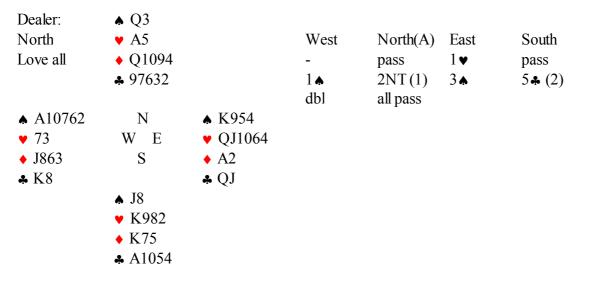
29 th July 2005 Club News Sheet – No. 143						
Mon 25 th	N-S 1 st Sid/Jo	ohn Gavens	56%	2 nd Bob/Dave	53%	
Mon 25 th	E-W 1 st Eddie	/Phil	61%	2 nd Bjorn/Kees	60%	
Wed 27^{th}	1 st Chuck	k/Terry	69%	2 nd Richard/Ken	66%	
Fri 29 th	1 st Terry/	John Gavens	60%	2 nd Chuck/Louis	56%	
<u>Bidding Qu</u>	<u>niz</u>	Standard Ame	erican is as	sumed unless otherwise	stated	
Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A LHO opens $1 \lor$ and RHO bids $1 \clubsuit$, what do you do?				
♠ Q3	▲ Q86					
♥ A5	♥ AJ3	With Hand B partner opens $1 \blacklozenge$, what do you bid?				
♦ Q1094	♦ 875					
* 97632	♣ A876					
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C LHO opens a weak $2 \checkmark$ and this is passed round to you. What do you do?				
▲ A3	▲ KJ104					
♥ AK75	v 1074					
♦ 82	♦ AK106	What do you open with Hand D?				
♣ AQ1065	♣ K10					
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E RHO opens $2 \checkmark$ and you have to pass - it's nice shape. but really is not strong enough to make a take-out double.				
▲ J984	▲ J72	It goes round to partner who bids 3*; what do you do?				
v 4	♥ AQ1073			-		
♦ A763	♦ 1087	With Hand F pa	artner opens	s 1 and RHO overcalls 1	\bullet , what do	
♣ KJ73	♣ Q8	you do (everyb	ody is vulne	rable).		

I've said it before the UNT is the most abused convention out there.....



- (1) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week's quiz? Pass is obvious to me, but this North chose the UNT. Usually weak and definitely promising 5-5 in the minors.
- (2) Expecting more cards and points in the minors opposite, South quite correctly (in my humble opinion) bid 5.

And what happened? 5. doubled went two down for 300 to E-W for a poor score. Even if E-W bid to 4. it is doubtful that they can make it.

The bottom lines: -

- The UNT guarantees at least 5 cards in each minor.
- It is unwise to bid the UNT when all of your points are in the majors.
- I will not comment further on a hand that satisfies neither of the above criteria.
- There are more pass cards in the bidding box than any other why is it sometimes so difficult for people to find them?

Dealer: North E-W vul	 ▲ KJ104 ♥ 1074 ◆ AK106 ♣ K10 		West - pass all pass	North(D) - 1♦ (1)	East pass pass	South(B) pass 1NT (2)
 ▲ 752 ♥ K652 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q942 	N W E S ▲ Q86 ♥ AJ3 ♦ 875 ♣ A876	 ▲ A93 ♥ Q98 ◆ J932 ♣ J53 				

An easy 3NT game was missed on this deal. Who would you blame - or would you blame both?

- (1) What did you open with this North hand D in this week's quiz? It is decent shape 4432 type shape is 'average' you deduct only for 4333 type shape and add on for better shapes. So it's an average 14 count but then look at those 10's. It's generally accepted that three 10's are worth a point, so with four of them this is a clear 1NT opener.
- (2) And what did you bid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? 2* really is a poor bid –it is passing the buck and you will be fixed next go if/when partner bids 2NT. No, it's best to make the decision now: 1NT (6-9/10) or 2NT (11-12)? I deduct a point for the 4333 type shape, so it's a 10 count and with no 10's or 9's for me it's a clear 1NT bid.

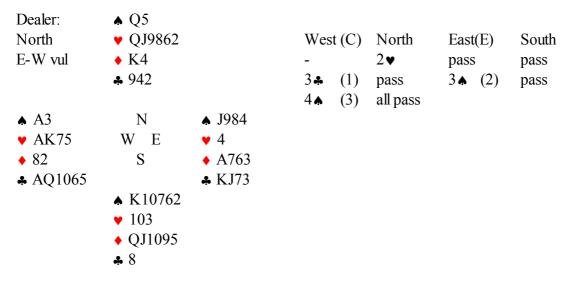
And what happened? 9 tricks were made at 5 out of the 6 tables, so 1NT scored badly as 3 N-S pairs bid the game.

The bottom lines: -

- Add on a point for three 10's, more for four 10's.
- Deduct a point for the 4333 type shape.

Another easy 3NT missed

Another easy 3NT game was missed on this deal and I was asked what went wrong: -



- (1) So what did you bid with this West hand C in this week's quiz? This sort of thing comes up a lot when not sure, double? But double is most certainly a very poor bid here with only a doubleton ▲. So bid 3♣ then? That's possible but then how are you going to get to the likely best spot of 3NT? partner most certainly has nothing in ♥'s. No, the best bid with this West hand C is 2NT.
- (3) Last chance. West can still bid 3NT here but he chose not to.

And what happened? $4 \bigstar$ went 5 down (so -500) which was not good as every other E-W made a +ve score, with 3NT making exactly being the most popular.

Go for the vulnerable penalty

I would imagine that most players bid \mathbf{v} 's at some level with this East hand and so I was surprised that only one N-S pair doubled them: -

Dealer:	▲ AQ103					
South	🎔 J		West	North	East	South(F)
Both vul	♦ AQJ43		-	-	-	pass
	♣ KJ2		pass	1♦	1 ♥ (1)	pass (2)
			1NT (3)	dbl (4)	2♥ (5)	dbl (6)
▲ K86	Ν	▲ 954	all pass			
v 2	W E	♥ K98654				
♦ K965	S	• 2				
* 109754		♣ A63				
	▲ J72					
	♥ AQ1073					
	1087					
	♣ Q8					

- (1) A weak jump overcall is pushing it with this hand when vulnerable. But with decent shapeand a 6 card suit I think that 1♥ is fine.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand (F) in this week's quiz? Against vulnerable opponents I think it's best to go for the penalty. This N-S pair play negative doubles and so South passed, awaiting North's 'automatic' re-opening double.
- (3) But playing negative doubles you sometimes get the opponents for more that if you simply play penalty doubles. West should pass with this hand but thought that 1NT might be a decent spot.
- (4) North's bid says 'no it ain't'. He knows now that partner probably has the ♥'s sitting over the overcaller.
- (5) Whether East corrects into his 6-carder or passes really does not matter now.
- (6) And now South (me) gets in his penalty double but one level higher!

And what happened? $2 \checkmark$ doubled made 3 tricks and went for 1100. I note that at <u>every</u> other table South was declarer in 3NT making exactly and so scoring 600. Clearly it must have been South who bid NT every time as he was declarer. Is it only me who likes to double opponents at the one or two level with hands like this? I would not even dream of bidding NT.

The bottom lines: -

- With a holding like AQ10 xx sitting over overcaller, think penalty double (i.e. pass if playing negative doubles) especially if they are vulnerable.
- With a poor hand and no fit for partner, pass his overcall.
- If you play negative doubles and want to penalise RHO then you have to pass. Partner (at least any regular partner of mine) will normally re-open with a double that you can then pass for penalties.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Pass. The hand is not good enough for a take-out double. And, what's more, it is totally unsuitable for an unusual 2NT (weak, promising 5-5 in the minors). With virtually all of the points in the opponent's suits it's usually best to defend.
- Hand B: 1NT. 2. really is pointless it simply delays any decision and may make life difficult for partner. So grab the bull by the horns and make the decision now (1NT or 2NT). With this 4333 type shape and no intermediates I bid 1NT.
- Hand C: 2NT. With excellent ♥'s this is clear. Double would be a very poor bid with just two ♠'s and there really is little point in mentioning the ♣ suit when NT looks like the best spot. And when you know that partner cannot possibly have anything in ♥'s you have to bid NT yourself.
- Hand D: 1NT. It's average shape (so neither add on nor deduct) but the four tens are easily worth an extra point or more.
- Hand E: 3♥. You have a decent hand with excellent ♣ support. You want to be in 3NT if partner has a ♥ stop so ask him. 4♠ is not a good bid as partner will probably expect a 5+ card (and stronger) suit. 4♣ is not a good bid as it goes past a possible 3NT contract.
- Hand F: Pass. Awaiting partner's 'automatic' re-opening double when playing negative doubles. If you do not play negative doubles then double (penalties). Any sort of NT bid here is a poor choice go for the penalty.