

Last week's winners: Monday 9/2/04

Friday 13/2/04

N-S 1st Norman/Dave 62 % E-W 1st Jan/Niels 67 % 1st Norman/Dave 69%
 N-S 2nd Bob/Michael 60 % E-W 2nd Joe/Gary 60 % 2nd Jan/Terry 66%

Good show Norman and Dave. They have certainly established themselves as the home team to beat. And hasn't Jan improved, being little more than a beginner 12 months ago.

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

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A?
♠ AKQ65	♠ AJ92	
♥ QJ10865	♥ 8754	With Hand B partner opens 1NT, what do you bid?
♦ KQ	♦ J6	
♣ -	♣ 643	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♦, what is your bid?
♠ A974	♠ AQ54	
♥ J73	♥ AK65	With Hand D you open 1NT and partner transfers with 2♦.
♦ 3	♦ QJ3	What do you bid?
♣ K9832	♣ 65	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 1NT. You bid 2♣, Stayman, and get a 2♥ reply. What is your bid now?
♠ KQ106	♠ 3	
♥ A75	♥ J8732	With Hand F partner opens 1NT and you transfer with 2♦.
♦ 83	♦ A1084	What do you bid when partner completes the transfer with 2♥?
♣ AK93	♣ J72	

A Tactical Double ?Board 11 from Friday 13th, love all.

East	West	North	East	South
♠ KJ103	-	-	-	pass
♥ 74	pass	1♠	pass	1NT
♦ K3	pass	2NT	pass	3NT (1)
♣ 109432	pass	pass	dbl	all pass

The contract was 2 down for a clear top to E-W. All the N-S pairs went down in 2 or 3NT but it was only doubled at this table. So why did East double on these tram tickets? There were two reasons. First, South paused at (1) which indicated that N-S had just the minimum values for the contract. But secondly, North has a 5 card ♠ suit that will probably produce just one trick with this holding sitting over it. Things probably lie badly for declarer. The bottom lines. Take advantage of bad breaks (for the opposition). Take advantage of table presence (but at your peril!).

The Beginner's Page

We have discussed opener's first bid and partner's reply; so now let's look at opener's rebid.

When responder has made a limit bid.

Let's suppose that you open 1♥. If partner raises you suit or bids NT then he has told you how many points he has (limited his hand) and it's up to you to either bid game, invite or sign off/pass.

With Hands 1 & 2 you have opened 1♥: -

- Hand 1 (a) what is your rebid after partner bids 2♥?
- ♠ 64 (b) what is your rebid after partner bids 3♥?
- ♥ KJ865
- ♦ KJ96 (c) what is your rebid after partner bids 1NT?
- ♣ A5

- Hand 2 (d) what is your rebid after partner bids 2♥?
- ♠ A4 (e) what is your rebid after partner bids 3♥?
- ♥ KQ865
- ♦ K986 (f) what is your rebid after partner bids 1NT?
- ♣ A5

With Hand 3 you have opened 1♣,:-

- Hand 3 (g) what is your rebid after partner bids 2♣?
- ♠ 64 (h) what is your rebid after partner bids 3♣?
- ♥ KJ86
- ♦ KJ6 (i) what is your rebid after partner bids 1NT?
- ♣ AJ52

- (a) Pass. You have a minimum opener and partner has promised a max of 10 points, so not enough to even try for game.
- (b) Pass. You are minimal, so not usually quite enough for game.
- (c) 2♦. Bid your 2nd suit. This does not show anything more than a minimal opener with 5 ♥'s and 4 ♦'s.
- (d) 3♥. Inviting partner to bid game with a max. Partner will pass with 6-7 points and bid 4♥ with 8-10.
- (e) 4♥.
- (f) 2♦. Not quite enough for an invitational 2NT (you really need 17 points for that bid).
- (g) Pass. Partner has denied 4 ♥'s and you are not strong enough to bid again anyway.
- (h) Pass. Not enough for game.
- (i) Pass. Again, not enough for game and partner has denied 4 ♥'s.

Don't open two-suiters with 2♣Board 8 from Monday 9th, love all.

West (A)	East	West	North	East	South
♠ AKQ65	♠ 3	2♣	pass	2NT	pass
♥ QJ10865	♥ A3	3♥	pass	3NT	pass
♦ KQ	♦ J87653	4♠	pass	5♥	pass
♣ -	♣ KJ97	pass	pass		

Two pairs got too high (5♥) on this hand on Monday. I said in news-sheet 64 that two-suiters are best bid naturally and this hand bears it out. If you open 2♣ and get a positive response then you automatically get too high by the time you have shown both of your suits. If you play Benjamin twos and open 2♦ then it's even worse as you will always get too high even if partner does give a minimal (or relay) response. Seems like Brian Senior (who wrote the commentary on Monday's hands) agrees with me.

The bottom lines. Do not open 2♣ with strong two-suiters. 17 points is not usually enough for a 2♣ opener.

Invitational (+) values for StaymanBoard 10 from Monday 9th, both vul.

West (B)	East	West	North	East	South
♠ AJ92	♠ K76	-	-	1NT	pass
♥ 8754	♥ A10	2♣ (1)	pass	2♦	pass
♦ J6	♦ A94	2NT (2)	pass	3NT (3)	pass
♣ 643	♣ KQ987	pass	pass		

Two pairs again got too high (3NT) on this hand on Monday. I stated just last week the requirements for bidding Stayman. West took a wild gamble here (hoping that partner had a 4 card major and he could then pass). He got what he deserved – a 2♦ response. No way out now. It is a miserable hand for 2NT and East quite reasonably raised to 3NT. West got the asked for bottom, minus 3 so 300 away.

The bottom line. Only bid Stayman if you can cope with any response.

Don't double/overcall with rubbishBoard 2 from Monday 9th, N-S vul.

North (C)	South	West	North	East	South
♠ A974	♠ 1085	-	-	pass	pass
♥ J73	♥ 10862	1♦	dbl (1)	redbl	pass
♦ 3	♦ AQ84	pass	2♣	dbl	pass
♣ K9832	♣ 54	pass	pass		

Minus 1100. Exactly what bidding either 2♣ or double at (1), vulnerable, deserves. Double is a poor bid with this miserable ♥ suit and 2♣ is equally bad with the miserable ♣ suit. Pass is the only sensible bid, especially vulnerable. If the bidding subsides at a low level, you may be able to come in later.

Enough for Slam?

Board 3 from Friday 13th, E-W vul.

Just two pairs reached 6♠ on Friday (well done John/Dave, Alex/Jeff). Everybody else was in inferior contracts of 3NT, 5NT or 6NT. Let's look at the bidding at two tables: -

		<u>Table A</u>		<u>Table B</u>	
North (E)	South	North	South	North	South
♠ KQ106	♠ AJ32	-	1NT	-	1NT
♥ A75	♥ KQ109	2♣	2♥ (1)	2♣	2♥ (1)
♦ 83	♦ AJ6	3NT (2)	pass (3)	4♣ (4)	4♠
♣ AK93	♣ 76			5♣	5♥
				5NT	pass

South opens a Strong NT and North knows that it's combined 31-33 points, but should he go slamming? First, let's quote from news-sheet 62 - *To make 6NT you generally need about 33 points unless you have a good long suit.* Obviously North starts with Stayman and South bids 2♥ (always bid 2♥ with both majors). What now?

- (2) At Table A North knew all about the combined 31-33 points. He would have gone slamming if a fit had materialised but with no known fit, he settled for 3NT.
- (3) Now South got this wrong. When North used Stayman he *guaranteed* a 4 card major. Since he did not like ♥'s he *must* have 4 ♠'s. South should convert to 4♠ (especially as he has a weak doubleton). With a 4-4 fit and the additional knowledge that there is not duplication in shape, North would then go slamming.
- (4) This North took a more optimistic view, 4♣ at (4) was ace asking (and generally agrees ♥'s). With no known fit it is not a good bid – you really need to find a fit or establish if South is max or not, the number of aces is of secondary importance. If South is not max you will not make 6NT.

So, how should the bidding go? Table A up to (2) is fine, South should bid 4♠ at (3) and North then bids Blackwood etc to 6♠. If you wish to take a more optimistic approach with 6NT in mind if partner is max then bid 4NT at (4). This is a quantitative bid, saying that there is no ♥ fit and inviting South to bid slam if he is max or if there is a (♠) fit. With good ♠'s and good top cards, South should bid 6♠ (he knows that there is a 4-4 ♠ fit). With a max and no ♠ fit South would bid 6NT (although it does not cost to bid a decent 4 card minor on the way if you have one in case there is a fit there).

The bottom lines. A Stayman 2♣ bid promises a 4 card major. Always respond 2♥ to Stayman if holding both majors. If you hold both and partner bids NT, then convert to ♠'s (either part-score or game or slam(!)). Always look for the good 4-4 fit. You need 33+ points for 6NT (unless you have a long suit) but just 31 are often enough for a suit slam with a good 4-4 fit.

The Forcing Pass

Board 13 from Friday 13th, both vul

Perhaps a rather advanced concept, but it came up on Friday on this deal. One very basic example of the forcing pass is when your side clearly have the majority of the points, have bid to game and the opponents have sacrificed. You have the option of bidding on (maybe to slam), doubling (for penalties) or passing (provided partner has a turn to bid). One good variation is to pass when you have 1st round control of the enemy suit (usually a void) and this information is used by partner to either bid on or double.

Dealer:	♠ K5	West	North	East	South
South	♥ -				
both vul	♦ AK108653	-	1♦ (1)	1♥	pass (2)
	♣ AKJ6	4♥ (3)	5♦	pass	pass
		5♥ (4)	pass (5)	pass	pass
♠ AQ73	N	♠ J642			
♥ 108732	W E	♥ KQ964			
♦ J9	S	♦ Q2			
♣ 73		♣ 52			
	♠ 1098				
	♥ AJ5				
	♦ 74				
	♣ Q10984				

E-W went down 5 for a score of 500 to N-S, but that was a poor return for N-S's cold small slam in either minor. Let's evaluate the bidding: -

- (1) I have said not to open 2♣ with two-suited hands, but this is more like a one-suiter. However, the ♠ K may need protecting from the opening lead and I do actually prefer the 1♦ opening chosen by this North to 2♣. Either is acceptable.
- (2) With good ♥'s I would prefer a 1NT bid here.
- (3) With 10 combined trumps – bid to the limit (10 tricks). It's The Law, so 4♥ is fine.
- (4) This, however, is not so fine. The last 4♥ bid was excellent and did its job (they missed slam). Bidding again is just silly – it violates The Law; it violates the principle of bidding your hand just once; and it gives the opponents a choice between getting a top for the 1400 (5 down doubled) on offer or else bidding the slam (+1 = 1390) that they had missed.
- (5) Here we have the forcing pass – an excellent bid as long as partner understands it! In this situation it indicated first round control in ♥'s (a void) and is an invitation for South to bid 6♦. Failing that, South is obliged to double.

The bottom lines.

- West – Obey The Law. Bid your hand only once.
- South – If you can describe your hand in on go, then do so. So 1NT at (2) to show a good 7-10 points and a ♥ stop. With a bare minimum (6 or 7) or no ♥ stop then pass.
- Do not pass a forcing pass.

4♠ scores more than 5♦Board 16 from Friday 13th, E-W vul.

Four pairs reached the excellent 4♠ contract on Friday, with one pair in the inferior 5♦ and just one in a silly 3NT.

West	East	West (me)	North	East	South
♠ KJ8542	♠ Q10	1♠	pass	2♦	2♥
♥ 9	♥ K87	3♦ (1)	pass	4♦ (2)	pass
♦ A1074	♦ K86532	4♠ (3)	pass	pass (4)	pass
♣ A9	♣ KQ				

The first real decision is West's rebid at (1). A six card major suit is certainly rebiddable but I prefer to support partner. After partner's 4♦ bid at (2) the West hand is worth game (the singleton in opponent's suit is a big plus). I like the 4♠ bid here at (3); basically it says that West has a good 6 card ♠ suit (or very good 5) and leaves the choice of 4♠ or 5♦ up to partner. With ♠ Q10 East's decision is easy at (4).

Super-Accept of a transferBoard 14 from Friday 13th, love all.

Five pairs reached the excellent 4♥ contract with minimal values on Friday, with just two pairs settling for a partscore. Here's the bidding at our table: -

West (F)	East (D)	West (Jan)	North	East (me)	South
♠ 3	♠ AQ54	-	-	1NT	pass
♥ J8732	♥ AK65	2♦	pass	3♥ (1)	pass
♦ A1084	♦ QJ3	4♥	pass	pass	pass
♣ J72	♣ 65				

The 3♥ bid at (1) was a super accept, showing a non-min and 4 trumps. This was a simple variation and West had no problem in then going to game. If East had simply made a normal accept then it is doubtful if the West hand is worth an effort (indeed, West said that he would have passed and I agree). Playing super-accepts takes the strain off of responder._

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 1♥ (and reverse into ♠'s next go). Don't open two-suiters with 2♣.

Hand B: Pass. Do not bid Stayman as a 2♦ response will fix you.

Hand C: Pass. Both dbl and 2♣ are very poor bids.

Hand D: You should super-accept. So either 3♥ or 3♣, whatever your methods are.

Hand E: 3NT (or 4 NT - quantitative - if you feel aggressive). Partner will then convert to ♠'s if he has 4 ♠'s. The hand is not good enough to launch into slam without a known fit.

Hand F: Pass. The hand is not good enough for a game forcing 3♦. Inviting with 3♥ shows a 6 card suit and may be a disaster if partner is minimum and/or has only 2♥'s – this ♥ suit is very poor. An invitational 2NT is a gross distortion. The only thing that would make me bid on with this hand is if partner super-accepts!