



Club News Sheet – No. 121

25/2/2005

N-S winnersE-W winners

Mon 21/2/05	1 st Austin/Terry	61 %	1 st Bob/Dave	60 %
	2 nd Jo/Martin (Hol)	55 %	2 nd Martin/Rosemary	55 %
Wed 23/2/05	1 st Terry*2/Dave	57 %	1 st Jo/Martin (Hol)	63 %
	2 nd Mike(Can)/Phil(UK)	55 %	2 nd Michael(Ger)/Jeff	58 %
Fri 25/2/05	1 st Richard(IRL)/Terry	61 %	1 st Bob/Dave	58 %
	2 nd Jan/Tom	55 %	2 nd Ken/Clive	53 %

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

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A?
♠ A74	♠ AQ6	
♥ QJ2	♥ A2	What do you open with Hand B?
♦ AQ8	♦ KQJ2	
♣ AK76	♣ QJ32	What do you open with Hand C?
Hand C	Hand D	
♠ K743	♠ AJ109	With Hand D LHO opens 1♣, what do you do?
♥ A97652	♥ A42	
♦ 92	♦ KJ	With Hand E partner opens 1♣, do you bid?
♣ 6	♣ 9752	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand F partner opens 1♣, (a) what do you respond? (b) Suppose that you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 1NT, what do you do now?
♠ 86	♠ K9653	
♥ Q875	♥ A763	With Hand G you are South and the bidding goes like this, what do you do at ?
♦ 7642	♦ J7	West North East South
♣ QJ4	♣ 94	- 1♥ 1♠ pass
Hand G	Hand H	1NT 2♣ 2♠ pass
♠ K98	♠ -	pass 3♣ pass ?
♥ 653	♥ A965	With Hand H you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♠, what do you rebid?
♦ 108764	♦ A1087632	
♣ 85	♣ KQ	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J LHO opens 1♣ which partner doubles. (a) what do you bid? (b) Suppose you choose 1♥ and partner raises to 2♥, what do you do?
♠ A74	♠ K9432	
♥ A1064	♥ KQ983	(a) Would you open Hand K in first seat? (b) Suppose you pass, LHO opens 1♣ and RHO bids 2♣. Do you make a noise now?
♦ 108	♦ J	
♣ 9654	♣ 75	

Editorial

As we all know, we had to leave the Soi 4 premises because they wanted to charge too much for us to play there. The move has worked out very well, but the Diana Inn management are a trifle concerned that we do not spend as much as, say, the drunken golfers who return from a hot day on the links.

Anyway, I conveyed my opinion that we spend a lot more than they actually account for. For instance, numerous people turn up early at the Green Bottle and have one of their (excellent) club sandwiches and a couple of beers. And a number of us always stay behind for a drink or two after the session. So, it has been decided to issue membership cards to all Bridge club players (free of charge) and this card will be accepted throughout the whole Diana group and gives 10% off all food, drinks and rooms etc. that are not already discounted (so nothing off Happy Hour or the buffets). I strongly urge all members to use their card (even if there is no discount) as this will show just how much we all spend at this venue. I think that the Diana Inn is a great place to play and I certainly do not want to increase the playing fee nor go through the hassle of moving again.

An opening 2NT?

Board 24 from Monday 21st

Dealer: ♠ AQ6
West ♥ A2
Love all ♦ KQJ2
♣ QJ32

Table A

West	North(B)	East	South
pass	2NT (1)	all pass	

♠ KJ4	N	♠ 1052
♥ K9854	W E	♥ 10643
♦ 543	S	♦ A86
♣ 96		♣ AK8
	♠ 9873	
	♥ QJ7	
	♦ 109	
	♣ 10754	

Table B

West	North (B)	East	South
pass	1♣ (1)	all pass	

Table A: (1) So what did open with this North hand B in this week's quiz? It's just 19 points and I simply don't like the systems that open at the two level with these hands.

Table B: (1) 1♣ looks fine to me. And then rebid 2NT (18-19) if partner responds.

And what happened? Two North's declared in 2NT, one making and one going down. 1♣ was the top spot, bid 3 times and making 3 overtricks. Two players ignored my continual advice about opening 1♣ when 4-4 in the minors and played in an inferior 1♦.

The bottom lines:-

- With a balanced 18-19 points, open a suit and then jump in NT.
- When equal length (3-3 or 4-4) in the minors, open 1♣.

Cover an honour with an honour?

Board 5 from Friday 18th

Most West's went down in a 2NT contract on Friday 18th, let's have a look: -

Dealer:	♠ KQ82	<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ K1054	West(A)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ 9	-	pass	pass	pass
	♣ J853	1♣ (1)	all pass		

♠ A74	N	♠ J63	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ QJ2	W E	♥ 96	West(A)	North	East	South
♦ AQ8	S	♦ J10652	-	pass	pass	pass
♣ AK76		♣ 1042	2NT (1)	pass	pass (2)	pass
	♠ 1095					
	♥ A873					
	♦ K743					
	♣ Q9					

Table A: (1) So what did open with this West hand A in this week's quiz? It's 20 points and 3 aces is a plus, but I will still knock off a point for the 4333 type shape and open 1♣. Another way of looking at it is that if partner cannot respond to 1♣ then you are not going to make 2NT.

Table B: (1) This 2NT opening was chosen at 8 out of the nine tables
(2) And most East's passed. Just one pushed on to 3NT.

And what happened? 1♣ made +2 for a very good score to E-W. 3NT went minus three and most of the 2NT contracts went two or three off. Now I say most, but 2NT made with an overtrick at one tables. How?

Most West's played the ♦A followed by the ♦Q and most South's sensibly ducked the ♦Q. Just one made the mistake of covering, giving declarer 4♦ tricks instead of just two. At another table West was slightly more subtle and led the ♦Q initially but South was not fooled and ducked this.

The bottom lines:-

- It's usually best to cover an honour with an honour, but not if it gives declarer an entry to an otherwise dead dummy.
- Deduct a point for the totally flat 4333 type shape.

A Printing Error

♠ - There was an error in the original news-sheet 120. Hand H had 14 cards, the ♣
♥ A965 holding was actually ♣KQ doubleton although that did not detract from what I
♦ A1087632 said about the hand except that the opening bid is now obvious. So you open
♣ KQ 1♦ and should again rebid a simple 2♦ with this revised hand H over partner's 1♠
response.

The dog that did not bark in the night

Board 13 from Monday 21st

Remember that Sherlock Holmes mystery, it believe it was Silver Blaze: -

Sherlock Holmes: 'The key to the mystery was in the dog barking'

Watson: 'But the dog did not bark'

Sherlock Holmes: 'Precisely'

Dealer:	♠ K743				
North	♥ A97652	West	North(C)	East	South
Both vul	♦ 92	-	pass (1)	pass	pass
	♣ 6	1♠	3♥ (2)	pass	pass
		4♠ (3)	all pass		
♠ A9652	N	♠ J8			
♥ K4	W E	♥ J108			
♦ Q	S	♦ K7643			
♣ AKQ9		♣ 753			
	♠ 10				
	♥ Q3				
	♦ AJ1085				
	♣ J10842				

- (1) What did open with this North hand C in this week's quiz? I'll come onto it in a minute.
- (2) A weak jump overcall.
- (3) West has a difficult bid now. Given a freer run he would bid his ♣'s, but that's now at the 4 level. 4♠ is not totally unreasonable, but wait a minute...
... West should be thinking 'why has North pre-empted now when he could have opened with either 2♥ or 3♥?'. It's the dog that did not bark, why not?
The answer is that North did not want to open with a pre-empt because he also has a 4 card ♠ suit.
This should deter West from bidding too high.

And what happened? 4♠ went one down for a near top to N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't pre-empt with a reasonable 4 card major.
- So a subsequent pre-empt from a player who has passed implies a 4 card major.

And why did the dog in the mystery not bark?

Elementary, my dear Watson. The dog did not bark because the 'intruder' was its owner.

5-4 in the majors opposite a 1NT opening.

Board 14 from Monday 21st

Dealer: ♠ J93
East ♥ A763
Love all ♦ AQ108
♣ KJ6

♠ Q1087	N	♠ AK6
♥ KQ854	W E	♥ J2
♦ K543	S	♦ A72
♣ -		♣ Q9843

♠ 542
♥ 109
♦ J96
♣ A10752

Table A

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

- (1) I understand that this East mis-counted, believing he had 16 points.
- (2) So how should one show a game-forcing hand with 9 cards in the majors here? I've been over this a number of times (new-sheets 23, 79 and in some detail in no 33). The answer is to bid Stayman and then jump in the 5 carder (forcing) if you get a 2♦ response. This leaves the option of playing in a 5-3 fit or in 3NT.
- (3) This actual sequence of transferring to ♥'s and then bidding ♠'s implies at least 5-5 in the majors (I would take it as 6 ♥'s and 5 ♠'s).
- (4) Anyway, East believed that partner had 5 ♠'s and so bid the ♠ game.

And what happened? Luckily the Moysian fit played quite well as trumps split 3-3. The top score was the E-W pair who reached 3NT making +1. The bottom lines: -

- The modern practice when holding a game-going hand opposite a 1NT opener is to bid Stayman when 5-4 and transfer and bid the other major when 5-5 or better.

The Tripple Crown

Dave, Jan, myself and a few other have been discussing the merits of perhaps giving some sort of prize to anyone who wins all three events in one week. We eventually decided not to give any prize as we wish to play within the letter of the law (no gambling, and so no prize). This week we actually did have a winner of this elusive triple. Well done Dave!

In fact, two separate people achieved the miraculous feat in the same week! But modesty prohibits me from mentioning the other.

Perhaps we should both thank Terry Haddon for this - you will see the humour in this remark when you read the rest of this news-sheet.

I said 'elusive', let's look the odds. Assuming 8 tables per session and all players of equal ability, then the odds of someone winning the 'tripples' are 1/8 to the power of two, or one in 64; so you can expect it about every 6 months or so. The odds of two independent people (who only partnered each other on one occasion and obviously play in different directions on the other two occasions) both winning in the same week are 1/8 to the power of three, or one in 512; so once in 5 years.

6NT scores more than 6♥

Board 26 from Monday 21st

Dealer: ♠ 4
East ♥ AKJ10753
Both vul ♦ 85
♣ A85

♠ Q10875	N	♠ 963
♥ 942	W E	♥ 8
♦ 3	S	♦ KQ10743
♣ J1074		♣ 932
	♠ AKJ2	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ A962	
	♣ KQ6	

Table A

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

'Expert Table'

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	2NT (5)
pass	3♥ (6)	pass	4♥ (7)
pass	4NT (8)	pass	5♠ (9)
pass	5NT (10)	pass	6♥ (11)
pass	6NT or 7NT (12)		

- Table A: (1) Again an off-beat 1NT opener, it's a full 19 and I would open 1♦.
- (2) This pair had not agreed exactly what a transfer followed by 4♣ means (I prefer to play it as RKCB with the transfer suit king & queen included in the answers). Anyway, having not agreed it and it being pairs scoring North decided to go for 6NT provided that there were not two aces missing, so 4♣ was simple Gerber.
- (3) One ace!
- (4) With, as North believed, one ace missing 6NT is risky, but it is pairs.
- 'Expert' (5) Most experts will rebid 2NT rather than the ♠ suit here as a 4-4 ♠ fit will
Table subsequently be uncovered using Checkback.
- (6) And it's best to play any bid other than pass as game forcing after a 18-19 2NT rebid, and here we see the advantage. With just a 5 card ♥ suit North would have bid 3♣ (Checkback) and so 3♥ here shows a 6+ card suit...
- (7).. and so South can support with just Qx.
- (8) RKCB for ♥'s.
- (9) 2 key cards + the ♥Q. Note how RKCB uncovers the all-important ♥Q.
- (10) Kings?
- (11) Two
- (12) North can count 12 tricks – 7 ♥'s, his ♣A and the two aces and two kings that partner has shown. 6NT is obviously a safe bid and should score well, but partner has another 2 or 3 points and there could easily be 13 tricks off the top, but I cannot see a safe way for North to discover this other than simply punting 7NT.

And what happened? Three tables bid to 6NT+1 and shared the top, with the other six tables sharing the bottom for 6♥+1.

The bottom lines: -

- You have to agree what 4♣ means in a sequence like 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣. It is obviously ace asking (4NT is quantitative) but if you play RKCB I prefer to include the king of the transfer suit in the answers (i.e 4♣ is actually RKCB).
- With 12 (or 13) top tricks, NT scores more than a suit; especially at pairs scoring.

The Unusual NT (UNT)

Board 11 from Monday 21st

I have featured this bid a few times in the past – usually when it has been abused by people holding 5-4 or 6-4 in the minors. Let's have a look at a good example: -

Dealer:	♠ -				
South	♥ 5	West	North	East	South
Love all	♦ AQJ1062	-	-		pass
	♣ AJ9764	1♥	2NT (1)	3♠	pass
		4♠	5♣ (2)	dbl	5♦
		all pass			
♠ K6	N	♠ AJ8732			
♥ AQ1076	W E	♥ J42			
♦ K43	S	♦ 8			
♣ 1082		♣ KQ5			
	♠ Q10954				
	♥ K983				
	♦ 975				
	♣ 3				

- (1) The UNT. It is often weaker than this but should be at least 5-5 in the minors. You could overcall 2♦ here with the intention of bidding the ♣ suit later but I prefer the UNT as this implies less in high card points and informs partner of both of your suits at the earliest opportunity.
- (2) With a normal weak UNT you have said it all and must pass. But this is a strong UNT because of the two 6 card suits and 5♣ here asks partner to choose between 5♣ and 5♦.

And what happened? 5♦ was reached at 6 of the 9 tables. One E-W pair found the good 5♠ sacrifice which was only two down doubled.

The bottom lines: -

- Having bid the UNT, do not bid again unless you have a very good hand (like this one).

How about a pass?

- | | |
|----------|--|
| ♠ J53 | Remember this Hand A from last week? I asked what you would open. I |
| ♥ KQJ842 | then went on to say that it's too good for a weak 2♥ and I would open 1♥ |
| ♦ Q742 | and that 3♥ was the only other bid that I would consider. Bob informed that |
| ♣ - | when he held the hand he passed (too good for 2♥ but not good enough for 1♥). |
| | Now this is also very sensible but in my style I do not have a 'gap' between my weak |
| | two openings and a one level opening. With a 6 card major if it's too good for a |
| | pre-empt then I open at the one level. So for me if it's too good for a 2♥ opener then |
| | you must open 1♥, but that's purely my preferred treatment. |

5 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s.

Board 6 from Wednesday 23rd

I was asked how to bid this hand from Wednesday: -

Dealer: ♠ 102
East ♥ K82
E-W vul ♦ KQ86
♣ QJ62

Table A

West (F)	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	pass
1♠ (1)	pass	1NT	pass
pass (2)	pass		

♠ K9653	N	♠ QJ7
♥ A763	W E	♥ QJ94
♦ J7	S	♦ A92
♣ 94		♣ K106
	♠ A84	
	♥ 105	
	♦ 10543	
	♣ A873	

- (1) So what did you respond with this West hand F(a) in this week's quiz? If equal length in the majors then obviously 1♥ but with 5♠'s it's surely best to bid that suit.
- (2) But does West have enough to bid again? Would 2♥ be forcing? What did you bid with this West hand F(b) in this week's quiz? This West chose to pass and the 4-4♥ fit was lost.

And what happened? Most E-W played in 2♥ or 3♥ making 9 tricks; 1NT went one down.

Checkback Stayman (or New Minor Forcing).

So what's the solution? I did actually cover this in news-sheet 74, but that was a long time ago. The answer is that West should indeed bid his 5 card ♠ suit at (1) but should bid 2♥ at (2). Because of this exact type of situation 2♥ here has to be a weak bid and opener is expected to pass (as with this East hand) or else to convert to 2♠.

So what should West do if he has a stronger hand with the same shape? The answer is that you have to use either 2♣ (Checkback Stayman) or else 2♦ (New Minor Forcing – NMF) to ask opener about his major suit holdings. I went into Checkback/NMF in news-sheet 98.

Let's suppose that West has a stronger hand and that we play 2♣ at (2) as Checkback - this is superior to the more popular NMF as there is more room to be precise in the answers. The response by East to this 2♣ Checkback enquiry is: -

- 2♦ = minimum, not 4♥'s and not 3♠'s
- 2♥ = 4♥'s (maybe also 3♠'s)
- 2♠ = 3♠'s but not 4♥'s
- 2NT = maximum, not 4♥'s and not 3♠'s

Is it forcing?

A similar theme: - With no interference I was asked about the 2♦ bid in this sequence: -

1♣ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♦? Is 2♦ forcing?

Now many experienced players play 2♦ as artificial here (NMF) or some other sort of artificial bid. With no such agreement it's up to partnership understanding; I would recommend that it is weak, showing 5♠'s and 5♦'s. With a stronger hand jump to 3♦ (forcing).

Don't pass partner's 1♣ opening

Board 28 from Wednesday 23rd

I've said it many times, don't pass partner's 1♣ opening if you can possibly scrape up a bid, especially if partner's 1♣ may be short: -

Dealer:	♠ AJ109				
West	♥ A42	West	North(D)	East (E)	South
N-S vul	♦ KJ	1♣ (1)	pass (2)	pass (3)	pass (4)
	♣ 9752				
♠ K543	N	♠ 86			
♥ J1093	W E	♥ Q875			
♦ AQ10	S	♦ 7642			
♣ K8		♣ QJ4			
	♠ Q72				
	♥ K6				
	♦ 9853				
	♣ AJ63				

- (1) E-W were playing a short ♣, so that with this exact distribution (4432) it can be just two cards.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand D in this week's quiz? It's not strong enough for 1NT (15-18) and with length in the bid suit is unsuitable for double, pass is the only bid.
- (3) So what did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? East has 3 decent ♣'s but I would muster up a bid (especially if playing a short ♣). I would bid 1♦ and then pass any response.
- (4) Now in the pass-out (balancing) seat you only need about 7 points to bid, but with length/strength in the suit bid pass will usually work out right here.

And what happened? 1♣ went three down for 150 to N-S. Even though E-W were non-vulnerable this was a complete top to N-S as the most they scored at other tables was 140 (2♠ making +1) or 120 (1NT making +1).

The bottom lines –

- Don't pass partner's 1♣ opening, especially if you play a short ♣, if you can possibly muster up a bid.

A change of partnership – what is Terry*2?

So what's with this Terry*2/Dave in the results table? There was a guy named Terry Haddon who has played at the club a couple of times. Dave played with him last week and described him as being similar to John Gavens (always critical of partner but never right). Anyway, Dave and myself take it in turns to play with odd (without a partner) people on Wednesdays and Dave had the misfortune to play 28 boards with him on Wednesday 16th, they scored around 45%.

So it was my turn to play with him this Wednesday 23rd. Now Dave knew exactly what kind of fireworks to expect and so he kibitzed our table; our Terry*2 partnership lasted just 8 boards and I expect that Dave has never spectated such an amusing couple of sets in his life? I cover four of these boards next; in all of them my partner said that I had bid/played incorrectly and that his bidding/play was fine. Perhaps I am not as subtle/patient/whatever as Dave (?) but when somebody continually (incorrectly) criticises me I tell them exactly what I think and so he walked out after 8 boards.

But don't get me wrong, everybody makes mistakes and people like Austin or Chuck will usually pick up mine (and visa-versa) and tell me about it; if they are correct I appreciate this, we all learn by our mistakes, it's part of growing up.

Anyway, those 8 boards scored about 45% but then Dave took over when Terry H gave up. Dave and I actually scored 62% on the remaining 20 boards but the other Terry's performances brought the total down to a still respectable 57% for the complete session.

Now you know my policy. I will always make up a scratch partnership with anyone left over. If they are not too good I don't say anything unless they ask for my advice/help. But if they believe that they are superior beings and continually criticise me then they can certainly expect it back. The guy should simply have been very grateful that he had the opportunity to play with two of the club's top players (Modesty is not my middle name) - the club champion and the director, who also both happened to thoroughly understand his bidding system (Benjamin Acol) far better than he does. Agreed?

5-5 is worth a noise?

Board 27 from Wednesday 23rd

Dealer: ♠ 765
South ♥ AJ4
Love all ♦ A632
♣ J109

West	North(me)	East	South (K)
-	-	-	pass (1)
1♣	pass	2♣	pass (2)
pass	pass (3)		

♠ AQ8	N	♠ J10
♥ 752	W E	♥ 106
♦ K54	S	♦ Q10987
♣ A432		♣ KQ86
	♠ K9432	
	♥ KQ983	
	♦ J	
	♣ 75	

- (1) Did you open with this South hand K(a) in this week's quiz? It's close, it does not quite conform to the rule of 20 (it's 19) but with 8 points in two long suits I think that 1♠ is fine, especially as you have an easy 2♥ rebid. A rather light opening is attractive when non-vulnerable but I won't argue if you chose to pass.
- (2) And what did you bid with this South hand K(b) in the quiz? This time I certainly will argue with this 2nd pass. I think that double is clear, you are a passed hand and partner will certainly not expect more than this; so you should double and if partner bids 2♦ then you bid 2♥, asking him to give preference to one of the majors (partner will not expect a great hand as you have already passed). Bidding opposite a passed partner when both opponents have bid is dangerous, but here RHO is limited and you have good shape.
- (3) A balancing double would not be unreasonable here, but the hand really is too flat.

And what happened? I was North, my partner passed throughout and we got a near bottom when 2♣ made +2 for 130 and other N-S pairs were generally giving just 50 or 100 away playing in 2♠.

The bottom lines: -

- 5-5 in the majors is good.
- Once you have passed then partner will not expect opening values if you subsequently double.

Simple Preference

Board 1 from Wednesday 23rd

Dealer: ♠ J
North ♥ KQJ94
Love all ♦ A52
♣ AK64

♠ 543	N	♠ AQ10762
♥ A1072	W E	♥ 8
♦ Q9	S	♦ KJ3
♣ Q1093		♣ J72
	♠ K98	
	♥ 653	
	♦ 108764	
	♣ 85	

West	North(me)	East	South (G)
-	1♥	1♠	pass
1NT	2♣	2♠	pass
pass	3♣ (1)	pass	pass (2)
3♠	all pass		

- (1) I had a nice hand and did not want to sell out to 2♠. So I bid 3♣, (3♥ or 3♣ may well make or they may push on to 3♠ which will surely go down).
- (2) So what did you bid with this South hand G in this week's quiz? If you have more ♥'s than ♣'s (or equal length) then you have to give preference back to partner's first bid suit. So bid 3♥, this does not promise anything.

Anyway, they pushed on to 3♠ which went down at most tables, but not at this one, why? Partner led the ♣8 which I won with the ♣K. I then led the ♥K because I 'knew' that declarer had at least two ♥'s. Declarer then took a losing trump finesse and partner led his ♣5. I won with the ♣A and could obviously give partner a ♣ ruff, but I decided to 'cash' my ♥Q first. Declarer ruffed this and drew trumps to make the contract

My partner was irate that I did not give him a ♣ ruff. I explained that I 'knew' that he had more ♣'s than ♥'s and so if he had a doubleton ♣ then he must have at most a singleton ♥ and so I could cash two ♥'s before giving him his ♣ ruff.

He countered that he would never bid at (2) with just three points and that his bidding was fine. Guess he needs to read up on simple preference?

Bid your hand 3 times???

Board 2 from Wednesday 23rd

So let's see what my learned partner did on the very next board: -

Dealer:	♠ 109762				
East	♥ AJ94	West	North(me)	East	South
N-S vul	♦ 953	-	-	1♣	1NT
	♣ 4	2♦ (1)	2♠ (2)	dbl (3)	redbl (4)
		3♣ (5)	pass	pass	3♠ (6)
		dbl (7)	all pass		
♠ AKQ4	N	♠ 85			
♥ 5	W E	♥ K1086			
♦ 107642	S	♦ J			
♣ 1065		♣ AK9872			
	♠ J3				
	♥ Q632				
	♦ AKQ8				
	♣ QJ3				

- (1) You can redouble here, showing the balance of power and expecting 1NT to go down.
- (2) I had no idea if my partner would have taken 2♣ by me as Stayman, but after the 2♦ bid there was no way I could safely show both majors and so I simply bid 2♠, to play.
- (3) Nobody bothered to ask what this dbl meant.
- (4) And heaven only knows what this redouble means. Surely 2♠ doubled would be a nice spot on most distributions? Presumably this shows a super max 1NT overcall (so around 17-18) with 4 ♠'s??
- (5) And West should pass here, don't bid if there is a juicy penalty in the offing.
- (6) And what can we say about this 3♠ bid? Showing even more than the redouble at (3) with superb ♠ support???
- (7) But of course you get an even juicier penalty with an opponent who has no pass cards in his bidding box.

And what happened? 500 away and a bottom for N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- Bid your hand just once, three times really is excessive.

Double and then jump?

Board 3 from Wednesday 23rd

Dealer: ♠ KQ62
South ♥ KJ97
E-W vul ♦ K2
♣ KQ2

♠ J85	N	♠ 1093
♥ Q2	W E	♥ 853
♦ A75	S	♦ QJ9643
♣ AJ1087		♣ 3

♠ A74
♥ A1064
♦ 108
♣ 9654

West	North(me)	East	South (J)
-	-	-	pass
1♣	dbl (1)	pass	1♥ (2)
pass	2♥ (3)	pass	pass (4)
all pass			

The very next board, let's see if partner can make it three 'fine' performances in a row: -

- (1) 1NT is a sound alternative, but with both majors I think that dbl is better, especially with an unfamiliar partner who may not play Stayman over a 1NT overcall.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand J(a) in this week's quiz? 1♥ is fine. A non-jump here promises 0-9 points and it's not quite good enough for 2♥.
- (3) A decent 17 points, so game should be there if partner has 6 or so, and the way to find this out is to invite with 2♥.
- (4) What did you bid with this South hand J(b) in this week's quiz? You have an absolute maximum and 4♥ is clear. Now my partner passed. He said that I should have jumped to 3♥ at (3). I tried to explain to him that his initial bid promises zero to nine points and that my 2♥ asks him to bid on with a non-minimum. 3♥ would be too high if he was bust.

And what happened? Obviously 4♥ is cold on the ♠ lead that we got (in fact it looks like +1 to me). Anyway, intrepid partner won in dummy and immediately took a losing ♥ finesse into the opening hand. He subsequently failed to pull the last trump and managed exactly 9 tricks for the third miserable result in a row.

He then walked out of the club, guess Dave and I are not the same standard as his regular partner? Dave has told me a number of similar horror tales from his experiences last week.

Responding to partner's take-out double and raise

Consider the bidding sequence above and imagine that you have these South hands. Partner doubles and then raises your 1♥ bid to 2♥, what do you do at (4)?

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3
♠ 974	♠ J74	♠ A74
♥ 764	♥ A1064	♥ A1064
♦ 108	♦ 108	♦ 108
♣ 96542	♣ 9654	♣ 9654

Hand 1: Pass. See why I didn't bid 3♥ with the North hand above?

Hand 2: 3♥. In the middle of the (0-9) range, so encourage partner.

Hand 3: 4♥. It's maximum, so bid game. Note that this hand improves when partner doubles ♣'s as you have no wasted values there.

So when should you make a jump raise after doubling?

- ♠ KQ62
 - ♥ KJ97
 - ♦ AK
 - ♣ KQ2
- Let's make the North hand stronger by adding an ace. You again double and get a 1♥ response. Partner's bid is 0-9 and you expect 4♥ to make unless he is completely bust. So you bid 3♥ and expect him to raise to 4♥ if holding about 3+ points. So partner would raise to 4♥ with hand 2&3 from the previous page but pass holding hand 1.

But when you are opener it's different: -

- ♠ KQ62
 - ♥ KJ97
 - ♦ K2
 - ♣ KQ2
- Let's just have another look at the actual North hand. As I said, you can double a 1♣ opening with this hand and if partner responds 1♥ then you bid 2♥. But suppose that you are dealer and choose to open 1♣ (suppose you play a weak NT) and partner responds 1♥, do you again bid 2♥?
- No! This situation is completely different as partner has promised 6 points and you are forced to bid. 2♥ would be a weak bid and a jump to 3♥ would be correct in this scenario. With a couple more points (so around 19-20) jump to 4♥.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1♣. With three aces I guess that 2NT is not too bad but I would still deduct a point for the totally flat 4333 type shape. If game is there partner will bid, and if he cannot bid over 1♣ then 2NT will be very tricky indeed.
- Hand B: 1♣. Make life easy for partner and you have an easy 2NT rebid.
- Hand C: Pass. Do not pre-empt (2♥) with an outside 4 card major.
- Hand D: Pass. Do not double with length in the suit opened, and it's not enough for 1NT.
- Hand E: 1♦. I am loathe to pass 1♣, especially if it can be short.
- Hand F: (a) 1♠. Bid the 5-carder.
(b) 2♥. This is a weak bid which partner either passes or corrects to 2♠.
- Hand G: 3♥. This is simple preference and does not promise any values. You must put partner back into his first bid suit if you have more of them or are equal length.
Pass is terrible, it promises more ♣'s than ♥'s and, as I said, 3♥ promises no more than zero points, it just denies more ♣'s than ♥'s.
- Hand H: 2♦. It's not good enough for 2♥ (a reverse) nor for 3♦.
- Hand J: (a) 1♥. It's not quite good enough for a jump to 2♥.
(b) 4♥. Partner is inviting you and you have a near maximum. Remember, your initial 1♥ response promised nothing (0-9 points).
- Hand K: (a) 1♠. It's just 19 for the rule of 20, but with 8 points in two 5 card majors I would open, especially as you have an easy 2♥ rebid.
(b) Double. If you did not open you have to make a noise now with this great shape. If partner bids ♦'s that's no problem as you can simply bid ♥'s to offer him a choice in the majors. Note that doubling and then bidding another suit usually shows a very strong hand, but not here as you have already passed.