

My mobile number is **086 6089887**

Mon 19 th	1 st N-S	Ivy & Wolfgang	61%	2 nd	Hugh & Sally	60%
	1 st E-W	Derek & Gerard	64%	2 nd	Jan Roos & Per-Ake	63%
Wed 21 st	1 st N-S	Bob & Mike	56%	2 nd	Hugh & Sally	55%
	1 st E-W	Derek & Gerard	58%	2 nd	Paul & Ursula	56%
Fri 23 rd	1 st N-S	John MacI & Sean	60%	2 nd	Hugh & Sally	58%
	1 st E-W	Flurio & Pezzini	75%	2 nd	Derek & Gerard	62%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

Hand B

With Hand A partner opens 1NT, what do you bid?

♠ K10985

♠ -

♥ Q10932

♥ KQ108543

With Hand B you open 3♥ (or 4♥ if you prefer) and partner

♦ 6

♦ J953

bids 4NT, RKC Blackwood, what do you respond?

♣ 54

♣ Q10.

Hand C

Hand D

What do you open with Hand C (playing Benjamin twos).

♠ AK

♠ KQJ9

♥ AK10943

♥ K1064

With Hand D partner opens 1NT, what do you bid?

♦ AQ8

♦ J84

♣ Q10

♣ Q8

Hand E

Hand F

What do you open with Hand E (playing Benjamin twos).

♠ AKJ853

♠ A107

(a) What do you open with Hand F?

♥ 10

♥ AQJ3

(b) Suppose you chose 1♣ and partner responds 1♥, what do you bid now?

♦ 4

♦ A3

♣ AKQ106

♣ K1095

Bidding Sequences Quiz

All of these sequences occurred this week

G 3♥ pass 4NT pass What is this 5♥ response to Roman Keycard Blackwood?
5♥

H 3♥ pass 4NT pass What is this 6♥ response to Roman Keycard Blackwood?
6♥

I 1♦ pass 1♥ pass What does this 3NT bid show?
3NT

J 1♦ pass 1♥ pass 4NT was Blackwood and the 5♦ response indicated that there
3NT pass 4NT pass were two aces missing. What does responder do to play in 5NT?
5♦ pass ?

K 1NT pass pass 2♣ 2♣ was conventional, showing both minors, and 2♦ was simple
pass 2♦ dbl preference. What does the double mean?

L 1♣ pass 1♥ pass What is 4♥? Strong or pre-emptive?
4♥

Responding to Blackwood with a void

Board 8 from Monday 19th

Here's another interesting Blackwood problem. It was in the news-sheets a few weeks back (News-sheet 218) and the pair at Table B did remember it, thus reaching an excellent slam: -

Dealer:	♠ -		<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ KQ108543		West	North(B)	East	South
Love all	♦ J953		pass	3♥ (1)	pass	4NT (2)
	♣ Q10		pass	5♦ (3)	pass	5♥ (4)
			all pass			
♠ AJ75	N	♠ K10986				
♥ J7	W E	♥ 6	<u>Table B</u>			
♦ 1084	S	♦ 72	West	North(B)	East	South
♣ 9876		♣ KJ542	pass	3♥ (1)	pass	4NT (2)
	♠ Q432		pass	6♥ (3)	pass	pass (5)
	♥ A92		pass			
	♦ AKQ6					
	♣ A3					

- Table A: (1) A very sound 3♥ opener, with this nice shape some may prefer 4♥.
(2) RKCB. Not elegant with these ♠'s but it should have worked.
(3) North thought for a while before responding – obviously trying to think what to do with a void.
(4) With just one keycard opposite and potentially two ♠ losers off the top, South signed off.
- Table B: (2) This South also tried RKCB.
(3) But fortunately they knew what to do with a void. 5NT would show 0 or 2 keycards with an undisclosed void but the response with 1 (or 3) keycards is more explicit. A six-level bid below the trump suit shows 1 or 3 keycards with a void in the suit bid and a bid of six of the trump suit shows 1 or 3 keycards with a void in a higher ranking suit. Since North has a keycard (which he has not promised) he should show the void.
(5) With a known ♠ void opposite South is very happy. But he does not quite have enough to bid the grand as there could easily be a minor suit loser.

And what happened? Three pairs bid the cold 6♥; one went down in 7♥ and the other five settled for game. I don't know how many of the 6♥/7♥ bidders knew what they were doing or if they simply gambled.

The bottom lines: -

- There is no need to lie or gamble when you have a void and partner bids Blackwood; 5NT shows 0 or 2 and a six level bid shows 1 or 3; simple eh?
- But you should not use this scheme if you have 0 or 1 keycards and partner could reasonably expect more.
- And don't show a void in a suit that partner has bid – it's probably not useful.

Totally illogical

Board 5 from Wednesday 21st

There was a bit of silly animosity (and a subsequent adjusted score) on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ QJ3				
North	♥ K64	West	North	East	South(A)
N-S vul	♦ J92	-	1NT (1)	pass	pass (2)
	♣ AK106	2♣ (3)	pass	2♦	dbl (4)
		pass	2♥ (5)	pass (6)	all pass
♠ A762	N	♠ 4			
♥ 5	W E	♥ AJ87			
♦ AQ105	S	♦ K8743			
♣ Q982		♣ J73			
	♠ K10985				
	♥ Q10932				
	♦ 6				
	♣ 54				

- (1) A bit light for 1NT with this totally flat shape.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand A in this week's quiz? Obviously you should try 2♣, Stayman. If partner has a 4 card major then you have found a 5-4 fit and if partner bids 2♦ then you bid 2♥. Standard 'Garbage Stayman'.
- (3) Apparently showing both minors in this West's system. Don't ask me how he shows a two suited hand with a major and a minor.
- (4) What was your answer to this double in this weeks sequence quiz number K. South had a chance to transfer if he wished at (2) and so playing this as a transfer to ♥'s has no sense whatsoever, it is clearly penalties. There was no alert.
- (5) Neither was this alerted.
- (6) East was understandably unwilling to venture 3♦ when South had doubled 2♦. He specifically asked if all bids were natural and was given an affirmative reply.

And what happened? 2♥ made exactly. The director would have been summoned if he was not already at the table; he was East and made his objections very clear. At the time of the incident no action was taken as it was a good score for E-W as the one previous time it was 4♠ making by South. However, at all of the subsequent tables E-W played in ♦'s making 9 or 10 tricks and so the score was adjusted to 4♦ making by West. This sort of situation is very clear in the rules – adjust the score to the most favourable likely outcome.

The bottom lines: -

- Straightforward transfers (i.e. 2♦ and 2♥ bids) do not need alerting at this club, but I do recommend simply announcing 'transfer'.
- If you play that a double of an overcall as a transfer then that needs **alerting**. A failure to do so may well lead to an adjusted score if a defender reasonably assumed that it was penalties.
- If you play that a double of an overcall when you previously declined to transfer as a transfer then that is totally illogical and most certainly needs alerting.
- If an opponent specifically asks 'was everything natural?' before his opening lead then both declarer and/or dummy should explain if a double was conventional.
- Incidentally, I did mention sequence K to Dave and he said 'obviously penalties'.

A good hand for 2/1

Board 3 from Monday 19th

Dealer: ♠ J53
South ♥ J75
N-S vul ♦ K64
♣ AKQ8

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠	pass	pass	pass

♠ A8762	N	♠ 10
♥ A82	W E	♥ KQ10964
♦ AJ82	S	♦ 105
♣ 4		♣ 10952
	♠ KQ94	
	♥ 3	
	♦ Q973	
	♣ J763	

Expert Table

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠	pass	1NT (1)	pass
2♦	pass	2♥ (2)	all pass

- Table A: (1) This hand is not good enough for 2♥. If you play weak jump shifts then 3♥ will work but without that agreement I guess 1NT is best and hope that partner does not pass.
- ‘Expert’ (1) But our experts play 2/1 and East knows that partner cannot pass 1NT – it’s
Table forcing playing 2/1.
- (2) And this subsequent 2♥ bid shows a weak hand with a long ♥ suit.

And what happened? 1♠ was bid and made twice (Deep Finesse says it should go down), but 2♥ makes 10 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- Playing 2/1 has many advantages, including this situation with a weak single suited hand opposite partner’s 1♥/♠ opening.

Play Quiz

North: ♥ AK10976

South: ♥ J32

How do you play this trump suit in a 4♥ contract, given that East has made a weak jump overcall of 2♠ and that you have plenty of entries to either hand?

Answer next page.

An interesting play hand

Board 8 from Wednesday 21st

Three North's failed to find the best line of play in 6♥ on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ A	West	North	East	South
West	♥ AK10976	pass	1♥	2♠ (1)	3♠ (2)
Love all	♦ 752	pass	3NT (3)	pass	4NT (4)
	♣ 1062	pass	5♣ (5)	pass	6♥
			all pass		

♠ 852	N	♠ Q97643
♥ 854	W E	♥ Q
♦ K86	S	♦ J103
♣ J543		♣ Q87

♠ KJ10
♥ J32
♦ AQ94
♣ AK9

♠ -
♥ 1097
♦ 75
♣ 1062

♠ 8	N	♠ Q9
♥ -	W E	♥ -
♦ K86	S	♦ J103
♣ J543		♣ Q87

♠ J
♥ -
♦ AQ94
♣ AK9

- (1) Weak
- (2) Game forcing and showing a big hand.
- (3) Showing a ♠ stop.
- (4) Apparently RKCB for ♥'s
- (5) Three keycards.

Onto the play, you get a ♠ lead, play the ♥A and draw trumps, but what do you then pitch on the ♠K?

If you pitch a ♣ you still have two ♦ losers.

The answer is to pitch a ♦ on the ♠K whilst pulling trumps and end up in this position having won the last trick in the North hand with the ♥K.

You now try the ♦ finesse which loses but you still make the contract as you can ruff the 3rd round of ♦'s and pitch the ♣9 on the 13th ♦ as they split 3-3.

The above all assumes that a ♠ is led. At this table East was reluctant to lead a ♠ when North had shown a ♠ stop and so he led the ♦J.

North cannot really go wrong now as either playing for the ♦'s 3-3 as above or finessing the ♦9 both work. But declarer crossed to dummy and ran the ♥J to ensure defeat when he can always pick up the ♥'s by playing the ♥A first.

And what happened? 7NT (!) went two down. 6♥ was bid three times and went one down on every occasion. Two pairs stopped in 4♥ or 5♥ and both made 12 tricks for the shared top, with 3NT+2 coming in third.

The bottom lines: -

- Try to combine your chances and plan ahead.
- On this deal, 6♥ makes if the ♦ finesse works or of the ♦'s split 3-3 – provided that you discard a ♦ on the ♠K and that you correctly play the ♥A first.
- Don't take a finesse on the first round if you can take it on the 2nd. The correct play in this ♥ suit is to play the ♥A first and if the ♥Q does not drop then you normally play for the drop. But here East has shown 6 ♠'s and so it is correct to finesse ON THE 2nd ROUND rather than playing 8 ever 9 never.
- **Play Quiz Answer:** To finesse or play for the drop with 9 cards missing the queen is very close and if the bidding indicates that one player has a long suit then play his partner for Qxx, but always play a high trump first in case there is a singleton queen.

A 2♣ opener? – part 1

Dealer: ♠ 82
North ♥ Q72
E-W vul ♦ KJ1032
♣ J65

♠ 1094	N	♠ AK
♥ J	W E	♥ AK10943
♦ 964	S	♦ AQ8
♣ AK8432		♣ Q10
	♠ QJ7653	
	♥ 865	
	♦ 75	
	♣ 97	

Board 9 from Wednesday 21st

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East(C)	South
-	pass	2♣ (1)	pass
3♣ (5)	pass	3♥ (6)	pass
4♣ (7)	pass	4NT (8)	pass
5♥ (9)	pass	5NT	pass
6♣ (10)	pass	6NT (11)	all pass

Table A: (1) What did you open with this East hand C in this week's quiz? This pair play Benjamin twos and East decided to open 2♣ - showing an 8-9 playing trick hand.

(2) Automatic playing Benjamin.

(3) 8 playing tricks in ♥'s. 3♥ (so 9 playing tricks) is an alternative.

(4) Natural and forcing.

Table B: (1) This pair actually play inverted Benjamin (2♦ is 8-9 playing tricks) but this East considered the hand too good and opened a traditional 2♣, and that's my answer to question C (I was this East).

(5) Clearly worth a positive response.

(6) Natural, showing a good suit.

(7) This good 6-carder is worth repeating.

(8) RKCB for ♣'s.

(9) Two keycards without the ♣Q.

(10) No other king

(11) East knows that there are 6+ running ♣ tricks and so opts for the NoTrump slam.

And what happened? Three pairs bid slam, the other four stopped in game. 6NT is cold on any lead.

The bottom lines: -

- With 9 playing tricks and 22 points I prefer your strongest bid. So 2♦ if playing Benji.
- It worked OK this time, but normal Roman Keycard Blackwood does not work well with minor suits as trumps. More experienced players may like to look at Kickback.

A 2♣ opener? – part 2

Board 20 from Wednesday 21st

This deal is a little different; with the opener at Table A deciding upon a Benjamin two instead of his strongest opening but then going slamming when partner signed off in game.

Dealer:	♠ Q2	<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ Q753	West(E)	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ 1053	-	pass	pass (1)	pass
	♣ 9853	2♣ (2)	pass	2♦ (3)	pass
		2♠ (4)	pass	4♠ (5)	pass
♠ AKJ853	N	4NT (6)	pass	5♦	pass
♥ 10	W E	6♠	all pass		
♦ 4	S	<u>Table B</u>			
♣ AKQ106		West(E)	North	East	South
	♠ 1074	-	pass	pass (1)	pass
	♥ AJ986	2♣ (2)	pass	2♦ (7)	pass
	♦ KQ2	2♠	pass	3♦	pass
	♣ J2	4♣	pass	4♠	pass
		pass (8)			

- Table A:
- (1) East could not open a weak 2♦ as that's a strong bid in their system.
 - (2) What did you open with this West hand E in this week's quiz? This pair play inverted Benjamin twos and West decided to open 2♣ - showing an 8-9 playing trick hand. This hand is far too good – it's 10-11 playing tricks. With 17 hcp's I think it's worth your strongest bid but 1♠ (with a jump in ♣'s in mind) is an alternative.
 - (3) Automatic relay playing inverted Benjamin.
 - (4) 8 playing tricks. A gross underbid and I do not even play the bid as forcing.
 - (5) Saying that's the place to play – with two probable playing tricks.
 - (6) I've found two more playing tricks?

- Table B:
- (1) This pair play standard and so 2♣ was the normal very big hand.
 - (7) Waiting.
 - (8) West has shown his huge two suiter and East has signed off – so West passes.

And what happened? At Table A West tried the technically correct play of finessing the ♠Q and went minus one for the only negative score for E-W. Everybody else stopped in game apart from one pair who played in 2♣ when East fell asleep and passed his partner's 2♣ opening.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not distort the Benjamin two system. With 8-9 playing tricks open 2♣ (or 2♦ playing inverted Benjamin) and with a stronger hand with loads of points open your strongest bid.
- And, most importantly, do not change horses in mid stream. If you decide to open a hand as 8-9 playing tricks then do not go slam hunting when partner signs off in game.

Dave's Column

A strip and throw-in

Boards 27 (& 4) from Wednesday 21st

Here's another Dave input involving stripping the hand and then an end-play.

Dealer: ♠ KQ632
South ♥ 874
Love all ♦ A104
 ♣ 65

South opens 1♠ or 1NT and should reach 4♠ via a transfer if he opened 1NT.

♠ 8	N	♠ J5
♥ AK63	W E	♥ 1052
♦ Q632	S	♦ 987
♣ K943		♣ J10872
	♠ A10974	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ KJ5	
	♣ AQ	

Hint: If the king of clubs is with West you have a ♣ loser. Can you avoid the ♦ guess?

Tip: When you have a guess in a side suit, look for a possible end play to save yourself a guess.

Play: ♥A and ♥K are led and after winning the 3rd ♥, South should draw all of the trumps and then play ♣A and then the ♣Q. West has to win but then has to concede a ruff and discard or to play a ♦; in either case conceding the 10th trick. If East had the ♣K he would be similarly end-played.

And what happened at Pattaya Bridge Club? Virtually everybody was in 4♠ (or 4♥ E-W on board 4) and only one player went down. Two pairs made an overtrick; I guess they had some helpful defence.

Look for the 'Golden' 4-4 fit

Board 20 from Monday 19th

I keep on emphasising that a 4-4 major suit fit usually makes one more trick than NoTrumps, and I'm pleased to see that only one pair got it 'wrong' on Friday: -

Dealer: ♠ 84
West ♥ 95
Both vul ♦ K1076
♣ AJ742

Table A
West(F) North East(D) South
1NT (1) pass 3NT (2) all pass

♠ A107 N ♠ KQJ9
♥ AQJ3 W E ♥ K1064
♦ A3 S ♦ J84
♣ K1095 ♣ Q8
♠ 6532
♥ 872
♦ Q952
♣ 63

Table B
West(F) North East(D) South
1♣ (1) pass 1♥ pass
4♥ (3) pass pass (4) pass

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this West hand F(a) in this week's quiz? This is a good 18 points and with two tens and a working nine it's far too good for 1NT.
(2) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? You all know my opinions about the 'golden' 4-4 fit. Even a combined 27-29 points is not enough to opt for NoTrumps rather than looking for the major suit fit with two weak suits. With two weak suits and two great majors 2♣, Stayman, is clear.

- Table B: (1) Most West's correctly opened 1♣.
(3) What did you bid with this West hand F(b) in this week's quiz? 4♥ is correct here, this sequence L it is not a weak shut-out bid, but a strong bid showing about 19 points with no singleton (else splinter).
(4) This is now a combined 31 points with a fit and slam is close, but pass is very reasonable.

And what happened? Most pairs stopped in 4♥, mostly making 12 tricks. One pair bid and made 6♥ and there was the usual spurious result, this time 7♥ minus two.

The bottom lines: -

- A decent 18 count with two tens is too good for a 1NT opening.
- You can elect to ignore a possible 4-4 major suit fit with a combined 27-29 points, but I only recommend that if the other three suits are well covered. There are a few pages on this topic in the No trump bidding book.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A:** 2♣, Garbage Stayman. If partner bids 2♦ then bid 2♥, showing 5 ♥'s, 4+♠'s and a weak hand.
- Hand B:** 6♥. Showing one (or three) keycards and a void in a suit higher ranking than ♥'s (so ♠'s!).
- Hand C:** 2♦ (playing Benjamin - 2♣ playing standard). The hand is about 9 playing tricks and with 20 points + a couple of tens I think is too good for an 8-9 playing trick 2♣ opening. If you don't play Benjamin then it's a 2♣ opener.
- Hand D:** 2♣, Stayman. It's a combined 27-29 points and that is enough to sometimes ignore a possible 4-4 major suit fit, but not when you have two very weak suits.
- Hand E:** 2♦. (playing Benjamin - 2♣ playing standard). The hand is 10 playing tricks and is far too good for an 8-9 playing trick 2♣ opening. If you don't play Benjamin then it's a 2♣ opener. I would not argue if you chose 1♠ with a view to jumping to 3♣ but I prefer 2♣ with this strong a hand.
- Hand F:** (a) 1♣, with a decent 18 points and two tens it's far too good for 1NT.
(b) 4♥, this shows a good 18-19 points with 4 card ♥ support and no singleton (or you would splinter).

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- G** 3♥ pass 4NT pass The 5♥ response to RKCB is two keycards but not the ♥Q.
5♥
- H** 3♥ pass 4NT pass The 6♥ response to RKCB is 1 or 3 keycards with a ♠ void.
6♥
- I** 1♦ pass 1♥ pass 3NT here is best played as a strong hand with a good
3NT long ♦ suit.
- J** 1♦ pass 1♥ pass To play in 5NT, bid 5♠ – 5 of the highest unbid suit.
3NT pass 4NT pass
5♦ pass ?
- K** 1NT pass pass 2♣ Double here is clearly penalties.
pass 2♦ dbl
- L** 1♣ pass 1♥ pass This 4♥ is a strong hand, a good 18-19 with 4 card ♥ support
4♥ and no shortage (else splinter).