

Mon 1 st	N-S 1 st	Phil & Tomas	59%	2 nd	Bob Short & Jan	52%
	E-W 1 st	Dave & Dave	59%	2 nd	Hans(Hol) & Paul Kelly	52%
Wed 3 rd		1 st Chuck & Paul Kelly	62%	2 nd	Bill & Mike	60%
Fri 5 th	Indv. 1 st	Kees Bot	61%	2 nd =	Bill Noe, Jan v Koss	59%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A RHO opens a weak 2♦, what do you bid?
♠ 84	♠ KQ96	With Hand B it's everybody vul and RHO opens a weak 2♠ which is passed round to partner who doubles. What do you do?
♥ A1098432	♥ K104	
♦ J	♦ 10984	
♣ Q64	♣ Q10	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1NT. (a) what do you do? (b) suppose you choose 2♣ and partner bids 2♥, what now?
♠ 108	♠ AKJ32	(a) What do you open with Hand D? (b) Suppose you open 2♣ and partner responds 2♦, what now?
♥ 10985	♥ AKJ73	
♦ KQ8	♦ AK	
♣ QJ87	♣ 10	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you open 1♦ and partner responds 2♦, what do you do?
♠ 1063	♠ J952	With Hand F partner opens 1♥. (a) what do you respond? (b) Suppose you choose 2♦ and partner bids 2NT, what now?
♥ K1064	♥ Q	
♦ AQ82	♦ AKJ103	
♣ A5	♣ Q103	

Bidding Sequences Quiz

G 2♦ 3♥	2♦ was weak, what is the 3♥ overcall?
H 2♦ 3♥ 3♠	2♦ was weak, what is 3♠ by responder? Is it weak, invitational, forcing?
There is no interference in the following sequences: -	
J 1♦ - 1♠ - 2NT	how many points is 2NT?
K 1♦ - 2♣ - 2NT	how many points is 2NT?
L 1♦ - 2♦ - 2NT	how many points is 2NT?

Leading Quiz

You are North, what do you lead?

	West	North	East	South
♠ A8	pass	pass	1♦	1♠
♥ 97653	1NT	pass	2♥	2♠
♦ Q	3♦	pass	3NT	all pass
♣ J9642				

In a mess?

Board 22 from Monday 1st

Dealer: ♠ 97632
East ♥ A
E-W vul ♦ A74
♣ K653

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

♠ 108	N	♠ AQ4
♥ 10985	W E	♥ KQ732
♦ KQ8	S	♦ J109
♣ QJ87		♣ A9
	♠ KJ5	
	♥ J64	
	♦ 6532	
	♣ 1042	

- (1) A 1NT opening with a 5 card major is fine by me.
- (2) This looks obvious to me, although one experienced player who was kibitzing thought that I would 'get in a mess' and he suggested that I should have passed. I could not disagree more.
- (3) But what did you bid here with this West hand C in this week's quiz? Actually this hand is similar to problem C last week (and the same kibitzer said that he would have passed 1NT with last week's hand C). I see it differently, the hand is easily worth an invitational 3♥ but with these intermediates I considered it worth 4♥.

And what happened? 4♥ is obviously an excellent contract. Unfortunately declarer was a beginner and he played the ♥K from hand (instead of leading up to it) and so went one down.

The bottom lines: -

- Intermediates count, especially when partner opens 1NT.
- 10985 in a 4-4 fit is not zero points.
- Touching honours are good.
- This West hand is worth game opposite 1NT (in my opinion!), and easily so when a ♥ fit is uncovered.

Lead partner's suit!

Board 4 from Monday 1st

A shambolic auction, but a defender let them get away with it!

Dealer:	♠ A8				
West	♥ 97653	West	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ Q	pass	pass	1♦ (1)	1♠
	♣ J9642	1NT (2)	pass	2♥ (3)	2♠
		3♦ (4)	pass	3NT (5)	all pass
♠ 1053	N	♠ 96			
♥ J2	W E	♥ AQ104			
♦ A854	S	♦ K1063			
♣ Q1075		♣ AK8			
	♠ KQJ742				
	♥ K8				
	♦ J972				
	♣ 3				

- (1) A clear 1NT opener. Do not worry about a weak doubleton for a 1NT opener.
- (2) With no ♠ stop 2♦ is a far better bid here.
- (3) East is a beginner and I do not believe that he realised that he was showing a good shapely hand with this forcing reverse.
- (4) West correctly supported partner's ♦'s.
- (5) And East confirmed 18+ points with a 3NT bid.

Anyway, it does not matter what you think of this silly auction by E-W. The question is, what should North lead (what was your answer to this week's lead quiz)?

South has shown 6 good ♠'s and the ♠A stands out a mile. If West indeed had the ♠ stopper that his 1NT bid indicated then the ♠A is still the automatic lead – if West has something like ♠Kx or ♠Qxx you stand excellent chances of blocking the suit if you do not lead the ♠A.

And what happened? North led a ♥ - thus knocking out partner's only outside entry. South won and returned the ♠J which won the trick and the suit was blocked.

North immediately "did a 'C....'" and blamed partner, saying that South should have led the ♠K rather than the ♠J at trick two. Perhaps, but I put the disaster squarely on North's shoulders. If partner bids a suit twice when the opponents have bid NT then he wants that suit led.

From Ax, Kx or Qx I would lead the honour.

From Axx, Kxx or Qxx I would lead small although an honour may sometimes be best.

The bottom lines: -

- With a balanced hand with 15-17 points, open 1NT. Do not worry about a weak doubleton.
- Lead partner's suit, especially if he has bid it twice!
- Most definitely lead the A from Ax of partner's suit against NT.
- Trust partner's bidding rather than that of a scratch partnership (although it is not applicable here as you should lead the ♠A even if West had his ♠ stop).
- Don't blame partner for your mistakes.

Incidentally, doing a 'C....' is a term I use when one player immediately blames partner for a disaster in order to conceal the fact that he himself was to blame. It is 'named' after a certain individual who is a master at this.

6♠ making or 2NT minus one?

Board 20 from Monday 1st

Yes, there really were these two extremes from a hand on Monday :-

Dealer:	♠ 985		<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ Q1094		West	North	East	South(D)
Both vul	♦ Q10742		pass	pass	pass	2♣ (1)
	♣ 5		pass	2♦ (2)	pass	2NT (3)
			pass	pass (4)	pass	
♠ 74	N	♠ Q106	<u>Expert Table</u>			
♥ 65	W E	♥ 82	West	North	East	South(D)
♦ 863	S	♦ J95	pass	pass	pass	2♣ (1)
♣ AJ8763		♣ KQ942	pass	2♥ (2)	pass	2♠ (5)
	♠ AKJ32		pass	3♦ (5)	pass	3♥ (5)
	♥ AKJ73		pass	4♥	pass	4NT
	♦ AK		pass	5♣	pass	6♥
	♣ 10		pass			
			all pass			

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this South hand D(a) in this weeks quiz? Now normally I don't like to open 2♣ with two-suiters but this hand has so many points (and both majors) that a 1♠ opening may well get passed out. The hand has about 10 – 11 playing tricks and is easily worth 2♣.
- (2) I suppose this was negative.
- (3) What did you rebid with this South hand D(b) in this week's quiz? 2NT shows a balanced 22-24 but this hand is not balanced! 2♠ (forcing) is best, with a ♥ bid next go to show the shape in the majors. The other problem with 2NT is that it is not forcing (although partner will only pass with a balanced two count or less). However, this mis-bid should have worked out extremely well and when North bids Stayman the ♥ fit is uncovered immediately and the cold 6♥ easily reached.
- (4) Now South has made a poor 2nd bid, but this pass is sheer lunacy. A shapely 4 points opposite a minimum of 22 should easily make game and 3♣, Stayman, to look for a ♥ fit is obvious.
- Expert Table (2) Our experts play 2♥ negative (2♦ waiting).
- Table (5) Natural and forcing.

And what happened? 2NT lost the first 6 tricks and was one down. Nobody bid to 6♥. One pair bid 6♠ which makes on the ♠ finesse (6♥ does not require the finesse). Others were in game.

After the play, North at Table A again (yes, this was the same North as last page) tried to blame partner for the disaster. North made a poor 2nd bid, agreed, but this was nothing in comparison with South's outrageous pass of 2NT. I guess that the words 'sorry partner' are not in South's vocabulary?

The bottom lines: -

- 2♣ followed by 2NT is a balanced 22-24, two 5 card majors is not balanced.
- A shapely 4 count (with two working 10's) opposite 22-24 is easily enough for game.
- Don't blame partner for your mistakes.
- Note the advantage of playing 2♥ negative. 2♥ showed a virtually bust hand and so there was no need for responder to leap off to 4♠ (fast arrival) to show his heap at his 2nd turn.

There's no such thing as a pre-empt over a pre-empt! Board 15 from Wednesday 3rd

I've said it before (news-sheets 53, 117 and 154) – there is no such thing as a pre-empt over a pre-empt. In fact this title was copied from 154 when a similar bid was made.

Dealer:	♠ AQJ532				
South	♥ Q5	West(A)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ AK	-	-	-	2♦ (1)
	♣ 1097	3♥ (2)	3♠	dbl (3)	all pass

♠ 84	N	♠ K6
♥ A1098432	W E	♥ 6
♦ J	S	♦ 864
♣ Q64		♣ AKJ8632
	♠ 1097	
	♥ KJ7	
	♦ Q1097532	
	♣ -	

- (1) Not a very elegant opening. With a hand playable in support of either major from partner a pass may be more prudent than opening either 2♦ or a rash 3♦.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? 2♥ is best. 3♥ here shows a very good hand and 7 points does not qualify. If the bid was intended as pre-emptive then that is a mistake – jumps over a pre-emptive opening from an opponent show a strong hand.
- (3) With what looks like 3 tricks in his hand and a mis-fit for partner East reasonably(?) chose to double. Whether this was wise or not is debatable as the 3♠ bid is forcing (at least I know that South would have taken it as forcing) and East can double later when 4♠ is reached if he wishes.

And what happened? 3♠ doubled was plus two and 1130 for a top to N-S. Other N-S's were in 4♠ or 5♠ either making or going one down.

The bottom lines: -

- You cannot pre-empt over a pre-empt; jumps show a very good hand.
- What's the point of doubling a forcing bid for penalties (especially with only two trumps)?
- When LHO has promised 6-9 points with a pre-empt, partner has bid strongly and RHO bids strongly and you have 11 points then somebody does not have their bid (partner or RHO). Perhaps you should be cautious if it's likely to be partner?

Deny a 4-card major?

Board 7 from Wednesday 3rd

Now you all know me (never deny a 4-card major) but it worked out very well on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ 864				
South	♥ KJ105	West	North	East(F)	South
Both vul	♦ 8652	-	-	-	pass
	♣ J8	1♥	pass	2♦ (1)	pass
		2NT (2)	pass	3NT (3)	all pass
♠ K107	N	♠ J952			
♥ A9643	W E	♥ Q			
♦ Q94	S	♦ AKJ103			
♣ A3		♣ Q103			
	♠ AQ3				
	♥ 872				
	♦ 7				
	♣ K97642				

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand F(a) in this week's quiz? 2♦ is best here. Show the good 5 card ♦ suit and bid ♠'s later if you wish.
- (2) 12-14. Whether this denies a 4 card ♠ suit or not is up to partnership agreement. I like to play that 2♠ does not show extra values after a two level response but that is not standard and has to be agreed.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand F(b) in this week's quiz? 3NT is clear if partner has denied 4 ♠'s, but if partner could have 4 ♠'s then 3♠ is technically correct but with this miserable ♠ suit and excellent ♦'s I most certainly would not argue with denying the 4 card ♠ suit and bidding 3NT on this occasion.

And what happened? North led the ♠8 and with an easy 3 ♠'s tricks to go with the other goodies West made +2. At two other tables they managed to stop short of game (don't ask me how) and 3NT was played by East at another table and somehow went two down.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner opens and you have game values with a 5 card minor and a 4 card major, bid the minor first.
- I like to play that a reverse over a two level response does not show extra values, but you have to agree that.

Unlucky?

Board 10 from Wednesday 3rd

The vulnerable penalty was not enough to compensate for the missed vulnerable game for N-S on this deal. Anybody to blame?

Dealer: ♠ J10
East ♥ AQJ75
Both vul ♦ KQ5
♣ A84

Table A

West	North	East	South(B)
-	-	2♠ (1)	pass
pass	dbl (2)	pass	pass (3)
pass			

♠ -	N	♠ A875432
♥ 983	W E	♥ 62
♦ AJ62	S	♦ 73
♣ J76532		♣ K9
	♠ KQ96	
	♥ K104	
	♦ 10984	
	♣ Q10	

Table B

West	North	East	South(B)
-	-	3♠ (1)	pass
pass	? (4)		

- Table A: (1) I am not generally a fan of opening a weak two with a 7 card suit. But vulnerable in first seat this hand is not worth 3♠ so I think that 2♠ is reasonable.
- (2) And actually 2♠ makes life more difficult for North than 3♠ (as Table B). North has a difficult bid here. The hand is too good for 3♥ in the balancing seat and so it's either 4♥ or double. Either could work out best.
- (3) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? Partner has doubled, but it's in the protective seat and may not be that strong. As there is no certainty of game I think that pass is very reasonable against vulnerable opponents and is what I would have done.

- Table B: (1) Most East's chose to open 3♠
- (4) And again North has a decision – but this time whatever he does works. If he doubles and partner passes then you collect 800 or partner bids 3NT for 600. If you bid 4♥ then that makes for 650.

And what happened? 2♠ doubled was down two for just 500 to N-S. The other three tables were the three options I suggested for table B.

The bottom lines: -

- ♠A875432 and 7 points is not good enough for 3♠ vulnerable in 1st seat.
- It's up to you/partnership style if you pass or open 2♠ with such a hand.

How many points is 2NT?

Board 16 from Friday 5th

Did you get the answers to the bidding sequences J-L right this week. This deal prompted the questions, with an experienced player getting sequence L wrong.

Dealer:	♠ K8				
West	♥ A987	West(E)	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ J103	1♦	pass	2♦ (1)	pass
	♣ Q732	2NT (2)	pass	pass (3)	pass

♠ 1063	N	♠ AQ5
♥ K1064	W E	♥ J5
♦ AQ82	S	♦ 954
♣ A5		♣ KJ1098
	♠ J9742	
	♥ Q32	
	♦ K76	
	♣ 64	

- (1) Obviously very silly, but this player was a beginner. The 'obvious' bid is 2♣. It's far too good for 1NT and really a bit good for 2NT. 3NT is an option but I see nothing wrong with the obvious 2♣, especially as 3NT may be better played by partner.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand E in this week's quiz? Pass is clear. But there is a fairly amusing (and instructive) story here. This West is a good player and he knew that his partner was not (it was an individual event). 2NT here actually shows a big hand (sequence L), about 18 points; but West bid it because he (correctly) assumed that his partner had underbid.
- (3) Just clarifying that East had no idea what he was doing, even given a 2nd chance.

Now the 'instructive' thing about this deal is that another experienced player told me about it, stating that West's bid showed 12-14 points. I said not so. So we then went along to the West concerned and he admitted that he knew that the bid showed 18-19 points but that he bid it in case his partner had underbid (as was the case).

And what happened? 2NT made a comfortable two overtricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Sequence L: 1♦ - 2♦ - 2NT shows a big hand; about 18-19.
- Do not support partner's 1♣/♦ opening with 3 cards!

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 2♥. 3♥ is a strong bid here and this hand is not strong (in points). There is no such thing as a pre-empt over a pre-empt, jumps are strong.
- Hand B: Pass. I would take the vulnerable money. Partner has bid in the protective position and may not be strong enough for there to be game your way. I guess that 2NT or 3NT are reasonable – depending upon your partnership balancing style.
- Hand C: (a) 2♣. This hand is easily worth an effort and you should look for the 4-4 ♥ fit.
(b) 3♥, or even 4♥. The obvious bid is an invitational 3♥ but I think that with these great intermediates it's worth 4♥. Anyway, it's much too good to pass initially or to pass 2♥ now.
- Hand D: (a) 2♣. I don't really like opening 2♣ with two suiters but this one is so strong that you have too (a 1♠ opening may well be passed out).
(b) 2♠. Game forcing, and hopefully you will get a chance to bid ♥'s next.
- Hand E: Pass.
- Hand F: (a) 2♦. With game forcing values you should bid your long minor first (rather than 1♠) and then bid ♠'s next go to show your shape – game forcing.
(b) Umm...! Technically I suppose that you should bid a (forcing) 3♠, but there are a few points here. If you play 2/1 or have agreed that a reverse over a two level response does not show extra values then partner's 2NT bid has denied 4 ♠'s and so 3NT is clear. With no such agreement 3NT now may miss a 4-4 ♠ fit, but with all of the points and intermediates outside ♠'s and such miserable ♠'s I feel that 3NT is acceptable. With my preferred treatment (1♥ 2♦ 2♠ not showing the extra values for a reverse) 3NT is obvious.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- G 2♦ 3♥ 2♦ was weak, what is the 3♥ overcall? Strong.
- H 2♦ 3♥ 3♠ 2♦ was weak, what is 3♠ by responder? Is it weak, invitational, forcing? I would take it as strong and forcing with ♦ tolerance.

There is no interference in the following sequences: -

- J 1♦ - 1♠ - 2NT 2NT is 18-19, partner may have as few as 6 pts.
- K 1♦ - 2♣ - 2NT 2NT is 12-14, partner has promised 10++ pts.
- L 1♦ - 2♦ - 2NT 2NT is 18-19, partner may have as few as 6 pts.

Leading Sequences Quiz Answer

♠A. Anything else is ridiculous.