Monday 16/8/2004
$1^{\text {st }}$ Tonni/Dave $58 \%$
$2^{\text {nd }}$ Guy/Jean $\quad 56 \%$

Friday 20/8/2004
$1^{\text {st }}$ Tonni/Joe $63 \%$
$2^{\text {nd }}$ Bob/Dave $60 \%$

Good show Tonni. It's quite a while since anybody has completed 'the double'.

## Bidding Quiz

Hand A Hand B
^ J4 a A84

- KQ9
- KQJ93
- QJ85 •KQ106
* QJ96
- 6

Hand C Hand D
$\rightarrow$ A
^ Q1096

- K876
- J9743
- AJ102
-     - 
* AKQ3
* AQJ4

With Hand D partner opens 2NT
(a) What do you bid?

With Hand A partner opens $1 \approx$
(a) What do you respond? do you bid now?

What do you open with Hand B?
With Hand C partner opens $1 \vee$, what do you bid? do you do now?

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.
(b) Suppose that you choose $1 \star$; partner then bids $1 \vee$. What
(b) Suppose you transfer with $3 \bullet$ and partner bids $3 \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$, what

Hand E Hand F
(a) What do you open with Hand E?
(b) Suppose that you open $1 \%$, then what do you bid after partner responds $1 \vee$ ?
(a) What do you open with Hand F?
(b) Suppose that you open $1 \star$. Then what is your rebid when partner bids $1 \bullet$ or $1 \boldsymbol{A}$ ?

What does it mean? What does the last bid mean in the following auctions?
Sequence G: $\quad 1 \mathrm{NT}-2-2 \boldsymbol{- 2}-\mathbf{-}-3 \mathrm{NT}-4 \approx$ ?
Sequence H: $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \boldsymbol{-}-2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}-2 \mathrm{NT}-4 \star$ ?
Sequence J: $\quad 1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \bullet-2 \boldsymbol{- 4}$ ?
Sequence K: 1 NT-2 - $2-4 N T$ ?
Sequence L: $1 \vee-4 \approx$ ?
Sequence M: $1 \vee-4 N T$ ?

## The Devil is off on the dusty road to hell ..... (yet another one bites the dust).

It's the end of an era, the end of life as we know it?... This time Chuck is chucked out for good! It really is unfortunate that such a fine player is totally unable to adapt to playing with 'less gifted' players. A very brief summary of what happened this time ....

On Monday $2^{\text {nd }}$ Chuck encountered Don and Sid at the table. On the first board Chuck was declarer in a $\uparrow$ contract. Holding solid $\boldsymbol{A}$ 's down to the 10 between dummy and himself he led a small $\boldsymbol{\wedge}$ from dummy. Next player played low and Chuck detached the ace from his hand. The next player (Sid) saw the ace and followed small. Chuck then replaced the ace in his hand, insisting that it had not been played. The only logical reason for this behaviour is that he wished to needle the opposition.

On the very next board Chuck was again declarer. He led a card and Don discarded. Chuck then asked Sid the meaning of the discard. Sid replied that they had no special understanding and that the card was a card that Don wished to discard. Now this full explanation would be enough for most players, but not Chuck. He continued to bombard Sid with meaningless questions.

The next Friday I gave Chuck a very firm ticking off. Most players would have realised that they were within a whisker of being expelled from the club, but apparently not Chuck. Instead of keeping a low profile and hoping that the incidents would blow over he 'outdid himself with stupidity'. His reaction was to type up a little memo quoting the rules that allow him to retract cards played and harass opponents with questions to his heart's content.

His antics may or may not be within the letter of the law, I don't care. This type of arrogant behaviour will not be tolerated in this club any more. In his short time at the club he has already received one warning (do the laws allow you to walk out and desert partner after three boards?) and also been expelled for one month for a separate incident(s). He now receives a life ban - I can do without the hassle. I do not need a vote this time, and I'm pretty sure what Don, Sid, Alex, Jeff,..... to name but a few, would say.

I gave the above dismissal notice to Chuck on Friday $20^{\mathrm{th}}$. He decided to address the club; his only 'theme' was his opinion of me and the way I run the club. I did not realise that anybody could cram so many four-letter words into two sentences. Support for his views was the stunned silence, perhaps stunned by the language?

During his tirade he accused me of being a liar. Really? But I do note that in his little memo he says that I threatened to ban him if he asked questions about discards. This is complete fabrication (with numerous witnesses to back me up). What I did say was that he would be banned if he could not behave as a normal civilised human being (or words to that effect). He cannot, fine; he's banned.

It really is a shame that decent players (such as Chuck and John Gavens) cannot be civil to people that they consider to be inferior players. I'm sure that everybody agrees that there is no room for these rude people in our club? Let me know if you support my decision - I'll keep your views anonymous if you wish.

But I do still have some Chuck material. And if anybody sees Chuck then they may like to give him my response to his 'expert' bidding overleaf, but I guess he'll just tear it up?

I will be only too pleased to continue to publish these gems from Chuck if he has any more (but I'll delete the 4 -letter words). The ping-pong is challenging and it appears that I can even play it against his 'experts':-

The following is reproduced for your reading pleasure. Please note this problem hand. A local expert (I believe that Chuck is referring to me, Terry, here) does not advocate playing at the three level opposite a strong NT opening facing 5-5 in the minor suits with 5-7 points in the minors and a minimum of an 8 card fit. But is willing to play at the two level facing 0 points and a possible 7 card fit. I suggest you (I suppose that Chuck is referring to me, Terry, here?) play along the lines of the international pros. With this hand partner opens 1 NT , what do you bid?
a 85 The experts say: 'You don't need any strength to use a Jacoby transfer
$\checkmark 96542$ bid. 2 asks opener to bid 2 and you will pass. There's no guarantee

- 87 that 2 will be better than 1NT but the odds are in favor' ........
* 10763

It's me (Terry) again. What is Chuck's point? I have absolutely no idea, have you? I have repeatedly said to transfer with a 5 card major with $0+$ points. What has this to do with bidding 3 with $5-7$ points in the minors and 5-5 in the minors? I guess Chuck has simply lost his marbles again? And I have not said that playing in $3 *$ with such a hand is unwise, just that I will not waste the $3 \boldsymbol{*}$ bid to do so. I am of course flattered that Chuck suggests that I can play along the lines of the international pros, but I note that Chuck has failed to find one of his peers bidding $3 \boldsymbol{A}$. And here's another offering where Chuck quotes an 'expert' bidding sequence: -

| West (F) | East | West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A98 | QJ2 | - | - | pass | pass |
|  |  | 1 | pass | $2 \star$ | pass |
| $\bullet$ AJ1093 | $\bullet$ Q54 | 3NT | all pass |  |  |

$\approx 106 \quad \approx$ KQJ74
This hand is of interest since there is a bid that the local expert (Terry) said is wrong and has five books to prove it wrong. Imaintained that $1 \underset{p}{ }-2 / \downarrow$ - 3NT says that the opener has 14-16 HCP's. If that is good enough for the world's best players it's good enough for me.

The above paragraph is Chuck's. So who's the liar? And this time it's in print. To start with Chuck previously maintained (as do some experts) that the 3 NT jump here is 15-17 (not 14-16). I have not said that the meaning is wrong, but that it is not standard. And I quoted three books and not five. So Chuck has made three points here and every one is a lie!

But let's not get personal and look at this 'expert' bidding a little closer. The hand was not published because of the bidding but the play (West also mis-played the hand and went down). The bidding is appalling. This West hand has 14 HCP's but is worth much more. The robust 5 card suit, the intermediates and two tens make it worth 16 points. Agreed? Then why not open 1NT as most experts would? Did you open 1NT with Hand F in this week's quiz - I hope so.

This $15-17$ jump 3NT rebid is used when you have a hand unsuitable for a 1 NT opening (a singleton). If partner bids your singleton at the 2 level then you bid 3NT. This hand is totally unsuitable for this treatment as it is a fine 1NT opener. A $1 *$ opening leaves you (or Chuck) with no sensible rebid over $1 \vee /$ a (luckily partner bid $2 \boldsymbol{*}$ ). This is terrible bidding.
I believe that there is little that this 'expert' West can teach me about NT bidding. It may be good enough for Chuck, but it's not good enough for me.

Chuck gave me a list of America's current top 120 players. His point being that Marty Bergen was not included and so his opinions are meaningless. I note that Chuck's 'World's best' West in the last hand is not included in the list either, and he is an active player.

I've said this before. I have absolutely no problem with people (Chuck, Hans, whatever) criticising me - I'll just write it up. But can you please make it a bit more challenging? It also helps if you are right once in a while.

## Don't jump straight into Blackwood

West (C) East

| a A | a - |
| :---: | :---: |
| - K876 | - AQ10954 |
| - AJ102 | - KQ43 |
| - AKQ3 | ¢ 874 |

I only know the bidding at two tables, the other two tables subsided in $6 \boldsymbol{v}$.
Let's have a look: -

Board 21 from Monday $16^{\text {th }}$, N-S vul
Table A

| West | North | East | South . |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - | pass | $1 \vee$ (1) | pass |
| 4* (2) | pass | 4 | pass |
| 5* (3) | pass | 5* (4) | pass |
| 7 - (5) | all pass |  |  |

Table B

| West | North | East | South . |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - |  | pass | $1 \downarrow$ | pass |
| 2* | (2) | pass | $2 \downarrow$ | (6) |
| 7NT | (7) | all pass |  |  |

Table A: (1) Only 11 points. But the points are in the long suits and the $\mathbf{v} 10,9$ in a six card suit are excellent. This is a very sound opener.
(2) This pair play this as ace asking. I don’t like it. To start with I play $4 \&$ here as a splinter (short $\&$ 's agreeing $\downarrow$ 's), but with this hand I would prefer to take a slower approach and find out more about opener's hand (see Table B).
(3) $5 \%$ asks for kings after Gerber.
(4) East lied about having a king. I believe that he was afraid of getting too high as he was minimum for his opening. Now one should never do this (lie during Blackwood) but in my opinion this is by no means a minimum opener. I mentioned at (1) that I considered it very sound; and if partner does not bid $\boldsymbol{a}$ 's it is even more so.
(5) Here we see the problem with the 'leap into ace-ask mode'. West can only count 10 top tricks. Even if partner had correctly shown a king then it's still not certain that 7NT is there. Under the circumstances $7 \vee$ is a fine bid.
Table B: (2) But West really can make life much easier by taking it slowly to start with. $2 \%$ was just waiting to see what East would rebid.
(6) $2 \downarrow$ in this situation really must be a six card suit.
(7) West now has much more to go on. The knowledge of a six card suit makes all the difference. There are now 11 top tricks and the $\boldsymbol{\otimes} \mathrm{J}$ with a king are sufficient for 7 NT . You could ask for kings - but it's simplest to just pull out all of the bidding cards at pairs scoring. At teams I would certainly bid $7 \bullet$.

The bottom lines: -

- Take it nice ' $n$ easy (to start with). It's usually best to explore the hand (with forcing bids of course) before making the ace ask.
- Don't lie with your responses to Blackwood/Gerber.

Explore other options before resorting to the Moysian fit Board 26 from Monday $16^{\text {th }}$

| Dealer: | ค J4 |  | West | North (A) | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| East | - KQ9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| both vul | - QJ85 |  | - | - | pass | 1* (1) |
|  | * QJ96 |  | pass | 1-(2) | pass | $1 \vee$ |
|  |  |  | pass | 4- (3) | all pass |  |
| - 962 | N | ^ AQ85 |  |  |  |  |
| - 83 | W E | - J1054 |  |  |  |  |
| - K43 | S | - 972 |  |  |  |  |
| * A10872 |  | * 54 |  |  |  |  |
|  | ^ K1073 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | - A762 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | - A106 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | * K3 |  |  |  |  |  |

There are 4 obvious losers in $\downarrow$ 's but NT makes 9 or 10 tricks. So what went wrong?
(1) This pair play a short \& (can be two card - but only when exactly this shape). 2NT is a sound alternative at (2). Everything is then fine up to (3). Is there a better bid than $4 \vee$ ? Now North knows that South has exactly $4 \vee$ 's and so it's just a $4-3$ fit. With a weak doubleton this often plays quite well, but in this situation it's best to ask South about his $\boldsymbol{\wedge}$ 's - he may even have a respectable 4 card suit there as in this case.

The solution is to bid the $4^{\text {th }}$ suit. In this particular sequence opinions differ as to what $1 \wedge$ means. Some play it as natural (and forcing) and play a jump to $2 \boldsymbol{A}$ as the artificial $4^{\text {th }}$ suit. Others play that $1 \boldsymbol{A}$ may or may not be natural.

Let's assume that you play this $2^{\text {nd }}$ approach, then you bid $1 \wedge$ at (3). South then bids $2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}$, natural. North then bids 3NT knowing that there is a 4 card $\uparrow$ suit opposite.

And if you play that a jump to $2 \boldsymbol{a}$ is the $4^{\text {th }}$ suit forcing bid it's equally easy. South then bids 2 NT , confirming a $\uparrow$ stop. But North is not sure that one stop is enough, so bids $3 \downarrow$. This is natural and forcing after invoking the $4^{\text {th }}$ suit - it promises 3 card $\downarrow$ support and expresses doubt about the $\boldsymbol{\wedge}$ 's. South then has an easy 3NT bid.

North-South were discussing this when East chipped in with his opinion. He stated that $4 \bullet$ is the correct bid with the North hand. Now this East (guess who) is not a beginner, in fact he claims to belong in the 'top lines'. I am confused as to why such a player does not understand $4^{\text {th }}$ suit forcing. And if you don't understand it, isn't it better to simply listen and learn? $4 \checkmark$ is a lousy contract.

And another interesting point about the North hand. It contains two 4 card suits headed by the QJ. These sort of holdings are frequently very productive in NT but will often not be able to produce tricks in a trump contract - especially if there is a shortage of trumps.

And what happened? $4 \vee$ was minus 1 . At other tables $2 \downarrow$ was bid and made exactly once, 3NT made exactly and 2 NT made plus two.

The bottom lines.

- Do not be too quick to charge into a Moysian fit.
- Understand $4^{\text {th }}$ suit forcing.

| Dealer: | - 97 | $\leftarrow$ DUMMY |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| North | - 72 |  | West | North | East | South (B) |
| E-W vul | - 983 |  | - | pass | pass | 1NT (1) |
|  | * AQJ873 |  | 2^ (2) | 3\% (3) | 3 A | pass |
|  |  |  | pass | 4* (4) | pass | 4 |
|  | N | A K106 | pass | pass | pass |  |
|  | W E | - A854 |  |  |  |  |
|  | S | - 542 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | - 1092 |  |  |  |  |

You are East and defending $4 \bullet$ with the auction given (yes, I know it's a strange bidding sequence and I'll go into it later). Anyway, West leads a $\uparrow$ and your $\uparrow K$ is taken by declarer’s $\uparrow A$. Declarer then leads a to the $\boldsymbol{*} \mathrm{J}$ and $\mathrm{a} \bullet$ to his $\bullet \mathrm{Q}$ and partner's A .

|  |  | Partner then leads a small trump which you win with the $\vee$ A. So you are East in this position, what do you lead? |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark 7$ |  |  |  |
| - 98 |  | This is one of your better days and you are not yet under the influence of the dreaded Mekong/coke. So you think. |  |
| - AQ873 |  |  |  |
| N | - 10 | The bidding has been a bit weird but surely declarer had $5 \vee$ 's and presumably has $\vee K Q J x$ left. Declarer also must have the |  |
| W E | - 854 | $\bullet$ K to justify his 1NT opening and $\bullet$ lead from table. Partner |  |
| S | $\begin{aligned} & \bullet 54 \\ & * 109 \end{aligned}$ | presumably has $6 \boldsymbol{A}$ 's for his vul vs not overcall. Low and behold - you have a complete picture of the hand. Declarer must have started with: $\boldsymbol{\wedge} A x \bullet K Q J x x \bullet K Q x x \propto x x$. |  |
| So what do you do? Declarer must now have $\uparrow-\vee K Q J x \bullet K x x \notin x$. If you let declarer win the next trick he will clear trumps and run $5 *$ tricks. Partner's $\& \mathrm{~K}$ is now singleton and |  |  |  |
|  | $\rightarrow$ - |  | so you majestically toss the $\& 10$ on the table to cut communication with dummy (while partner still |
|  | 7 |  | has a trump to ruff the $\& \mathrm{Q}$ ) and await the applause? |
|  | - 98 |  | In a perfect world, yes. But this was the actual |
|  | * AQ873 |  | position. Your $\& 10$ here presented declarer with two * tricks which were otherwise unreachable. |
| ^ J53 | N | - 10 | So what can I say? Tough luck? Perhaps, but it |
| - 10 | W E | - 854 | really does make a mockery of logical thinking |
| - J7 | S | - 54 | when somebody opens 1 NT with a singleton |
| \& K5 |  | - 109 | (Hand B) - and it's against the rules. |
|  | - 8 |  | Partner's vul overcall with QJxxx was no thing |
|  | - KQJ9 |  | of beauty either (but that did not affect East's |
|  | - K106 |  | logic in leading a 0 ). |
|  | \% - |  |  |
| Hand B |  | The bot | $m$ lines: - |
|  |  | a. Do | t open 1NT (1) with a singleton. |
| ヘ A 84 |  | b. Do | t make a vul overcall (2) of a strong NT with QJxxx. |
| - KQJ93 |  | c. 3 | (3) shows this hand exactly, do not bid again at (4). |
| - KQ106 |  | d. Th | in defence - provided that everybody at the table |
| * 6 |  |  | about (a). |

Bidding after a 2NT opening
West

- AK7
- AQ2
- AQ102
$\because$ K108
East (D) West
(1) Stayman

| West | East (D) | West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AK7 | ^. Q 1096 | 2NT | pass | 3* (1) | pass |
| - AQ2 | - J9743 | 3 - | pass | $4 \vee$ | all pass |
| - AQ102 | - - |  |  |  |  |
| * K108 | * AQJ4 |  |  |  |  |

East was not happy about his bidding and asked how slam should best be investigated. Actually it's not that easy as there could be slam in any of 3 suits. But with a 5 card $\downarrow$ suit it's best to start off with a Jacoby transfer opposite a 2 NT opener. A new suit is then game forcing.

So the bidding should start: - $2 \mathrm{NT}-3-3 \boldsymbol{-}-3 \boldsymbol{\wedge}-$ ?
$3 \boldsymbol{A}$ is natural and forcing, promising $5 \vee$ 's and $4 \boldsymbol{A}$ 's. West would then bid either $3 N T$ or $4 \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$. If 4 $\bullet$ then East could try Blackwood. If West bid 3NT then East should bid $4 \boldsymbol{\star}$. This is natural after partner's 3NT bid and is obviously looking for slam if there is a \& fit. East has thus shown his 4504 shape. West then bids $4 \vee$ and East may again choose Blackwood if he wishes.

And what happened $4 \vee$ made +2 . This was a clear top as the slam was not found at the two other tables. Well, actually, that's not quite true; one pair somehow managed to end up in $6 \boldsymbol{A}$ going one down. And quite how the other pair ended up in $2 *$ by West I have no idea.

The bottom lines: -

- Stayman and transfers still apply after a 2 NT opening.
- A transfer followd by a new suit is natural (promising 5-4) and game forcing.
- $4 \%$ after partner's 3 NT bid is natural and forcing.

And consider these auctions after a 1 NT opening: -
1NT-2•-2レ-2^-3NT-4』?
(H) $\quad 1 \mathrm{NT}-2-2 \bullet-2 \boldsymbol{\bullet}-2 \mathrm{NT}-4 \propto$ ?

What does 4* mean?
In (G) it is natural, looking for a $\&$ fit with slam in mind. Partner would never remove 3NT into $4 *$ if not looking for slam.

In (H) $4 \boldsymbol{\infty}$ is asking for aces. Gerber is always a jump to $4 \approx$ after partner's last natural bid was NT.

| North | South | Table A |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | West | North | East | South |
| ค AK Q 10 | - 9 | pass | 1NT | pass | 2 , |
| - Q95 | - J10762 | pass | 2 | pass | 2NT (1) |
| - K964 | - Q853 | pass | 4v (2) | all pass |  |
| * Q8 | * AJ6 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Table B |  |  |  |
|  |  | West | North | East | South |
|  |  | pass | 1NT | pass | 2 |
|  |  | pass | 2 | pass | 2NT (1) |
|  |  | pass | $3 \vee$ (2) | all pass |  |

As always, let's look at the auctions: -
Table A: (1) So is this hand worth a 2NT game try? I think it's close. I did bid 2NT here on Friday but I would have passed if we were playing super-accepts; I feel that $4 \vee$ is probably against the odds with most North's containing just 3 card $\downarrow$ support.
(2) This North decided to accept the game invitation.

Table B: (1) This was our auction and we had not agreed to play super-accepts and so I bid 2NT. Note that 2 NT is the only sensible game try available here despite the singleton. A $3 \leqslant$ bid would be game forcing and $3 \boldsymbol{v}$ is invitational but promises
6 's.
(2) So should this hand pass, bid $3 \boldsymbol{v}$ or bid $4 \vee$ ? I would not pass but it's close between 3 $\bullet$ (a sign off) and $4 \vee$.

But is there a more scientific way for North to bid at (2)? Yes, the answer is the help-suit game try. A bid of $3 *$ or $3 *$ asks for help in that suit. Partner then bids $3 \vee$ without a decent holding in the suit or $4 \vee$ with a decent holding. With this particular hand North would ask for help with $3 *$ and East's Q853 is just enough to accept.

And what happened? $4 \vee$ was by no means solid. It was bid twice; making once and going down once. $3 \checkmark$ made +1 .

South 2 South 3 Now as I said, game is by no means certain but is maybe worth a go with this particular deal. But consider these two similar

A 9 a 9

- J10762
- J10762
- QJ53 • 8532
* A96 * AK6

South hands. Let's assume that North makes a $3 \bullet$ help suit game try. South 2 most certainly has help and should bid $4 \vee$. South 3 has no help at all in $\uparrow$ 's and should bid just $3 \bullet$.

The bottom lines: -

- After a Jacoby transfer and a subsequent 2NT bid then opener's normal options are pass (to play in 2 NT ), 3 of the major (to play), or $3 \mathrm{NT} / 4 \vee$.
- But for more sophisticated partnerships there are two additional options; help suit game tries in the minors. But note that this is by no means standard practice - I doubt if many non-expert partnerships have ever discussed the bids.


## Balanced hand bidding

| North (E) | South |
| :---: | :---: |
| ค A632 | ค 974 |
| $\bullet$ Q4 | - A8752 |
| - AK | - 753 |
| - KQ854 | * J9 |

Board 11 from Monday $16^{\text {th }}$, love all

## Table A

| West | North | East | South |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | - |  | - | pass |  |
| pass | $1 \boldsymbol{\sim}$ | (1) | pass | $1 \backsim$ | $(2)$ |
| pass | $2 \boldsymbol{\sim}$ | (3) | pass | pass | (4) |

Table B

| West | North | East | South |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | - |  | - | pass |  |
| pass | $1 \boldsymbol{\bullet}$ | $(1)$ | pass | $1 \downarrow$ | $(2)$ |
| pass | $2 N T$ | $(3)$ | pass | pass | $(5$ |

Table A: (1) So what do you open with this North hand? It's 18 points so normally too strong for 1 NT. But, as I always say, high cards belong in long suits and so the AK are not worth 7 points. But \&KQxxx is worth more than 5 points. All-in-all I would say it's slightly too good for 1 NT and I would open $1 \Leftrightarrow$ although 1 NT is also quite reasonable. So you chose to open $1 *$, fine.
(2) But do you respond with this hand? It's only 5 points but if $1 \&$ gets passed out you are unlikely to get a good score. I too would bid $1 \vee$.
(3) Now you correctly opened $1 *$ but what is your rebid now? You chose not to open 1NT because the hand is too strong, but what now $-1 \wedge, 2 \wedge$ or 2 NT ?
I believe that all of these bids have their merits. $1 \boldsymbol{n}$ is not forcing, but then if partner passes then it's unlikely that there is game. $2 \boldsymbol{a}$ is normally considered as game forcing but I don't think that this hand is worth it. Also, I would like a more shapely hand and/or more points in a's for this bid.
(4) Now $2 \wedge$ is normally considered as forcing here but East apparently did well to pass?

Table C: (3) That leaves 2NT. This bid shows a semi-balanced 18-19 points and not forcing perfect. I think 2NT is best, but is it denying a 4 card major? Strictly speaking, yes. But 2NT is rarely passed and a $\uparrow$ fit will usually subsequently come to light. Anyway, it's better than forcing to game with $2 \boldsymbol{A}$.
(5) But this is one of those rare occasions where 2 NT is passed out.

And what happened? 2NT made exactly but $2 \uparrow$ went one down. At the other two tables the contract was 1NT by North. I have no idea how this can happen, if North does open 1NT then surely most South's would transfer and thus have $2 \vee$ (a good spot) as the final contract?

The bottom lines: -

- A 1 NT opening is $15-17$. Only open 1 NT with 18 points if you feel that the hand needs downgrading. AK doubleton is a downgrade and so 1 NT is acceptable with this particular hand.
- If partner opens 1 NT , then transfer with a 5 card major regardless of points.
- It is acceptable to jump rebid 2 NT even though it may 'deny' a 4 card $\uparrow$ suit.
- After this 2NT rebid one can play Checkback (or New Minor Forcing) to establish if there is a 5-3
$\boldsymbol{v}$ fit or 4-4 $\boldsymbol{\sim} \mathrm{fit}$.


## Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: (a) $1 *$ or 2 NT. Either is quite acceptable.
(b) 1 A . The hand is marginal as to whether it should bid game of not, but you are committed now. 2NT would be a poor bid now with such poor $\uparrow$ 's and an obvious lead from the opponents (you should have bid 2NT last time if you only wanted to invite game). You have to find out about partner's $a$ holding (he could easily have a 4 card suit). It depends upon how you play your $4^{\text {th }}$ suit forcing in this situation. I think is best to play that $1 \wedge$ is either natural or not (but forcing). $4 \vee$ here is a very poor unilateral bid; and much the same can be said about $3 \vee$. Don't opt for the Moysian fit if 3NT is a very real possibility.
Hand B: $\quad 1 \vee$. An easy one, but somebody did have a $\downarrow$ mixed up with his $\boldsymbol{*}(\mathrm{s})$ and opened 1NT.
Hand C: $2 \star$. You should take it easy and try to find out more about partner's hand. If the $\uparrow$ was a small one then a $3 \boldsymbol{A}$ splinter would be in order, but it is unwise to splinter with a singleton ace (or king). To jump into your ace-asking bid is unwise; as I said, take it easy and you can always ask later.
Hand D: (a) $3 \bullet$. Things are slightly different over a $2 N T$ opening (as opposed to $1 N T$ ). With 5 $\downarrow$ 's and $4 \boldsymbol{a}$ 's opposite a 2 NT opener it's best to transfer ...
(b) $\ldots$ and then bid $3 \boldsymbol{\wedge}$. Natural and forcing, showing $5 \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$ 's and $4 \boldsymbol{\wedge}$ 's.

Hand E: (a) $1 \boldsymbol{\sim}$. It's a decent 18 points and so a little too strong for 1NT. However, the AK are poor cards and a 1 NT opening is a reasonable alternative.
(b) $1 \wedge$ or 2 NT . I prefer either of these two non-forcing bids to $2 \boldsymbol{\sim}$ which is game forcing. It's a decent hand but not worth a game force.
Hand F: (a) 1NT. With this excellent 5 card suit and intermediates this is not a 14 count. It is easily worth a strong 1 NT opener.
(b) I've no idea. The hand is much too good for 1 NT (12-14) and $2 \boldsymbol{v}$ or $2 \boldsymbol{a}$ are silly (why go for the Moysiam fit when NT could easily be the best strain). You have no decent rebid because you did not open 1NT.

Sequence G: $1 \mathrm{NT}-2-2 \boldsymbol{-}-2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}-3 \mathrm{NT}-4 \star ?$ 4\& is natural and forcing
Sequence H: $\quad 1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \vee-2 \boldsymbol{\bullet}-2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}-2 \mathrm{NT}-4 \boldsymbol{*}$ ? This time $4 \boldsymbol{*}$ is a jump after NT, it's Gerber.

Sequence J: $\quad 1 \mathrm{NT}-2-2-4 \&$ ?

Sequence K: 1 NT $-2-2-4 N T$ ?
4NT here is quantitative.
Sequence L: $1 \vee-4 \star$
A splinter. \& shortage and agreeing $\downarrow$ 's.
Sequence M: $\quad 1 \vee-4 N T$ ?
This is the ace (or keycard) ask.
But it usually is not good practice to leap straight into Blackwood.

