

Mon 10 th	1 st	Chuck & Dennis	59%	2 nd = Marten & Kenneth	54%
				2 nd = Bob P & Dave	54%
Wed 12 th	1 st =	Paul Scully & Gene	57%		
	1 st =	Dave & Kenneth	57%		
Fri 14 th	1 st	Jo & Marten	59%	2 nd Chuck & Ron Z	57%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♠, what do you bid?
♠ 4	♠ A632	
♥ QJ86	♥ K105	With Hand B you open 1♣, LHO doubles and partner redoubles. RHO then bids 1♦, what do you bid?
♦ AJ5	♦ K92	
♣ KJ532	♣ A109	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ KQ1085	♠ KJ42	With Hand D partner opens 1♥ and RHO overcalls 1♠. What do you do when it is: -
♥ A943	♥ 6	(a) Unfavourable vulnerability (you red, them green)?
♦ Q73	♦ A87	(b) Favourable vulnerability (you green, them red)?
♣ 6	♣ KJ982	(c) Equal vulnerability?
Hand E	Hand F	What do you open with Hand E; 1 st seat both vulnerable?
♠ Q	♠ 4	With Hand F partner opens 1♠ and you respond 2♦. Partner then bids 2♥, what do you bid?
♥ J10865432	♥ A	
♦ A876	♦ KQJ987	
♣ -	♣ AK1094	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1NT, you transfer and partner bids 2♥. What do you do now?
♠ A10	♠ 105	With Hand H partner opens 1♠. (a) What do you bid?
♥ J8532	♥ AJ10976	(b) Suppose you choose 2♥ and partner then bids 3♠, what now?
♦ K87	♦ A7	
♣ 752	♣ 753	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J LHO opens 3♦ and partner doubles. What do you do?
♠ 98	♠ K97432	With Hand K you open 1♠. What is your rebid if:
♥ K742	♥ K2	(a) partner bids 2♥?
♦ K62	♦ KQ	(b) partner bids 1NT?
♣ 9873	♣ AQJ	

There were a lot of interesting bidding mix-ups this week and so the **bidding sequence quiz** is larger than usual and on the next page.

Bidding Sequences Quiz

- L 1♣ dbl redbl 1♦ 1NT What is 1NT?
- M 1♣ dbl redbl 1♦ pass What is pass? Is it forcing?
- N 1NT 2♠ dbl What is dbl?
- O 1NT 2♠ 3♠ What is the 3♠ cuebid?
- P 1♦ 2♣ dbl The dble is negative, does it promise both majors?
- Q 1♣ 1♦ dbl The dble is negative, does it promise both majors?

There is no interference in the following sequences: -

- R 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ What is 2♠? Is it forcing?
- S 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♦ - 3♠ Is 3♠ forcing?
- T 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ Is 3♠ forcing?
- U 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ What is 4♣?
- V 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ - 4♦ What is 4♦?
- W 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ - 4♦ - 4NT What is 4NT?
- X 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4NT What is 4NT?
- Y 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ What is 3♣?
- Z 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ - 3NT - 4♣ What is 4♣?
- @ 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ - 3NT - 5♣ What is 5♣?

Bjorn's play problem

Bjorn e-mailed me this problem. How do you safely play to make the contract on the ♣5 lead?

Dealer:	♠ Q109654				
South	♥ K2	West	North	East	South
	♦ Q	-	-	-	1♠
	♣ J982	pass	4♠	all pass	
♠ -	N	♠ J2			
♥ Q743	W E	♥ AJ5			
♦ J1042	S	♦ A98765			
♣ K10653		♣ Q4			
	♠ AK873				
	♥ 10986				
	♦ K3				
	♣ A7				

An 'impossible' bid

Board 30 from Monday 10th

What was your answer to sequence L in this week's quiz? There are just two 'normal' bids for opener. Pass (and wait to see if partner can penalise the bid) or double (penalties). With a very shapely hand where you would not want to defend then you can bid a suit. The only bid that is 'impossible' is 1NT – to show a flat 12-14. With a flat 12-14 pass and give partner a chance to double them if he wishes; this pass is forcing.

Dealer: ♠ J97
 East ♥ 72
 Love all ♦ 10864
 ♣ Q874

♠ 4	N	♠ A632
♥ QJ86	W E	♥ K105
♦ AJ5	S	♦ K92
♣ KJ532		♣ A109
	♠ KQ1085	
	♥ A943	
	♦ Q73	
	♣ 6	

Table A

West	North	East(B)	South(C)
-	-	1♣ (1)	dbl (2)
rdbl (3)	1♦ (4)	1NT (5)	pass
3NT	all pass		

Table B

West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	1NT(1)	2♠ (6)
dbl (7)	all pass		

Table A: (1) I guess that most would open 1♣.

(2) What did you bid with this South hand C in this week's quiz? I prefer 1♠ here as I would not want to play in a possible 4-3 ♦ fit if there is a 5-3 ♠ fit. To double and then bid 1♠ after a 1♦ response from partner shows a much bigger hand.

(3) Showing 10+ points and often a mis-fit for partner. With just a singleton ♠ a (forcing) 1♥ bid is an alternative.

(4) North does not have to bid here, and I would only bid with a 5 card suit.

(5) What did you bid with this East hand B in this week's quiz? As I explained at the top of this page 1NT is totally illogical and pass is correct.

Table B: (1) This East, with two tens and two nines decided to upgrade to 1NT despite the 4333 shape. I think it's OK.

(6) Natural. Playing Multi Landy then 2♣ (promising 9 cards in the majors) is the bid.

(7) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? Double here is penalties and I won't say what I think of double as I'm trying to tone it down. The best bid is 3♠, game forcing Stayman with 4♥ or 5♣ in mind.

And what happened? At Table A, if N-S had played in 1♦ doubled then E-W would have got 500 for a clear top. As it was they made 3NT +1 for an average. At Table B 2♠ was just one down for a complete top to N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- When you open, LHO doubles, partner redoubles and RHO bids, **NEVER** bid No Trump.
- In this scenario you usually either pass (forcing) or double (penalties).
- If you have an extremely shapely hand and cannot stand the thought of defending then you can bid a new suit or repeat a 6-carder.
- When partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls, then dbl is penalties and promises a good holding in the overcalled suit. A singleton 4 is not a good holding.
- A cue bid in this scenario is (game forcing) Stayman. Playing Lebensohl it also denies a ♠ stop.

The three level is too high

Board 20 from Monday 10th

The bidding shot up to the three level, with 2 players bidding way too high, on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ KJ4				
West	♥ K976	West	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ K1063	1♣	dbl	3♣ (1)	dbl (2)
	♣ 64	pass	3♥ (3)	all pass	
♠ A65	N				
♥ 1083	W E				
♦ A94	S				
♣ AJ109					
	♠ 9872				
	♥ Q52				
	♦ Q5				
	♣ K532				
	♠ Q103				
	♥ AJ4				
	♦ J872				
	♣ Q87				

- (1) The obvious bid here is 1♠. What do you think of this 3♣ bid? Now I have been criticised recently for excessive use of 'silly', 'ridiculous' and 'absurd' and so I have had to resort to the dictionary. How about 'preposterous'? A 3♣ bid here should be weak with at least 5 ♣'s and no 4 card major. I guess preposterous is fine. Incidentally, East later tried to justify his pre..... bid by saying that he had points to spare. That just compounds the felony, but no names.
- (2) And what can I say about this? Preposterous? This double is for take-out (a Responsive Double). With a totally flat 9 count (the ♣Q is worthless) forcing partner to bid at the 3-level in probably a 4-3 fit is simply pre.....
- (3) North assumed that South was 4-4 in the majors and asking North to choose.

And what happened? 3♥ was two down for a clear bottom. 3♣ would have been two down for a clear top to N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- If partner opens and RHO doubles, then a raise to the 3-level is pre-emptive.
- You need 5 ♣'s to pre-emptively raise partner's 1♣ opening to 3♣.
- Don't be bullied into the three level if you do not have the values.
- Never deny a 4-card major, even 9872; there is no reason why opener could not have had 4 ♠'s.

An 8 card suit, so open 4♥?

Board 4 from Monday 10th

Dealer: ♠ J86
West ♥ 9
Both vul ♦ QJ93
♣ KJ1092

Table A
West(E) North East South
4♥ (1) pass 6♥ (2) dbl (3)
all pass

♠ Q N ♠ AK973
♥ J10865432 W E ♥ 7
♦ A876 S ♦ K105
♣ - ♣ AQ74
♠ 10542
♥ AKQ
♦ 42
♣ 8653

Table B
West(E) North East South
3♥ (1) pass 4♥ (4) dbl (5)
all pass

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this West hand E in this week's quiz? In first seat and vulnerable any pre-empt needs to be up to strength. Although it contains an 8 card suit the hand is nowhere near good enough for 4♥ (unless you play Namyats when I would indeed open 4♥).
- (2) This is the problem with not playing Namyats – a 4♥ opening could be anything from a bit better than this actual garbage to a very good hand where 6♥ is lay-down.
- (3) 6♥ is not lay-down.
- Table B: (1) This West (Dave) is wise to the fact that a vulnerable pre-empt in 1st seat should be a decent hand and 3♥ is just right.
- (4) And East has an easy raise to 4♥.
- (5) Quite why South doubled I don't know. I can only see 3 tricks but then this South undoubtedly plays the cards better than me.

And what happened? The obvious 10 tricks were made at every table. At the third table there was also a 4♥ opening but East wisely checked on keycards first and so stopped in 5♥ doubled.

The bottom lines: -

- Vulnerable pre-empts need to be up to strength.
- 1st seat pre-empts need to be up to strength.
- If you want to open at the 4-level with 8 rags, then play Namyats so that you do not get propelled into impossible 5-level contracts or slams.
- Culbertson's rule of three for pre-empts applies at equal vulnerability, and so a 4♥ opener should have 7 playing tricks. Not many people adhere to this 'rule' these days, but this West hand is just 6 playing tricks. To me it's not the 'rule' that is significant, but the lack of honours in the trump suit. Put the useless ♠Q in with the ♥'s and have a singleton small ♠ and 4♥ is much more attractive; but it's still best to also play Namyats.

It's not forcing

Board 3 from Monday 10th

What was your answer to sequence S: 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♦ - 3♠ in this week's quiz? It is not forcing, simply showing about 11 points and 3 ♠'s.

Dealer: ♠ 432
South ♥ AQJ6
E-W vul ♦ AKQ4
♣ K4

♠ 106 N ♠ Q85
♥ 10954 W E ♥ 32
♦ 82 S ♦ J63
♣ AJ1075 ♣ Q8632
♠ AKJ97
♥ K87
♦ 10975
♣ 9

Table A

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

'Semi-Expert' Table

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

- Table A: (1) This is easily the best bid – there is no rush to support ♠'s with such miserable support and there may well be a good slam in a red suit.
(2) North meant this as forcing – unfortunately it is not. It simply shows an invitational hand with 3 ♠'s.
(3) And with a minimum South passes, although I would no longer consider this hand minimum with a double fit and a presumably useful ♣ void.
- 'Semi-Expert' Table: Our experts are having a day off today and the substitutes do not play 2/1 (the hand is trivial playing 2/1)
- Table: (2) So playing Standard we bid 2♥ here – forcing. This bid is obviously correct. But it is actually a cue bid – showing the ♥A in support of ♦'s.
(4) A cue bid – the ♠A
(5) A cue bid, could be 1st or 2nd round control.
(6) South could check on key cards but chose to simply bid the slam.

And what happened? The cards lie nicely and 6 of anything makes. One pair did bid 6NT but somehow managed to go down. The best (only reasonable) line of play is to finesse the ♠Q and with ample entries to the North hand I cannot see why 6NT went down.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't make an invitational bid with a forcing hand.
- This hand is a doddle playing 2/1 as 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♦ - 3♠ is very descriptive and game forcing/slam seeking with either ♠'s or ♦'s as the final denomination.
- Experienced 2/1 players will play DRKCB (Double, or two-suited Roman Keycard Blackwood) after such an auction.

Slam missing two aces

Board 7 from Wednesday 12th

Everybody messed this one up; three pairs bid slam with two aces off the top and the only pair to avoid the doomed slam was when one player passed Blackwood! Table A is typical of the mix-up between ordinary and Roman Keycard Blackwood: -

Dealer:	♠ AQ986			<u>Table A</u>			
South	♥ 1072			West	North	East(F)	South
Both vul	♦ A4			-	-	-	pass
	♣ 763			1♠	pass	2♦	pass
				2♥	pass	4♣ (1)	pass
♠ K10752	N	♠ 4		4♦ (2)	pass	4NT (3)	pass
♥ KQ98	W E	♥ A		5♦ (4)	pass	6♦	pass
♦ 6	S	♦ KQJ987		pass	dbl	all pass	
♣ QJ8		♣ AK1094					
	♠ J3			<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
	♥ J6543			West	North	East(F)	South
	♦ 10532			-	-	-	pass
	♣ 52			1♠	pass	2♦	pass
				2♥	pass	3♣ (1)	pass
				3NT (5)	pass	5♣ (6)	pass
				5♦ (7)	pass	5NT (8)	all pass

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? 4♣ here is normally played as a splinter (singleton or void) agreeing ♥'s. It does not promise 1st round control as West said when asked.
- (2) A cue bid. It is dangerous to cue bid a 2nd round control (with no 1st round control) as partner may well assume that it is the ♦A. And I would not entertain it in this case as a singleton in partner's first bid suit is not usually an asset. I would simply bid 4♥, denying any 1st round controls.
- (3) East presumably meant this as normal Blackwood? West thought that it was RKCB for ♥'s (as would I).
- (4) One key card (the ♥K).
- (5) East assumed that the ace/keycard was the ♦A (as would I) and bid the ♦ slam.
- 'Expert' Table (1) This is the best bid, 4th suit forcing. 4NT is no good here as that is RKCB for ♥'s
- (5) With a ♣ stop West bids 3NT of course.
- (6) 4♣ would be natural here, looking for a ♣ slam. So a jump to 5♣ is Gerber.
- (7) Zero aces. (8) Sign off (6♣ would be a king ask).

And what happened? Three pairs bid slam, all down one. The bottom lines: -

- Know what bids are Blackwood, RKCB, Gerber, splinters etc.
- Be sure you know understand sequences U to @ in this week's bidding quiz.
- If partner's last bid was 3NT then 4♣ is natural (forcing) and 5♣ is Gerber.
- A splinter is one above the forcing bid, and so if a bid would be 4th suit forcing then that bid one level higher is a splinter. If you really want to show the 4th suit naturally then you have to bid the 4th suit and then bid it again; but there rarely is any point as the 4th suit is unlikely to be the best strain.
- Note that it is important for West to be declarer in a high NoTrump contract. If East has bid No Trump first then any NoTrump contract above 4NT would have been doubled by North, demanding a ♠ lead (dummy's first bid suit).

Go for the penalty?

Board 15 from Friday 14th

What were your answers to Hand D in this week's quiz? Here is the deal: -

Dealer: ♠ KJ42
South ♥ 6
N-S vul ♦ A87
 ♣ KJ982

Table A

West	North(D)	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	pass (1)	pass	pass (2)

♠ Q10973 N ♠ 5
♥ KJ3 W E ♥ Q984
♦ KJ9 S ♦ 106543
♣ 75 ♣ 1064

Table B

West	North(D)	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	3NT (1)	all pass	

♠ A86
♥ A10752
♦ Q2
♣ AQ3

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand D(a) in this week's quiz? At any other vulnerability I think that pass (and pass partner's automatic double) is fine. But vulnerable against not I think it's best to go for the vulnerable game.

(2) Unfortunately South apparently did not understand negative double theory – a problem with virtually every member of this club. Double is 'automatic' here.

Table B: (1) This was the bidding at the other two tables. At this vulnerability that's what I bid.

And what happened? 1♠ went 3 down, the computer says that it could go four down. So it appears that even at this vulnerability going for the penalty (800 if partner understands negative doubles) would have worked. 3NT made +1 at the other two tables for +630.

The bottom lines: -

- There are very few exceptions to not re-opening with a double and this South hand is certainly not one of them.
- If your partner does not understand negative double theory (seems like 99% of the club to me, as Eddie is apparently the only other member does), then simply bid NoTrump?
- Vulnerability counts. Be more inclined to go for the penalty at favourable vulnerability and more inclined to go for the game at unfavourable vulnerability.
- Don't listen to people who say that 1-level doubles cannot be profitable. At unfavourable vulnerability I would certainly go for the penalty with this North hand; and at equal vulnerability I would certainly think about it!
- With a mis-fit for partner it is often best to defend.

Muiderberg

I mentioned Muiderberg last week. It is a weak opening of 2♥/♠ which promises 5 cards in the major bid and also a 4 card minor, usually played in conjunction with the Multi 2♦. It is common in Holland but not elsewhere. Since Jo and Marten are now here I have decided to write up the convention so that everybody knows what they are doing! And I believe that there are a couple of other players thinking of playing it. It's on the web and there are copies in the convention folder.

Worth an invitation?

Board 16 from Friday 14th

When partner opens 1NT then you generally invite with 8-9 points. Did you invite with Hand G in this week's quiz? :-

Dealer: ♠ A10
West ♥ J8532
E-W vul ♦ K87
♣ 752

West	North(G)	East	South
pass	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	pass(1)		

♠ K764	N	♠ J32
♥ -	W E	♥ KQ1064
♦ J1092	S	♦ Q65
♣ KJ1064		♣ 98
	♠ Q985	
	♥ A97	
	♦ A43	
	♣ AQ3	

(1) What did you bid with this North hand G in this week's quiz? 8 points is normally enough for an invitation (so 2NT) but these ♥'s are so anaemic that I would (did) pass.

This hand is simply not worth an invitation.

And what happened? Two pairs managed to stop in 2♥ and the bad break meant it went two down. The other pair reached the dizzy height of 3NT which should also go two down.

The bottom lines: -

- Points belong in long suits. An 8 count with a five card major headed by the jack is not worth an invitation – especially if you play super-accepts.

Don't pass partner's take-out double of a pre-empt

Board 8 from Friday 14th

Only pass the double with an excellent holding in the trump suit. 'No points' is absolutely no excuse for passing: -

Dealer: ♠ 542
West ♥ Q
Love all ♦ QJ109873
♣ 65

West(J)	North	East	South
pass	3♦	dbl (1)	pass
pass (2)	pass		

♠ 98	N	♠ KQJ106
♥ K742	W E	♥ AJ103
♦ K62	S	♦ 5
♣ 9873		♣ K104
	♠ A73	
	♥ 9865	
	♦ A4	
	♣ AQJ2	

(1) I prefer this double to a 3♠ overcall
(2) What did you bid with this West hand J in this week's quiz? I do not usually put anything this trivial in the quiz, but **two** players passed on Friday! 3♥ is totally obvious, promising nothing more than 0-8 points and 3 ♥'s. Pass is ...!

And what happened? Two 570's for 3♦ doubled +1. 3♥ makes for E-W.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not pass partner's take-out double without exceptional trump length. Passing with a 4 card ♥ suit in this example is simply ridiculous (oops, I meant to find another suitable word).

Don't pass partner's forcing bid just because you have overbid

Board 9 from Friday 14th

Sequence T: 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ is game forcing in Standard American.

Dealer:	♠ K97432				
North	♥ K2	West	North(K)	East	South(H)
E-W vul	♦ KQ	-	1♠	pass	2♥ (1)
	♣ AQJ	pass	3♠ (2)	pass	pass (3)
		pass			
♠ QJ6	N	♠ A8			
♥ 853	W E	♥ Q4			
♦ J654	S	♦ 109832			
♣ 962		♣ K1084			
	♠ 105				
	♥ AJ10976				
	♦ A7				
	♣ 753				

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand H(a) in this week's quiz? Now you need a good 10+ points for a new-suit two level response but I think that this hand is worth it. The ♥ suit has great intermediates and 10x in partner's suit may be handy. I much prefer 2♥ to 1NT.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand K(a) in this week's quiz? 3♠ is fine, after a two level response this is game forcing. But if South had responded 1NT (so question K(b) in the quiz) then the best bid for North would have been 3♣ as 3♠ would not be forcing after a 1NT response.
- (3) And what was your answer to question H(b)? Partner's bid is game forcing after your two-level response. You cannot pass and I would bid 4♥ to emphasise the good ♥ suit; 4♠ is equally good, maybe better.

And what happened? Two people actually passed at (3). At one table the opponents sportingly informed him (a beginner) that the bid was forcing and he bid 4♠ I believe. At my table I was not so kind as on the previous board (previous page) my bidding partner had gifted then 570. Everybody made 10 tricks in 4♠, nobody played in ♥'s.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not pass partner's game forcing bid just because you have already possibly overbid.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- L** 1♣ dbl redbl 1♦
1NT What is 1NT? It's an 'impossible bid'. Partner's redouble is very often out to get the opponents and so you simply pass if you cannot double (penalties).
- M** 1♣ dbl redbl 1♦
pass What is pass? Is it forcing? Pass simply says that you cannot double 1♦ for penalties and it is 100% forcing.
- N** 1NT 2♠ dbl What is dbl? Penalties – with **good ♠**'s, not a singleton!
- O** 1NT 2♠ 3♠ What is the 3♠ cuebid? Game forcing Stayman. Playing Lebensohl it also denies a ♠ stop (slow shows).
- P** 1♦ 2♣ dbl The dbl is negative, does it promise both majors? No. It shows values and no five card major but usually a 4 card major, maybe two.
- Q** 1♣ 1♦ dbl The dbl is negative, does it promise both majors? Yes. With just one 4 card major you simply bid it.

There is no interference in the following sequences: -

- R** 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ 2♠ here is up to partnership agreement. Playing 4-way transfers it shows an invitational hand with 4 ♠'s. Playing traditional methods some play it as a hand with 5 ♠'s but not quite strong enough to transfer and then invite. Either way the bid is not forcing.
- S** 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♦ - 3♠ Is 3♠ forcing? No, it's invitational with 3 ♠'s.
- T** 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ Is 3♠ forcing? Yes, after a 2-level response playing a strong NT. It is only invitational if you play Acol.
- U** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ What is 4♣? A splinter showing ♣ shortage and agreeing ♥'s. It is not showing first round ♣ control.
- V** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ - 4♦ What is 4♦? A cue bid showing 1st round ♦ control.
- W** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ - 4♦ - 4NT What is 4NT? RKCB with ♥'s as trumps.
- X** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4NT What is 4NT? RKCB with ♥'s as trumps.
- Y** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ What is 3♣? 4th suit forcing.
- Z** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ - 3NT - 4♣ What is 4♣? Showing a natural ♣ suit looking for slam. It is not Gerber which is always a jump after 3NT.
- @** 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ - 3NT - 5♣ What is 5♣? Gerber!

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 3♣. The cue bid of the opponent's suit is generally played as game forcing Stayman. Playing Lebensohl this 3♣ bid also denies a ♠ stop. With a ♠ stop and 4♥'s Lebensohl players go through the 2NT - 3♣ - 3♠ route (slow shows). Double (penalties) is a poor bid with just a singleton small trump.
- Hand B: Pass. 1NT is an 'impossible' bid. With a flat 12-14 you pass (forcing) and leave it up to partner, he is the captain.
- Hand C: 1♠. Bid 1♠ and if you get the opportunity you can bid 2♥ later if you wish. Double is a poor bid as you may well miss a 5-3 ♠ fit when partner responds 1♦. To double and then remove partner's 1♦ bid to 1♠ would show a much stronger hand.
- Hand D: (a) 3NT. Go for the vulnerable game rather than the non-vul penalty.
(b) Pass. Go for the vulnerably penalty by passing partner automatic double.
(c) 3NT or pass. At equal vulnerability I think it's very close. I would probably go for the penalty and hope to set them 3 tricks.
- Hand E: 3♥. Nowhere near good enough for a vulnerable 4♥. If, **and only if**, you play Namyats then 4♥ would be fine. If you do not play Namyats (why not?) then 4♥ is totally undisciplined and simply leaves partner guessing when he has a good hand.
- Hand F: 3♣, 4th suit forcing. 4♣ would be a splinter agreeing ♥'s and 4NT would be RKCB for ♥'s. If you do not play RKCB then it's simple and a 4NT Blackwood bid is fine.
- Hand G: Pass. With this pathetic ♥ suit the hand is not worth an invitation (2NT).
- Hand H (a) 2♥. With this great suit, good intermediates and a reasonable 10x in partner's suit I think it's worth a two level response but I would not argue if you 'went by the book' and responded 1NT.
(b) 4♥. Even though you stretched last time you cannot pass partner's game forcing bid. This ♥ suit is pretty much self-sufficient and so I would rebid it, but I won't argue with 4♠.
- Hand J: 3♥. Obvious I know, but two out of three players passed on Friday!
- Hand K: (a) 3♠. This is forcing after a two-level response. 3♠ is a reasonable alternative.
(b) 3♣. This time 3♠ would not be forcing and so you have to 'dig up' a forcing bid.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers are on the previous page.

Bjorn's Play Problem Answer

Dealer: ♠ Q109654

South ♥ K2

♦ Q

♣ J982

♠ -

N

♠ J2

♥ Q743

W E

♥ AJ5

♦ J1042

S

♦ A98765

♣ K10653

♣ Q4

♠ AK873

♥ 10986

♦ K3

♣ A7

West

North

East

South

-

-

-

1♠

pass

4♠

all pass

Duck the opening ♣ lead which East wins.

Win the presumed ♣ return, draw trumps

and then lead the ♦3 up to the ♦Q. East

wins the ♦A and the contract is now secure.

If he leads a ♥ then your ♥K becomes good.

If he had a ♣ to lead then you ruff and then

discard a ♥ on the ♦K. And if he leads a ♦ you

can discard a losing ♥ on the ♦K.

Note that it is essential to duck the opening lead as otherwise when East gets in with the ♦A he will lead a ♣ to partner's ♣K and then a ♥ through dummy spells doom. The contract is secure as long as East has the ♦A and you duck the opening lead.