

## Club News Sheet – No. 128

Mon	11/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Tomas/Jim	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan/Ian	60%
Wed	13/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Richard(IRL)/Thorlief	61%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Terry/Monte	60%
Fri	15/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup> Bob/Dave	64%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Terry/Monte	60%

### Bidding Quiz

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

Hand A	Hand B	<p>(a) What do you open with Hand A?</p> <p>(b) Suppose you choose to open 1♦. The next hand doubles, partner bids 2♦ and RHO bid 2♥, what would you bid now?</p> <p>With Hand B partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♣, what do you do?</p>
♠ A2 ♥ J9 ♦ AKQ754 ♣ AQ5	♠ A876 ♥ J32 ♦ Q854 ♣ 82	
Hand C	Hand D	<p>With Hand C partner opens 1NT. What do you bid and what do you plan to bid next go?</p> <p>With Hand D you decide to open 1NT, I would open 1♠ but that's not the issue here. So you open 1NT and LHO overcalls 2♦ which partner doubles, what do you do?</p>
♠ KQ853 ♥ Q9852 ♦ 85 ♣ A	♠ AK952 ♥ AQ7 ♦ 92 ♣ KJ7	
Hand E	Hand F	<p>With Hand E RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?</p> <p>(a) What do you open with Hand F? (b) Suppose you open 1♣ and partner bids 1♠, what is your rebid? (c) Suppose RHO opened 2♥ in front of you, what would you bid?</p>
♠ A76 ♥ Q10 ♦ AQ8 ♣ AK542	♠ A10 ♥ A95 ♦ A3 ♣ AKJ953	
Hand G	Hand H	<p>With Hand G partner opens 1NT and you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner responds 2♦, what do you do next?</p> <p>With Hand H partner opens 1♥. (a) What do you bid? (b) Suppose to choose 2♣ and partner bids 3♣, what do you do now?</p>
♠ A ♥ AK54 ♦ Q9873 ♣ Q76	♠ AQ ♥ J32 ♦ AQJ4 ♣ QJ64	
Hand J	Hand K	<p>With Hand J partner opens 1♠, (a) what do you bid? (b) suppose you choose 1NT and partner rebids 2♥, what do you do now?</p> <p>With Hand K LHO opens 1♠ and partner overcalls 2♣. RHO doubles (negative, showing 4♥'s), what do you bid?</p>
♠ 32 ♥ AQ743 ♦ Q10873 ♣ 4	♠ 54 ♥ KJ63 ♦ 98 ♣ KQ542	

## **Editorial**

We now have a 'committee' to assist me in the running of the club. Chuck asked who is on it (and why). It's quite simple; people who are 'resident' and are prepared to put themselves out (perhaps not play or play with a weaker player on Wednesdays) have a say and thus a strong influence on club policy and direct control of the Wednesday club. Dave, Jan, Bob and myself are the only qualifiers to date. People who automatically expect to play and do nothing to aid in the running of the Wednesday club do not. People who have been 'on notice' or suspended from the club will never be allowed on the committee. At least, that's the way I see it, agreed?

Now Jan (a member of the committee) suggested (I guess after complaints from Paul and Chuck) that editorials like this one and articles like the 'a little more agro' featuring Paul/Chuck's unsportsmanlike behaviour do not belong in the news sheet. I disagree and am not going to let people like Chuck and Paul affect the way the club is run. I let everybody in the club know what's going on (via the news-sheet) and they can then inform me or the committee if they have any opinions. The news sheet is primarily for club members but I agree with Jan that he is free to delete editorials etc from the news-sheet before they appear on the web site if he wishes. And I am always prepared to reproduce any sensible input from anybody in the news sheet.

Anyway, I remain in control of the Monday/Friday clubs but will negotiate over policy etc with the committee if necessary.

Now there was considerable friction between myself and Paul (IRL) last week over the definition of the term 'unsportsmanlike' used in news-sheet 127 and his mis-quoting Law 61B, but luckily he left for Ireland before I took any disciplinary measures over his totally unjustified and appalling abusive behaviour towards both Dave and myself. Chuck (Paul's partner in 'crime') was sensible enough to say very little and did not react like Paul.

Just for reference, Law 61B clearly states that a defender may ask declarer if he has revoked. At our club anybody can ask anybody if they have revoked and the over-riding majority of the club think that this is the 'sporting' thing to do if you suspect/know of a revoke. The other allowable 'unsporting?' action is to say nothing and thus be able to claim a two trick penalty at the end of play. I don't know what the Irish opposite of 'sportsmanlike' is, one suggestion from my thesaurus is 'unstable'.

Now most people realise that I put a lot of work into this club (for little reward). In particular, I now run (free) classes for beginners and also an article in the Pattaya Mail (no payment) in an attempt to attract new members and my actions have resulted in well over a dozen new players to date. Unfortunately one new player was apparently driven off a couple of week's ago by Ian's attitude (I don't know the full details and so can take no action, I guess that Jan, who was at the table, would not tell me the details because he knew I would confront Ian?). If people like Chuck, Paul, Ian (or anyone else) behave in such a way as to drive off less capable players then, as Chuck fully knows, I will have to suspend/expel them. I urge everybody to be sympathetic and helpful towards beginners and less experienced players, then hopefully we will soon have enough to run a separate division for the less aggressive and thus shield them from the unruly/rude individuals in the club – the alternative, as I see it, is to simply eliminate the unruly/rude individuals. So can we all try the more sensible approach first (be tolerant/polite to beginners), please? Hopefully Gerry will be arriving soon with the new set of boards and cards etc that I've ordered so we'll have the equipment to run two separate sections when numbers allow it.

Finally, some people dislike any controversies (I agree) and believe that I should not be so 'heavy-handed' (I disagree). It is clear to most people that if I just sat back and said/wrote nothing then anarchy would rule with the unruly elements left to their own devices and the quieter people simply leaving the club. A sure example of why my philosophy is best is the players that I have previously suspended from the club that are now much better behaved.

## Don't pre-empt twice! – part 1

Board 1 from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Now most of you know not to bid again having pre-empted. One un-named charismatic individual got it wrong on this deal at Table B: -

Dealer: ♠ A10962  
North ♥ -  
Love all ♦ J107653  
♣ 53

♠ Q75	N	♠ K
♥ 1075	W E	♥ KQJ86432
♦ KQ94	S	♦ 82
♣ 1084		♣ Q9
	♠ J843	
	♥ A9	
	♦ A	
	♣ AKJ762	

### Table A

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

### Table B

West	North	East	South
-	pass	4♥ (1)	dbl (5)
pass	4♠ (6)	5♥ (7)	dbl (8)
all pass			

Table A: (1) With a good 8 card suit, I would open 4♥.

(2) With 4 ♠'s double is most certainly better than bidding ♣'s.

(1) And with 5 ♠'s and a ♥ void, I bid 4♠ here.

(2) And this East knew better than to bid again having pre-empted.

Table B: (1) Correct.

(3) This is much the same as the double in the previous sequence. It generally shows 4 ♠'s but can be passed (so converted into penalties) more often.

(4) And this North has an easy 4♠ bid.

(5) I shan't name him this time, but this distinguished member chose to bid again here. This is extremely silly for two reasons: -

a- It violates the principle of not bidding again having pre-empted.

b- The ♠ K may well score a trick in defence, it won't if declaring.

(8) This time it's penalties.

And what happened? 5♥ was bid at two tables and it went 3 down for 500 away at Table B where it was doubled. 4♠ made +2 the two times it was bid but the resultant 480 did not beat the silly 500.

The bottom lines: -

- When you pre-empt you have said your hand, do not bid again unless partner bids.

- 4♥ was a perfect opening for this East hand and described it exactly. Bidding again here is ....?

Maybe this experienced East can complete the sentence for me?

**Don't pre-empt twice! – part 2**

Board 20 from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A986  
 West ♥ AQJ954  
 Both vul ♦ 654  
 ♣ -

♠ 104 N ♠ KJ2  
 ♥ K108 W E ♥ 7  
 ♦ K10 S ♦ Q83  
 ♣ AK9872 ♣ QJ10543  
 ♠ Q753  
 ♥ 632  
 ♦ AJ972  
 ♣ 6

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

- (1) After a double, this raise should be pre-emptive and is fine here.
- (2) After some thought. With 7 points and a 4 card ♠ suit a free bid of 3♠ is fine here.
- (3) A bit feeble opposite a free bid, I would bid 4♠.
- (4) This is a poor bid – don't bid again having pre-empted, especially with these decent ♠'s and the knowledge that the opponents probably have a fit in both majors.
- (5) 4♠ is an easy make on a ♣ lead so West did well to salvage a few points by bidding 5♣.

And what happened? 5♣ was one down for 200 away. Nobody actually ended up in 4♠ but it looks like a fairly easy make to me on the obvious ♣ lead.

The bottom lines: -

- When you pre-empt you have said your hand, do not bid again unless partner bids.
- This time the opponents had stopped short of game and 4♣ by East really was silly.

**Play quiz 1**

♠ J943 N  
 ♥ A8542 W E  
 ♦ 3 S  
 ♣ J84

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
pass	2NT	pass	3NT
pass			

DUMMY → ♠ Q105  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ J1062  
 ♣ K10932

You are West, defending 3NT and partner leads the ♥K, what card do you play.

## Play Quiz 1 answer

Board 26 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A2  
East ♥ J9  
Both vul ♦ AKQ754  
♣ AQ5

♠ J943	N	♠ K876
♥ A8542	W E	♥ KQ1076
♦ 3	S	♦ 98
♣ J84		♣ 76
	♠ Q105	
	♥ 3	
	♦ J1062	
	♣ K10932	

### Table A

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

### Table B

West	North(A)	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
pass	1♦ (1)	dbl	2♦
2♥	? (2)		

Table A (1) So what did you open with this North hand A(a) in this week's quiz? It's not quite good enough for 2♣ and it's a toss-up between 1♦ or 2NT. Obviously 1♦ will work out better if it's not passed out. This sort of hand is a problem if you don't play strong twos or Benjamin twos. Playing Benjamin twos it's easy to avoid the silly 3NT and arrive in 5♦ or 6♦.

Table B (1) This North chose to open 1♦, fine.  
(2) But what did you bid at (2) with this North hand A(b) in this week's quiz? The best bid is 3♥ - asking partner to bid 3NT if he has a ♥ stop.

And what happened? The silly 3NT was bid at 3 out of the 6 tables on Monday. But it made twice!

Which card did you play in the play quiz 1 from the West hand after partner led the ♥K? Partner's lead promises the ♥Q and you have to encourage. You could play the ♥A and return a ♥ but that would not work if partner started with just 4 ♥'s like KQJ9 as the suit is then blocked. No, the best card for west to play is the ♥8, encouraging (play the ♥2 if you play inverted attitude). The attitude signal in this situation makes life easy for East.

So what went wrong in the defence at two tables? East led the ♥K and West lazily played a small ♥, assuming that East would place him with the ♥A. Of course East thought that declarer had the ♥AJ left and so correctly did not continue the suit.

The sensible 5♦ was bid twice but nobody reached the 6♦ slam.

The bottom lines: -

- It does not matter if you play standard (high to encourage) or inverted (low to encourage) attitude signals, but a signal is sometimes very important.

## Don't be bullied into 2NT

Board 24 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A876  
West ♥ J32  
Love all ♦ Q854  
♣ 82

West	North(B)	East	South
pass	pass	pass	1NT
2♣ (1)	2NT (2)	all pass	

♠ K95	N	♠ J4
♥ 10954	W E	♥ A6
♦ 9	S	♦ J10763
♣ KJ764		♣ A1053
	♠ Q1032	
	♥ KQ87	
	♦ AK2	
	♣ Q9	

(1) A very poor overcall of a strong NT

(2) So what did you bid with this North hand B in this week's quiz? With no overcall I think that 2♣ Stayman is just about reasonable. When West has advertised a ♣ suit it seems even more likely that to compete in another suit is favourite, but what do you bid? It's difficult if you don't play a double of the 2♣ overcall as Stayman and this North chose 2NT and the ♠ fit was lost. I definitely don't like the 2NT bid and would prefer to pass; a re-opening double by South would then be for take-out (it is not penalties as the ♣'s are sitting over him and partner has promised no values) and then the excellent 2♠ contract will be found.

And what happened? 2NT justifiably went down, as did all N-S contracts except the one pair who found 2♠. Even 2♥ (probably down just one) would be a reasonable spot for N-S.

## Count your cards.

Now one of the very first things I teach my students is that Bridge is a game where 4 players have 13 card each. I also tell them that the first thing one should do when you pick up your hand is to count your cards (without looking at them).

There was an incident on Wednesday when the director (me) was called (no prizes for guessing by whom) when play was in progress and somebody noticed that dummy was a card short (and declarer had started with 14 cards). Now normally I gloss over an incident like this – I give the offending partie(s) a zero score and try to sort it out. And normally I would not mention this (or names) in the news-sheet. But in this rather controversial week I will make an exception – the offending parties were none other than our infamous Chuck and Paul duo!

Now when Paul was 'laying into me' about the 'unsportsmanlike' comment of mine, he indicated that he was some sort of referee or whatever in Ireland. I guess their standard must be pretty low (or was it all baloney?). He was ignorant of Law 61.B and Law 7.B.1 clearly states that each player should count his cards before looking at them. And for two 'superior' players to conduct an auction and arrive at a contract and start playing when one has 14 cards and the other 12 is....? Well, my thesaurus suggests the word 'stupid'. Perhaps Paul also objects to this word and has another?

Anyway, it is most certainly wasting everybody's time, as is playing out a hand when both defenders know that declarer has revoked at trick one.

## Natural or transfer?

Board 12 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Now in the last deal we saw that one can play that a double of a 2♣ overcall of partner's 1NT is Stayman and bids of 2♦ and 2♥ are thus transfers. And you can, by agreement, continue this theme just one step further – i.e. when there is a 2♦ overcall: -

Dealer:	♠ 8643				
West	♥ 83	West	North	East(D)	South
N-S vul	♦ A54	pass	pass	1NT	2♦ (1)
	♣ Q543	dbl (2)	pass	2♠ (3)	etc .. (4)

♠ J	N	♠ AK952
♥ KJ942	W E	♥ AQ7
♦ K1086	S	♦ 92
♣ 1098		♣ KJ7
	♠ Q107	
	♥ 1065	
	♦ QJ73	
	♣ A62	

- (1) In the last hand we saw a very poor overcall of a strong 1NT, but this is surely the most terrible overcall of a strong NT that I have ever seen.
- (2) This player considered this to be a transfer. That is a very playable system but it has to be agreed and is not standard. Playing standard I would also double – penalties – N-S are vulnerable against not and 2♦ doubled will net an enormous score for E-W.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? Now I recall that some time ago this very same East player pulled my penalty double in exactly this situation when partnering me. It was nonsense then (and I told him so) and it's nonsense now (so I suppose his memory is not as good as mine?). When you open 1NT then your partner is the captain, if he doubles for penalties then a pass by the 1NT opener is mandatory. There is no such thing as a take-out or negative double by the partner of a 1NT opener – it's penalties unless you agree to a double of 2♦ as a transfer.
- (4) I don't really know or care how the auction continued but they ended up in a silly 3♠. It seems that this East continues to make the same mistakes and continues to blame partner.

And what happened? 3♠ made but was a near bottom. 3NT or 4♥ were making at other tables. Obviously 2♦ doubled would have been a great score for E-W.

The bottom lines: -

- Unless you agree anything to the contrary, if you open 1NT and the next hand overcalls anything then a double from partner is for penalties and a pass from you is **mandatory**.

**5-5 in the majors opposite partner's 1NT**Board 17 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

I went through this in news-sheet 114 and very thoroughly in 122, but it looks like none of the 6 tables got it right on Monday.

Dealer: ♠ 10742  
 North ♥ 10743  
 Love all ♦ 96  
 ♣ KQ9

♠ KQ853	N	♠ AJ9
♥ Q9852	W E	♥ J6
♦ 85	S	♦ AKQJ3
♣ A		♣ J52
	♠ 8	
	♥ AK	
	♦ 10742	
	♣ 1087642	

Table A

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

'Expert' Table

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

- Table A (1) So what did you bid with this West hand C in this week's quiz? Stayman is not the answer.  
 (2) This bid is game forcing and promises exactly 5 ♥'s and 5 ♠'s in standard methods.  
 'Expert' (3) With 5-5 in the majors you start with a transfer as I explain below.  
 Table (4) And this 3♥ bid is now natural (thus showing 5-5 in the majors) and game forcing.

And what happened? 4 out of the 6 tables reached the 4♠ contract, but obviously none of them remembered the recommended method as West was declarer on every occasion. On this particular layout the two 3NT declarers unfortunately lucked out as there are just 2 losers in any contract. Swap the ♣A and ♣K and it's a totally different outcome in a silly 3NT!

Let's repeat the section from news-sheet 122: So what's the solution when 5-5 in the majors?

One rather out-dated method with 5-5's is Extended Stayman (1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♦). But the problem is that there is no differentiation between invitational and strong hands. Also, this sequence is far better used as a Quest Transfer (showing 6 ♥'s and 4 ♠'s, with 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♥ showing 6 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s).

Another practice in common use by many (most experienced?) players is: -

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ shows 5-5 in the majors and is invitational  
 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♥ shows 5-5 in the majors and is game forcing.

So here you have to agree that with 5-4's in the majors you use Stayman (as I have said many times). This latter solution is probably best unless you want the real ultimate solution and you can read that up in my book on responses to 1NT.



**A couple of amusing contracts (3-2 fits!)**

Board 16 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ J1098  
West ♥ K975  
E-W vul ♦ 102  
♣ 863

♠ K42            N            ♠ Q53  
♥ J86            W E            ♥ A432  
♦ J9763            S            ♦ K54  
♣ 107            ♣ QJ9  
  
♠ A76  
♥ Q10  
♦ AQ8  
♣ AK542

Table A

West	North	East	South(E)
pass	pass	1♣(1)	1NT (2)
pass	2♣ (3)	pass	2♦
pass	pass (4)	pass	

Table B

West	North	East	South(E)
pass	pass	1♣(1)	dbl (2)
pass	1♥	pass	2NT (5)
pass	3NT	all pass	

- Table A: (1) This hand does not qualify as a real opener of course, but anything goes in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat. Some USA players even recommend opening a 4 card major in this position but that's probably best left to the experts or to those who play Drury.  
(2) So what did you bid with this South hand E in this week's quiz? 1NT here is 15-18 and so it's a bit strong but not too bad a bid.  
(3) Stayman. Now you should only bid Stayman with a weak hand if you can cope with any response. This is simply gambling, sometimes it works and you luck into a 4-4 major suit fit...  
(4)... but sometimes it's a complete disaster! (luckily South was not 3325).

- Table B: (2) This player started off with double, excellent.  
(5) But since 1NT here would show about 19-20 points 2NT is an unnecessary overbid, but at least the decent 3NT was reached.

And what happened? There were other silly contracts; one South actually overcalled 1♦ because he was a bit peeved that East had bid his suit – he was left to play there! 3NT was bid twice and made exactly (note the power of the intermediates in the North hand).

**3NT of course, but how do you bid it?**

Board 8 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ K4  
 West ♥ QJ10876  
 Love all ♦ 1097  
 ♣ 84

♠ QJ832	N	♠ A10
♥ 43	W E	♥ A95
♦ Q65	S	♦ A3
♣ Q106		♣ AKJ953

♠ 9765  
 ♥ K2  
 ♦ KJ842  
 ♣ 72

Table A

West	North	East(F)	South
pass	pass (1)	1♣ (2)	pass (3)
1♠	pass	3♣ (4)	pass
pass (5)	pass		

Table B

West	North	East(F)	South
pass	2♥	3NT (6)	

- Table A: (1) I would open a weak 2♥  
 (2) What did you open with this East hand F(a) in this week's quiz? It's close between 1♣ and 2NT and either are acceptable (but I prefer 2NT).  
 (3) A 1♦ overcall would be just about acceptable with this hand.  
 (4) What did you bid with this East hand F(b) in this week's quiz? 3♣ is wrong – it is not forcing in Standard American. Also, you make it very difficult for partner and he may go past 3NT (say with 4♣) or even pass! I would rebid 3NT.  
 (5) I would also think about passing here and it's not too unreasonable. The 7 points are quacks, it's true, but hasn't partner made it difficult! The ♣Q10x are golden cards and I would probably gamble with 3NT but life would be so much easier if partner had taken the pressure off and bid 3NT himself.
- Table B: (6) Did you bid 3NT in this week's quiz? There's no need to mess about as you want to play in 3NT and have a solid ♥ stop and can hold up if necessary.

And what happened? It was played in 3♣ just once and 3NT or 4♠ all made (usually with overtricks) at other tables.

The bottom line. A jump rebid of the same suit is not forcing in Standard American (or Acol).

**Don't remove 3NT to 5♣/♦!!**

Board 16 from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Now most of you know my opinions by now – 3NT is usually easier than 5♣/♦. And if partner has advertised a good stop in the enemy suit and then bids 3NT then you really should not remove him: -

Dealer:	♠ QJ32				
West	♥ -	West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ AKJ108	pass	1♦	pass	1♥
	♣ J954	1♠	dbl (1)	pass	3♣ (2)
		pass	3NT (3)	pass	4♣ (4)
		pass	5♣	all pass	
♠ AK876	N	♠ 104			
♥ Q8642	W E	♥ A7			
♦ 72	S	♦ Q96543			
♣ 8		♣ K62			
	♠ 95				
	♥ KJ10953				
	♦ -				
	♣ AQ1073				

- (1) In standard methods this simply means that North has 4 ♠'s and would have rebid 1♠ himself. There is another option for the bid (the support double) but that has to be agreed. This double is most definitely not some sort of take-our or negative double as 3 suits have been bid, it shows 4♠'s and presumably a stop or two.
- (2) Natural and game forcing.
- (3) To play. Since North has already shown ♠'s he most definitely has them stopped. As the sequence is game forcing then a 3NT bid here is definitely to play.
- (4) Now to be fair, this South player is new to the club and is not yet familiar with my doctrines – 3NT is usually easier than 5 of a minor.

And what happened? 3NT was bid at one table and made exactly. 5♣ was bid at two tables and went one down on both occasions.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner bids 3NT to play then you need a really good reason to remove it.

### 5-3 fit or 3NT ?

Board 15 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

Now we all know my views on a 4-4 major suit fit – it’s virtually always better than NT. But a 5-3 major suit fit is different. It is sometimes best to go for the NT contract, especially if the other suits are well guarded and the right man (the one with a tenace to protect) is then declarer: -

Dealer:	♠ J9				
South	♥ 96	West	North	East(H)	South
N-S vul	♦ K1093	-	-	-	pass (1)
	♣ 98732	1♥	pass	2♣ (2)	pass
		3♣ (3)	pass	3NT (4)	all pass
		all pass			

  

♠ 872	N	♠ AQ
♥ AK1087	W E	♥ J32
♦ 76	S	♦ AQJ4
♣ A105		♣ QJ64

  

♠ K106543
♥ Q54
♦ 842
♣ K

- (1) A weak 2♠ is a reasonable alternative.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand H(a) in this week’s quiz? This pair play 2/1 and so this 2♣ bid is forcing to game. It’s best in my view whatever you play.
- (3) Life is so much easier in situations like this when you play 2/1. 3♣ is still forcing and so there’s no need to worry about being left in a silly 3♣ contract.
- (4) What did you bid with this East hand H(b) in this week’s quiz? I prefer 3NT to 4♥ with these weak ♥’s and the opening lead coming round to the East hand. And note the advantage of taking it slowly – east now knows that West has only 5 ♥’s and ♣ support, so 3NT is clear.

And what happened? 3 pairs were in 3NT. With a ♠ lead from South and everything right, 13 tricks rolled home. 4♥ by West did not score so well.

The bottom lines: -

- Always go for the 4-4 fit.
- But the 5-3 fit is different and it’s sometimes correct to play in NT.

## Not enough for slam

Board 13 from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Let's go back to the beginner's class. You need around 25 points for game in a major or NT and you need around 33 points for a small slam (a little less if you have a fit or a good long suit). So how did two of my students fare compared with more experienced pairs on this deal? –

Dealer:	♠ Q86		<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ Q87		West	North	East	South (G)
Both vul	♦ A5		-	1NT	pass	2♣
	♣ AK953		pass	2♦	pass	4NT (1)
			pass	5♥	pass	6♦ (2)
			all pass			
♠ KJ42	N	♠ 109753	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ J109	W E	♥ 632	West	North	East	South (G)
♦ J2	S	♦ K1064	-	1NT	pass	2♣
♣ J1042		♣ 8	pass	2♦	pass	3NT
			all pass			
	♠ A					
	♥ AK54					
	♦ Q9873					
	♣ Q76					

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand G in this week's quiz? For me it's a toss up between 3NT and a slam try (I would settle for 3NT). But what does 4NT mean here? It is best played as quantitative (I go into that on the next page but I believe that this scratch partnership had agreed to play 4NT as Blackwood in all situations).  
(2) South took a wild gamble here. Knowing that partner had no 4 card major he hoped that partner had ♦'s – tough luck!

Table B: This was the only table to stop below a hopeless slam. Well done Gene/Steven – I guess you have a good teacher?

And what happened? Slam was bid 4 times, (either 6♦ or 6NT) and all went one or two down. 3NT made +1 and scored a well deserved top. Well, not so much that it deserved a top, but everybody else certainly deserved a bottom!

The bottom lines: -

- 15 points opposite partner's 1NT opening may be just about worth a slam invitation, but that's all. Forcing to slam is too optimistic without a known fit.
- There is a mechanism to find out if you have a minor suit fit having bid Stayman (SARS, Shape Asking Relays after Stayman) but it is perhaps a bit advanced for most members of this club. I'll lend you an advanced book on responses to 1NT if you really want to know.

**Quantitative, Normal Blackwood, RKCB, Gerber, Splinter or what?**

West East

1 ♠ 2 ♥ 4 ♣ is a splinter, agreeing ♥'s. It is could be either a singleton or void.  
 4 ♣ 4NT 4NT is RKCB. Some play exclusion RKCB here.

1 ♠ 1NT What is 4 ♣ over the strong 3 ♥? If East had a weak hand he would simply  
 3 ♥ 4 ♣ bid game. Thus 4 ♣ can only be a cue bid agreeing ♥'s. Responder has a good ♥ suit  
 with insufficient values for an initial two level response. A bid of 4NT here or a  
 subsequent 4NT bid by either is thus RKCB for ♥'s

1 ♥ 4 ♣ A splinter or Swiss, according to partnership agreement.

1 ♥ 4NT Normal Blackwood. This cannot be RKCB for ♥'s as then East would  
 first bid a forcing raise (Jacoby 2NT). It is not quantitative, as East would first bid a suit at  
 the two level. It must be a strange hand.

3NT 4NT 3NT is gambling. This 4NT is not Blackwood, opener has exactly 1 ace. East has a good  
 hand and simply requests opener to bid 5 of his suit.

3NT 4 ♣ 3NT is gambling and 4 ♣ is pass or correct

2 ♣ 2 ♦ RKCB for ♦'s. With a big hand in support of ♥'s, East would have  
 2 ♥ 2NT splintered, cue bid, bid 3 ♥ or bid RKCB on the previous round.  
 3 ♦ 4NT

1NT 3 ♠ East's 3 ♠ is a slam try. West's 4 ♣ is a cue bid agreeing ♠'s.  
 4 ♣ 4NT East's 4NT is RKCB for ♠'s.

1NT 4 ♣ Gerber 1NT 4NT Quantitative.

1 ♠ 2 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♦  
 2NT 4 ♣ Gerber 2NT 4NT Quantitative.

Transfer Sequences

Stayman Sequences

1NT 2 ♥ Gerber (RKC?). Partner's 1NT 2 ♣ Gerber (RKC?)  
 2 ♠ 4 ♣ last natural bid was 1NT. 2 ♥ 4 ♣

1NT 2 ♥ Quantitative (5 ♠'s) 1NT 2 ♣ Quantitative.

2 ♠ 4NT 2 ♥ 4NT (4 ♠'s)

1NT 2 ♥ This time, 4NT is RKCB for ♠'s. West's super accept of the transfer has  
 2NT 3 ♥ set ♠'s as trumps. East re-transfers to get West as declarer and then uses  
 3 ♠ 4NT RKCB.

1NT 2 ♦ 4NT is not RKCB for ♥'s here (4 ♣ would be), it must be quantitative. If East  
 2 ♥ 4NT had a hand where he can investigate slam in ♥'s with minimal support from  
 partner, he could have started with a slam interest bid of 3 ♥ over 1NT.

**Play Quiz 2**

Board 4 (modified) from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

This problem is based on board 4 from Wednesday, I have changed the hands very slightly to make it an interesting play problem (I saw somebody get it wrong on Wednesday).

Dealer: ♠ K1094  
North ♥ KJ754  
Both vul ♦ 64  
♣ J9

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

N  
W E  
S

(1) I made up the bidding, North's 4♣ simply asks South to pick a suit.

♠ AQ63  
♥ Q1083  
♦ AK9  
♣ 62

So onto the play. West leads the ♣A followed by the ♣5. East wins and returns a low ♦ which South wins. South pulls trumps with West winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> round (they split 2-2). West sensibly leads a ♦ (he does not want to open up the ♠'s for declarer) which South wins. South now needs to tackle the ♠'s for no loser. He plays the ♠A and everybody follows low. South then eliminates the minor suits (by ruffing them out) but which card should he (South) play next from this resulting position?

Dealer: ♠ K109  
North ♥ J  
Both vul ♦ -  
♣ -

N  
W E  
S

♠ Q63  
♥ 10  
♦ -  
♣ -

### Play Quiz 2 answer

Dealer: ♠ K1094  
North ♥ KJ754  
Both vul ♦ 64  
♣ J9

♠ J875	N	♠ 2
♥ A6	W E	♥ 92
♦ 107532	S	♦ QJ8
♣ A5		♣ KQ108743
	♠ AQ63	
	♥ Q1083	
	♦ AK9	
	♣ 62	

Board 4 (modified) from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

This was the full deal (modified). If the ♠'s split 3-2 there is no problem so declarer only has to worry about a possible 4-1 ♠ split and since East has promised 7 ♣'s for his vulnerable 3♣ opening then he should play East for a possible ♠ shortage.

Thus declarer should lead ♠ Q at the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of ♠'s in the position on the previous page. When East shows out there is no need to guess and declarer picks up the ♠'s for no loss.

### Make a try for game?

Dealer: ♠ QJ954  
East ♥ 2  
Love all ♦ KJ5  
♣ K753

♠ AK1086	N	♠ 32
♥ K986	W E	♥ AQ743
♦ A6	S	♦ Q10873
♣ 109		♣ 4
	♠ 7	
	♥ J105	
	♦ 942	
	♣ AQJ862	

Board 14 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

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

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand J(a) in this week's quiz? Playing a strong NT the hand is not good enough for a 2-level response and 1NT is correct.
- (2) 2♥ is clear here, it's nowhere good enough for 3♥.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand J(b) in this week's quiz? Partner's 2♥ rebid has improved the hand enormously and I bid 3♥.
- (4) And West has a clear raise to 4♥.

And what happened? Two pairs reached 4♥ and two pairs stopped short, 10 or eleven tricks usually being made. My partner Monte played it very nicely and made 12 tricks.

The bottom line. A fit is all important, with a 5-4 fit you don't need the usual 25 points to make game in a major.



## Nice one Monte!

Board 7 from Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

Monte is new to this club, he is a gold life master but has not played bridge for 30 years! He even 'corrected' me when I wrote down a score of 800 for somebody going 4 down doubled non-vulnerable (the 'new' scoring changed it from 700 to 800 and this came in about 25 years ago!) Anyway, we can all learn from a master and he still has a few tricks up his sleeve: -

Dealer:	♠ QJ97	West	North	East	South (K)
South	♥ A		(me)		(Monte)
Both vul	♦ J74	-	-	-	pass
	♣ A10863	1♠	2♣ (1)	dbl (2)	4♣ (3)
		4♥ (4)	pass	pass	dbl (5)
♠ AK1062	N	♠ 83			
♥ Q1087	W E	♥ 9542			
♦ Q3	S	♦ AK10652			
♣ J7		♣ 9			
	♠ 54				
	♥ KJ63				
	♦ 98				
	♣ KQ542				

- (1) I would normally like a better hand (say a better or longer ♣ suit) but these ♠'s sitting over opener are an asset and I think that 2♣ here is OK.
- (2) Now the overcall has actually made East's life easier! With no intervention he would have to bid 1NT (not enough for a 2-level response) but now a negative double shows the 4 card ♥ suit. It only promises 6+ points.
- (3) What did you bid with this South hand K in this week's quiz? South knew the situation exactly and the 4♣ bid here may really put the pressure on West. The more I look at it, the more I like this 4♣ bid.
- (4) And West is fixed! Should he meekly pass or should he show his 4 card ♥ support? I'm glad it was not me in this position. Anyway, West chose to bid and has my sympathy.
- (5) Gotcha!

And what happened? 4♥ doubled went two down for a clear top to N-S.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: (a) 1♦ or 2NT. The hand is not good enough for 2♣ playing Standard American. This is a very difficult hand for Standard American. If you open 2NT then you may end up in a silly 3NT when 5♦ or 6♦ are cold. If you open 1♦ then it may be passed out. The only real solution is to play Benjamin twos (or strong twos) and then you should always reach a sensible contract.  
(b) 3♥. Asking partner to bid 3NT with a ♥ stop.
- Hand B: Pass. I don't like 2NT as it's a point light with no ♣ stop and you may miss a 4-4 ♠ fit. If you play double as Stayman here then that is a reasonable alternative.
- Hand C: 2♥, a transfer to ♠'s and then bid 3♥. This is the standard way to show a game forcing 5-5 in the majors opposite partner's 1NT.
- Hand D: Pass, mandatory. Partner had doubled 2♦ for penalties and he is the captain. If you feel compelled to remove the penalty double to 2♠ then you should have opened 1♠! Of course if you have both agreed that a double of 2♦ here is a transfer to ♥'s (a very playable system) then you should bid 2♥.
- Hand E: Double, followed by 1NT over partner's expected 1 level suit response. This shows a hand that is too good for an immediate 1NT overcall (15-18) and as this is a very respectable 19 count I think that it's best. A direct 1NT is 15-18 and not too bad an alternative.
- Hand F: (a) 1♣ or 2NT, either may work out best.  
(b) 3NT. 3♣ is wrong because it's not forcing and you want to play in 3NT anyway.  
(c) 3NT.
- Hand G: 3NT. With no known fit and no good long suit you need about 33 points to make slam. A quantitative 4NT is just about reasonable but I would settle for 3NT. Note that 4NT is quantitative (invitational) here and that 4♣ is Gerber because partner's last natural bid was NT.
- Hand H: (a) 2♣. 2♦ is possibly equally good, but you know my opinions about bidding 4 cards suits up the line. I would like a weaker hand and 5♥'s for a direct 4♥. I guess 3NT is reasonable, but what's the rush?  
(b) 3NT. Did you choose 3NT or 4♥? Choosing the 5-3 ♥ fit cannot be defined as wrong; but with the points outside ♥'s, no weak suit and this ♠ tenace I prefer the opening lead to come up to this hand. Change the ♠Q so the hand is something like ♠A2 ♥K32 ♦AQJ4 ♣QJ64 then 4♥ would be best.
- Hand J: (a) 1NT. It's not good enough for a 2 level response.  
(b) 3♥. After partner's ♥ bid it's worth a try for game. Pass is too feeble for me and I would not even argue too much if you chose 4♥.
- Hand K: 4♣. The Law easily allows this bid, and you certainly don't mind if LHO bids 4♥.