with the price of rice? OK, so it's lead directional; but it's still 6 points short of a sensible two-level
vulnerable overcall.

A Silly Contract

Board 20 from Friday 8th

North	South (A)	West	North	East	South
♠ J96	♠ AQ	pass	pass	1♦	dbl
♥ Q8653	♥ AJ2	pass	1♥	pass	2♦
♦ 4	♦ QJ652	pass	pass	pass	
♣ J542	♣ A106				

So, a very silly contract. Who's fault? South has a nice hand, should he bid it twice? I said in news-sheet 18 that a double followed by a suit bid shows a very good hand & suit. There really is little point in bidding a suit that RHO has bid naturally and this hand/suit are not good enough. South actually has an easy bid at his first turn – 1NT. This is 15-18 points with at least 1 stopper. Ideal for this hand. North would then transfer and the sensible 2♥ contract reached.

Super Accept?

Board 13 from Monday 11th

North	South	North	South	
♠ AK87	♠ 104	1NT (1)	2♦ (2)	(1) 15-17
♥ 10742	♥ QJ953	2♥ (3)	pass	(2) transfer
♦ AJ5	♦ K106			(3) normal accept
♣ A10	♣ J75			

This was the bidding at one table. Very sensible, but a good game was missed. Obviously South cannot invite; the only way to reach game here is to play super-accepts. I will cover super-accepts in a later news sheet.

And the other two other tables? At one, 4♥ was reached (I don't know the bidding). At the third, West (Chuck) overcalled the 2♦ transfer with 2♥ (holding ♠Q965 ♥K ♦Q9842 ♣964). A psyche, more of this later. What happened? North bid 2NT over the 2♥ psyche and played there (making +2). As if he had not done enough already, West then proceeded to chide North for not realising that it was a psyche. This is **totally** unacceptable behaviour.

Another Psyche!

Board 14 from Monday 11th

West	East (F)	West	North	East	South
♠ 97	♠ KJ2			1♣ (1)	1♦
♥ A83	♥ KJ2	1♠ (2)	pass	1NT (3)	pass
♦ 9852	♦ KJ	2♣ (4)	pass	2♠ (5)	pass
♣ J643	♣ K10972	3♣ (6)	pass	5♣ (7)	all pass

This was the bidding on the next board, another outrageous out-and-out psyche by the same player (Chuck) on the very next board. Having made an illegal (in my opinion) controlled psyche, the offender then proceeded to berate his partner for bidding on! Let's have a look:

- (1) I prefer a strong 1NT here, but OK. With all these tenaces you should strive to be declarer in a NT contract, so open 1NT.
- (2) A psyche (aimed at preventing the opposition from finding a ♠ fit). Since this hand has ♣ support then there is a safe haven in a ♣ contract; then this is a *controlled* psyche and they are *illegal* in most competitions. They are most certainly not allowed at this club. 5♣ went minus 3 for a score of -150, opponents can make 3♠+1, scoring 170. So a good result anyway? No! I adjusted the score to give E-W zero and N-S 75%. Controlled psyches are not allowed and will receive an adjusted (Zero) score. I clearly stated this in the last para of news sheet 3. More about my opinions of psyches later.
- (3) 1NT here is 12-14, so the hand is a little too good.
- (4) Preference, so showing 4 ♠'s and 4+ ♣'s
- (5) With 3 good ♠'s and a better hand than he has shown, East decided to show his ♠ support.
- (6) Unable to accept that his psyche is going wrong, he bids on.
- (7) This is a nice East hand, and with partner bidding on and on, he decided to bid game.

Now East's bidding was by no means perfect. He is trying to improve his game and having a partner who psyches (and then criticises everybody at the table) does nothing to improve one's confidence. Having behaved appallingly, I feel that West's best course of action was to keep quiet. If he really wants to say something, then how about apologising to Ian, Kenneth and David? And read news sheet 3! I have made some more copies.

Psyches

Obviously I have to say something and make my position perfectly clear (again). I made everything pretty clear in news-sheet 3 and everything I said then stands (please re-read it). The last player who thought that he could psyche whenever he liked was thrown out of the club. Occasional psyches are not illegal (except controlled psyches), however this club has a large number of non-experienced players and psyching is not appreciated. '*Psyching against less experienced players is unsportsmanlike*' – An ACBL quote. Any player who psyches repeatedly will be requested to leave.

A Direct Cue Bid at the 4 level – A big Hand!Board 14 from Friday 8th

Dealer:	♠ -		West	North (C)	East	South
East	♥ 109862					
Love all	♦ Q6				3♦ (1)	4♦ (2)
	♣ K97542		4♠ (3)	5♥ (4)	pass	pass (5)
			dbl (6)	pass	pass	re-dble (7)
♠ AJ10862	N	♠ 7	pass	pass	pass	
♥ 53	W E	♥ 4				
♦ AK	S	♦ J10975432				
♣ AJ8		♣ 1063				
	♠ KQ9543					
	♥ AKQJ7					
	♦ 8					
	♣ Q					

- (1) Do you pre-empt with this hand? An 8 card suit, non-vul, with good intermediates; shame about the lack of top honours! Would I open it? If playing with Martin – yes. If playing with Chuck – no. I think it's a matter of style and partnership understanding, but I quite like it. Chuck, of course, demands a **much** better suit and hand in 1st seat.
- (2) A BIG hand. Too strong to double and obviously game forcing.
- (3) A nice hand, so bid it. If you get doubled you can always retreat into 5♦.
- (4) 5 points, a typical hand for me. I liked the ♥ suit opposite partner's advertised rock crusher, and so I bid 5♥. I guess that 5♣ is an equally good bid? Pass is for minnows.
- (5) A sensible pass, partner has not promised much and LHO obviously has a good hand.
- (6) Is there anybody out there who would not double with this hand?
- (7) South thinks 5♥ is making, and what's more, he knows what to do with a retreat to 5♠. South, of course, does not know the situation exactly; perhaps 6♥ is making? The redouble sorts that out; 5♥ making redoubled scores more than 6♥ (980).

So what actually happened? 5♥ redoubled made, of course (+ 1000, thank you). Is there a bid here that you think is dubious? Everything is reasonable (in my opinion), there is just one bid that may have cost several hundred points (and I don't mean the 3♦ opener). See if you can spot the dodgy bid (2-7). Answer at the end of this news sheet.

Rebid a 6 card ♠ suit or a 4 card ♥ suit?Board 11 from Monday 11th

North (D)	You open 1♠ and partner replies 1NT, what do you do? Too much shape to pass and not strong enough to jump. So 2♥ or 2♠?
♠ KJ10875	Should you re-bid a 6 card major or bid a 4 card suit? If the 4 card suit is a
♥ KQJ4	minor, then I would re-bid the major. However, with a 4 card ♥ suit, I
♦ 6	would rebid 2♥. I saw this hand bid twice on Monday and they rebid
♣ K7	2♠ on both occasions. 2♠ is not incorrect, but not my style. Just for a change Hans and
	Chuck both agree with me and would both rebid 2♥.

Mini Roman 2♦ Anyone?

Board 19 from Friday 8th

In line with my new policy of not mentioning names when bidding is not really up to scratch, let's just call these two Mickey and Donald. Now Mickey believes that there are better uses for a 2♦ opening than just a weak two, and so Donald suggested to play Mini Roman (4441 or 5440, any order, 11-15 points). Mickey was pleased to play anything different and although he had never played it before, he agreed. The very first time that a 2♦ opening occurred was: -

West	East	West (Donald)	East (Mickey)	(1) 11-15 pts, any 4441 shape (2) which shortage? (3) short ♥'s (4) to play
♠ AQ73	♠ K65	2♦ (1)	2NT (2)	
♥ 3	♥ KJ104	3♦ (3)	3NT (4)	
♦ AQ85	♦ K943	4♣ (5)	4♦ (6)	
♣ AKJ8	♣ 93	6NT (7)	pass	

So, a very silly auction and an equally silly final contract. Let's look at the bidding first: -

- (1) 20 points, so 5 points outside the agreed range. A psyche? What on earth would Chuck do if somebody did this against him?
- (2) Mickey was unfamiliar with this convention, but considered that 4♥ would be an excellent contract if ♥'s was not opener's short suit. If it was, then 3NT may have some play. So he bid 2NT to establish the shortage.
- (5) Obviously something is afoot. East is the captain and this is mutiny. Note that after 3NT, 4♣ is never Gerber. In this case it can only be natural.
- (6) East had no idea what was going on, but assumed that West was 4045 and for some reason did not trust East's declarer play in NT. Anyway, East preferred ♦'s and so he bid them.
- (7) This really is silly. East has shown a ♦ suit at (6) and 6♦ is the correct spot.

So what was going on? West decided to put East to the test with this new convention and so decided to psyche by 5 points. Bids like this at the first time that a convention is used destroys partnership trust. I guess that Donald thought that 4♣ was ace asking? (it is not). Just why he chose 6NT instead of the vastly superior 6♦ is beyond me – especially as he could then have been declarer. I guess that he thought that 4♦ was denying an ace and not natural? Anyway, the whole thing is total nonsense and West's psyche has been noted.

This hand is another perfect example of the good 4-4 fit producing an extra trick. 6NT is about a 10% proposition whereas 6♦ is way over 70%.

What actually happened? South led the ♥A and continued the suit and so the contract made easily. Leading an unsupported ace when RHO has promised that suit in the bidding (at least East's bidding could be believed) really is just about as silly as the actual auction. South actually held ♠ J109 and that is an obvious safe lead.

Partnerships who bid like this should not be gifted tops.

Another Mini Roman 2♦?

Board 25 from Friday 8th

Donald(Chuck) and Mickey(me) are again in action. This time Mickey was dealer and had an ideal 2♦ opener. However, not being impressed with the opening when used on board 19 he elected to give it a rest and open a mundane 1♣. Donald, however, was determined to have just as much fun on this deal.

North	South	North	South(1)	best with 4144 shape
		(Mickey)	(Donald)	(2) 4 th suit forcing
♠ A872	♠ K			(3) ♦'s stopped, fast arrival
♥ 10	♥ Q852	1♣ (1)	1♥	
♦ KQJ2	♦ A96	1♠	2♦ (2)	
♣ J984	♣ AQ1076	3NT (3)	4NT (4)	
		pass (5)		

So, a very silly auction and an equally silly final contract. Let's look at the bidding first: -

- (2) 4th suit forcing, asks partner to describe his hand further. Whether you play this as forcing for just one round or game forcing is a matter for partnership agreement.
- (3) A NT bid guarantees a stop. North thought the 4th suit bid was game forcing, thus 3NT is fast arrival and states that he is not really interested in another contract and denies any decent ♥ holding. In this case it shows a semi-balanced minimum with just 4 ♠'s, excellent ♦'s and short ♥'s. I guess that 2NT is safer if you had not agreed this.
- (4) Donald did not see it that way and for some reason thought that Mickey had 18-19 points. I believe that Donald meant his 4NT bid as Blackwood?
- (5) Mickey, however, knew better. 4NT is never Blackwood over 3NT. It is quantitative and in this case asked North to bid slam (6NT) if non-min – i.e. 14+ pts. Luckily Mickey had just 11 and so passed.

What can I say? Is this auction worse than the previous hand? 6♣ would be a sensible contract (5♣ is an equally good contract) but Mickey seems unable to get Donald to bid minor suit slams. Donald believes that minor suit slams are just 'lucky'. Be a man and bid 4NT or 6NT. Minor suits are for mice. What happened? Opponents led a ♦, ♣K was onside and 4NT was +1.

I understand that Mickey and Donald are returning to Disneyland to discuss their system (it's close enough to Chicago). Mickey still does not understand Mini Roman and Donald wants to re-read the news-sheets defining when 4♣ or 4NT asks for aces. He is also going to read up on minor suit slams as opposed to silly 6NT or 4NT contracts. And is 4th suit round forcing or game forcing? Is Concorde to Disneyland fast arrival?

Bidding Quiz answers

Hand A: 1NT

Hand B: 3♣ or pass

Hand C: 5♥

Hand D: 2♥

Hand E: pass

Hand F: 1NT

And the dodgy bid from that 5♥ re-doubled hand? Actually, the only dodgy one is the re-double at (7). True, you can certainly cope with a retreat into 5♠, but 6♦ is only one down! That would convert +650 into just +100. Give East a ♥ void and 6♦ would make.