

Mon	26 th	1 st	Clive/Gerry	64%	2 nd	Dave/Bill	63%
Wed	28 th	1 st	Jim/Tomas	61%	2 nd	Kees/Bjorn	54%
Fri	30 th	1 st	Tomas/Philip	59%	2 nd	Jim/Tom	57%

Police Raid

The Friday results were incomplete and will not count towards championship results, especially as 5 travellers completely disappeared - maybe the police took them as 'evidence'? Anyway, the police now say 'no problem' and agree that we are completely legal. I disagree (with 'no problem'), I most certainly have a problem with us being disturbed like this and I will be doing my best to find out who orchestrated this act and ensure that nothing similar ever happens again.

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A Hand B With Hand A partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♦, what do you bid?

♠ - ♠ KQ54
♥ KQ83 ♥ A108
♦ 63 ♦ J54
♣ AQ96432 ♣ KJ4

With Hand B you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦, what is your rebid?

Hand C Hand D With Hand C you open 1♠ and LHO overcalls 2♦. Partner bids 3♣ (forcing), what do you bid?

♠ AQ7642 ♠ AK10543
♥ J104 ♥ -
♦ AQ2 ♦ K1054
♣ K ♣ A107

With Hand D LHO opens 2♥ which RHO raises to 3♥, what do you bid?

Hand E Hand F What do you open with Hand E?

♠ AK743 ♠ 86
♥ 98 ♥ K1074
♦ AKQJ74 ♦ AJ92
♣ - ♣ 942

With Hand F RHO opens 2♥, you pass, LHO raises to 3♥ and partner doubles. Everybody is vulnerable, what do you do?

Hand G Hand H What do you open with Hand G?

♠ AK97543 ♠ 876
♥ AK8 ♥ KQ76
♦ A ♦ Q1098
♣ K9 ♣ A6

With Hand H partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♦. Partner then bids (a) 1♠ or (b) 1NT.

What do you do in either scenario?

3NT from the right side!

Board 21 from Monday 26th

Most E-W pairs reached the correct contract (by differing routes) but one went astray: -

Dealer: ♠ J109853
North ♥ 975
N-S vul ♦ 84
♣ 75

♠ - N ♠ AQ7642
♥ KQ83 W E ♥ J104
♦ 63 S ♦ AQ2
♣ AQ96432 ♣ K
♠ K
♥ A62
♦ KJ10975
♣ J108

Table A

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

Table B

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

Table C

West(A)	North	East(C)	South
-	pass	1♠	2♦
dbl (1)	pass	2♠ (2)	pass
3♣ (3)	pass	3NT (4)	all pass

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? See Table C for my choice.
(2) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? See Table B for my choice.
(3) With no ♦ stop this is very silly if course, but the previous 3♣ bid started the rot as after a not too unexpected 3♠ rebid from East West is totally fixed.
- Table B (1) This West also chose 3♣ (not my choice).
(2) But this time East chose to rebid 3NT with his hand C. Should East show his 6th ♠ or hid double ♦ stop? If feel that the latter is far more important (so bid 3NT) as if 3NT is the correct contract then East certainly has to be declarer.
- Table C (1) This West (Dave) bid as I would have done. The negative double shows ♥'s and a subsequent ♣ rebid would show his shape and strength admirably
(2) 2NT would also lead to the right contract from the right hand but I prefer 2♠ because it shows the 6th ♠ and I also consider 2NT to be 12-14 in this sequence and 3NT is simply gambling.
(3) Isn't life simple when you start out with the right bid! This 3♣ bid is natural, forcing and confirms just 4 ♥'s.
(4) And West has an easy 3NT bid.

And what happened? 3NT made +2 when played by East, it was -2 when played by West!

The bottom lines: -

- Play (and remember that you play) negative doubles.
- The auction at Table C shows how much easier it is to keep the bidding low by using a negative double.
- If you have an excellent (double) stop in the the opponent's suit, think NT.

Don't Deny a 4-card major

Board 20 from Monday 26th

It's the same old story ...

Dealer: ♠ 876
West ♥ KQ76
Both vul ♦ Q1098
♣ A6

♠ J10 N ♠ A932
♥ J53 W E ♥ 942
♦ A3 S ♦ K762
♣ Q108753 ♣ 92

♠ KQ54
♥ A108
♦ J54
♣ KJ4

Table A

West	North(H)	East	South(B)
pass	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♦	pass	1NT (1)
pass	pass (2)	pass	

'Expert Table'

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

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? 1♠ of course, never deny a 4-card major.
- (2) And this deal shows up another reason (other than possibly missing a fit). What did you bid with this North hand H in this week's quiz? This North considered a raise to 2NT but decided against it because of the weak ♠'s (and the fact that partner had not bid them!). I'm not sure that I totally go along with that, but it really is simpler if partner (South) bids correctly.
- 'Expert (1) Now **nobody!!** at the club reached 3NT on this deal, so I had to call in our 'Table' experts. They never deny 4 card majors of course.
- (2) Now North should probably have bid 2NT at Table A, but it's very clear to do so here, that ♦Q1098 is worth far more than two points!
- (3) And South has easily enough to accept the invitation.

And what happened? 1NT was the final resting place at 3 tables; making 8,9 or 10 tricks. The player making just 8 tricks lost his way when he decided to attack ♣'s instead of ♦'s.

The bottom lines: -

- Play on your long suits.
- Never deny a 4 card major.

Don't double with just one suit!

Board 26 from Wednesday 28th

N-S missed 4♠ here, who would you blame?

Dealer:	♠ AK10543				
East	♥ -	West	North(D)	East	South(F)
Both vul	♦ K1054	-	-	2♥	pass
	♣ A107	3♥ (1)	dbl (2)	pass	pass (3)
		pass			
♠ Q972	N	♠ J			
♥ Q93	W E	♥ AJ8652			
♦ 876	S	♦ Q3			
♣ KQJ		♣ 8653			
	♠ 86				
	♥ K1074				
	♦ AJ92				
	♣ 942				

- (1) With 3 card support it's usually best to raise partner's pre-empt. It may make life difficult for the opposition and is what 'The Law' says.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand D in this week's quiz? I think that double is a silly bid – what are you going to do over a 4♣/♦ response from partner (he sure ain't goin' to bid ♠'s!)? No, with a ♠ suit – bid it. Either 3♠ or 4♠. If you double and then remove a 4♣/♦ response from partner to 4♠ than that would show a much **stronger** hand.
- (3) And what did you do with this South hand F in the quiz? Obviously you cannot envisage a ♠ game and a jump to 5♦ may well be too high, and with a good 8 points sitting over the ♥ opener a feeble 4♦ (showing 0-8) really cannot be a good bid. Against vulnerable opponents I agree with this decision to pass.

And what happened? 3♥ went one down for a top to E-W as 4♠ was bid and made at other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not double a major suit opening holding 5 or more cards in the other major – bid the major.

A 2♣ Opener? – part 1

Board 25 from Wednesday 28th

Dealer: ♠ Q962
 North ♥ AJ6
 E-W vul ♦ 1093
 ♣ 1095

♠ J8	N	♠ AK743
♥ Q1074	W E	♥ 98
♦ 82	S	♦ AKQJ74
♣ AK643		♣ -
	♠ 105	
	♥ K532	
	♦ 65	
	♣ QJ872	

Table A

West	North	East(E)	South
-	pass	2♣ (1)	pass
3♣ (2)	pass	3♦	pass
3♥	pass	3♠ (3)	pass
4♣ (4)	pass	4♠ (5)	pass
6NT (6)	all pass		

'Benji Table'

West	North	East	South
-	pass	2♣ (7)	pass
2♦ (8)	pass	3♦ (9)	pass
3♥ (10)	pass	3♠ (11)	pass
3NT (12)	all pass		

What went wrong here at Table A?

- (1) What did you open with this East hand E in this week's quiz? It is probably 9-10 playing tricks and a 1♦ opening will not work out too well if it is passed out. So playing Standard American it is 'standard' to open 2♣ with this sort of hand. Unfortunately the wheels can come off if partner expects you to have about 6 more points!
- (2) An obvious +ve response.
- (3) Now this is the 4th suit and this is where the real problems began. I do not consider this as necessarily natural and so the bidding is bound to go past 3NT. At this stage East knows that it's a total mis-fit and his hand has got worse with every bid (West has bid both rounded suits). Since East has 6 points less that partner is expecting and it's ill-fitting, 3NT may work out better here.
- (4) With no ♠ stop West simply bids 4♣, and we're too high whatever happens.
- (5) Showing a real ♠ suit.
- (6) East suggested that since West knew it was a mis-fit now he should pass. ♠ AK74
 But West has a decent 10 points and opposite a 'genuine' 2♣ opener such ♥ K
 this one then an easy slam would be played in a silly game contract. 4♠ is ♦ AKQJ74
 too high anyway and surely 4♠ must be forcing here? ♣ QJ
 How does West know that East does not have a 'genuine' 2♣ opener?
 The answer is to play Benjamin twos. Unfortunately they have not made it across the pond yet
- (7) 8+ playing tricks or 22-23 balanced.
- (8) Benji is best played with a mandatory relay.
- (9) 9 tricks with ♦'s.
- (10) a natural 3♥ is better than 4♣ as 3NT may be the best spot.
- (11) 2nd suit
- (12) What a simple sequence, what's the problem?

And what happened? The majority of the field stopped in 3NT +1. 6NT went -1.

The Bottom lines: -

- Opening 2♣ with great 17 counts may be standard practice in the States, but there are certainly better ways and it can easily get out of control if partner has a good hand!

A 2♣ Opener? – part 2

Board 15 from Wednesday 28th

Dealer: ♠ Q82
 North ♥ Q643
 E-W vul ♦ 764
 ♣ J108

♠ J107	N	♠ -
♥ 1097	W E	♥ J52
♦ KJ5	S	♦ Q109832
♣ A532		♣ Q764
	♠ AK97543	
	♥ AK8	
	♦ A	
	♣ K9	

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	2♣ (1)
pass	2♦ (2)	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	4NT
etc to 6♠			

- (1) What did you open with this South hand G in this week's quiz? Now here I have no problem with a Strong 2♣, 21 points is more like it and a bit in every suit means that any assets that partner has are going to be useful (unlike when you have a void).
- (2) This pair play 2♦ as semi-positive with 2♥ as the outright negative. As I understand the treatment, 2♥ is a definite negative showing around 3–4 or less points and 2♦ is 'waiting' with 4–5+ and game forcing.

And what happened? Everybody made 12 tricks in ♠'s but only this pair bid it.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Dbl. A negative double showing 4 ♥'s. This is better than bidding 3♣ as the bidding is then up at an uncomfortably high level and you may not have enough room to reach 3NT played by the correct hand (partner) if that is the correct contract. And, of course, it may be difficult to find a possible ♥ fit
- Hand B: 1♠. Never deny a 4 card major.
- Hand C: 3NT. As Elvis once said, 'It's Now or Never'. If you decide to show your 6th ♠ then either you have gone past 3NT or it's played by the wrong man.
- Hand D: 3♠ or 4♠. You have ♠'s, so bid them. Double is a very poor bid with 5 ♠'s and even worse with 6 ♠'s! If you double then what are you going to do when partner inevitably responds in a minor? If you bid 4♠ that shows a **much** stronger hand and if partner responds 5♣ you are probably up the creek.
- Hand E: 2♣ or 1♦. The modern practice in Standard American is to open a hand which has nearly game in its own hand, regardless of high card points, with 2♣. This means that you will not get passed out when two points from partner is enough to make game; but it has the distinct disadvantage that you will get too high when partner has a good but ill-fitting hand. Assuming that you do not like 2♣, I prefer to open 1♦ rather than 1♠ with this hand for two reasons: (a) 1♦ is far less likely to get passed out than 1♠, (b) you open 1♦, then jump in ♠'s (game forcing) and then bid ♠'s again. This shows a strong 5-6. Of course all of your problems are solved if you play strong twos or Benjamin twos (open 2♦/2♣ resp.) and partner's automatic relay keeps the bidding low when a misfit is uncovered.
- Hand F: Pass. Partner presumably has just 4 ♠'s and it is difficult to judge if you can make 5 of a minor or if you will get more for defending. I would take the money and pass. And there really is no other sensible option: this is a good 8 count and 4♦ shows around 0-8 points and you may miss game; but 5♦ may well be too high!
- Hand G: 2♣. Now this hand really is worth a 2♣ opener. And if I was playing strong twos or Benjamin I would still open the strongest bid (2♣/2♦ resp.) as this really is too strong for a strong two opener.
- Hand H: (a) 2NT, this is a decent 11 points. ♠'s may be a problem as partner has three or less but you should probably take a chance.
(b) 2NT – this time it's easy when partner bids ♠'s.

Contacting Others

We now have a list of some member's/guest's telephone/e-mail details on the web-site. When you open the main page, click on 'contact us' and then at the very bottom of that page you'll see a 'contact members' link. When you click that you'll be asked for a password. At the moment it contains just ten or so entries, if you would like your details included then give them or e-mail them to me (if I don't already have them) and I'll include them and tell/e-mail you the password.