

1/4/2005

Club News Sheet – No. 126

Mon 28/3/05	1 st Bob/Dave	68%	2 nd Chuck/Paul	55%
Wed 30/3/05	1 st = Tomas/Bjorn	59%	1 st = Bob/Thorlief	59%
Fri 1/4/05	1 st Tomas/Philip	70%	2 nd Richard(USA)/Richaed(IRL)	61%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

With Hand A LHO opens 1♦ and RHO bids 1NT, what do you do?

- ♠ A104
- ♥ AJ32
- ♦ K94
- ♣ Q109

So that explains it

Board 1 from Friday 25th

North

South

- | | |
|--------|----------|
| ♠ AJ32 | ♠ Q5 |
| ♥ Q83 | ♥ J62 |
| ♦ AQ6 | ♦ 752 |
| ♣ AQ7 | ♣ J10984 |

Remember this board from last week? Two tables reached a silly 3NT and I said I could not understand how. Apparently one North opened this hand with 2NT. Now there is a variation of Benjamin twos that allows a 2-level opening on a balanced 19-20 (and, indeed, our Australian visitors Gerard/Derek played something similar) but I simply don't like it. Playing Standard

American the way to bid a balanced 18-19 points is to open a suit and then jump in NT. A 2NT opener should be 20-21 and this flat hand is nowhere near a 2NT (or equivalent) opener. As I said last week, this hand is worth 18 at most and I would not argue if you downgraded to open a 15-17 1NT. South's raise to 3NT opposite what he believed to be 20-21 was perfectly OK of course but the contract was hopeless.

Have a good look before you complain

Board from Friday 25th

Hand E

Hand F

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| ♠ K6 | ♠ K6 |
| ♥ KJ543 | ♥ KJ1093 |
| ♦ 43 | ♦ 107 |
| ♣ 5432 | ♣ 10872 |

And remember these two hands E & F from last week's quiz? One pair complained when the holder transferred after partner had opened 1NT and then had a long pause before eventually passing partner's 2♥ response. The main protagonist later agreed with me that bidding 2NT (or having a think) with hand F was quite reasonable.

Don't go bananas just because you're non-vul.

Board 19 from Monday 28th

Dealer: ♠ 97
South ♥ 1072
E-W vul ♦ J3
♣ AQ9765

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠ (1)	3♣ (2)	3♠ (3)	4♣ (4)
4♠	pass	pass	pass (5)

♠ AKQJ1062	N	♠ 843
♥ Q9	W E	♥ A83
♦ K752	S	♦ Q984
♣ -		♣ KJ3
	♠ 5	
	♥ KJ654	
	♦ A106	
	♣ 10842	

This was the auction (supervised by me) at the beginner's table: -

- (1) A nice hand, but 1♠ is sufficient playing Standard American. Playing Benjamin twos it's close to a 2♣ opener and playing Namyats then 4♦ (a good 4♠) is OK. The hand is too good for a traditional 4♠ which should be weaker with 8♠'s.
- (2) A weak jump overcall. It would be nice to have a 7 card suit at the 3 level but at this vulnerability I think it's just about OK. But this really is up to partnership style; if I were partnering Chuck then I would pass and if I was partnering Bob then it's a clear 3♣ bid.
- (3) Now even this mild pre-emptive action has made life awkward for East; 3♠ is probably a slight overbid but there really is no other sensible choice.
- (4) South asked me here; I did not look at his hand as I was East, but suggested that with 3♣'s he should bid 4♣ and with 4 decent ♣'s then 5♣ was OK. He chose 4♣ which I think is probably best with no ♣ honour.
- (5) And he asked if he should bid again here; I said definitely not. When one raises partner's pre-empt, do so to the limit at the first opportunity. So 5♣ would be acceptable at (4) but not now. I explained that the previous pre-emptive action had already probably caused sufficient disruption so that nobody really knew what was going on; maybe 4♠ goes down, maybe E-W have missed a slam. Bidding again here would simply give E-W another bite at the cherry and may be costly if it's doubled.

And what happened? 5♣ doubled would have been costly. The comfortable 4♠ was bid at 3 of the six tables and scored 620 or 650. One N-S pair decided upon a not too unreasonable 5♣ but this went for 800. But this turned out to be an average score as two N-S pairs went bananas! 6♣ doubled down 5 for 1100 away, and 5♥ doubled down 6 for 1400 away.

The bottom lines.

- Don't go bananas?
- If your partnership did, then re-read the advice that I gave the beginners above.

Pass 1NT with a flat hand

Board 18 from Monday 28th

Dealer: ♠ A104
East ♥ AJ32
N-S vul ♦ K94
♣ Q109

♠ J98 N ♠ Q76
♥ Q105 W E ♥ K64
♦ 832 S ♦ AJ765
♣ AJ75 ♣ K8

♠ K532
♥ 987
♦ Q10
♣ 6432

Table A

West	North(A)	East	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1NT	dbl (1)	pass	2♠
pass	pass (2)	pass	

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1NT	pass (1)	pass	pass

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week’s quiz? A double (take-out of ♦’s) is a very poor bid with this flat hand, especially vulnerable.
(2) And North has landed partner in a miserable 4-3 fit.

Table B: (1) This North chose the ‘obvious’ pass.

And what happened? 1NT was passed out at 3 tables and made exactly 3 times. Other contracts were 2♥, 2♠ and 3♠ by N-S and these all went down (vulnerable) for poor scores.

The bottom lines: -

- Don’t double the opponent’s 1NT with a mediocre and/or flat hand.
- You need a very good hand to double in this position (opposite a passed partner when opener may be strong).

Bidding Quiz Answer

Hand A: Pass. A double would be take-out of ♦’s but with this flat hand it is a very poor bid. And double is also very dangerous here: partner has passed and LHO (opener) is unlimited with a balanced partner, if opener has anything more than a minimum opener you will find a redouble very uncomfortable.