



Monday 8/11/2004

Friday 12/11/2004

1<sup>st</sup> Phil(UK)/Mike (Can) 63 %  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Clive/Ken 62 %

1<sup>st</sup> Tomas/Philip(Ire) 61 %  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Kees/Bjorn 56 %

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

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A RHO opens 1♦, what do you bid?
♠ J2	♠ AQ843	
♥ AKJ6	♥ KQ	With Hand B RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♦ Q63	♦ J53	
♣ AK43	♣ K108	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C you open 1♠ and partner responds 2♠. What do you bid?
♠ KQ10854	♠ -	
♥ KQ9	♥ 65432	With Hand D partner opens 1♠. (a) what do you do?
♦ A82	♦ J753	(b) suppose that you bid 1NT, then what do you do after partner rebids 2♠?
♣ 6	♣ AJ72	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ K82	♠ J	
♥ A65	♥ QJ102	With Hand F you open 1♣ and LHO overcalls 1NT (15-18). Partner passes and RHO bids 2♥ (transfer). What do you do?
♦ AJ52	♦ 1093	
♣ QJ8	♣ AK653	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G RHO opens 1♥, what do you do?
♠ Q1076	♠ QJ987642	
♥ Q	♥ 53	With Hand H you are in 1 <sup>st</sup> seat, non-vul against vul. What do you open?
♦ J92	♦ 3	
♣ AK1092	♣ Q9	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J partner opens 1♠ and you raise to 2♠. (a) Partner then bids 3♠ (invitational), what do you do? (b) Partner then bids 3♦ (help-suit game try), what do you do?
♠ 9762	♠ 2	
♥ 107	♥ KJ1062	
♦ KQJ4	♦ A987	With Hand K you open 1♥, partner responds 1♠ and you bid 2♦. Partner then bids 2♠, what do you do now?
♣ 743	♣ KQ9	
Hand L	Hand M	What, if anything, do you open with Hand L, vul against non vul?
♠ K82	♠ 3	
♥ KQ10654	♥ AQJ8	With Hand M what would you bid if
♦ J1065	♦ AJ8	(a) Partner opens 3♠?
♣ -	♣ AJ1063	(b) Partner opens 4♠?

**Double or Overcall? Part 1** Board 8 from Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, love all, dlr East

West (G) At the end of the Friday session I was accosted by a very experienced pair who did not like the opponent's bid with this hand. Apparently South had opened 1♥ and this hand doubled. What did you do with Hand G in this week's quiz? My inquisitors stated that double showed an opening hand. I disagreed. They then suggested that this hand should bid 2♣. I again disagreed. A 2♣ overcall is not incorrect, but I personally prefer dbl as this hand holds 4 ♠'s. Now this is an area where it appears that even very experienced players disagree. I believe that a take-out double of 1♥ is the best bid with this hand. I would still double if the ♥Q were a small ♥.

Time for a Terry lecture: -

Initially, a take out double and an overcall promise about the same strength. Typically about 8-16 for a one level overcall and 10+ for a shapely double; whatever, up to you. So a double is close to opening values, but does not promise an opening hand and is not necessarily stronger than a simple overcall. The difference is in the shape of the hand. An overcall promises a 5 card suit; a double is usually playable in the other three suits and generally denies a 5 card major. Let's have a couple of extreme hands: -

Hand X	Hand Y	
♠ K1076	♠ Q107	Take this Hand X for example. RHO opens 1♣. Would you timidly pass? It's nowhere near an opening bid and perhaps the feint hearted would pass, but I would double.
♥ K1076	♥ K97	And with Hand Y RHO opens 1♣, what do you do? This hand is stronger, so double? I most certainly would pass. When the opponents have opened the bidding it's shape that counts unless you have oodles of points.
♦ K9762	♦ KQ4	
♣ -	♣ K852	

So a double and an overcall initially show about the same strength. So what do you do with a very strong hand? Then you double and subsequently bid again. Thus double or overcall are initially about the same strength but double may show a very strong hand if the doubler later bids again. In my view double is fine with this Hand G and is what I would have chosen.

Incidentally, a two level overcall (or a double of a 1♠ or higher opening) needs to be stronger (about 11+ for a double of 1♠) as partner is then forced to the two level.

The bottom lines:

- There are opening hands that are not worth a double and doubling hands that are not worth an opening bid. It's shape that counts when doubling/overcalling.

## Overcall or double? \_part 2

Board 14 from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ 962					
East	♥ A9764		West (B)	North	East	South (me)
Love all	♦ KQ2		-	-	pass	1♣
	♣ 42		dbl (1)	1♥ (2)	pass	2♣
			dbl (3)	pass	2♠	pass
♠ AQ843	N	♠ J105	3♠ (4)	pass (5)	pass	pass
♥ KQ	W E	♥ J1083				
♦ J53	S	♦ 1084				
♣ K108		♣ Q75				
	♠ K7					
	♥ 52					
	♦ A976					
	♣ AJ963					

(1) So what did you bid at (1) with Hand B in this week's quiz? I bet a lot of you doubled? That is wrong for a number of reasons and a couple of them are highlighted here. Suppose you double and partner bids a red suit, what will you do? A 2♠ bid would then show a very strong hand (too good to overcall) – about 17+ points.

So what is the correct bid? I would overcall 1♠ because it is usually best to get your decent 5 card major in. A reasonable alternative is 1NT – 15-18 with a ♣ stop.

(2) With 9 points you can re-double, but with poor ♠'s and a 5 card ♥ suit I like this 1♥ bid.

(3) West is now in a pickle (because of his unwise initial double). Any bid now shows values that he does not have but I guess that 2♠ is the worst of the evils. This 2<sup>nd</sup> double just digs the grave deeper.

(4) Now West has made two poor bids and overbid. But he has landed on his feet when partner luckily had no option but to bid his 3 card major. But some people just cannot stay on their feet and so West decided upon a monstrous overbid (partner has promised zero points – two passes and a forced bid).

(5) North could have doubled this. But this is a friendly club and there's no need to rub it in – a top is a top. And who knows, maybe West actually had his bid(s)?

And what happened? 3♠ was two down for a bottom. At other tables 2♠ made exactly.

The bottom lines: -

- If you have a 5 card major, then overcall.
- An overcall is not necessarily weaker than double, and shows about 8-16 points.
- A double followed by a new suit shows a big hand (too strong to overcall).

**Overcall or double? \_part 3**Board 17 from Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ 864					
North	♥ 1097		West	North	East(me)	South (A)
Love all	♦ K		-	pass	1♦	dbl (1)
	♣ J107652		3♦ (2)	pass	pass	dbl (3)
			pass	pass (4)	pass	
♠ Q976	N	♠ AK105				
♥ 85	W E	♥ Q432				
♦ J7542	S	♦ A1098				
♣ 98		♣ Q				
	♠ J2					
	♥ AKJ6					
	♦ Q63					
	♣ AK43					

Just one N-S pair (Clive/Ken) managed to find a good contract (4♣) on these cards, let's have a look: -

(1) So what did you bid at (1) with Hand A in this week's quiz? I bet a lot of you doubled? That is wrong for a number of reasons and a couple of them are highlighted here. Suppose you double and partner bids a not totally unexpected 1♠ - what do you do then? Any bid would show a stronger hand. It is unwise to double when you have a doubleton in an unbid major; the correct bid is 1NT, showing 15-18 pts and a ♦ stop.

(2) And what would you bid with this West hand at (2)? Pass is fine, but I quite like my partner's weak 3♦ bid. Now this is denying a 4 card major but the hand is too weak to bid 1♠ and RHO's double would normally show ♠'s and so, on this rare occasion, I think that by-passing the ♠ suit to find the pre-emptive bid is fine.

(3) Now South is in a spot because of his poor initial bid. He has no sensible bid. 3NT would show a much stronger hand (and with just one tentative ♦ stop will usually go way down). The ♥ suit is not long enough to venture 3♥. So double? Then how happy will you be if partner bids 3♠ and you get doubled? No. It's unbidable now.

(4) As it happened N-S had an escape route because North had a 6 card ♣ suit. Unfortunately at this table (and one other) he declined to bid it.

And how should the bidding have gone? South should overcall 1NT and then North will either transfer to 3♣ (via 2♠) or else pass (my preference). Both are respectable contracts and if there is further competition then North can bid on up to 4♣. Remember, once South bids 1NT then North is the captain in deciding how high to be pushed.

And what happened? Out of 7 tables, 3 N-S pairs overbid to 5♣ (one down). One stopped nicely in 4♣. One East was miraculously left to play in 1♠! And the last two tables were 3♦ doubled (making).

The bottom lines: -

- If you have a fairly balanced hand with 15-18 points, then overcall 1NT if you have a stop for RHO's suit.
- You must have a stop for the suit opened, but a 1NT overcall is fine with an outside weak suit.
- If you can accurately describe your hand in one go, do so.
- Do not double with a doubleton in an unbid major – you will be fixed later in the auction.
- Do not pass partner's take-out double without excellent trumps.

## Bidding worth waking me up for?

Board 18 from Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul.

On Monday night at about 10.00 pm one member woke up the whole household (we go to bed early) by phoning me to tell me how well he (Table A) had bid to this slam and asked for my comments. Well, I've commented on the phone call, so let's see about the bidding: -

West	East	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ K4	♠ QJ975	-	-	pass (1)	pass
♥ AQ106	♥ 7	2NT (2)	pass	3♥ (3)	pass
♦ K4	♦ AJ10976	3♠	pass	4♦ (4)	pass
♣ AK1073	♣ Q	4NT (5)	pass	5♦	pass
		6NT	all pass		

<u>Table B</u>			
West	North	East (me)	South
-	-	pass (1)	pass
1♣ (2)	pass	1♠ (3)	pass
2♥ (4)	pass	3♦ (5)	pass
3NT (6)	all pass		

Table A: (1) This East hand might well consider opening. It conforms with the rule of 20 (it's 21) but I agree with pass – you can probably come in later and describe the hand better.

(2) 2NT is 20 –22, this hand is an excellent 19 and with tenaces galore (you want to be declarer) I would not argue with 2NT on this occasion.

(3) Transfer to ♠'s, fine.

(4) 2<sup>nd</sup> suit, game forcing.

(5) Now I've been happy with this bidding up to now, but what is 4NT here? West has described his hand and has nothing to spare. With a mis-fit for partner how does West show interest in signing off in 4NT? This is something that regular partnerships need to discuss – what does 4♥ mean here? I would play 4NT as a suggestion to play there and 4♥ (4<sup>th</sup> suit) as showing slam interest and leaving it up to partner – but it's up to you.

Anyway, this pair could not stop and reached a slam that is less than 50%. Worth waking me up for?

Table B: (1) I also chose to pass with this East hand.

(2) My partner opened 1♣ and I would not disagree.

(3) So should East bid his 6 card ♦ suit or the 5 card ♠ suit? I chose the major.

(4) A reverse, so forcing and fine. 2NT (18-19) is an alternative (which I would choose because both unbid suits are covered with tenaces).

(5) 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing. In this case it is also natural.

(6) I have a ♦ stop.

And what happened? The ♥K and ♦Q were both onside and so 6NT made. One other pair bid 6NT but managed to go two down. Most pairs were in the 'best' contract of 3NT.

The bottom lines; -

- It is rarely correct for the crew to ask with Blackwood.
- Know how to stop in 4NT.
- I go to bed early.

**Stay low with a mis-fit – part 1**Board 10 from Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, both vul.

West	East (D)	West	North	East	South
♠ AQ10432	♠ -	-	-	pass	pass
♥ -	♥ 65432	1♠	pass	1NT	pass
♦ KQ92	♦ J753	2♠ (1)	pass	2NT (2)	pass
♣ 842	♣ AJ72	3♠ (3)	pass	pass	pass

A silly contract (luckily not doubled - 2♠ was doubled at another table). Let's have a look; -

- (1) West has a choice here, 2♦ or 2♠. If the ♦ suit were ♥'s then I would prefer 2♥, but majors score more than minors and I agree with 2♠.
- (2) So what did you bid at (2) with Hand D in this week's quiz? 2NT is terrible. Partner has a 6 card ♠ suit and it's a mis-fit. You must pass.
- (3) Of course it's difficult to say what West should do when partner bids like this. Bid 3♦ and hope that he comes to his senses? Find a new partner??

And what happened? 3♠ was two down so 200 away for a joint bottom.

The bottom lines: -

- I believe that I am repeating from a previous news-sheet: - *'If partner does not like 1NT, then he won't like 2NT'*.
- I believe that I am repeating from a previous news-sheet: - *'Bail out ASAP with mis-fits'*.

**Stay low on a mis-fit – part 2**Board 11 from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, love all

Two out of the 3 tables went overboard on this deal: -

North	South (K)	West	North	East	South
♠ AQ8754	♠ 2	-	-	-	1♥
♥ 8	♥ KJ1062	pass	1♠	pass	2♦
♦ 654	♦ A987	pass	2♠ (1)	pass	pass (2)
♣ 643	♣ KQ9	pass			

- (1) A weak bid with a 6 card suit, you expect partner to pass with a weak hand.
- (2) So what did you bid at (2) with Hand K in this week's quiz? You must pass. Partner's 2♠ bid is weak, showing a decent 6 card suit. It is a mis-fit, you should only bid on if you have a very good hand and can envisage a game.

And what happened? 2♠ made exactly and scored a clear top. 3♠ (-2) and 3NT (-3) were bid at the other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- I believe that I am repeating from a previous news-sheet: - *'Bail out ASAP with mis-fits'*.

## Sticking your neck out

Board 5 from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A10743  
North ♥ 7  
N-S vul ♦ K87  
♣ 10974

♠ Q965	N	♠ J
♥ K9843	W E	♥ QJ102
♦ Q64	S	♦ 1093
♣ 2		♣ AK653
	♠ K82	
	♥ A65	
	♦ AJ52	
	♣ QJ8	

### Table A

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

### Table B

West	North(me)	East (F)	South (E)
-	pass	1♣	1NT (1)
pass (2)	2♥ (3)	3♣ (4)	pass
pass	dbl (5)	all pass	

Table A: (1) So what did you bid at (1) with Hand E in this week's quiz? Pass is reasonable but I suspect that most people would wish to bid and so it's 1NT; 15-18 points with a ♣ stop.

(2) When partner opens and RHO overcalls 1NT then the only strong bid is double (penalties). With this West hand I would bid 2♥, non-forcing.

(3) Transfer

(4) Obviously East must pass here, and so the ♥ fit is lost.

Table B: (4) The same up to (4), but what did you bid with Hand F in this week's quiz? This East decided to bid again 'because he had a singleton ♠'. With just 11 points under a strong NT overcaller this is certainly sticking your neck out. Double (showing ♥'s) is the only other reasonable option.

(5) Chop, chop.

And what happened? 3♣ scored its deserved minus 500 for a bottom. 2♠ somehow went minus 1 but still scored an average. 3♥ by West was bid at another table and made +1.

The bottom lines: -

- A 1NT overcall is 15-18.
- If you open and LHO bids 1NT then he has the power. You need a very good hand to bid again if partner is silent.
- If partner opens and RHO overcalls 1NT (15-18) then you generally double (penalties) with 9+ points. Thus a simple suit bid is about 6-8 points and non-forcing, generally a 5+ card suit.

**Don't pre-empt your own side!**

Board 17 from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, love all.

North	South
♠ AQ10	♠ 9
♥ K108	♥ Q7
♦ K42	♦ AQJ108753
♣ AQJ4	♣ K5

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	pass	1♦ (1)
pass	2NT (2)	pass	4♣ (3)
pass	4♠ (4)	pass	6♦
all pass			

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	pass	3♦ (1)
pass	3NT	all pass	

- Table A: (1) It's up to your partnership if you respond 1♦ or 2♦ here. In Standard American the jump shift is strong (good suit) and I would bid 2♦.  
 (2) 18-19 points. I.e. a hand too strong to open 1NT.  
 (3) After partner's last bid is NT, 4♣ asks for aces.  
 (4) Two aces.

Table B: (1) What a silly bid! Either 1♦ or 2♦ are forcing and so this just takes away bidding space from partner.

And what happened? 3NT made +4 for a clear bottom. The other tables were in 6♦, making and making +1.

So quite sensible bidding at Table A, but how should the bidding go to reach 6NT? I have two alternatives (depending upon whether South jumps or not): -

Table X

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	pass	1♦ (1)
pass	2NT (2)	pass	4♣ (3)
pass	4♠ (4)	pass	5♣ (5)
pass	5♠ (6)	pass	6NT
all pass			

Table Y

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	pass	2♦ (1)
pass	3♦ (7)	pass	4NT (8)
pass	5♣ (9)	pass	6NT
all pass			

- Table X: (5) Kings?  
 (6) Two.

- Table Y: (1) Good ♦'s, game forcing.  
 (7) Agrees ♦'s, obviously forcing.  
 (8) RKCB.  
 (9) 3 key cards.

The bottom lines: -

- Especially at pairs, don't jump to a suit slam if 6NT may be better.
- A (strong) NT opener is usually best as declarer.
- A new suit by responder is forcing. A jump by responder shows a good suit and is game forcing. A double jump by responder is just silly (unless it is a splinter).
- 4♣ asks for aces after partner's last bid was NT, but ...
- ... 4NT asks for aces (or keycards if you play RKCB) after partner's last bid was a suit.



## The help-suit game try

Board 23 from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, both vul

An excellent game was reached here on minimal values (20 points), let's have a look: -

North (J)	South (C)	West	North(me)	East	South
♠ 9762	♠ KQ10854	-	-	-	1♠
♥ 107	♥ KQ9	pass	2♠	pass	3♦ (1)
♦ KQJ4	♦ A82	pass	4♠ (2)	all pass	
♣ 743	♣ 6				

(1) So what did you bid with Hand C at (1) in this week's quiz? You want to invite game and so 3♠ is the traditional bid. But there is a far better method – the help suit game try. ♠'s are agreed and a bid of 3♦ here asks partner to bid game (4♠) if he can help in the ♦ suit.

(2) This hand is minimum (just 6 points) but that is not important. The important factors are 4 card ♠ support and excellent ♦'s. Partner has asked for ♦ help and you have two important cards for him – so that's enough to go to game.

Note that without the help-suit game try, South would bid 3♠ and North would obviously pass with his minimum.

And what happened? 4♠ made exactly scoring 620. At other tables E-W were playing the contract and conceding just 100.

The bottom lines:

- If you open one of a major and partner supports at the two level, then 2NT, 3♣, 3♦ and a bid of the other major are all game tries. A raise to 3 of the agreed major is also a game try but some players play it as pre-emptive.

**What do you open? Pass or 1♥ or 2♥?**

Board 21 from Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul.

I was asked what I would open as North in 1<sup>st</sup> seat on this deal. Now N-S can make 4♥ or 4♠ and E-W can make 4♣ (or 5♣ if the defence get it wrong). Let's have a look: -

Dealer:	♠ K82	West	North (L)	East	South
North	♥ KQ10654	-	2♥ (1)	3♣	3♥ (2)
N-S vul	♦ J1065				
	♣ -		all pass		

♠ J643	N	♠ Q
♥ 92	W E	♥ J73
♦ A843	S	♦ K
♣ A82		♣ KQ1097654
	♠ A10975	
	♥ A8	
	♦ Q972	
	♣ J3	

This was our table. So what did you open with Hand L at (1) in this week's quiz? I chose 2♥ because at this vulnerability (unfavourable) it should be top of the range. However, I would not argue if you say it's too good: the hand is playable in three suits and there may well be a better fit elsewhere. There is, however, one action that I would argue with, and that is pass. I like to play that there is no 'gap' between a one level opening and a two level pre-empt. I.e. with 6-10 (or 6-9 if you prefer) you open two and with 11 (or 10-11) you open one. So I would certainly not pass and either 1♥ or 2♥ are fine by me.

South's raise at (2) made it difficult for West and so ended the auction.

So was it a good result for N-S or not? Without the pre-empt and raise then E-W will surely go to 5♣; maybe making or going one off. So, paradoxically, N-S do best not to find their solid game!

And what happened? 5♣ was bid at 4 tables and made twice. 4♣ was bid and made twice. 3♥ made an overtrick and scored a clear top for N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't have a 'gap' between your opening one and two bids with a 6 card major. If it's too good for a weak two, then open one.
- However, if you have 4 cards in the other major, then don't open a weak two (or weak three). So pass with ♠ Q974 ♥ KQ9765 ♦ J8 ♣ 6 (or ♠ K984 ♥ KJ109873 ♦ Q ♣ 6) and bid your suit later.
- (Some players) follow the above rule but will dismiss a weak 4 card major such as Jxxx.
- So a pre-emptive bid after passing implies a (reasonable) side 4 card major.
- When vul against not, a pre-empt is top of the range.
- When you have a void you can choose Dave's 'rule of 19'. A 1♥ opener is certainly acceptable (maybe better than 2♥) with this Hand L.
- Sometimes you are just lucky, who need science?

## Namyats

Board 12 from Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, N-S vul

West (H)	East (M)
♠ QJ987642	♠ 3
♥ 53	♥ AQJ8
♦ 3	♦ AJ8
♣ Q9	♣ AJ1063

<u>Table A</u>			
West	North	East	South
3♠ (1)	pass	4♠ (2)	all pass

<u>Table B</u>			
West	North	East	South
4♠ (1)	pass	pass (3)	pass

<u>Table C</u>			
West	North	East	South
4♠ (1)	pass	6♠ (4)	all pass

So what did you open with Hand H in this week's quiz? 3♠ or 4♠? At this vulnerability I would like to open 4♠, but not if partner is going to leap off to slam. I'll explain how to avoid this problem later.

- Table A: (1) 3♠ was the most popular choice of opening bid, quite sensible if you can't differentiate between a decent 4 opening and a heap.  
(2) And what did you bid at (2) with Hand M in this week's quiz? Everybody got this right. I like to think that some of them may have been influenced by my writings – I bet a number would have bid the poor 3NT a year or so ago?
- Table B: (1) At this vulnerability I agree with a 4♠ opening.  
(3) An inspired pass?
- Table C: (4) This East bid slam – quite reasonable opposite most 4♠ openers.

And what happened? The ♣K was onside and so 4♠ made and 6♠ was down. But is there a more scientific approach if West wants to pre-empt at the 4 level?

Hand R	Hand S	
♠ QJ1087642	♠ AKJ109876	Consider these two hands. 4♠ is a very sensible opening with either of these hands, but how do you let partner know that Hand R is purely pre-emptive whereas Hand S would not be adverse to an advance towards slam? The answer is Namyats.
♥ K3	♥ -	
♦ 3	♦ K93	
♣ 92	♣ Q9	

Now you may recall from previous news-sheets that I do not like to open 4♣ or 4♦ with a long minor suit as it goes past 3NT. Thus the bids are spare and are used to differentiate between 'good' and 'bad' 4 of a major openings.

So with Hand R (or our West Hand H) we open 4♠ - a real heap. But with Hand S we open 4♦ - a sound 4♠ opener (4♣ is a sound 4♥). Partner then either bids 4 of the major to sign off or else investigates slam.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1NT. 15-18 with a ♦ stop. Double is a poor choice because you cannot cope with partner's expected 1♠ reply (or many other continuations).
- Hand B: 1♠. 1NT (15-18) is a reasonable alternative but I would prefer to show the 5 card ♠ suit. Double is incorrect as you cannot cope with a 1♦ or 1♥ response (to then bid 1♠ shows a stronger hand).
- Hand C: 3♦. You want to invite 4♠ and need help in the ♦ suit. This is a help-suit game try and partner should bid game if he has two cards that are useful.
- Hand D: (a) 1NT. It's nowhere near good enough for 2♥ and you cannot pass with 6 points.  
(b) Pass. Partner has 6 ♠'s and does not like 1NT. He will not like 2NT.
- Hand E: Pass is probably technically correct, but I expect that most people would wish to make a noise. In that case the best bid is 1NT (15-18 with a stop).
- Hand F: Pass. RHO knows the combined strength of both partnerships and is probably sharpening his axe. Double (showing ♥'s) is no too bad a bid.
- Hand G: Double. Better ♦'s would be nice, but I still prefer double to 2♣ or pass.
- Hand H: 4♠. But only if you play Namyats! If partner is likely to go slamming opposite a 4♠ opener then open 3♠.
- Hand J: (a) Pass, obviously. This is a near minimum and your ♦KQJ may be useless.  
(b) 4♠. Partner has asked for ♦ help and you have it; so with 4 trumps, bid game.
- Hand K: Pass. Partner is weak with 6 ♠'s and no fit for your suits. Bail out ASAP with a weak mis-fit.
- Hand L: 1♥ or 2♥. The hand does not conform with the rule of 20 (it's 19) but with a good major suit, support for the other major and a void I think that 1♥ is best. Now I actually opened 2♥ with this hand. It's a bit good and many players would say that with 3 decent ♠'s and a void that 2♥ is a poor bid. Perhaps, but at this vulnerability a pre-empt in 1<sup>st</sup> seat should be top of the range. Anyway, if you don't like 2♥ then open 1♥. The one bid that I would argue with is pass – with a 6 card major, if it's too good for 2♥ then open 1♥.
- Hand M: (a) 4♠. 3NT is a very poor bid as you will have no entries to dummy.  
(b) Pass. But only if you know that 4♠ is very weak. If you do not play Namyats then you have no idea whether slam is there or not.



### The Monday club is on the move.

In December (So from Monday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2004)  
we will be playing at the Diana Inn on 2<sup>nd</sup> Rd.

