

		<u>Winner</u>		<u>Runner-up</u>	
Mon 13 th	N-S 1 st	Clive/Dave	67%	2 nd Chris/Paul Scully	64%
	E-W 1 st	G. & L. Karlsson	59%	2 nd Lars/Rude	57%
Wed 15 th	N-S 1 st	Barbara&Bev Estes	61%	2 nd Clive/Hans	59%
	E-W 1 st	Albert/Dave	61%	2 nd G. & L. Karlsson	59%
Fri 17 th	N-S 1 st	Benny/Olle	60%	2 nd Clive/Dave	56%
	E-W 1 st	Trudy/Jennat	56%	2 nd Bob P / Bob Short	54%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A Hand B With Hand A you open 1♠ and partner bids 4♠. What do you do?

♠ AK983 ♠ J32
♥ AK4 ♥ Q10832
♦ K ♦ A1094
♣ J1098 ♣ 7

With Hand B partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♥, what do you bid?

Hand C Hand D

♠ KQ104 ♠ 1084
♥ J84 ♥ J75
♦ QJ4 ♦ A86
♣ 962 ♣ A972

With Hand C RHO opens 1♣, LHO bids 1♥, RHO bids 2♣, LHO bids 2♥ which is passed round to you. What do you do?

With Hand D partner opens 1♠, RHO bids 2♦ and you bid 2♠. LHO bids 3♦ and partner bids 3♠, what do you do?

Hand E Hand F

♠ KQ973 ♠ J953
♥ AK64 ♥ A52
♦ 107 ♦ A765
♣ Q4 ♣ 107

With Hand E you open 1♠, LHO bids 2♦, partner bids 2♠ and RHO bids 3♦. What do you do?

With Hand F LHO opens 1♣, RHO bids 1♥, LHO bids 2♣, RHO bids 2♥ which is passed round to partner who bids 2♠. RHO bids 3♣, what do you do?

With these 4 hands partner has opened 1♠, what do you bid?

Hand G	Hand H	Hand J	Hand K
♠ Q765	♠ Q7654	♠ Q765	♠ K765
♥ J3	♥ J32	♥ AJ3	♥ J32
♦ A2	♦ 2	♦ 2	♦ A
♣ A7432	♣ KQ95	♣ A7432	♣ A7432

These 4 hands all concern opener's action when playing negative doubles. In every case you open 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♥ and this is passed round to you. What do you do?

Hand L	Hand M	Hand N	Hand P
♠ AKQ97	♠ AKQ9	♠ J32	♠ KQ54
♥ 7	♥ A7	♥ KQ103	♥ 72
♦ 7	♦ 7	♦ Q4	♦ Q
♣ AKQ953	♣ AQ9532	♣ AQ76	♣ K96532

Bidding Sequences Quiz – A Negative Double summary

For all of these sequences we assume that you play negative doubles

Q	1♣	1♥	pass		What does the pass mean?
R	1♣	1♥	pass	pass	What does the double mean?
			dbl		
S	1♣	1♥	pass	pass	What does 1♠ mean?
			1♠		
T	1♣	1♥	pass	pass	What does 2♠ mean?
				2♠	
U	1♣	1♥	pass	pass	What sort of hand does opener have for his pass here?
			pass		
V	1♣	1♥		1♠	What does 1♠ mean?
W	1♣	1♥		dbl	What does dbl mean?

The direct jump to game (4♥/♠) is weak

I was asked about this deal. I don't know which day it was. I was given the exact hand but I have made a minor change of interchanging two cards to make the point very clear.

♠ AK983	N	♠ Q765	West(A)	North	East(G)	South
♥ AK4	W E	♥ J3				
♦ K	S	♦ A2	1♠	pass	4♠ (1)	pass
♣ J1098		♣ A7432	pass (2)	pass		

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand G in this week's quiz? It's 'only' 11 points, but it's worth much more when partner bids ♠'s. Those two 1st round controls are huge and the shape is great in support of ♠'s. The hand is easily worth a raise to 4♠. But the 'problem' is that a direct jump to 4♠ is a pre-emptive bid (such as Hand H in this week's quiz) There are a few solutions. Best is to play some sort of strong raise (such as Jacoby 2NT or Swiss). The more basic method is to bid another suit (so 2♣ here) and then jump to 4♠ - this is called a Delayed Game Raise and shows a sound raise to 4♠.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? If you accept that the direct raise to game is weak, than this hand should certainly pass.

And what happened?

An easy (75%) slam was missed. East asked West why he did not ask for aces. I'm 100%+ behind West's pass.

The bottom lines: -

- The sequences 1♥ - 4♥ and 1♠ - 4♠ are weak pre-emptive raises.
- With a sound raise to 4♥/♠ then bid a minor and then jump to 4♥/♠ if you do not have any other methods (such as Jacoby 2NT).
- With a sound raise to 4♥/♠ and a shortage (singleton/void) then splinter.

Another 'Negative Double' penalty missedBoard 2 from Monday 13th

Dealer: ♠ 108654
 East ♥ 5
 N-S vul ♦ QJ86
 ♣ 1064

♠ J32	N	♠ AKQ9
♥ Q10832	W E	♥ A7
♦ A1094	S	♦ 7
♣ 7		♣ AQ9532

♠ 7
 ♥ KJ964
 ♦ K532
 ♣ KJ8

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

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? With these great hearts sitting over a vulnerable overcaller it is surely best to go for the penalty. So pass and await partner's 'automatic' re-opening double.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand M in this week's quiz? Double is virtually always correct in these sort of situations and with these great top cards there is absolutely no reason to do anything else. Now I believe that East's 'excuse' was something like 'I did not know what sort of hand you had'. Precisely! And that's why you should double – and partner will tell you. If partner has a penalty hand then he'll pass for penalties. If partner has a weak hand then he will bid something and you can then bid on strongly to show a very powerful hand.
- With this actual East hand you should double, and if partner makes any sort of bid (he usually bids 1♣ in this sort of situation) then he does not have the penalty hand and you can then bid 2♣ to show this very strong hand.

And what happened?

4♣ went one down. The computer says that E-W make 8 tricks in ♥'s, so that is 50 away instead of a cool top for 1♥ doubled minus two vul (500). Note that even if 4♣ makes then 420 is less than 500.

The bottom lines: -

- The situations where you should not re-open with a double (playing negative doubles) are few and far between. But I'll cover them on the next page.
- Look for the penalty at favourable vulnerability.

When you do not re-open with a double.

I was asked under what circumstances opener should not re-open with the 'automatic' re-opening double when playing negative doubles.

Now as I have frequently said, every pair plays negative double differently. I won't go into my preferred treatment again, but I will answer the question.

When you play negative doubles; you open, LHO overcalls and this is passed round to you, it is usually correct to 'automatically' re-open with a double. But there are hands when you should not. The hand types where you should not re-open with a double are: -

- (a) **Hand L** When you have a very powerful hand with game virtually in your own hand and where you may well make slam opposite very little. With Hand L I would jump to 2♠. I guess that some would have opened 2♣, but I prefer the natural slow approach with two-suiters.
- ♠ AKQ97
♥ 7
♦ 7
♣ AKQ953
- (b) **Hand N** When you have a decent opener but have so much in the opponent's suit that you know that partner cannot possibly be sitting with a penalty hand. I would pass with Hand N.
- ♠ J32
♥ KQ103
♦ Q4
♣ AJ76
- (c) **Hand P** When you have a weak distributional hand with little defensive values. I think that 1♠ is reasonable with Hand P although I would not argue with double. Some might argue that they would not have opened, but it does conform to the rule of 20 and a 1♣ opening would be a popular choice these days.
- ♠ KQ54
♥ 72
♦ Q
♣ K96532

Just pushin' 'em up – part 1

Board 15 from Friday 17th

E-W got clobbered when they got too high here, who was at fault?

Dealer:	♠ 62				
South	♥ KQ1097	West(C)	North	East(F)	South
N-S vul	♦ 10932	-	-	-	1♣
	♣ KQ	pass	1♥	pass	2♣
		pass	2♥	pass	pass
♠ KQ104	N	2♠ (1)	3♣	3♠ (2)	pass
♥ J84	W E	pass	pass	dbl	all pass
♦ QJ4	S				
♣ 962					
	♠ A87				
	♥ 63				
	♦ K8				
	♣ AJ8543				

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand C in this week's quiz? I think 2♠ is fine, this is a miserable flat hand but South has denied ♠'s and North has shown 5+ ♥'s. Thus partner probably has ♠'s and as the opponent's have stopped bidding he also has points. This is called balancing – you are 'bidding partner's hand' in the pass-out seat.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? You should pass. Partner has 'pushed them up' from a great 2♥ contract into an inferior 3♣ contract, he has already bid your hand for you. Bidding here simply converts a top into a bottom. It is the opposite of balancing – it is called "hanging one's partner".

And what happened?

3♠ doubled went for 300 for a near bottom. 2♥ would have scored 140 or 170 for N-S, 3♣ would have scored 130 for N-S. it's only 10 or 40 points difference but important at pairs scoring.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner bids in the pass-out seat, he is bidding your hand for you. It is rarely correct to raise him.

Just pushin' 'em up – part 2

Board 1 from Friday 17th

N-S got too high here, who is at fault?

Dealer: ♠ KQ973
North ♥ AK64
Love all ♦ 107
♣ Q4

West	North(E)	East	South(D)
-	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦ (1)	3♠ (2)	pass	4♠ (3)
all pass			

♠ J52	N	♠ A6
♥ 1082	W E	♥ Q93
♦ Q52	S	♦ KJ943
♣ J1063		♣ K85
	♠ 1084	
	♥ J75	
	♦ A86	
	♣ A972	

- (1) A gentle nudge
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand E in this week's quiz? With no more than a minimal opener I would pass. 3♠ is just competing and no too bad I suppose(?). Any other bid (3♥) would be a game try and this hand is too weak.
- (3) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? South has a maximum, but that is not the point. North's 3♠ is **not** an invitation, it is simply competing. If North wanted to invite game then any bid **other** than 3♠ would be a game invitation.

And what happened?

There are just 9 tricks there. Nobody else bid game and so this should have been an outright bottom for N-S. However, this is Pattaya bridge club and N-S got an undeserved total top when a mis-defence let 4♠ through.

The bottom lines: -

- In competitive situations like this simply bidding one's suit is just competing, any other bid is a game try. If there is no room (say E-W were bidding ♥'s and not ♦'s) then double at (1) would be the game try.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass. Partner's direct jump to 4♠ is a weak pre-emptive bid.
- Hand B: Pass. And await partner's 'automatic re-opening double and pass that. If partner has just a minimal opening then you will get a decent penalty. If partner has a good hand (so that you have game) then you will get a huge penalty. 1NT is a very poor 2nd choice.
- Hand C: 2♠. But only if your partner understands balancing.
- Hand D: Pass. You are max but partner is **not** inviting you to bid on, he is simply competing.
- Hand E: I would pass. I guess that some might bid 3♠ (just competing). Any other bid (3♥) shows a much stronger hand.
- Hand F: Pass. Partner has scraped up a bid in the pass-out seat and is bidding your hand for you and likely has just 4 ♠'s. You will get a better score for defending 3♣ than for defending 2♥ had partner passed. To bid (3♠ here) simply destroys his good work as you are bound to get doubled.
- Hand G: 2♣ followed by a jump to 4♠. This shows a sound raise to 4♠. If you play Swiss or Jacoby 2NT then that is obviously best.
- Hand H: 4♠. A pre-emptive raise.
- Hand J: 4♦. A splinter, showing ♦ shortage and agreeing ♠'s.
- Hand K: Same as hand G. It is best not to splinter with a singleton ace as partner will devalue a king in the suit.
- Hand L: 2♠. Showing an enormous two-suiter that is worth a 2♣ opener in the 'modern' American style. You probably won't get enough from a penalty.
- Hand M: Double. No reason not to go for the penalty if that's what partner has in mind (very likely – where are the ♥'s?).
- Hand N: Pass. You have nothing special and partner cannot have a penalty hand with you holding this ♥ holding. A rare situation.
- Hand P: 1♠. Showing a weak distributional hand with little defense for ♥'s. Dbl is also fine.

Bidding Sequence Answers

For all of these sequences we assume that you play negative doubles

- Q 1♣ 1♥ pass What does the pass mean? Responder either has a hand that cannot make a noise over 1♥ (so presumably very weak) or he is sitting with a ♥ stack and waiting for opener's double.
- R 1♣ 1♥ pass pass What does the double mean? That he has 13 cards.
dbl
- S 1♣ 1♥ pass pass What does 1♠ mean? A weak distributional two-suiter.
1♠
- T 1♣ 1♥ pass pass What does 2♠ mean? A strong distributional two-suiter.
2♠
- U 1♣ 1♥ pass pass What sort of hand does opener have for his pass here?
Pass An indifferent hand with good ♥'s.
- V 1♣ 1♥ 1♠ What does 1♠ mean? Natural and forcing. Some play it as showing 5+ ♠'s, depending upon you answer to W below.
- W 1♣ 1♥ dbl What does dbl mean? It is negative. I play it as simply showing exactly 4 ♠'s. Others play it as showing ♠'s and ♦'s.