

Last week's winners: Monday 25/11/03

Friday 29/11/03

1<sup>st</sup> Clive/Hans 69%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim/Garry 56%

1<sup>st</sup> Clive/Terry 69%  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Hans/Jan 54%

Well done Clive, two impressive scores. Clive is off on his travels (to Australia this time) and so that gives everybody else a chance to shine. At least he won't get treated like he was in Malaysia (anti-Farang), but then Aussies don't really love the poms do they? (especially after the rugby).

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

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♠, what do you reply.
♠ 74	♠ AQ10532	With Hand B LHO opens 1♥ which RHO raises to 2♥.
♥ 873	♥ 103	You bid 2♠ and LHO bids 3♥, round to you, do you bid again? (vulnerable, pairs)
♦ AKQJ	♦ AK63	
♣ 9842	♣ 6	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C you open 1♠ and LHO overcalls 2♦. Partner bids 2♥ (forcing, a good 5+ card suit). What do you bid?
♠ A10764	♠ 953	
♥ K63	♥ AJ965	With Hand D partner opens 1NT and you transfer with 2♦.
♦ -	♦ KQ2	But what do you do after partner's 2♥? Are you going slamming (4♣ asks for aces)? Or perhaps 4NT quantitative?
♣ KQ653	♣ A9	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 3♠ (vul), what do you bid?
♠ A	♠ Q32	
♥ 1032	♥ AJ109	With Hand F LHO opens 1♥, partner doubles and RHO bids 2♥, what do you do?
♦ A2	♦ J732	
♣ AK108653	♣ 96	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1NT, you transfer and partner bids 2♥, what now?
♠ K73	♠ J74	
♥ A10983	♥ K9	You choose to open Hand H with 1♦ (I prefer 1♣ but never mind), LHO overcalls 2♥ (weak) and partner bids 2♠. What do you do now?
♦ J109	♦ AQJ3	
♣ J3	♣ Q873	

**Space Filler.**

A new patient goes to see a psychiatrist: -

Patient: I have a problem Doc, I can't stop lying.

Psychiatrist: I don't believe you.

## Texture!

Hans' favourite word, and it's important on the following two boards: -

### Once is Enough

Board 13 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, both vul.

Dealer:	♠ KJ9	West (B)	North	East	South
North	♥ KQ874				
Both vul	♦ 4	-	1♥	pass	2♥
	♣ Q1042	2♠ (1)	3♥ (2)	pass	pass
		3♠ (3)	dbl (4)	pass	pass
		pass			
♠ AQ10532	N				
♥ 103	W E				
♦ AK63	S				
♣ 6					

- (1) Vulnerable, at the two level, you really need a hand as good as this to come in with an unlimited opener on your left.
- (2) This bid is merely competitive. 2NT, 3♣ or 3♦ would be game tries. I would play a double here as penalties or optional (you already have a fit and so there is no need for a take-out double).
- (3) I don't like this, the ♠ suit has no 'body' or texture. This hand has decent defensive values and should pass, especially at this vulnerability.
- (4) A typical pairs double. North (me) expected 3♥ to make, scoring +140. If 3♠ goes minus one then that is just +100, you need to double to get the 'magic' +200. At teams scoring it is different and I would pass with the North hand.

3♠ went minus 1 for a good score to N-S. If west had passed 3♥ then that would have made exactly and the resulting - 140 would have been a good score for E-W. The bottom line? You need a better suit than AQ10532 to venture in at the 3 level vulnerable, especially if you have already bid the suit once and LHO has the power.

### Twice, OK. But three times?

Board 8 from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, love all

East	West	North	East	South
♠ KQ6	pass	pass	1♥	2♦
♥ AQ9642	pass	pass	2♥ (1)	3♦
♦ 5	pass	pass	3♥ (2)	pass
♣ K107	pass	dbl	all pass	

- (1) I assume that E-W were not playing negative doubles? Playing negative doubles, a double is 'obligatory' here, certainly with this hand. Anyway, if not playing negative doubles I suppose that 2♥ is OK.
- (2) So what about this bid? Partner has passed throughout and LHO obviously has the lion's share of the outstanding points. To bid this threadbare suit yet again is suicidal. Think about texture (body)! Just think what Hans would say. This suit has more holes than a sieve. Minus 300 was a deserved bottom.

## About Transfers

There is no doubt that transfers over partner's 1NT are one of the most powerful bidding tools to be developed 'recently'. The basics are not complicated and really should be learnt. One player got the following two hands wrong on Monday: -

### Your Rebid Having Transferred

Board 27 from Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, love all

West (G)	West	North	East	South
♠ K73	-	-	-	pass
♥ A10983	pass	pass	1NT	pass
♦ J109	2♦	pass	2♥	pass
♣ J3	3♥ (1)	pass	4♥ (2)	all pass

(1) The following is an **exact** quote from my comments on Hand D from last week:

*'Just last week I again repeated that with just 5 of the transfer suit, don't rebid them. The correct bid here is 3NT, showing game values and exactly 5 ♥'s.'* Looks like I have to keep plugging away until we get it right? With an excellent ♥ suit and a ♦ holding that is worth more than one point, West has an easy game force, so 3NT.

(2) West's 3♥ bid at (1) should show 6 ♥'s and invitational values (so 8 points playing a strong NT or 11 points playing a weak NT). East had a max with ♥Kx and so correctly raised to 4♥. 3NT was a better contract (it made +1 at other tables).

### About Super-Accepts

Board 10 from Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, both vul

The same player (South this time) went wrong again here. It is probably best not to play super-accepts until you have completely mastered transfers.

North (D)	South	West	North	East	South
♠ 953	♠ AK86	-	-	pass	1NT
♥ AJ965	♥ K87	pass	2♦	pass	3♥ (1)
♦ KQ2	♦ A85	pass	4♣ (2)	pass	4♠
♣ A9	♣ Q62	pass	6♥	all pass	

(1) A super-accept. I covered the various options for super-accepting in news sheet 43. Perhaps the simplest is to only super-accept with a maximum and 4 trumps. This South hand fails on both counts, it is minimum with only 3 trumps, and what's more, it's totally flat. Apparently South did not want to bid 2♥ as he was afraid that North might pass – no problem, South has described his hand perfectly with 1NT. North is now the Captain, leave it up to him unless you have something definite to say (i.e. 4 trumps and a maximum).

(2) Ace ask. With ♥'s agreed I prefer 4NT as the RKCB here (4♣ is then a cue bid).

6♥ failed by one trick. Simply bidding 4♥ (1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3NT - 4♥) would have scored a joint top as two tables were in 3NT. So, in this recommended sequence should South convert 3NT to 4♥ with this flat hand? With 4 ♥'s he should, with 2 ♥'s it's best to pass 3NT. With 3 ♥'s it's debatable, my personal opinion is to convert to 4♥ with 3 to an honour (A,K or Q) and play in NT if all the points are spread outside the trump suit.

## Getting Too High

Board 3 from Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

There was a mixed bag of final contracts by N-S on this board (2NT, 2♥, 2♠ and passed out). This was the bidding I saw at one table.

North	South (A)	West	North	East	South
♠ J10863	♠ 74	-	-	-	pass
♥ QJ	♥ 873	pass	1♠ (1)	pass	2♦ (2)
♦ 3	♦ AKQJ	pass	2NT	pass	pass
♣ AK1053	♣ 9842	pass			

- (1) I have mentioned the opening bid when 5-5 in the black suits a few times, opinion is divided. 1♠ is often chosen, but then you have a rebid problem if partner replies with 2♦ or 2♥. 3♣, of course, would be game forcing and so you have to choose between 2♠ and 2NT. This ♠ suit is a miserable suit to rebid and 2NT is certainly no thing of beauty. One solution is to open 1♣ when the ♠ suit is miserable; you then have no rebid problem (1♠) but you may miss a 5-3 ♠ fit. I would open this hand 1♣ unless I was playing 2/1 (when 1♠ - 2♦/♥ - 3♣ would not promise a strong hand).
- (2) I have said on umpteen occasions that you need 11 points (or a *good* 10) to reply with a new suit at the two level when you play a strong NT. This South hand is not good enough (add a 5<sup>th</sup> ♦ and it would be). 2♦ is, of course, doubly bad as it indicates more ♦'s than ♣'s – a bit of a shame as partner had a ♣ suit. This hand clearly demonstrates why 10 points is not enough, if opener rebids 2NT on a 12 – 13 count (or even a shapely 11 as here) then 2NT will probably be too high. The correct response to 1♠ with this hand is 1NT. This would have worked out very well here and partner would have rebid 2♣. So, it was played 4 times and nobody landed in 2♣, shame on you.

And what happened? 2NT went minus one, as did 2♠ (1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠) bid at another table. One player passed the North hand, a reasonable option but I would open 1♣ (the bidding then goes 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♣ - pass) unless playing 2/1 (open 1♠). And what about that silly 2♥ contract? That was, of course, Ian - simply trying to be clever. And why bid 2♥? He was playing with Mike and Mike asked me what he should bid as South (pointing to his ♦ suit). I said that he could not bid a suit at the two level as he had insufficient points and that 1NT was correct. He bid 1NT and the next hand overcalled 2♦, so an excellent result for N-S? NO!! Ian (North) just had to demonstrate how clever he is; he had heard what I had said and tried to take full advantage of it. Figuring that partner had a suit and that it was unlikely to be ♣'s or ♦'s, he bid 2♥ (thus scoring a frigid bottom). Totally ridiculous of course, but also TOTALLY unethical. I have warned Ian about this type of behaviour before. My policy is to help beginners but I will be unable to assist anybody in future if Ian is their partner.

The bottom line (ignoring Ian). It does not really matter what your policy of opening with these 5-5 hands is, that was not the root cause of getting too high here. The problem is the one which I see every week, bidding at the two level with insufficient values when playing a strong NT. You need 11 points (or a *good* 10), do not listen to people who say ten is enough, a poor 10 (like this South hand) is not, you need a decent five card suit (or decent 3 card support for partner's major) to venture at the two level with just 10 points, this board demonstrates why – you have to be able to cope with a 2NT rebid from opener. If your partner cannot understand that bidding at the two level on hands like this is poor bidding (some do it week after week), then open 1♣! An excellent reason for not playing 4 card majors with a strong NT (keep the bidding low, only open 1♥/♠ with 5 cards).

### An Easy Slam Missed by Everybody

Board 14 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, love all

North	South (C)	West	North	East	South
♠ 9	♠ A10764	-	-	pass	1♠ (1)
♥ AJ10852	♥ K63	2♦	2♥ (2)	pass	4♥ (3)
♦ A103	♦ -	pass	pass	pass	
♣ A42	♣ KQ653				

- (1) Many players prefer 1♣ to 1♠ when 5-5 in the black suits. I have no problem with either (I stated my preference earlier).
- (2) 2♥ here is forcing of course and shows a good 5+ card suit with 10+ points.
- (3) You want to be in game (the ♦ overcall has improved your hand immensely), so bid it? That's what all four South's did on Friday, but is it the best bid?

6♥ is obviously an easy contract (7♥ made), but how do you reach slam? The answer is that South must splinter with 4♦ at (3), showing ♥ support, values for game and shortage (singleton or void) in ♦'s. I know it's only 12 points and 3 card support, but look at those top cards and the void in opponent's suit. Partner has promised a 5+ card suit and 5-3 fits play well when you get ruffs with the short hand. North will settle for 4♥ with a minimum or if he doesn't like ♦ shortage, he has a simple 6♥ bid here. Splinters really are worth mastering.

### Is It Forcing or Just a Noise?

Board 2 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul.

It really is worth knowing which bids are weak, invitational or forcing. I gave a brief summary in new-sheet 48 for when there is no interference. But what if opponents interfere?

South (H)	West	North	East	South
♠ J74	-	-	pass	1♦ (1)
♥ K9	2♥ (2)	2♠ (3)	pass	pass (4)
♦ AQJ3	pass			
♣ Q873				

- (1) I prefer 1♣ when 4-4 in the minors, but others prefer 1♦, so OK.
- (2) Weak
- (3) Now then, is 2♠ here weak, invitational or forcing? Standard is that it is 100% forcing with a good (5+ card) suit (as in the example above with the 2♥ bid).
- (4) South cannot pass. He has 3 reasonable alternatives, they are simply the same bid as he would have made if there was no interference and partner had responded 1♠ (although one level higher). Do not worry that you are up a level, partner has forced you to bid this high, trust him. So what do you rebid? 2NT, 3♣, or 3♠?

Presumably South opened 1♦ (and not 1♣) with the intention of rebidding 2♣? If so then 3♣ now is consistent but I would assume a 5 card ♦ suit. So 2NT? with a ♥ stop, quite reasonable. Or 3♠? Equally good, partner has promised a good 5+ card suit and this support is adequate. Anyway, I would not particularly argue with any of these bids, *but do not pass!*  
And what happened? Partner had a 13 count, an easy 3NT was missed.

### When Partner Doubles

Board 21 from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> , N-S vul

West	East (F)	West	North	East	South
♠ A1084	♠ Q32	-	pass	pass	1♥
♥ 4	♥ AJ109	dbl (1)	2♥	dbl (2)	pass
♦ AK108	♦ J732	pass	pass		
♣ Q854	♣ 96				

2♥ made comfortably, what went wrong for E-W?

- (1) A classic take-out double.
- (2) A double here is best played as responsive, asking partner to pick the suit and (in the case of a double of 1♥) promising both minors and (usually) exactly 3 ♠'s. E-W had not agreed this and this double was for penalties. A poor bid. 2NT is a possible bid, but it really is not strong enough (East would bid 1NT if North had not raised). Pass is obviously a very sensible option, but so is 2♠. A moysian fit, but it should play reasonably well and E-W were non-vul. Who knows, bid 2♠ and N-S may just bid on to 3♥? I prefer 2♠ to 3♦ as the 3 level really is too high.

### Raising Partner's Pre-empt

Board 16 from Friday 29<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul

West	East (E)	West (Ian)	North	East (Mike)	South
♠ KQJ8753	♠ A	3♠	pass	4♠ (1)	pass
♥ 54	♥ 1032	pass	pass		
♦ J75	♦ A2				
♣ 2	♣ AK108653				

- (1) Nice to see a sound pre-empt from Ian. Some would not pre-empt with this hand at unfavourable vulnerability but I would (this suit is classic), points in the right places.
- (2) This really is an excellent bid with this hand. You have a 7-1 major suit fit and 4♠ should be a doddle. Well bid Mike. The board was played at two other tables, once in 5♣ (minus 3) and once in 5♠ (doubled, minus one). Presumably East kept on bidding ♣'s? It really is silly to even mention this ♣ suit, the ♠A is excellent support for a 7 card suit and 10 tricks are easier than 11. Also, this East hand will provide 4 (maybe more) tricks for West's ♠ contract (note that the West hand provides nothing for a ♣ contract by East).

### Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 1NT. Not enough for a 2 level response. 2♦ is a doubly poor bid as it indicates longer ♦'s than ♣'s.

Hand B: Pass. The suit is not good enough to bid again at the three level.

Hand C: Bid 4♦, a splinter showing ♦ shortage and ♥ support. 4♥ is rather feeble and 3♥ would be pathetic.

Hand D: 3NT. It's not quite good enough for slam unless partner super-accepts.

Hand E: 4♠. Don't bother to bid the ♣ suit.

Hand F: 2♠ or pass are OK. 2NT and 3♦ are overbids, but far better than double.

Hand G: 3NT. You have values for game and rebidding ♥'s would show a 6 card suit.

Hand H: 2NT, 3♣ or 3♠, I don't care. Anything, *but do not pass!*