

Mon 29 th	1 st	Martin/Rosemary	60%	2 nd	Bob/Monte	58%
Wed 31 st	1 st	Jim/Tomas	57%	2 nd	Dave/Bill	56%
Fri 2 nd	1 st	Dave/Bob(England)	61%	2 nd	Jean-Marc/Tomas	57%

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

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A (in 2 nd seat)?
♠ A54	♠ A953	With hand B you open 1♣ and LHO overcalls a weak 2♥.
♥ Q87	♥ A10	Partner passes as does RHO, what do you do?
♦ AJ4	♦ 53	
♣ J743	♣ KQ1082	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C Partner opens 1♣ and RHO bids 2♣, Michaels. What do you do?
♠ AQ107	♠ AK42	With Hand D it's favourable vulnerability and you are playing negative doubles. It goes three passes to partner who opens 1♦. RHO overcalls 1♠, what do you do?
♥ J1093	♥ Q8753	
♦ 73	♦ -	
♣ 974	♣ 10952	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E it's love all. Partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls a weak 2♥, what do you do?
♠ KQ6	♠ J73	With Hand F it's favourable vulnerability and you are playing negative doubles of course. It goes three passes to you and you open 1♦. LHO bids 1♠ and this is passed round to you. What do you do?
♥ KJ74	♥ A6	
♦ 92	♦ AK98752	
♣ AJ74	♣ 3	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G you open 1♦, partner responds 1♥ but RHO then bids 2♣, what do you bid?
♠ AK53	♠ AJ53	With Hand H it's the same. You open 1♦, partner responds 1♥ but RHO then bids 2♣, what do you bid?
♥ K63	♥ K6	
♦ AQ52	♦ J542	
♣ K5	♣ KJ3	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J LHO opens 2♠ and this is passed to you, what do you bid?
♠ 5	♠ J4	With Hand K RHO opens 1♣, what do you do?
♥ AKQ864	♥ Q98653	
♦ AJ86	♦ K1064	
♣ A7	♣ 5	

Who bid too high?

Board 20 from Monday 29th

3NT is a poor contract, who do you think is responsible?

Now I have been criticised recently (what's new?) by somebody who thinks that I should try to teach the basics instead of convoluted 'Expert Bidding'. OK, perhaps the critic would like to examine this hand where, in my view, he showed poor bidding judgement (and then tried to blame partner).

Dealer: ♠ A54
West ♥ Q87
Both vul ♦ AJ4
 ♣ J743

♠ K93	N	♠ J87
♥ A1092	W E	♥ K4
♦ 10962	S	♦ 753
♣ 65		♣ KQ1098

♠ Q1062
♥ J653
♦ KQ8
♣ A2

Table A

West	North(A)	East	South
pass	1♣ (1)	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	3NT (2)
all pass			

'Expert Table'

West	North(A)	East	South
pass	pass (1)	pass	1♦ (3)
pass	2NT (4)	pass	pass (5)
pass			

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week's quiz. It's the same old theme – hand evaluation. Knock off a point for the 4333 type shape; and with no intermediates or touching honours, and with the only 4 card suit headed by the Jack, this hand is most certainly not worth an opener.
- (2) This is a decent 12, but with no fit for partner then 2NT is enough; although this overbid, in my opinion, is not as bad as North's.
- 'Expert' (1) Our experts know all about 4333 type hands being bad, of course.
- Table (3) This hand is worth an opening, even in 4th seat. Open 1♣ if you play 'short ♣'.
(4) 11 – poor 12 with no 4 card major.
(5) And South now has an easy pass.

And what happened? 3NT was bid at virtually every table and went down every time.

The bottom lines: -

- How often do I have to say it? Even one of the 'top' players in the club fails to comprehend it – deduct a point for the 4333 type shape – it has no trick making potential.
- When you end up in a poor contract and get a bad result, perhaps you should review your own bidding before (or as well as, if you must) criticising partner?

Lucrative Low-Level Doubles?

Overcalls (and weak openings) seem to be getting weaker and weaker these days. Perhaps that's because some players do not know how to (or do not wish to) penalise the opponents at a low level? No less than four examples came up recently: -

A Lucrative Low-Level Double – Part 1

Board 24 from Monday 29th

Dealer: ♠ J4
West ♥ Q98653
Love all ♦ K1064
♣ 5

West(B)	North(K)	East(E)	South
1♣	2♥ (1)	pass (2)	pass
dbl (3)	pass	pass (4)	pass

♠ A953	N	♠ KQ6
♥ A10	W E	♥ KJ74
♦ 53	S	♦ 92
♣ KQ1082		♣ AJ74
	♠ 10872	
	♥ 2	
	♦ AQJ87	
	♣ 963	

- (1) What did you bid with this North hand K in this week's quiz? This North chose a weak jump overcall. I guess that non-vul it's OK even with this weak suit as it has decent shape. But many players would prefer a better suit. Pass is obviously reasonable but I would choose 2NT – the dreaded UNT – showing the two lowest unbid suits. I would prefer to have 5 ♦'s but with 10 red cards this hand is just about acceptable.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? I bet most of you simply bid 3NT without blinking?
Now I'm not saying that that is necessarily wrong, but it really surprises me the number of lucrative low-level doubles that are missed these days. I was East and I considered that if we are making 3NT or more (400, 430 whatever) then we will probably get 8 tricks defending a 2♥ doubled contract and the resultant 500 scores a top.
- (3) What did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? If you play negative doubles then double is 'automatic' here and is certainly correct with this hand.
- (4) And East carried through with his plan of defending 2♥ doubled.

And what happened? Of course everything does not always work out exactly as planned. 2♥ doubled was only two down (300 – because they had a nice ♦ fit) but this was an absolute top for E-W as 3NT by E-W went down at other tables (because N-S had a nice ♦ fit).

The bottom lines: -

- Take the money. With a good holding sitting over overcaller, it is often better to be sure of a decent + score by doubling the opponents rather than try for 9 tricks in NT.
- With an excellent holding over an overcall – think double, not NT
- Agree to what level you play negative doubles (3♦, 3♥ or 3♠ are common) and then opener should always re-open with a double unless he has a *very* peculiar hand.

This time it's a pre-emptive opening with a weak suit: -

Dealer:	♠ AQ1096	<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ 10	West	North	East	South(J)
Love all	♦ 1097532	2♠ (1)	pass	pass	3♥ (2)
	♣ 3	pass	pass (3)	pass	

♠ J87432	N	♠ K	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ J2	W E	♥ 9753	West	North	East	South(J)
♦ -	S	♦ KQ4	2♠ (1)	pass	pass	dbl (2)
♣ KQ862		♣ J10954	pass	pass (4)	pass	
	♠ 5					
	♥ AKQ864					
	♦ AJ86					
	♣ A7					

- Table A (1) This is a shapely hand, but with such a poor ♠ suit I don't really like 2♠. It may work out, but I would pass and hope to maybe get in some sort of two-suited bid (maybe Michaels) later.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand J in this week's quiz? It really is too good for just 3♥. 4♥ is possible but partner does not need much for slam to be there, so I prefer double.
- (3) And I don't blame North for passing here.
- Table B (2) This South chose to double, excellent. You have no problem whatever partner bids: raise 3♥ to 4♥; if partner bids 4♣ then either 4♦ (forcing) or 4♥ are reasonable; if partner jumps or bids ♦'s then you can look for slam.
- (4) But partner may pass, of course; and with these top tricks South (or should I say most people) certainly won't mind that.

And what happened? 2♠ doubled was the final contract at two of the tables, it went for 500 or 800. 3♥ made +2 for a bottom and the last table bid and made 4♥ for a poor score.

As the cards lie, 6♦ makes; but I most certainly think that North is correct to go for the penalty. Anybody who criticises North's pass, saying that '6♦ makes', is surely a 'results merchant'?

The bottom lines: -

- If your hand is too strong to simply overcall, then double.

And this time it's a simple 1-level overcall (with a weak suit!): -

Dealer:	♠ AK42		
West	♥ Q8753		
E-W vul	♦ -		
	♣ 10952		
♠ Q9865	N	♠ 10	
♥ 4	W E	♥ KJ1092	
♦ QJ4	S	♦ 1063	
♣ KQ76		♣ AJ94	
	♠ J73		
	♥ A6		
	♦ AK98752		
	♣ 3		

<u>Table A</u>			
West	North(D)	East	South(F)
pass	pass	pass	1♦
1♠	pass (1)	pass	2♦ (2)
pass	2♥	pass	2♠ (3)
pass	2NT	all pass	

<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
West	North(D)	East	South(F)
pass	pass	pass	1♦
1♠	pass (1)	pass	dbl (2)
all pass			

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this North hand D in this week's quiz. Now a negative double (to show ♥'s) is reasonable, but at this vulnerability it's surely best to take the money in 1♠ doubled? So pass and await partner's 'automatic' re-opening double.
 (2) And what did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? Pass is 'automatic' – see 'expert' table.
- 'Expert' Table (1) At this vulnerability our expert is going for the penalty, of course.
 (2) And this South expert knows what he is doing. You should only not re-open with a double if you cannot stand to defend or if you feel that you will get a better score elsewhere (say a slam or vulnerable game). With 3 ♠'s, a singleton, top cards in the other two suits and vulnerable opponents this South knows that 1♠ doubled will net a good score if that's what partner has in mind. South also knows that West probably has only 5 ♠'s (he did not open a weak 2♠). And note that the 'automatic' double cannot cost. Partner has some points but did not bid. So if he is not looking for the penalty he does not have ♥'s (he would have negative doubled) and so can only have ♣'s and insufficient values to bid 2♣. So South should double and if partner does bid 2♣ he can then bid 2♦ - easy eh? – well it is with a little thought/logic.

And what happened. North felt sick playing in the silly 2NT and it went 3 down for a totally deserved bottom. All the other N-S's scored 110 or 130; so the 200 (or 500) for 1♠ doubled going one or two down would have given N-S a very clear top.

South's 'excuse' was that he did not want to defend at the one level. Why not???

The bottom Lines: -

- Look at the vulnerability!
- If partner wishes to penalise the opponents (even at the one-level) at favourable vulnerability, then go along with him. One down nets a top (200) if you have no game, and 2 down nets a top (500) even if you have game.
- Remember the 'magic 200 (and 500)' at pairs scoring.
- Trust partner?
- Don't listen to people who say that a penalty double of a one-level contract cannot be good.

And remember this deal from last week's news sheet? It was under the title '1NT or a negative double?'. Last week I gave the bidding after East overcalled a 1♦ opening with 1♠ and I also added that one N-S pair got too high (2NT). I was subsequently told their bidding: -

Dealer:	♠ J5				
South	♥ 862	West	North	East	South(C)
N-S vul	♦ AJ94	-	-	-	pass
	♣ AQ83	pass	1♣ (1)	2♣ (2)	pass (3)
		2♦ (4)	pass (5)	pass (6)	2NT (7)
		all pass			
♠ 96	N	♠ K8432			
♥ Q5	W E	♥ AK74			
♦ KQ102	S	♦ 865			
♣ J10652		♣ K			
	♠ AQ107				
	♥ J1093				
	♦ 73				
	♣ 974				

- (1) As I said last week, I prefer 1♣ when 4-4 in the minors.
- (2) And again, as I said last week, Michaels is a sensible option here.
- (3) What did you bid with the South hand C in this week's quiz? Now here you have to have an agreement, and a very sensible simple one is that with some values (say 7+ points) you should double if you have a decent holding in one (or both) of the suits shown. So double.
- (4) You can play 2♦ here as equal length in the majors, asking partner to choose.
- (5) North has nothing to say.
- (6) Presumably this pair play 2♦ as natural.
- (7) And now we see a problem resulting from South failing to take any action on the first round. He did not want to sell out to 2♦ and so bid 2NT. As partner has only promised around 13 points, this is an overbid (2NT at any stage by responder when opener has not shown extras is generally 11-12 points).

And what happened? 2NT was 2 down for a bottom.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't be bullied into 2NT if you can double the opponents (often the case).
- You need to have some sort of defence against Michaels (and UNT).

Defence Against Michaels/UNT.

- I suggest that you play double as 7 or 8+ points with a good holding in at least one of the suits shown.
- In this example: South should double at (3); at (5) North would double the 2♦ bid (penalties); and South would pass or double a retreat into 2♠.

What to do with a long minor and a 4 card major opposite a 1NT opener.

Board 24 from Wednesday 31st

I was asked about the bidding at table A: -

Dealer:	♠ Q984		
West	♥ K92		
Love all	♦ AKQ		
	♣ Q75		
		N	♠ J1052
♠ A763		W	♥ AJ
♥ Q1073		E	♦ J10542
♦ 9763		S	♣ K8
♣ 9			
	♠ K		
	♥ 8654		
	♦ 8		
	♣ AJ106432		

Table A

West	North	East	South
pass	1NT	pass	2♣ (1)
pass	2♠	pass	3♣ (2)
pass	pass (3)	pass	

Table B

West	North	East	South
pass	1NT	pass	2♠ (1)
pass	2NT (4)	pass	3NT (5)
all pass			

- Table A (1) How does you partnership bid with 4 of a major and a long minor? If you do not play 4-way transfers then you have to start with Stayman.
 (2) And if partner does not show your 4 card major then bid the minor – this is played as forcing when you don't play 4-way transfers.
- Table B (1) This pair play 4-way transfers so it's easy – transfer to ♣'s and then bid 3♥ –as always, a transfer followed by a new suit is game forcing.
 (4) But playing 4-way transfers partner can super-accept. With a poor ♣ holding North would simply bid 3♣; so 2NT is a super-accept of ♣'s, showing Hxx (where H is A,K or Q).
 (5) Now South knows that the ♣ suit can be set up (or runs) and 3NT looks like a better bid than mentioning this motley ♥ suit. On this rare occasion I have no problem with not mentioning the major. South could equally well bid 3♥ if he wished and here North would simply convert to 3NT.

And what happened? 3NT was bid at 3 of the 4 tables and made +1 or +2.

The bottom lines: -

- If you do not play 4-way transfers then a Stayman bid followed by 3 of a minor is forcing.
- If you do play 4-way transfers you transfer to the minor and then bid the major.
- Thus if you do play 4-way transfers bidding Stayman followed by 3 of a minor is undefined. I have written up all of the possibilities in the NT book on the web; simplest is just to play that it's a weak hand with 6 of the minor and a 4 card major, so passable.

How Many Points?

	West	North	East	South
	1♦	pass	1♥	2♣
	2NT?			

How many points does the 2NT bid above indicate? Answer next page.

How many points?

Board 27 from Monday 29th

Dealer: ♠ Q98
South ♥ J1097
Love all ♦ 863
♣ QJ8

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

♠ J10642	N	♠ 7
♥ 85	W E	♥ AQ42
♦ KJ94	S	♦ 107
♣ 32		♣ A109764
	♠ AK53	
	♥ K63	
	♦ AQ52	
	♣ K5	

(1) What did you bid with this South hand G in this week's quiz? 2NT is correct – it does not show 12-14 as it is an opponent who has pushed the level up. With a flat 12-14 you would pass and 2NT is much the same as a jump to 2NT if there was no overcall, so 18-19.

And what happened? 3NT was bid at all 4 tables. That's what you would expect, but it's a tricky contract against good defence.

How Many Points - Answer

What did you answer to the quiz on the previous page? The answer is 18-19; it is not partner, but RHO, who has pushed the level up and you should pass with a flat 12-14.

Hand G	Hand H	You open 1♦, partner responds 1♥ but RHO then bids 2♣. With Hand G you had planned to jump to 2NT (18-19) if there had been no bid from RHO, so you make the same bid after RHO overcalls at the two level (promising a stop of course). But with Hand H it's different. You had planned to rebid 1NT (12-14) but RHO's bid means that you now cannot, so pass.
♠ AK53	♠ AJ53	
♥ K63	♥ K6	
♦ AQ52	♦ J542	
♣ K5	♣ KJ3	

Sometimes you can still compete without over-bidding

Board 2 from Friday 2nd

Dealer:	♠ 42	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ A86	West	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ A976	-	-	1♥	pass
	♣ J976	pass (1)	pass		

♠ AJ63	N	♠ KQ	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ 1042	W E	♥ KQJ93	West	North	East	South
♦ 542	S	♦ KQJ3	-	-	1♥	1♠ (2)
♣ 842		♣ Q3	2♥ (3)	pass	4♥ (4)	pass
	♠ 109875		pass	dbl (5)	all pass	
	♥ 75					
	♦ 108					
	♣ AK105					

Table A (1) With this flat shape, this hand is certainly not worth a bid.

Table B (2) But at this table South decided to overcall. Most would like a few points in the suit for an overcall with just 7 points, but I guess that the ♠ suit is ‘solid’?

(3) Now this West later said that he would have passed had there been no overcall – but he did not want to sell out to 1♠.

(4) With 19 points, East bid game.

(5) And with two aces opposite a vulnerable overcall North doubled.

1♥ made +2; 4♥ doubled was one down. What went wrong at table B?

The answer is that West should not bid at (3) but (assuming they play negative doubles) that’s no problem. Partner will ‘always’ re-open with a double and West can then bid 2♥.

The bottom line.

- Playing negative doubles has numerous advantages.
- And remember that playing negative doubles then opener should virtually always re-open with a double opposite a partner who passes the overcall. This is not just because partner may have a penalty hand, but he may have a good spot to rest in but had insufficient values to bid straight away.
- This latter point is especially true if you do not play negative free bids (and as far as I know no club member does).

Editorial – 2005 Club Champions

I have calculated the standings (up to 2nd Sept) and the full results are on the web. To view them access the web site (www.pattayabridge.com) and then go to results and you will see a link there off to ‘championship standings’ (‘press here’). I feel that coming 2nd or 3rd in the Gold Cup is in itself quite an achievement and that the Silver and Bronze competitions should be lesser competitions and be more open to others (less frequent players) to win.

So what has been decided this year is that the 'Gold Cup' (best 30) is the main club competition, with awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, just the same as last year. Then there are two other competitions; the Silver Plate will be the best of 10 and the Bronze Medallion is best of 5 results - then everybody has a shot if they can put in 10 or even just 5 decent scores. The latest standings are as follows, full details are on the web site or in the results book: -

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Gold Cup (30)	Chuck	Dave	Bob	Clive	Ken	Phil
Silver Plate (10)	Ken	Clive	Ge/De	Thorlief	JohnG	Austin
Bronze Medallion (5)	Gerard/Derek	Thorlief	Clive	Alex	JohnG	Austin

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: Pass. Knock off a point for this 4333 type shape. Two aces are insufficient compensation for the poor shape and lack of intermediates or touching honours. And with the only 4 card suit (a minor) headed by the Jack this really is a miserable collection of cards. Here is a quote from a renowned international expert (not me!): – *'It is difficult to over-emphasise how bad the 4333 type shape is'*.

Hand B: Double. Automatic - assuming you play negative doubles.

Hand C: Double. You cannot simply pass as you may get stuck next go. It's best to play that double here shows some points (say 7+) and values in at least one of the suits shown by the opponent. It's the same over an UNT.

Hand D: Pass. You have a mis-fit with partner and excellent ♠'s. 1♠ will not make and at this vulnerability just one down should net a top. Double (negative, showing ♥'s) is possible but not as good as pass for the above reasons.

Hand E: Pass or 3NT. You have excellent ♥ stops so should make 3NT. But you may not, or you may get a better score for defending 2♥ doubled. I chose to pass and passed partner's 'automatic' re-opening double.

Hand F: Dbl, 'automatic'. Since all 3 players passed originally partner must have his fair share of the outstanding points, but he could not muster up a response. Why not? Probably because he has excellent ♠'s and wants to defend 1♠ doubled. This Hand F is great for defence (a singleton, 3 ♠'s and 3 top quick tricks in the other suits). If partner is indeed planning to pass this double you should be delighted. And nothing is lost if he bids instead (unlikely).

Hand G: 2NT. 18-19.

Hand H: Pass. 2NT here shows 18-19 as we saw with the previous hand, and you cannot bid anything else as that too would show a stronger hand (2♠ is a reverse, so 16+).

Hand J: Dbl. It's too good for just 3♥; 4♥ is possible but I prefer to double and then bid 4♥ next go to show this good hand. And you never know, it may just be that 2♠ doubled is the best spot (if partner passes the double).

Hand K: Pass or 2NT. 2NT is the unusual NT, showing ♦'s and ♥'s here. Pass is perhaps a bit feeble and a weak 2♥ is a bit dangerous with such a poor suit (and a possible ♦ fit will be lost). I would prefer to have 5 ♦'s for the 2NT bid but with 10 red cards it's just about OK.