

Monday 6/12/04	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 st Hans(AU)/Jeff	69 %	1 st Richard/William	63 %
	2 nd Philip(Ire)/Tomas	56 %	2 nd Mike(Can)/Phil(UK)	55 %
Wednesday 8/12/04	1 st Tomas/Mike(Can)	59 %	2 nd Clive/Terry	55 %
Friday 8/12/04	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 st Beryl/Margit	57 %	1 st Gerard/Derek	54 %
	2 nd Austin/partner	55 %	2 nd Alex/Jeff	53 %

Bidding Quiz**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.**

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A RHO opens 1♥, what do you bid?
♠ KQJ754	♠ 754	With Hand B (a) what would you respond if partner opens 1♦? (b) suppose that partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♦, then what would you do if partner then bids 1♠?
♥ 3	♥ QJ6	
♦ K5	♦ AQJ8	
♣ K952	♣ AK6	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C LHO opens 3♣, partner bids 3♦ and RHO bids 4♣. What do you do?
♠ 1098	♠ K10753	With Hand D LHO opens 1♦ and partner doubles. What do you bid?
♥ J5	♥ K10	
♦ KQ10765	♦ Q	
♣ A8	♣ AQ976	
Hand E	Hand F	Suppose that you open Hand E with 1♦ (I would open 1♣ but that's not the issue here). Anyway, partner responds 2♣ to your 1♦ opening, what is your rebid?
♠ AKQ6	♠ AK5	(a) What do you open with Hand F? (b) Suppose you open 1♣, partner bids 1♥, you bid 1NT and partner bids 2♣. What do you do?
♥ K	♥ 65	
♦ 7642	♦ QJ92	
♣ J1073	♣ A1098	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♣, what do you do?
♠ Q10852	♠ Q103	With Hand H partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♥. Partner then bids 1NT, what do you do?
♥ KJ85	♥ K1073	
♦ 1092	♦ K5	
♣ 7	♣ Q632	
Hand J		<u>What opening lead?</u>
♠ 1098763		With Hand J RHO opens 1♠ so you pass. LHO passes and partner doubles. You choose to convert partner's take-out double into penalties by passing – fine. But what do you lead?
♥ Q		
♦ KQ10		
♣ A82		

Michaels with a mis-fit

Board 7 from Monday 6th

Dealer: ♠ A9862
South ♥ Q2
Both vul ♦ 10943
♣ Q8

♠ KQJ754	N	♠ 3
♥ 3	W E	♥ 9865
♦ K5	S	♦ AQ8762
♣ K952		♣ 43

♠ 10
♥ AKJ1074
♦ J
♣ AJ1076

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

- (1) What did you bid with this West Hand (A) in this week's quiz? 2♥ was a Michaels Cue Bid, showing 5 ♠'s and a 5 card minor. But, as usual when I write up a use of this convention, it has again been abused. With a good 6 card ♠ suit I would simply overcall 1♠. Michaels is best bid with 5-5's. 5-4 is possibly acceptable if the 4 card minor is a reasonable suit but a 6-4 hand is definitely unsuitable. Also, in my style, I would consider this hand too strong for Michaels.
- (2) East has a problem here. Obviously he would want to play in 3♦ but is a 3♦ bid here forcing? 2NT would ask for partner's minor but if he bids 3♣ would 3♦ then be forcing? Obviously these are questions that an experienced pair need to know the answers to. East chose to simply sign off in the known 5-1 ♠ 'fit'.
- (3) I don't like this 3♠ bid. Partner may have been fixed (as here). If you like this ♠ suit (I do) then you should have overcalled with it.
- (4) East took the view here that if South has ♣'s then his partner may have ♦'s.
- (5) I would pass here. East has attempted to sign off in 2♠ and surely does not want to play in game. I can only repeat what I said above, if you like this ♠ suit then overcall it at (1).

And what happened? 4♠ went two down but E-W got an (undeserved?) above average score as N-S can make 11 tricks in ♥'s.

The bottom lines.

- Do not abuse the Michaels convention. A 6 card ♠ suit like ♠KQJxxx is too good.
- A Michaels 2♥ over 1♥ shows a 5 card ♠ suit and an unspecified minor. The minor should also be 5 card (you are up at the 3 level).
- Know how to show a weak hand when partner bids Michaels.
- When you pre-empt (Michaels is a pre-empt) then do not bid again (twice!). Partner is the captain.

Responding to partner's Take Out double

Board 2 from Monday 6th

Dealer: ♠ K10753
East ♥ K10
N-S vul ♦ Q
♣ AQ976

♠ 9	N	♠ AJ6
♥ 9654	W E	♥ J72
♦ J98752	S	♦ AK1043
♣ 103		♣ J2
	♠ Q842	
	♥ AQ83	
	♦ 6	
	♣ K854	

Table A

West	North (D)	East	South
-	-	1♦	dbl (1)
pass (2)	2♠ (3)	pass	pass (4)
3♦ (5)	pass (6)	pass	3♠
pass	pass (7)	pass	

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♦	dbl (1)
3♦ (2)	4♠ (3)	dbl (8)	pass
pass (9)	pass		

- Table A: (1) A classic take-out double, playable in the other 3 suits.
(2) This West chose to pass, I would bid a pre-emptive 3♦ (and be prepared to go higher).
(3) Now this is wrong, 2♠ is not forcing. It shows an invitational hand, about 11-12 points. What did you bid with this North Hand D in this week's quiz? This hand is good enough to insist upon game opposite a take-out double and 4♠ is correct. Partner has promised ♠'s (or a *very* good hand). With a similar strength hand but only 4 ♠'s then the correct bid is a cue bid of 2♦ followed by a ♠ bid – game forcing and showing just 4 ♠'s (or a poor 5).
(4) Pass is correct here. This is a minimum double and partner's 2♠ bid should show about 11 points.
(5) The right bid at the wrong time! West should pass here – he knows that N-S can probably make game!
(6&7) But North declined his 2nd and 3rd chances to bid game.

- Table B: (2) This West got his 3♦ bid in at the correct time.
(3) But this North correctly bid game.
(8) A very poor double. Partner has promised nothing (except long ♦'s so that you know the ♦AK will not hold up).
(9) At this vulnerability West has a very sound sacrifice in 5♦, but partner says that he can set 4♠

And what happened? 4♠ was doubled at two tables and made comfortably.

The bottom lines: -

- In response to partner's take-out double a non jump in a suit is about 0-9 points.
- A jump shows an invitational hand.
- With a stronger hand (about 13+) then insist upon game. Bid game in a 5 card major or else cue bid and then bid a 4 card major (game forcing).
- Do not double a freely bid game unless you have an unpleasant surprise for the opponents. Two aces and a king is not a surprise.

That 4333 shape again

Board 12 from Wednesday 8th

Dealer: ♠ AKQ6
West ♥ K
N-S vul ♦ 7642
♣ J1073

♠ 10932	N	♠ J8
♥ A10732	W E	♥ 9854
♦ 103	S	♦ K95
♣ Q5		♣ 9842
	♠ 754	
	♥ QJ6	
	♦ AQJ8	
	♣ AK6	

Table A:

West	North(E)	East	South(B)
pass	1♦ (1)	pass	2♣ (2)
pass	2♠ (3)	pass	4NT (4)
pass	5♦	pass	6NT (5)
all pass			

Table B:

West	North	East	South(B)
pass	1♣ (1)	pass	1♦ (6)
pass	1♠ (7)	pass	3NT (8)
all pass			

Table A: (1) This North chose to open 1♦, I prefer 1♣ when equal length in the minors.
(2) What did you respond with this South Hand B in this week's quiz? The only real way to bid hands like this is to play inverted minors (when 2♦ is strong and forcing and 3♦ is the weak raise). Anyway, inverted minors are perhaps rather an advanced convention and with traditional methods you are fixed (both 2♦ and 3♦ are non-forcing). You could simply go for 3NT but you may well miss a slam if partner has a good hand. The best bid with simple Standard American is 2♣. Lie in a minor in order to make a forcing bid.
(3) But now North has a slight rebid problem caused by his choice of opening bid (compare this with Table B). What did you rebid with this North Hand E in this week's quiz? He wants to mention his good ♠ suit but unfortunately that is a reverse – promising 16-17 points. The best bid now is 3♣.
(4) Of course South is slamming opposite a '16-17 count' and so checks on aces.
(5) 6♦ is a better bid if you play that a 1♦ opening promises 4+ ♦'s, then it's a known 4-4 or better fit. I guess that at pairs scoring 6NT is OK and this pair play better minor so it may have been just 3♦'s.

Table B: (1) This North opened 1♣. Good show (well, it was me).
(6) And now South does not have to fabricate a two level bid.
(7) And North now has an automatic descriptive rebid. Simple, eh?
(8) And now we come onto the whole point of me writing up this hand. What did you bid with Hand B(b) in this week's quiz? It's a totally flat 17 count (so deduct a point) with no known fit. I like my partner's 3NT bid – slam will not usually be there.

And what happened? 3NT made with two overtricks. 6NT went two off (South should make 11 tricks but mis-played it – I guess he was still huffing about his partner's 'reverse?'). 6♦ should make (you do not need the ♣ finesse), but only because of the favourable ♦ position. 3NT is the 'best' contract.

The bottom lines: - Top of next page!

The bottom lines: -

- When equal length in the minors open 1♣.
- I like to know that partner's 1♦ opening is always 4+ cards, so I prefer the prepared ♣.
- Learn Inverted Minors. If you do not play inverted minors then you will have to fabricate a minor suit bid when you have strong support for opener's minor and no 4 card major.
- You need a good 16-17 points for a reverse.
- Some players do agree that a reverse after a two level response does not show extra values (I like this treatment, especially if playing 2/1) but it is not standard.
- Devalue 4333 type hands.
- Devalue a hand with no known fit.

Lead a Trump

Board 11 from Monday 6th

Dealer: ♠ AKQ52
 South ♥ KJ32
 Love all ♦ 5
 ♣ KQ10

Table A:

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

♠ - N ♠ 1098763
 ♥ A1076 W E ♥ Q
 ♦ A832 S ♦ KQ10
 ♣ 97643 ♣ A82

♠ J4
 ♥ 9854
 ♦ J9764
 ♣ J5

Table B:

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

Table A: This West chose to pass at (1), I would double.

Table B: This West doubled at (1), as did the West's at two other tables.

But what should East bid? With 6 'solid' trumps pass is surely best

..... but only if you are going to defend correctly. What did you lead with this East Hand J in this week's quiz? The ♥Q lead is very poor, and a ♣ or ♦ nearly as bad. You must lead a trump, and continue with trumps every time you get the lead – you do not want dummy scoring a ruff and you do not want declarer to score his small trumps. Take advantage of the fact that the trumps are solid from the ten down. With best defence E-W should score 2 ♠'s, 1 ♥, 3 ♦'s and 1 ♣ - so one down.

And what happened? The bidding was as Table B at three tables on Monday and all three declarers were allowed to make the contract. And I note that one North ended up in 3♠ (undoubled) and made an overtrick!

The bottom line.

With solid trumps – lead them.

Bid game with 12 trumps?

Board 19 from Wednesday 8th

Dealer: ♠ AKQ2
South ♥ KQ876
E-W vul ♦ 4
 ♣ J94

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

♠ J73	N	♠ 1098
♥ A92	W E	♥ J5
♦ AJ9832	S	♦ KQ10765
♣ 3		♣ A8
	♠ 654	
	♥ 1043	
	♦ -	
	♣ KQ106542	

- (1) Some people say that you should not pre-empt with an outside 3 card major. Some people say that you should not pre-empt with a void. Of course even more people would say that you should not pre-empt with two 3 card majors and a void! The reasoning is that there may be a better fit with partner and you may miss game. Anyway, just as many people will pre-empt with a decent 7 card suit regardless; a matter of style.
- (2) Borderline for a 3 level overcall, but just about acceptable in my view.
- (3) Now this is why some people do not like partner pre-empting with a side 3 card major (and a void). Obviously North wants to bid, but should he bid 3♥ or 4♣? Eventually North decided upon 4♣; who knows, maybe the opponents will then bid game and there will be a juicy double? Upon reflection I think that my choice of 4♣ was poor and that 3♥ is a better bid. But 4♣ worked out well
- (4) ... so what did you bid with this East Hand (C) in this week's quiz? You have 11 or 12 trumps, so bid 5♦? I don't like it. Partner (West) probably has no 4 card major, you know that N-S probably have a major suit fit somewhere and that they will make game (which they have now failed to bid). This hand has 7 losers and it is unlikely that partner can cover 5 of them when he has simply overcalled. East should be happy that N-S have subsided in 4♣.
- (5) Of course North had no problem in applying the axe.

And what happened? At the other two tables N-S bid 4♥ making +1(450). 5♦ doubled was two down for 500 away and thus a bottom. Obviously defending 4♣ would have been a cold top for E-W.

The bottom lines: -

- Two down doubled vulnerable scores poorly against a non-vul game.
- There's no need to sacrifice if the opponents are not going to bid game!
- You generally need about 25 points for game (3NT, 4♥, 4♠) but 5♣ or 5♦ need more, usually about 29.

Cheating?

Board 17 from Friday 10th

Dealer: ♠ KQ108
North ♥ KJ8
Love all ♦ Q975
♣ 64

West	North	East	South
-	1♠ (1)	pass	4♠ (2)
pass (3)	pass	? (4)	

♠ J	N	♠ 9742
♥ A53	W E	♥ Q104
♦ AJ8	S	♦ 1043
♣ KJ8752		♣ 1093
	♠ A653	
	♥ 9762	
	♦ K62	
	♣ AQ	

- (1) This pair play Acol and so can open a 4 card major. With this North hand I would not open (it does not conform with the rule of 20) but if I did open it would be a weak 1NT (you have no rebid if you open 1♠).
- (2) Most players play this as weakish with usually 5 card support. This pair, however, have agreed to play it as a sound raise, 13-15 with 4 card support.
- (3) After a very long pause. Quite why a long pause was necessary is not clear to me (unless he wants to convey the message to partner that he has a good hand?). To even think about a double or venturing out at the 5 level with an unlimited opener on you left and 13+ on your right is surely maniacal? However, I don't believe that this individual bothered to ask about the 4♠ bid and so assumed it was weak?
- (4) This player then started fumbling around in his bidding box. The N-S pair had had enough and so called me over

....apparently East wanted to double and the opponents said that he was not allowed to bid, who's right? Well actually N-S are not strictly correct, East is allowed to bid after partner's hesitation, but only if he has a clear-cut bid. Clear-cut? What a joke! My opinion is that nobody but an idiot (or a cheat) would possibly think of bidding at (4) – let me know what you think. And what do you think of West's long (it was described to me as two minutes) hesitation followed by pass? Now for East to even think about bidding at (4) with this totally flat garbage is obviously taking partner's hesitation into account and is thus cheating according to the rules (and me). Incidentally, this East was warned just last week for repeated psyching (not allowed in this club). Since two separate players (not a partnership) asked me this Friday if I can do something to curtail the antics of this pair this is *the last warning*.

And what happened? 4♠ went one down for an average.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner make a long pause and then passes this gives you 'unauthorised' information. You are not allowed to let the fact that you know that partner had something to think about affect you bid. You are not barred from bidding, but any bid that you make must be clear-cut.
- Take my warnings seriously; players have been ejected in the past and doubtless will be in the future.

A Sign-offBoard 18 from Friday 10th

Dealer:	♠ 8764				
East	♥ AQ9		West(H)	North	East(F) South
N-S vul	♦ 10864		-	-	1♣ (1) pass
	♣ J5		1♥	pass	1NT pass
			2♣ (2)	pass	3♣ (3) pass
			3NT	all pass	
♠ Q103	N	♠ AK5			
♥ K1073	W E	♥ 65			
♦ K5	S	♦ QJ92			
♣ Q632		♣ A1098			
	♠ J92				
	♥ J842				
	♦ A73				
	♣ K74				

- (1) So what did you open with this East Hand F(a) in this week's quiz? With equal length in the minors 1♣ is best, but I would not argue if you chose 1NT. This hand has average shape with good top cards, the only quacks are working together (touching honours are good) and that ♣1098 is surely worth at least a point when in a 4 card suit. Anyway, I guess that most chose 1♣ and I won't argue.
- (2) And what did you bid with this West Hand H at (2) in this week's quiz? It's close to a 2NT bid but passing 1NT is probably best at pairs. The 2♣ bid chosen at this table is also reasonable as there is a known 4-4 (maybe better) fit; but I prefer pass as this hand is near to an invite and so overtrick(s) are a real possibility and 1NT+1 scores better than 2♣+1.
- (3) And what did you bid with this East Hand F(b) at (3) in this week's quiz? Partner's 2♣ bid should mean that he does not like NT and wants to play in 2♣. You have said your hand (12-14) and partner is the captain. His 2♣ bid is not an invitation and you should pass. If you feel you should press on then you should have opened 1NT!

And what happened? Most pairs were in 1NT. 3NT was is a dicey contract but made on a mis-defence. Actually, 9 tricks were made at most tables, perhaps I need to write something about defending? I saw one North discard a good ♠ and also an important ♦!

The bottom line.

- When you have limited your hand and partner gives simple preference to your first suit, then that's where he is saying that he wants to play. He's the captain and in charge.
- Don't suggest playing in 2 of a minor when 1NT is likely to make an overtrick. 120 (1NT+1) is more than 110 (2♣+1).

Our 1NT opening is overcalled

Board 11 from Friday 10th

Dealer: ♠ K6
South ♥ AQ74
Love all ♦ QJ764
♣ A4

West	North	East	South(G)
-	-	-	pass
pass	1NT (1)	2♣	dbl (2)
pass	pass (3)	pass	

♠ AJ93	N	♠ 74
♥ 963	W E	♥ 102
♦ 3	S	♦ AK85
♣ KJ932		♣ Q10865
	♠ Q10852	
	♥ KJ85	
	♦ 1092	
	♣ 7	

- (1) So would you open 1NT with this North hand? Not everybody is happy with opening 1NT with 2 doubletons but I think it's fine with a 5 card minor if both doubletons have an honour (A, K or Q). If you open 1♦ then you have a rebid problem (it's not quite good/shapely enough for a reverse into 2♥ in my style – although I suspect that many would disagree with me?). Anyway, I think that the 1NT opening chosen here is fine.
- (2) What did you bid with this South Hand G at (2) in this week's quiz? South meant this double as Stayman....
- (3) and North thought that it was penalties.

What happened? East made 2♣+1 with 4♥ making for N-S at other tables. South maintained that his double was take-out and North thought that it was penalties. I was asked to adjudicate. So what is the solution?

First of all, it is standard that any double in this situation is penalties and without agreement to the contrary that is the case. It is possible to improve upon this, but you have to agree it. After partner's 1NT opening has been overcalled one common agreement is: -

After 1NT - 2♣ - double is Stayman
2♦ is a transfer to ♥'s
2♥ is a transfer to ♠'s etc. i.e. systems on and ignore the overcall.

After 1NT - 2♦ - double is a transfer to ♥'s
2♥ is a transfer to ♠'s
3♦ is Stayman (and more experienced players play Lebensohl).

After 1NT - 2♥/♠ - Systems off. A double is penalties. A cue bid of 3 of their major is Stayman (and more experienced players play Lebensohl).

Of course it gets a bit more complicated if the overcall was conventional but that's best left to experienced partnerships. And if you play this scheme you may find (at other clubs) unscrupulous opponents who will overcall on garbage in the knowledge that they cannot be doubled for penalties?

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1♠. With a 5 or 6 card major prefer to overcall rather than double.
2♥ (Michaels) is a poor bid because it is generally 5-5 shape and weaker than this hand.
- Hand B: (a) 2♣. Strong hands with support for partner's minor are tricky. You have to find a forcing bid and if you do not play inverted minors (when 2♦ is forcing) then you have to bid 2♣.
(b) 3NT. Partner generally has around 12-14 points for his bids. You have no known fit and the 4333 shape means it's worth a point less so only worth 16 pts. It's probably a combined 28-30, not enough to look for slam. You could bid 2♥ (4th suit forcing) but I don't really see the point.
- Hand C: Pass. The opponents have probably missed a major suit game, let them play in 4♣. A 4♦ bid only gives them another shot and a 5♦ bid is pointless – it's unlikely to make and is an unnecessary 'sacrifice' when the opponents have missed bidding game.
- Hand D: 4♠ (or 2♦). Partner has promised support for all 3 unbid suits (or else a very strong hand) and you have game-going values and a 5 card suit, so bid game. 2♠ shows about 11-12 points and is non-forcing. 3♠ is a possibility, but it really is best played as semi-pre-emptive. A good alternative (and what you should do with a game forcing hand with just 4♠'s) is to cue bid 2♦ (game forcing) and then bid ♠'s.
- Hand E: 3♣. 2♠ would be a game forcing reverse promising around 16-17 points. There is no need to bid the ♠ suit here as partner has denied them. If partner actually has 4♠'s then he must have a big hand and he will reverse into his ♠ suit next go.
- Hand F: (a) 1♣ (or 1NT). It's best to open 1♣ when equal length in the minors. This hand, however, has that 1098 in ♣'s and I think that it may just be worth a 1NT opener.
(b) Pass. Partner has stated that he prefers to play in 2♣ rather than 1NT. This 2♣ bid is a sign off and partner is certainly not inviting you to bid again..
- Hand G: This one is difficult. With traditional methods double is penalties and so you have to choose between 2♠ or a game forcing 3♣ Stayman. There is, however, a better solution and I have described it on page 9.
- Hand H: Pass. The hand is borderline for 2NT but I would only think about that at teams scoring. Go for the safe + at pairs. 2♣ is a sensible alternative (there is a 4-4 or better ♣ fit) but as this hand is maximum it's quite likely that there will be overtrick(s) and being in NT is important at pairs scoring.
- Hand J: Lead a top trump. And continue to lead trumps every time you gain the lead – you do not want dummy scoring any ruffs and you do not want declarer to score his wee trumps. What's more, you don't want to have to ruff yourself because you will score your long trump eventually – so the ♥Q lead is very poor. If you ruff ♥'s twice then declarer will be in control and will score his 5th little trump.