

Mon	24 <sup>th</sup>	N-S	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jim(Sco)/Chuck	60%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bjarni/Ole	53%
		E-W	1 <sup>st</sup>	David/Kenneth	56%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan/Phil	53%
Wed	26 <sup>th</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	Dave/Hans	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chuck/Terry	58%
Fri	28 <sup>th</sup>	N-S	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob/Dave	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan/Tomas	59%
	21 <sup>st</sup>	E-W	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike&Angela	63%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bjorn/Ian	61%

**Bidding Quiz**

**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated**

Hand A	Hand B	What do you open with Hand A?
♠ AKJ7432	♠ AJ65	With Hand B partner opens 1♦ and RHO overcall a weak 2♠, what do you do?
♥ -	♥ J975	
♦ 8	♦ 82	
♣ AJ876	♣ Q97	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C RHO opens 1♠. (a) what do you do? (b) Suppose you pass and partner bids 2♦, what do you do?
♠ A64	♠ 94	With Hand D you open 1♦, LHO overcalls 2♠ and this is passed to you, what do you do?
♥ QJ107	♥ 106	
♦ AQ5	♦ AQ653	
♣ 1076	♣ AK106	
Hand E	Hand F	What do you open with Hand E?
♠ A8	♠ K2	With Hand F LHO opens 1♠ and this is passed to you. (a) What do you do? (b) Suppose you bid 2♦ and partner bids 2NT, what now?
♥ AJ	♥ 2	
♦ AQJ108753	♦ K108432	
♣ K	♣ AJ53	
Hand G	Hand H	An easy one. With Hand G RHO opens 3♣, you pass, LHO raises to 4♣ and partner doubles. What do you bid?
♠ K1043	♠ KJ9652	With Hand H you open 1♠ in 4 <sup>th</sup> seat. Partner responds 2NT (11-12), what do you bid?
♥ 87543	♥ A6	
♦ J65	♦ A6	
♣ 9	♣ K84	
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J LHO opens 1♦ and partner overcalls 1♥. What do you do?
♠ KQ4	♠ 98	With Hand K you open 1♦ and partner responds 1♥, what is your rebid?
♥ K943	♥ A8	
♦ J86	♦ AQJ32	
♣ KJ10	♣ Q1073	

Sequences L and M:

L: What does the 2♣ cuebid here mean?

M: What does the 3♠ jump here mean?

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	pass	2♣ ?
1♣	1♠	pass	3♠ ?

Yet another example of a hand ‘impossible’ to sensibly bid because of a system with only one strong bid. When will the Yanks come out of the middle-ages and play Benjamin?

Dealer: ♠ AKJ7432  
 West ♥ -  
 N-S vul ♦ 8  
 ♣ AJ876

Table A (Standard American)

West	North(A)	East	South
pass	4♠ (1)	all pass	

Table B (Standard American)

West	North(A)	East	South
pass	1♠ (1)	pass	2♦ (2)
pass	3♣ (3)	pass	3♥ (4)
pass	4♠ (5)	pass	5♣ (6)
all pass			

♠ Q1098	N	♠ 65
♥ KJ432	W E	♥ 876
♦ A2	S	♦ 97543
♣ 94		♣ 1032
♠ -		
♥ AQ1094		
♦ KQJ106		
♣ KQ5		

Table C (Standard American)

West	North(A)	East	South
pass	2♣ (1)	pass	2♥ (7)
pass	2♠ (8)	pass	3♦ (9)
pass	4♠ (9)	pass	4NT (10)
pass	5♥	pass	6♦ (11)
pass	6♠ (12)	all pass	

The ‘Benji’ Table

West	North(A)	East	South
2♣ (1)	pass	2♦ (13)	pass
2♠ (14)	pass	3♥ (14)	pass
3♣ (15)	pass	4♣ (16)	pass
4♠ (17)	pass	pass (18)	pass

Table A: (1) What did you open with this North hand A in this week’s quiz? This hand really is a bit too good for 4♠. A 4♠ opener is pre-emptive with (usually 8 ♠’s). And the other reason that I don’t like 4♠ is that there may be a ♣ slam.

I prefer table B’s bid but the best solution is Benjamin.

- Table B: (1) I too would open 1♠ if my partner was not enlightened enough to realise the benefits of playing Benjamin twos.  
 (2) I would bid 2♥ - bid 5 card suits from the top down  
 (3) Natural and game forcing  
 (4) Presumably meant as natural. The problems are that (a) it’s the 4<sup>th</sup> suit and (b) even if partner thought it was natural he would never take it for an excellent 5-card suit.  
 (5) A jump in a game forcing situation – so fast arrival, indicating that that’s where he wants to play.  
 (6) But South preferred ♣’s. Pass may be preferable, especially at pairs scoring.

- Table C: (1) Now the current trend in America seems to be to open 2♣ with a hand that is one trick short of game. This hand may be about 9 playing tricks but to open 2♣ with just 13 high card points is way too off-beat for me. We’ve met this problem before (news-sheet 152 - A 2♣ Opener? – part 1) when the very same player opened 2♣ with a strongish 2-suiter and again ended up in a hopeless slam when his partner had a monster with the other two suits. My personal opinion is that if 2♣ is your only strong bid then it needs to be at least 18-19 points. Of course the only real solution is to play Benjamin twos.  
 (7) A positive in basic Standard American.  
 (8) Natural and game forcing.  
 (9) 2<sup>nd</sup> suit  
 (10) Fast arrival. A jump to game in a game forcing situation indicates that that’s where you want to play.  
 (11) But obviously South is pushing on if North has anything remotely resembling a 2♣ opening. Luckily there was an ace missing or South would have bid a grand slam.

- ‘Benji’ (1) 8-9 playing tricks in this instance.  
 Table (13) Automatic relay  
 (14) Natural  
 (15) 2<sup>nd</sup> suit (a jump to 4♠ is also reasonable here, which would show a hand with playing strength in ♠’s but not much elsewhere)  
 (16) I prefer ♣’s to ♠’s  
 (17) But I have very good ♠’s and this is pairs scoring  
 (18) OK. As it’s a mis-fit and you did not open 2♦ I’ll settle for 4♠.

And what happened? 3 pairs bid 4♠, the other 3 did not. 6♠ went minus one; it would have made on a ♠ lead and gone 2 down on a ♦ lead.

The bottom lines (assuming you play Standard American with just 2♣ as your strong bid): -

- Don’t open 2♣ with two-suiters.
- You need to set some sort of minimum point count for 2♣, I would say about 19+.
- Opening 2♣ with about 9 playing tricks but few points may be standard practice in the States, but there are certainly better ways and it can easily get out of control if partner has a good hand (and a mis-fit)! I said virtually the same thing in news-sheet 152 when something similar happened.
- Play Benjamin twos! – Then a 2♣ opener shows a good hand but not a load of points and 2♦ shows a very strong hand with points.

### A real 2♣ opener?

- ♠ A8                    I have been going through the old news sheets as I put them up on the web  
 ♥ AJ                    and I found this Hand E from news-sheet 60/61. What did you open with  
 ♦ AQJ108753        Hand E in this week’s quiz? Way back in 2003 I opened it with 2♣ and  
 ♣ K                    received the usual criticism from Hans. Hans said that it was not good enough  
                               for 2♣ and that he would open it 1♦. What’s more, Chuck agreed with him!

To this day I don’t know if Chuck was serious or simply siding with Hans as a matter of course; but there is something wrong somewhere if one opens Hand A with 2♣ and not this one.

Agreed? Incidentally, there’s another entertaining article on 2♣ openings in news-sheet 61.

I really am finding some gems going through the old news sheets and putting them on the web – and I’m compiling an index while I’m doing it – it’ll take a week or two.

**There's no negative double over a 1NT overcall**

Board 9 from Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A654  
North ♥ 104  
E-W vul ♦ 75432  
♣ K8

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

♠ -	N	♠ KQ9872
♥ A9763	W E	♥ K52
♦ 98	S	♦ 10
♣ J109743		♣ A52
	♠ J103	
	♥ QJ8	
	♦ AKQJ6	
	♣ Q6	

- (1) 15-18 with a ♠ stop!?! I guess that J10x is close to a stop but 2♦ is a sound alternative.
- (2) Meant as negative (showing ♥'s). Unfortunately negative doubles do not apply when the overcall is 1NT. Double is penalties, about 9+ points. A suit bid here (2♣ or 2♥) is natural and non-forcing (with values West would double).
- (3) I would pass.

The bottom lines: -

- When partner opens and RHO overcalls 1NT (15-18) then double by you is penalties and any suit bid is weak – to play.

**Double is 'automatic'**

Board 22 from Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 72  
East ♥ A432  
E-W vul ♦ K94  
♣ J854

West(B) North East(D) South  
- - 1♦ 2♠ (1)  
pass (2) pass pass (3)

♠ AJ65 N ♠ 94  
♥ J975 W E ♥ 106  
♦ 82 S ♦ AQ653  
♣ Q97 ♣ AK106  
♠ KQ1083  
♥ KQ8  
♦ J107  
♣ 32

- (1) Exactly why South chose a 'weak' jump overcall rather than 1♠ will remain a mystery.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? Double would be negative (showing 4 ♥'s) and I too would pass and settle for the penalty after partner's 'automatic' double.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? I guess that I have not emphasised the 'automatic' re-opening double enough in the news sheets?

And what happened? 2♠ went minus two and the 100 to E-W was a near bottom for them. The 300 from 2♠ doubled would have been an outright top.

The bottom line: -

- Much the same as it has been nearly every week for the past 155 news-sheets, if you play negative doubles then re-open with a double if partner passes LHO's overcall.

**When not to re-open with a double (when playing negative doubles)**

As I have mentioned many times, the re-opening double is almost automatic but there are (very few) exceptions. Suppose you open 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♥, love all: -

Hand A	Hand P	Hand Q	With Hand A bid 4♣, strong. There may be slam and this hand has little defence to ♥'s.
♠ AKJ7432	♠ AJ7432	♠ AJ743	
♥ -	♥ 8	♥ KJ109	
♦ 8	♦ Q	♦ Q7	With Hand P bid 3♣ showing a shapely weak hand.
♣ AJ876	♣ KJ876	♣ J8	This is close and I would not argue with a double.

With hand Q, pass! It really is very unlikely for LHO to have a 2-level overcall and partner to have a penalty hand. Note that your trumps really do need to be about this good for this action – you'll be surprised at the rubbish that people overcall with these days!

**Don't leap off when it's game forcing anyway**

Board 15 from Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ A  
 South ♥ KQJ73  
 N-S vul ♦ K109  
 ♣ K942

♠ QJ104 N ♠ K76532  
 ♥ 1062 W E ♥ 954  
 ♦ 76 S ♦ 854  
 ♣ AJ85 ♣ 6

♠ 98  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ AQJ32  
 ♣ Q1073

Table A

West	North	East	South(K)
-	-	-	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1NT (1)
pass	3♣ (2)	pass	5♣ (3)
pass	6♣ (4)	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

Table B

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	2♣ (1)
pass	2♠ (5)	pass	3♦ (6)
	etc to 6♦ (7)		

- Table A: (1) What did you rebid with this South hand K in this week's quiz? 1NT is 12-14 but, especially with nothing in ♠'s, 2♣ is best – show your shape.  
 (2) Game forcing.  
 (3) And this is also bad. Partner's 3♣ is game forcing and there is all the room on the world to find the best contract. Of course it's tricky because of the unwise 1NT at (1) but 3♦, 3♥, 3♠(4<sup>th</sup> suit) or 4♣ are all reasonable – there's no need to jump.  
 (4) West knows that they have gone past 3NT and so punts the slam – that's also what I would have done at pairs scoring.

- Table B: (1) Life really is easier when you start off with the right bid.  
 (5) 4<sup>th</sup> suit, in this case just to set up a game force.  
 (6) No ♠ stop  
 (7) North knows that there's a double fit (4-4 in ♣'s and 5-3 in ♦'s) and when your slamming suit quality counts, so he correctly chose ♦'s. I guess ♥'s would score more but nobody bid to 6♥.

And what happened. One pair bid 6♦ making, 6♥ would make but nobody bid it, two pairs bid 6♣ which didn't make. Other scores were all over the place.

The bottom lines: -

- I'm always harping on about the 4-4 fit, and it's usually better than 5-3. But when you are in slam you need good trumps and these ♣'s are not slam quality (the ♥'s are and the ♦'s are).
- Use 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing to set up a game forcing situation. I like to play 4<sup>th</sup> suit as game forcing; it really does make life easy.
- Don't rebid 1NT to show your points if you have a more descriptive bid available.
- There's no need to leap off if you're in a game forcing auction, take it nice 'n easy.

## Bidding after partner balances

Board 23 from Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ J53  
South ♥ 98654  
Both vul ♦ 9  
♣ 9842

♠ A64	N	♠ K2
♥ QJ107	W E	♥ 2
♦ AQ5	S	♦ K108432
♣ 1076		♣ AJ53
	♠ Q10987	
	♥ AK3	
	♦ J76	
	♣ KQ	

### Table A

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

### 'Expert Table'

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

- Table A: (1) I hoped you passed with this West hand C(a) in this week's quiz? There's nothing you can say.
- (2) What did you do with this East hand F in this week's quiz? Two players passed, it looks like a fairly clear 2♦ bid to me. I would make the same bid in the balancing seat without the ♣A. Note that 3♦ would be a strong bid (there's no such thing as a weak jump overcall in the balancing seat).
- (3) What did you bid with this West hand C(b) in this week's quiz? Somebody asked me on Monday, 3NT is an overbid – you may be punishing partner who has balanced on 8-9 points. Remember, partner in the balancing seat is bidding 3 of your points. An invitational 2NT is correct.
- 'Expert' (3) An invitational 2NT is correct.
- Table (4) And East has easily enough to raise to 3NT. He knows that the ♠K is useful as partner has promised a stop.

And what happened? They scored a top at table A as nobody else bid 3NT! There was 1♠ passed out (twice), 2NT and 3♦ (twice).

The bottom lines: -

- You do not need 11+ points to overcall at the two level in the balancing seat.
- Be aware that partner has 'borrowed' a king from your hand when he makes a balancing bid and don't leap about with 13 points.

# KISS – Keep It Simple, Stupid

Board 7 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AJ85  
 South ♥ 62  
 Both vul ♦ Q1072  
 ♣ J54

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

♠ K1043	N	♠ Q96
♥ 87543	W E	♥ AKQ10
♦ J65	S	♦ AK8
♣ 9		♣ 1086
	♠ 72	
	♥ J9	↑
	♦ 943	DUMMY
	♣ AKQ732	

- (1) Now some people may not like this 3♣ opener but I have no problem with it. Give it a 7<sup>th</sup> ♣ and it would be too good for 3♣!
- (2) This North reads the news-sheets and raised the anti – excellent. Make it difficult for E-W.
- (3) A clear-cut double. You cannot promise both majors when you double a minor and with no ♣ stop 4NT (to play) is out.
- (4) Now this West also ‘reads’ the news-sheets. If the bidding was at the 3♣ level he would have bid 4♣ - asking partner to choose the major. But at the 4 level he had to decide. What did you bid with this West hand G in this week’s quiz? Obviously 4♥ I presume – but not this West! He knew that partner may well have only 3 ♥’s and so chose the ‘4-4’ ♠ fit. – he knew that 4-4 is better than 5-3 and maybe better than 5-4. He was a little bit too ‘clever’ to realise that he might end up in a 4-3 fit!

And what happened? Everybody else ended up in a ♥ part-score by E-W. And at this table?

South ♠ J  
 ♥ -  
 Both vul ♦ Q1072  
 ♣ J

♠ -	N	♠ -
♥ 875	W E	♥ A10
♦ J65	S	♦ AK8
♣ -		♣ 10
	♠ -	
	♥ -	↑
	♦ 943	DUMMY
	♣ A73	

North led a ♣ and West ruffed the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. He successfully finessed the ♠9 and led a trump to the ♠K and ♠A. North switched a ♥ which was won in dummy. Declarer led a trump to the ♠K in the vain hope that they split – they did not. North led another ♥ won in dummy and Declarer led the ♠Q leaving North with the last trump. The ♥’s were led from dummy in this position and for some reason North did not ruff till the last one, he had thrown his ♣J(!) and was now end-played and had to lead from his ♦Q. With a little help West made the atrocious contract for a clear (well-deserved??) top!

The bottom lines: -

- 5-4 plays better than 4-3! 4♥ is an easy make; KISS.
- A contract that requires a finesse of the ♠9, North to mis-defend and North to have the ♦Q is somewhat against the odds.
- North should have easily defeated the contract of course, but didn’t West do well?



## 'Dig Up' a Minor

Board 18 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ KJ9652  
East ♥ A6  
N-S vul ♦ A6  
♣ K84

♠ 108 N ♠ Q743  
♥ KQ95 W E ♥ J73  
♦ 10753 S ♦ QJ94  
♣ QJ3 ♣ 62

♠ A  
♥ 10842  
♦ K82  
♣ A10975

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

- (1) N-S play '2-way Reverse Drury' – no, I'm not joking – and so South could not bid 2♣ as both 2♣ and 2♦ are artificial here. Anyway, no problem as 2NT is 11-12.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand H in this week's quiz? The problem is that 3♠ is a weak bid and 4♠ may be a bit unilateral. I believe that 3♣ is the best bid here, I would play any bid other than 3♠ as forcing. Apparently North considered 3♣ but did not bid it because he was afraid of a 4♣ raise by South. Obviously he does not know his partner well enough, take it from me that South would never raise 3♣ to 4♣ if 3NT is a remotely viable alternative. Anyway, with this hand North could bid 4♠ over a possible 4♣ by South.
- (3) South is has described his hand and decided to trust partner who may well have a crappy 11 count with 6 ♠'s.

And what happened? 3♠ made +2. Game was bid at 3 tables; 4♠ twice and 3NT (+2) once.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't make a weak bid with game-going values.
- Very occasionally you may have to 'dig up' a minor suit – that is just another reason why I will very rarely go past 3NT into a minor in situations like this.

## 'A Limit Raise or Better'

Now most people know how to invite game when partner opens 1♥/♠; normally a raise to 3♥/♠ is invitational. But when partner overcalls 1♥/♠ things are different. To start with partner may have anything from 7-16 points and a jump to 3♥/♠ may well be too high. Also, jumps to the 3-level are normally played as pre-emptive. The solution? – After a 1♥/♠ overcall from partner a cue bid of the opened suit shows a 'limit raise or better' – i.e. a sound raise to at least the 3-level. We had three instances on Wednesday: -

### 'A Limit Raise or Better' – part 1 Board 21 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ AKJ		<u>Table A</u>
North	♥ K1084		West North East South
N-S vul	♦ 9865		- 1♦ 1♠ pass
	♣ Q3		4♠ (1) all pass
♠ Q8754	N	♠ 109632	<u>Table B</u>
♥ 63	W E	♥ AJ5	West North East South
♦ AK2	S	♦ Q73	- 1♦ 1♠ pass
♣ 1082		♣ AK	2♦ (1) pass 2NT(2) pass
	♠ -		4♠ (3) all pass
	♥ Q972		
	♦ 104		
	♣ J97652		

Table A: (1) With 10 combined trumps West is prepared to bid 4♠ (The Law) but I prefer the bidding at Table B.

- Table B: (1) A limit raise or better. This hand really is a bit too good for a direct 4♠.  
 (2) With a sound overcall East is going to game (2♠ would be weak) but with all of his points outside ♠'s he suggested 3NT as an alternative contract as partner has only promised 3 ♠'s.  
 (3) Obviously West bids game in the 5-5 fit.

And what happened? Every table but one bid 4♠ and all lost the obvious 4 tricks – very unlucky. One pair managed to stop in 2♠ and got a lucky top.

**'A Limit Raise or Better' – part 2** Board 16 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

And here we see how 'limit raise or better' allows you to stay low when overcaller has a lousy hand: -

Dealer:	♠ KQJ92				
West	♥ 984	West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ K105	1♥	1♠	pass	2♥ (1)
	♣ 93	pass	2♠ (2)	all pass	
♠ 1087	N	♠ A6			
♥ AJ1062	W E	♥ 5	(1) A limit raise (maybe a bit pushy)		
♦ AJ6	S	♦ 9874	(2) I have a minimal overcall		
♣ Q4		♣ KJ7652			
	♠ 543				
	♥ KQ73		And what happened? 2♠ made exactly and so a 3♠		
	♦ Q32		raise by South would have worked out very badly.		
	♣ A108				

**'A Limit Raise or Better' – part 3** Board 10 from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Here we see how the 'limit raise or better' treatment gets to a decent game contract which was missed at most tables: -

Dealer:	♠ KQ4						
East	♥ K943	<u>Table A</u>	West	North(J)	East	South	
Both vul	♦ J86		-	-	1♦	1♥	
	♣ KJ10		pass	2♥ (1)	all pass		
♠ 8752	N	♠ J1093	<u>Table B</u>	West	North(J)	East	South
♥ J8	W E	♥ Q10		-	-	1♦	1♥
♦ 74	S	♦ AKQ95		pass	2♦ (1)	pass	3♥ (2)
♣ Q9742		♣ 85		pass	4♥ (3)	all pass	
	♠ A6						
	♥ A7652						
	♦ 1032						
	♣ A63						

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand J in this week's quiz? It's best to play 3♥ and 4♥ as pre-emptive. Not knowing about the 'limit raise or better cue bid', North simply raised to 2♥ as South only promises 7 points for his overcall.

Table B: (1) A limit raise or better.  
 (2) A decent hand on the border. South invited North with 3♥, he could just bid 4♥.  
 (3) And North has easily enough to go to game.

And what happened? Only one pair bid 4♥; everybody made 10 tricks in ♥'s.

The bottom lines (for the last 3 deals): -

- When partner overcalls in a major suit, play the cue bid as 'limit raise or better', where by 'limit raise' I mean a sound raise to the 3 level.
- Thus a direct raise to 3 or 4 of partner's major is pre-emptive.
- And so note that in this situation the cue-bid is not asking for a stop although overcaller may wish to bid NT if he is accepting the game invitation with points outside trumps.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1♠ if playing Standard American or 2/1 with 2♣ as the only strong bid. I require much more in the way of high card strength for a 2♣ opening. Playing strong twos then open 2♠ and playing Benjamin open 2♣. I don't like 4♠ (or 4♦ playing Namyats) too much as it's a bit good, wrong shape, and you may miss a ♣ slam.
- Hand B: Pass. And pass partner's 'automatic' re-opening double when you play negative doubles. I think that this is the best chance for a good score; double (showing 4♥'s) is not a good bid as it's not strong enough for the 3-level. Settle for the money.
- Hand C: (a) Pass. It's too flat for double and there's no bid but pass.  
(b) 2NT. Partner's 2♦ is in the balancing seat and he may have as few as 8 points, so an invitational 2NT is quite sufficient. Partner will bid game with 10+.
- Hand D: Dbl. 'Automatic' playing negative doubles.
- Hand E: 2♣. (or 2♦ if you play Benjamin). Clearly worth your strongest bid.
- Hand F: (a) 2♦. Looks fairly clear but two players did pass on Monday. 1NT (10-13) is also possible I suppose. Note that 3♦ here would show a much stronger hand as it's the pass-out seat.  
(b) 3NT. Your initial 2♦ was in the pass-out (balancing seat) and could have been as few as 8 points and partner has around 13/14 – so accept.
- Hand G: 4♥, obviously.
- Hand H: 3♣ or 4♠. I would bid 3♣ (a partner who reads the news-sheets is unlikely to raise to 4♣ and go past a possible 3NT). I prefer 3♣ to 4♠ as 4♠ is a bit unilateral if partner has a small singleton ♠. 3♠ is a weak bid, I would take any bid other than 3♠ here as forcing.
- Hand J: 2♦. Showing a sound raise to 3♥ or better (limit raise or better). 2♥ is not enough and 3♥ and 4♥ are best played as pre-emptive.
- Hand K: 2♣. Show your shape rather than 1NT.
- Sequence L: A sound raise to 3♠ or better ('limit raise or better'). It is not asking for a stop when partner has overcalled in a major.
- Sequence M: Pre-emptive. With an invitational hand one would use the 'limit raise or better' cue bid.