



Monday 11/10/2004

Friday 15/10/2004

1st Alex/Jeff 67%
2nd John/Willy 60%

1st Clive/Ken 71%
2nd Paul/Terry 64%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

With Hand A partner opens 1♥ then (a) what do you respond?
Suppose you choose 1♠, then the bidding proceeds as follows: -

♠ KQ108543
♥ KQ
♦ KQJ
♣ 7

↓ You
1♥ pass 1♠ 2♣
2♥ 3♣ ??

- (b) What do you bid at ??
- (c) What would you bid if there was no 3♣ bid?

Hand B

(a) What, if anything, do you open with Hand B?
(b) Suppose you choose to open 1♥ and the bidding goes: -

♠ AJ
♥ J109654
♦ 953
♣ A4

↓ You
1♥ pass 1♠ 2♣
2♥ 3♣ 3♠ pass
??

- (b) What do you do at ??

Hand C

Hand D

With Hand C partner opens 1NT, what do you do?

♠ AJ84
♥ Q10654
♦ 3
♣ 643

♠ 732
♥ A3
♦ AKQ1072
♣ A9

- (a) What do you open with Hand D?
- (b) Suppose you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♥, what do you do?

Hand E

Hand F

With Hand E partner opens 1NT, what do you do?

♠ A963
♥ 10752
♦ J63
♣ Q7

♠ AQ853
♥ KJ7
♦ Q
♣ AKQ10

With Hand F partner opens 1NT, what do you do?

Hand G

Hand H

(a) What do you open with Hand G?
(b) Suppose you open 1♠ and partner bids 1NT, what now?

♠ AJ9632
♥ AQ53
♦ K
♣ AK

♠ QJ4
♥ AK8642
♦ A7
♣ 92

With Hand H partner opens 1♦. (a) what do you respond?
(b) Suppose you chose 1♥, then what do you bid after partner's 1♠ rebid?

Hand J

Hand K

With Hand J partner opens 1♣ and you respond 1♠. Partner then bids 1NT (12-14), what do you do?

♠ A843
♥ 864
♦ J87
♣ AQ8

♠ AK
♥ 53
♦ K87652
♣ K94

With Hand K you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♠. RHO then overcalls 2♥, what do you bid?

Unauthorised Information

Board 15 from Monday 11th

Dealer: ♠ 72
South ♥ A72
N-S vul ♦ A876
♣ QJ93

West (B)	North	East (A)	South
-	-	-	pass
1♥ (1)	pass	1♠ (2)	2♣ (3)
2♥	3♣	3♠ (4)	pass
4♠ (5)	dbl	all pass	

♠ AJ N ♠ KQ108543
♥ J109654 W E ♥ KQ
♦ 953 S ♦ KQJ
♣ A4 ♣ 7

♠ 96

♥ 83

♦ 1042

♣ K108652

This hand caused some controversy on Monday,
I'll explain what happened: -

Did you open this West Hand B(a) at (1) in this week's quiz? It's a very poor but acceptable opener, I prefer pass or 2♥. Anyway, West opened and partner responded 1♠. If you play strong jump responses - it's standard and most people do, then I would bid 2♠ at (2) with this East hand. Anyway, East chose 1♠ and South ventured forth with a 2♣ bid which some people (including me) would consider to be about six or seven points light, especially vulnerable! West then bid 2♥, reasonable, and North obviously supported South's ♣'s.

Now came the irregularity. East placed the stop card on the table at (4), followed by the 3♠ card. Now this is not a jump (East did not see the 3♣ bid). When dummy appeared the N-S pair called the director, claiming that West would not have bid 4♠, but pass, without the knowledge that partner had intended to jump. What would your ruling be?

There are a few points. South's 2♣ bid is ludicrous of course and prompted North to make the unwise double, but that does not affect the following. Let's start with the rules. East's playing of the stop card implied that he intended to jump to 3♠, showing more than just competitive values. Partner (West) is not allowed to take advantage of this unauthorised information and must bid as if there was no stop card. West claims that he had a nice hand and that he would have bid 4♠ anyway. Maybe, maybe not; who knows? But in a situation like this the director has to determine if the clear majority of players of West's standard would bid 4♠. The answer is clearly 'no' (I actually asked three players – Alex, Clive and Ken and they all said that they would pass at (5), as would I). So clearly the 4♠ bid cannot be allowed to stand and so I adjusted the score to 3♠ undoubled, making 11 tricks.

The bottom lines: -

- You are not allowed to take advantage of unauthorised information. Typical examples are a hesitation by partner or partner's explanation of questions. You should only bid in such situations if it is *very* clear-cut, and by 'very' we mean that 75% would make the same bid. Clearly nowhere near 75% would bid at (5) and so West is obliged to pass.
- But, actually, even if there was no 3♣ bid, 3♠ at (4) is a very poor bid. East has game forcing values and so has to make a game forcing bid at (4). With no 3♣ bid, 3♠ would only be invitational. Since he did not make a game forcing 2♠ jump at (2) East has to force now; 4♥, 4♠ or 4♣ (let partner choose) are the sensible choices at (4).
- In most auctions, a bid of partner's suit or a re-bid of your own suit, even if jumps, are no more than invitational.
- A two level overcall should be close to an opening bid, especially when vulnerable.

Rebidding a suit is not forcing

Board 11 from Friday 15th, love all.

Let's continue with one of the points I mentioned just now: -

West	East (H)	West	North	East	South
		-	-	-	pass
♠ K1062	♠ QJ4	1♦	pass	1♥ (1)	pass
♥ J	♥ AK8642	1♠	pass	3♥ (2)	pass
♦ KQ1054	♦ A7	3NT (3)	all pass		
♣ A105	♣ 92				

Just about all routes lead to the best (3NT) contract, but this auction is instructive: -

(1) So what did you bid with Hand H(a) in this week's quiz? The simplest approach is to respond with a game forcing 2♥; but this pair had agreed that 2♥ here is weak (this is a popular treatment but is not standard).

(2) O.K. So E-W play weak jump shifts and so East could not force at (1); so what should he do at (2)? What did you do with Hand H(b) in this week's quiz? 3♥ is not good enough because, although strong, it is not game forcing but just highly invitational. East must be able to show game forcing values and also his great ♥ suit and the way to do that is to bid the 4th suit first and then bid ♥'s.

(3) As it happens West has an obvious 3NT bid anyway so the slip did not cost.

And what happened? 3NT was bid 4 out of 5 times. Making 8, 9(twice) or 10 tricks. 4♥ was bid at the 5th table but went two down.

The bottom lines: -

- In most auctions, a bid of partner's suit or a re-bid of your own suit, even if jumps, are no more than invitational.
- In Standard American, a jump shift shows a good suit and is game forcing.
- Many more advanced players prefer to play the jump shift as weak
- but then you have to know how to show a game forcing hand (often via 4th suit).
- Every pair play 4th suit forcing differently, but a good simple option is to say that it is game forcing. This often makes life simple, especially if you do not play strong jump shifts.

Does opener always need to rebid?

Board 18 from Friday 15th

Dealer: ♠ J86
East ♥ A109742
N-S vul ♦ 43
♣ Q3

♠ Q9543 N ♠ AK
♥ KJ6 W E ♥ 53
♦ - S ♦ K87652
♣ J10876 ♣ K94

♠ 1072
♥ Q8
♦ AQJ109
♣ A52

Table A

West	North(me)	East (K)	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1♠	2♥ (1)	3♦ (2)	dbl (3)
all pass			

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	pass
1♠	pass (1)	2♦ (4)	pass (5)
pass	pass (6)		

Table A: Contrast this 2 level overcall at (1) with the 2♣ bid of two pages back; this North hand is the minimum for a vulnerable 2 level overcall – many would say it's not good enough and I certainly would not argue. But what did you bid at (2) with Hand K in this week's quiz? You should pass. When RHO intervened you do not have to rebid as partner gets another shot. A bid in this situation says that you have something to say and 3♦ would show a good suit, unfortunately this suit is not good and the hand has insufficient values to venture forth at the 3 level opposite a possible 6 points from partner. This double at (3) is penalties – opponents have no fit, partner has shown values and this hand is sitting over the bidder.

Table B: This North chose to pass at (1) and I would not argue. So now East has to bid at (4) and 2♦ is fine. South cannot double at (5) for penalties – it would be for take-out (♥'s and ♣'s) as partner has not bid. But I would not pass with this North hand at (6), in the pass-out seat 2♥ is perfectly safe.

And what happened? 3♦ doubled went down 4 for 800 away. Two pairs were allowed to play in 2♦ losing 100 or 300 (I don't know how 2♦ got doubled at one table for penalties). One West played in 3NT doubled, minus 300; and one E-W stopped in 2♠.

The bottom lines: -

- With a minimal opener you do not need to rebid if RHO interferes.
- If opener rebids at the 3 level then that shows a strong hand (about 16+).
- In the pass-out (balancing) seat it's OK to bid with less values than normal.

Points for Stayman?

Board 9 from Monday 11th, E-W vul.

More than one player seems to be confused by the points requirement for bidding Stayman and transfers. Basically, neither promise any points unless followed by a constructive bid.

		<u>Table A</u>			
North (E)	South	West	North	East	South
		-	pass	pass	1NT
♠ A963	♠ 752	pass	2♣ (1)	pass	2♦
♥ 10752	♥ AQ9	pass	2NT (2)	pass	3NT
♦ J63	♦ AQ5	all pass			
♣ Q7	♣ AJ106				

				<u>Table B</u>			
<u>Table C</u>				West	North	East	South
West	North	East	South	-	pass	pass	1NT
-	pass	pass	1NT	pass	2♣ (1)	pass	2♦
pass	pass (1)	pass		pass	2♥ (2)	all pass	

Just two pairs managed to play in the correct (1NT) contract here: -

Table A: So what did you bid with Hand E at (1) in this week's quiz? Pass I hope.

It's time to explain Garbage Stayman again. Most people play that Stayman does not have any points requirement – but that is only if you can handle any 2♦/♥/♠ response. Here North would have happily passed a 2♥/♠ response but he cannot cope with 2♦. There is no way out now, 2NT at (2) is invitational, promising 8-9 points and South obviously accepts.

Table B: This North again made the unsound Stayman bid but then chose the lie about his ♥ length at (2) – this 2♥ bid shows a weak hand but promises 4♠'s and 5♥'s.

Table C: This North got it right.

And what happened. The board was played 6 times. Three pairs bid as Table A and all went one down to deservedly share the bottom. The equally silly 2♥ contract fared a little better. 1NT easily made 8 tricks, an easy way to score a top.

The bottom lines: -

- If partner bids Stayman then opener has only 3 possible bids: 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠. No other bid is allowed, regardless of how good your hand is. Responder is the Captain and he may have zero points.
- There are just two cases when you can bid Stayman with less than 8 points: -
 - (a) 4441 type shape (short ♣'s), when you will pass any response
 - (b) 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors, when you will pass 2♥/♠ and convert 2♦ into the 5-carder.

And after a transfer it's similar

- After a 2♦/♥ transfer then opener is allowed to break the transfer with a max *and* 4 trumps, but he must never bid above 3 of the major.
- Inexperienced players are better off always simply completing the transfer regardless.

Play quiz

Answer overleaf.

DUMMY



♠ A843	Dealer:	West	North	East	South
♥ 864	North	-	-	-	1♣
♦ J87	Both vul	pass	1♠	pass	1NT
♣ AQ8		pass	2NT	pass	3NT
		all pass			
N	♠ 975				
W E	♥ KQ10				
S	♦ AQ5 ← YOU				
	♣ K1042_				

You are East, defending 3NT. Partner leads the ♦10, if dummy plays low then so should you, to 'finesse' the ♦J. But here dummy played the ♦J. You obviously (I hope – 3rd player plays high) play the ♦A, but what card do you lead at trick two?

Bid 1NT or support partner's minor? – part 1 Board 2 from Friday 15th, N-S vul.

There was a (slight) difference of opinion on this deal: -

West	East	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North(me)	East	South
♠ 105	♠ KQ84	-	-	1♦	pass
♥ 75	♥ A1096	2♦ (1)	all pass		
♦ A643	♦ KQ9				
♣ QJ984	♣ 52	<u>Table B</u>			
		West	North	East	South
		-	-	1♦	pass
		1NT (1)	all pass_		

So, should you support partner's ♦'s at (1) or bid 1NT? This is a problem when playing better minor – opener may have a 3 card suit. Others at the table said that West should bid 1NT; I'm not convinced and defended West's choice, 2♦ will work out better if partner has 4 or 5 ♦'s. Anyway, this is an insoluble problem playing better minor and it's one reason why I prefer the prepared ♣ variation of Standard American (then a 1♦ opening is always 4+cards).

And what happened? Obviously 1NT would have been better on this occasion.

And what contract would I have been in if I was East?

Why, 1NT of course. How?

I would open the East hand with 1NT. KQ combinations are good, a 10,9 combination in a 4 card suit is good. I consider this East hand good enough for a strong 1NT opener.

The bottom line: -

- It really is a toss up with 2245 shape and 6-9 points if you bid 2♦ or 1NT over partner's 1♦ opening.
- You can reduce this problem by always opening 1♣ when 3-3 in the minors.

Bid 1NT or support partner's minor? – part 2 Board 8 from Friday 15th, love all.

This time I held the responding hand with a 4 card ♦ suit (East) in a similar situation: -

West	East	<u>Table A</u>			
		West	North	East	South
♠ AK87	♠ Q65	1♦	pass	1NT (1)	2♠
♥ KJ107	♥ 9	2NT (2)	pass	3NT	all pass
♦ QJ98	♦ A742				
♣ K	♣ Q10764				

<u>Table B</u>			
West	North	East(me)	South
1♦	pass	2♦ (1)	2♠
2NT (3)	pass	3NT	all pass

<u>Table C</u>			
West	North	East	South
1♦	pass	2♦ (1)	2♠
3♦ (3)	all pass		

Table A: This East chose to respond 1NT at (1). West's raise to 2NT at (2) is correct, it shows 17-18 points. The ♣K should be downgraded but this is more than compensated for by the excellent intermediates.

Table B: I chose 2♦ at (1) (because of the singleton) but it's much the same, with West's 2NT again showing 17-18 pts.

Table C: But it went wrong at this table. As I said, I prefer 2♦ to 1NT at (1) and so it's West's 3♦ that is at fault. Even if you play this as encouraging it is nowhere near good enough. West has the ♠'s stopped and should bid 2NT. He should not worry about the ♣'s. If you open 1♦ and partner replies either 1NT or 2♦ then he has denied a 4 card major and probably has ♣'s.

And what happened? Two pairs ended up in 3♦, making. The other 3 tables all found the good 3NT.

The bottom lines: -

- You should not open 1NT with a singleton, but a NT rebid is acceptable if you have reason to believe that partner has the suit .
- If you open 1♦ and partner responds 1NT or 2♦, then he probably has ♣'s.
- If you open 1♦ and partner responds 1NT or 2♦ then he is limited to 6-9 points and you are not obliged to bid. A 2NT bid here is 17-18 points.
- If you play better minor and partner opens 1♦ then you sometimes have a problem with a hand that is 2245, 1345 or 3145 (♠♥♦♣ order). With insufficient values to bid 2♣ you have to choose between 1NT or 2♦. Either could work out best but I normally support ♦'s with a singleton major.
- The above dilemma does not exist if you play a prepared ♣. If partner opens 1♦ then it's a 4 card suit and if he opens 1♣ then you can always bid 1♦.
- And this problem is another reason why I always open 1♣ when 3-3 in the minors. A 1♣ opening never gives responder a headache, whereas 1♦ may do – I don't carry Aspirins around and so am always considerate to my partner.

Worth a 2NT invitation?

Board 7 from Friday 15th

Dealer: ♠ A843
South ♥ 864
both vul ♦ J87
 ♣ AQ8

♠ 1062	N	♠ 975
♥ J95	W E	♥ KQ10
♦ 109643	S	♦ AQ5
♣ 96		♣ K1042
	♠ KQJ	
	♥ A732	
	♦ K2	
	♣ J753	

West	North (J)	East(me)	South
-	-	-	1♣
pass	1♠	pass (1)	1NT
pass	2NT (2)	pass	3NT
all pass			

So what did you bid at (2) with the North Hand J in this week's quiz? Partner is 12-14 so invite with this 11 count? That's what just about everybody did on Friday. I was East and when dummy came down I said that I would have passed 1NT because I would subtract a point for the flat 4333 shape and also the hand has no 9's or 10's. North (Alex) replied that he would have passed if he was playing with me, but Jeff would expect him to bid (Jeff confirmed this). I can only infer that Jeff is a better declarer player than me?

Anyway, even with a combined 25 count 3NT is not a good contract (because the North hand is totally flat!). So West led the ♦10 and dummy played the ♦J. What did you play in the quiz on page 6? I was East and Alex and myself were having our usual friendly chat during the play. I rose with the ♦A and immediately returned the ♦Q. I commented that people would not like to partner with me if I blocked their suits and Alex speculated that it was obviously a doubleton!

I later got in with the ♣K and discovered the ♦5 mixed in with my ♥'s? So down went the contract.

And what happened? 4 out of the 5 tables reached the miserable 3NT. Just one made, presumably that East did not unblock? Even so, it's difficult to see where South can get his 9th trick.

The bottom lines: -

- Deduct a point for 4333 type shape.
- Even 25 points is not enough for 3NT with two flat hands. Note that 3NT is a miserable contract here however the opposition cards are divided.
- Be aware of unblocking.
- Notice the pass at (1). It is unwise to bid here with a flat hand as you know that partner has very little.

Play quiz answer

You win with the ♦A and should play the ♦Q next. Partner's lead indicates the ♦9 and you know from the bidding that he has no points and so no other entry; it is imperative to unblock so that you can get him in later with the ♦5 to his ♦9 to cash his ♦'s.

Incidentally, South would do better to play a low ♦ from dummy as the suit is then always blocked.

Stayman or Transfer?

Board 21 from Monday 11th, N-S vul.

West (C) East (D)

♠ AJ84 ♠ 732
♥ Q10654 ♥ A3
♦ 3 ♦ AKQ1072
♣ 643 ♣ A9

Table A

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

Table B

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

Three out of the 6 tables found 3NT on Monday, these two did not: -

Table A: So what did you open with Hand D(a) in this week's quiz? Now I am not adverse to opening 1NT with a 6 card minor and I think that it would be reasonable with this East hand if it had a couple less points, but this hand is way too strong. I say it week after week, hand evaluation is not just counting points. A 6 card suit headed by the AKQ is worth far more than 9 points. So I would open 1♦ with a view to rebidding 3NT.

Anyway, this East opened 1NT but what should West bid? What did you bid with Hand C at (2) in this week's quiz? This is another 'Garbage Stayman' situation. When weak with 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors it's best to bid Stayman and then pass a 2♥/♠ response or convert 2♦ into your 5 carder.

Since East has 8 tricks in his hand, passing 2♦ at (3) is certainly a safe contract!

Table B: The correct opening, but what did you bid with Hand D(b) at (4) in this week's quiz? This hand has 17 'points' but it's worth much more. 3♦ would be the choice of many and is not unreasonable. 2NT shows 18-19 points and is again not unreasonable. But I prefer 3NT, all partner needs is a ♠ stop for it to roll home.

And what happened? 3NT was bid at 3 tables and it rolled home (+1 once). The other 3 tables all ended up in 2♦. The bottom lines: -

- AKQxxx is worth much more than 9 points
- With 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors, bid Stayman rather than transferring over partner's 1NT.
- The sequences 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ and 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ are weak.
- A double jump rebid of 3NT shows a good hand with a long solid minor.

Counting Points

Board 1 from Monday 11th, love all.

West (F) East

♠ AQ853 ♠ K1074
♥ KJ7 ♥ A85
♦ Q ♦ AK76
♣ AKQ10 ♣ J8

West	North	East	South
-	pass	1NT	pass
4♣	pass	4♠	pass
7NT	all pass		

After a 1NT opening it's best to play 4♣ as the ace ask with 4NT as quantitative.

And what happened? This bidding (or something similar) was that of just two of the six tables on Monday. Others played in 7♠, 6NT, 6♠ or even 3NT with 14 cold tricks. Poor show. The bottom line. 36 points is enough for 7NT if there's no ace missing.

A big hand – but how big?

Board 11 from Monday 11th

Dealer: ♠ -
South ♥ KJ104
Love all ♦ J1096
♣ Q9763

♠ AJ9632 N ♠ 108
♥ AQ53 W E ♥ 9876
♦ K S ♦ AQ852
♣ AK ♣ 84
♠ KQ754
♥ 2
♦ 743
♣ J1052

Table E
West(G) North East South
- - - pass
2♠ (1) pass 2NT pass
3♠ (5) pass 4♠ pass
4NT pass 5♦ pass
5♠ pass pass dbl
all pass

So, final contracts varying from
1♠ to 5♠, let's have a look: -

Table A

West(G)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠ (1)	pass	pass (2)	pass

Table B

West(G)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠ (1)	pass	1NT (2)	pass
4♠ (3)	pass	pass	dbl (4)
all pass			

Table C

West(G)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♠ (1)	pass	1NT (2)	pass
3♥ (3)	pass	4♥	all pass

Table D

West(G)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
2♣ (1)	pass	2♦	pass
2♠ (3)	pass	pass (4)	pass

Table A: What did you open with this West Hand G(a) in this week's quiz at (1)? It's a strong hand but not worth 2♣. Actually it's about 8½ playing tricks and so worth a strong 2♠ if that's what you play. Anyway, 1♠ is the bid in Standard American.

Pass at (2) is silly of course, I guess East was sleeping?

Table B: This East correctly bid 1NT and so what did you rebid with Hand G(b) at (3) in this week's quiz? The hand is worth game after partner has responded and so 2♥, 2♠ and 3♠ are all not good enough. So you have to bid either 3♥ or 4♠; but should you bid the 4 card ♥ suit or a 6 card ♠ suit? Remember this Hand M from news-sheet 100 – (♠ AKQJ652 ♥ Q863 ♦ - ♣ K6)? In a similar situation I said that I would rebid the good 6 card ♠ suit rather than the poor ♥ suit. But here the ♥ suit is very respectable and I would rebid 3♥ (game forcing). And what do you think of the double at (4)? I would not double as it may help declarer.

Table C: This pair (Kenneth/David) go it spot on.

Table D: I'm not sure if this pair play Benjamin or not; I assume so. In that case the first 3 bids are fine but East is *far* too good to pass at (4) – it's forcing in Standard.

Table E: West was somewhat inconsistent here. He correctly opened a strong two at (1) and 3♠ at (5) is reasonable (although 3♥ is better). 4♠ by East is simply setting the final contract and West has no reason to think that East has any more than he has. Remember, a strong two is a limit bid and defines the hand as 8-9 playing tricks; so responder is the Captain in ascertaining how high to go.

And what happened? 4♥ made exactly. The ♠ contracts made either 8,9 or 10 tricks. I note that the only West to make 4♠ was the one who was doubled – the double helped declarer!

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 2♠. In Standard American the jump shift is game forcing and promises a good suit like this. Subsequent bidding is then easy as everything is forcing to game.
(b) 4♠, 4♥ or 4♣. You have game forcing values and so either have to bid game or make a forcing bid. 3♠ here is just competitive and is woefully inadequate.
(c) 4♠, 4♥ or 3♣. Again, you have to force to game. This time a jump to 3♠ would be invitational but is a poor bid because you easily have game values.
- Hand B: (a) 1♥, 2♥ or pass? I guess that all are reasonable? A 1♥ opening does not conform to the rule of 20 and, with the aces in doubletons it is a very poor opener in my view. Either pass or 2♥ are best.
(b) Pass. Clear-cut. Partner's 3♠ bid is merely competitive and this was a sub-standard opener.
- Hand C: 2♣. With a weak hand 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors, bid Stayman and convert a 2♦ response into 2 of your 5-carder. This is a weak bid which partner will pass.
With this particular hand I would bid Stayman and convert 2♦ into 2♥; but if partner replied in a major then I would invite game (with 3♥/♠) in that major as there is a fit and this hand is then worth an invitation.
- Hand D: (a) 1♦. It's too good for 1NT if you even thought of it.
(b) 3NT. A good hand with solid ♦'s. 2NT or 3♦ are reasonable alternatives.
- Hand E: Pass. You cannot bid Stayman because you have no recourse if partner bids 2♦.
- Hand F: Count! You have 21 points opposite partner 15 min. That's 36 minimum, so check that there is no ace missing and then bid 7NT. Four players out of six failed to do this on Monday! Note that I prefer 4♣ as the ace ask here, with 4NT as an invitational (quantitative) raise.
- Hand G: (a) 1♠. It's not good enough for 2♣. If you play strong twos (or Benjamin) then it's worth 2♠ (2♣ followed by 2♠ playing Benjamin).
A 2NT opening is acceptable with a singleton king (or ace) – but not with ten cards in the majors.
(b) 3♥. Game forcing. You cannot bid 2♥, 2♠ or 3♠ as you want to force to game. It's better to show this decent ♥ suit rather than showing 6 ♠'s by rebidding 4♠.
- Hand H: (a) 2♥. A strong jump shift, showing a good suit and game forcing.
(b) 2♣. Since you did not force to game last bid you have to do so now. 3♥ would be highly invitational but not forcing. As usual in these situation you have to invoke the 4th suit to set up a game forcing sequence. So 2♣ now and then 3♥ over partner's expected 2♦ or 2♠ or 2NT is then forcing. Of course it's much simpler if you play strong jump shifts and bid 2♥ at (a).
- Hand J: Pass. It's 11 points, but then you have to deduct a point for the totally flat shape, and the lack of 9's and 10's is also an ill-omen.
- Hand K: Pass. When RHO interferes you are no longer under any obligation to find a rebid. In fact, to bid shows extras. A 3♦ bid here would show a much stronger hand (and a better suit).