

Mon 25 th	1 st N-S	Lars & Gunnar	60%	2 nd	Lars & Gunnar	55%
	1 st E-W	Albert & Dennis	66%	2 nd	Gun & Lennart	57%
Wed 27 th	1 st N-S	Dave & Eileen	56%	2 nd	Kennert & Per-Ake	54%
	1 st E-W	Gun & Lennart	57%	2 nd	Ivy & Paul	54%
Fri 29 th	1 st N-S	Lars & Gunnar	63%	2 nd	Dave & Per-Ake	59%
	1 st E-W	Gun & Lennart	63%	2 nd	Btt & Jufe	55%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A **Hand B** With Hand A RHO opens 1♠, what do you bid?

♠ K2 ♠ KQ108 (a) What do you open with Hand B?
♥ KJ ♥ A (b) Suppose you choose 2♣, the what do you bid over partner's
♦ A10843 ♦ AQ82 2♦ response?
♣ AK96 ♣ AK109

Hand C **Hand D** What do you open with Hand C?

♠ AJ1098543 ♠ A1095 (a) What do you open with Hand D?
♥ K3 ♥ AJ109 (b) Suppose you choose 1NT. Partner bids 2♣ Stayman and
♦ A ♦ J3 RHO doubles. What do you bid now?
♣ 73 ♣ AJ2

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

♠ J873 ♠ 9
♥ Q73 ♥ KJ72 With Hand F partner opens 2♣ and you respond 2♦. Partner then
♦ 8764 ♦ J1064 bids 3♣, what do you bid?
♣ 76 ♣ J432

We are moving!

The lazy/incompetent Mercure management/staff are incapable of coping with more than 9 tables. They have been cramming us into a small corner of the fly infested dining room when the rest of the room is always totally empty. And, to boot, they decided to charge us double the agreed rent while we are playing under these cramped conditions.

We have had to give in to their extortionate demands while we were looking for a new venue – we were given no notice of the unilateral 100% hike in the rent. Anyway, we have now found what appears to be a very suitable venue.

From Wednesday 3rd Jan onwards we will be playing at the Tropicana hotel. This is ideally situated between central road and the Dolphin roundabout, with access from either the beach road or the No 2 road.

We have negotiated a deal which includes free snacks and tea/coffee. Other refreshments such as soft drinks and beer will be sold at 10% off the usual price. The playing fee will be 150 bht for members and 200 bht for guests. Let's hope we have a happy new year there! If it does not work out we can move again, but anything is better than the current situation at the Mercure.

Club Membership

Membership fees for 2007 are now due. Membership is 1000 bht for a year or 150 bht for a month. Being a member entitles you to play on any day for 150 bht as opposed to the 200 bht paid by visitors.

The Bridge Club Championship Results

Here are the winners of the 2006 championships. We'll have a trophy presentation when we move to our new venue, I most certainly do not want to give the Mercure any free (favourable) publicity.

2006 Winners:	Gold Cup 1 st	Dave Cutler
	Gold Cup 2 nd	Bob Pelletier
	Gold Cup 3 rd	Bob Short
	Silver Plate	Lewis Berg
	Bronze Medal	Clive Bell

1	Dave Cutler	1867.9	Eight people qualified for contention (30 results above 53%) in the Gold Cup. The top 10 for the Silver Plate (best 10) and Bronze medal (best 5) are as below. The names in brackets indicate that the individual cannot win that competition as he has already won a higher ranking award.
2	Bob Pelletier	1797.2	
3	Bob Short	1784.3	
4	Phil Lovell	1779.2	
5	Michael Guin	1763.2	
6	Kenneth Johansson	1754.4	
7	Alan Purdy	1751.2	
8	Bill Noe	1747.5	

Silver Plate

-	(Dave Cutler)	663.4
1	Lewis Berg	644.5
-	(Bob Pelletier)	641.1
-	(Bob Short)	640.3
2	Clive Bell	637.8
3	Phil Lovell	633.8
4	Alan Purdy	628.6
5	Hans Bijvoet	624.2
6	Derek & Gerard	623.7
7	Jan v Koss	618.4

Bronze Medal

-	(Dave Cutler)	338.7
-	(Lewis Berg)	337.8
1	Clive Bell	334.3
-	(Bob Short)	330.5
-	(Bob Pelletier)	329.2
2	Phil Lovell	328.5
3	Ruth Ibler	327.2
4	Jim Wallington	327.1
5	Alan Purdy	325.8
6	Hans Bijvoet	325.1

It's rarely correct to raise partner's minor past 3NT

Board 11 from Christmas Day

Dealer: ♠ AJ6532
South ♥ 10964
Love all ♦ K53
♣ -

♠ KQ108 N ♠ 9
♥ A W E ♥ KJ72
♦ AQ82 S ♦ J1064
♣ AK109 ♣ J432
♠ 74
♥ Q853
♦ 97
♣ Q8765

<u>Table A</u>			
West(B)	North	East(F)	South
-	-	-	pass
2♣ (1)	pass	2♦	pass
3♣ (2)	pass	4♣ (3)	pass
5♣ (4)	all pass		

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

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this West hand B(a) in this week's quiz? This really is a very powerful hand and I agree with the 2♣ opening.
 (2) But what did you rebid with the West hand B(b)? 2♠ would be very poor with just a 4 card suit. I think that 3♣ or 2NT are both reasonable.
 (3) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? Raising partner's minor past the level of 3NT is a very poor bid. I would bid 3♦ as I want partner to be declarer in a possible 4♥ but I would not argue with 3♥. 3NT is then easily reached (3♠ from West and 3NT from East).

Table B: (1) This West chose to rebid 2NT and then 3NT was easily bid after Stayman failed to find a fit.

And what happened? 5♣ went one down for a poor score. 3NT +2 was the top and two pairs made 3NT exactly

The bottom lines: -

- Don't raise partner's 3♣/♦ to 4♣/♦ unless slam is a real possibility.
- It is acceptable to open 2NT (or 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT) with a singleton ace or king.
- 4441 type shape hands are notoriously difficult to bid in most bidding systems.

3NT or 4♥/♠ with a 5-3 fit? – part 1

Board 5 from Christmas Day

With 3 good trumps it's usually best to go for the 5-3 ♥/♠ fit.

Dealer: ♠ J982
North ♥ K4
N-S vul ♦ KQ102
♣ 962

♠ A73	N	♠ KQ54
♥ AQJ	W E	♥ 108762
♦ AJ985	S	♦ 64
♣ 73		♣ A8
	♠ 106	
	♥ 953	
	♦ 73	
	♣ KQJ1054	

Table A

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

'Expert' Table

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

- Table A: (1) It's up to your partnership agreement how you bid game going hands which are 5-4 in the majors opposite a 1NT opener. I always use Stayman but this East decided to transfer.
- (2) But this is a lazy bid as there may be a 4-4 ♠ fit.
- (3) Two players out of six elected to play in 3NT rather than 4♥. With a weak doubleton and good ♥'s it's virtually always better to play in the 5-3 ♥ fit.
- 'Expert' Table (1) Our experts use Stayman when 4-5 or 5-4 in the majors, reserving the transfer sequence 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ for hands that are 5-5 in the majors.
- (2) And it's again up to partnership understanding how you continue after a 2♦ response. Traditionally you bid 3 of the 5-card major – forcing. A supposed improvement on this is the Smolen convention whereby you bid 3 of the 4-card major so that opener is always declarer. But undoubtedly the best treatment is to play Quest transfers. 3♦ here shows 5♥'s, 4♣'s and invitational or better values. This East hand has game values and East would bid game next go if West attempted to sign off in 3♥.
- (3) With excellent ♥'s and the key ♠A West accepts the game invitation and cue bids the ♠A just in case East is looking for slam.
- (4) East has no slam ambitions and so re-transfers to get opener as declarer in 4♥.

And what happened? 3NT goes down on a ♣ lead but it actually made (exactly and +2) the two times it was bid. 4♥ should make but two players managed to go one down.

The bottom lines: -

- I prefer to use Stayman when 5-4 in the majors and to reserve the sequence 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ for all 5-5 major suited hands, invitational or game forcing.
- Quest transfers are a vast improvement on Smolen as they cater for invitational and game/slam hands and the bidding is lower if slam needs investigating.
- This is all covered in the No Trump bidding book. Borrow it if you wish, I always bring a copy along to the club.

3NT or 4♥/♠ with a 5-3 fit? – part 2

Board 14 from Christmas Day

Another deal where the 5-3 ♠ fit is preferable to 3NT.

Dealer:	♠ Q7643		<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ A85		West	North	East	South
Love all	♦ Q		-	-	pass	1NT (1)
	♣ KQ107		pass	2♥	pass	2♠
			pass	3♣ (2)	pass	3NT (3)
			all pass			
♠ 109	N	♠ J52	<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♥ J10976	W E	♥ Q4	West	North	East	South
♦ 1087	S	♦ A96542	-	-	pass	1♣ (1)
♣ 852		♣ A6	pass	1♠	pass	1NT (4)
	♠ AK8		pass	2♣ (5)	pass	3♠ (6)
	♥ K32		pass	4♠	all pass	
	♦ KJ3					
	♣ J943					

- Table A: (1) I would knock off a point for the totally flat shape and open 1♣.
(2) Showing a 2nd suit, game forcing.
(3) I don't like this at all. Partner has shown 9 or 10 cards in the black suits and with these great ♠'s 4♠ must be better than 3NT
- 'Expert' Table (1) Our experts knock off a point for the 4333 type shape of course.
(4) And so this rebid shows 12-14 which is what the hand is worth.
(5) Our experts play Checkback Stayman after a 1NT rebid. I believe that this is superior to the more common alternative of New Minor Forcing (NMF). 2♣ here shows invitational or better values and asks for clarification in the major suits.
(6) There are various schemes for the replies to Checkback Stayman. This simple variation shows 3 ♠'s and a maximum.

And what happened? 3NT at Table A made just 10 tricks whereas 11 tricks are easy with ♠'s as trumps.

The bottom lines: -

- With three good trumps it's usually best to go for the 5-3 major suit fit.
- After a 1NT rebid you can play Checkback Stayman (or NMF if you prefer) to establish a possible 5-3 major suit fit.

1NT with two Kx's?

Board 6 from Christmas Day

North got clobbered here when he made a two-level overcall with A10xxx.

Dealer:	♠ K2	West	North(A)	East	South
East	♥ KJ	1♠	2♦ (1)	dbl (2)	pass
E-W vul	♦ A10843	pass (3)	pass (4)		
	♣ AK96				

♠ Q6543	N	♠ A10
♥ A93	W E	♥ Q1052
♦ KQJ52	S	♦ 97
♣ -		♣ Q7542
	♠ J987	
	♥ 8764	
	♦ 6	
	♣ J1083	

- (1) What did you bid with this North hand A in in this week's quiz? It's 17 points so you have to say something. I much prefer 1NT - you have two Kx's which may need protecting and I would like a much better suit than A10xxx for a two-level overcall.
- (2) Negative.
- (3) Converting it to penalties.
- (4) North cannot sensibly do anything now.

And what happened? 2♦ doubled went minus two for a clear top to E-W. The bottom lines: -

- With 15-18, a stop, and a relatively balanced hand; a 1NT overcall is usually best.
- The 1NT overcall would have worked well here. It is unlikely to be doubled and I note that one North made 8 tricks. If 1NT were to be doubled then South may well rescue with 2♣ and that makes.

Too good for 4♣

Board 24 from Wednesday 27th

Three E-W pairs missed a comfortable slam on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ Q6	West(C)	North	East	South
West	♥ QJ1082	4♣ (1)	pass	pass (2)	pass
Love all	♦ J974				
	♣ 52				

♠ AJ1098543	N	♠ K7
♥ K3	W E	♥ A5
♦ A	S	♦ Q8532
♣ 73		♣ AQJ4
	♠ 2	
	♥ 9764	
	♦ K106	
	♣ K10986	

- (1) What did you open with this West hand C in in this week's quiz? With 8 cards in a major it's nice to open at the 4-level but this hand really is too strong for 4♣. It's not good enough for 2♣ and 1♠ may make it too easy for the opponents to compete. Playing strong twos (or Benjamin) then 2♠ (or 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠) is possible but whatever system is being played the best bid is undoubtedly 4♦ - Namyats.
- (2) This hand is not good enough to look for slam opposite a normal 4♣ opener.

And what happened? Four pairs bid the 6♠ slam. The bottom lines: -

- Play Namyats. A 4♦ opening here would show a good 4♣ opening (rather than a completely pre-emptive one). Playing Namyats, a 4♦ opening is about 8-8½ playing tricks and a direct 4♣ opening is simply pre-emptive.

When your Stayman 2♣ gets doubled

Board 7 from Christmas Day

A double of Stayman gave N-S an opportunity to find an excellent contract on this deal

Dealer: ♠ A1095
South ♥ AJ109
Both vul ♦ J3
♣ AJ2

♠ Q4 N ♠ K62
♥ K64 W E ♥ 852
♦ K109 S ♦ AQ52
♣ K10854 ♣ Q93

♠ J873
♥ Q73
♦ 8764
♣ 76

Table A

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

'Expert' Table

West	North(D)	East	South(E)
-	-	-	pass
pass	1NT (1)	pass	2♣ (2)
dbl (3)	pass (4)	pass	2♥ (5)
pass	2♠ (6)	all pass	

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this North hand D(a) in this week's quiz? I totally agree with this North's choice of 1NT – those 109 combinations in 4-card suits are easily worth a point.
- (2) What did you open with this South hand E in this week's quiz? This is a fairly standard Garbage Stayman situation – bid 2♣ and pass whatever partner responds.
- (3) A double of Stayman shows ♣'s and asks for a ♣ lead.
- (4) What did you bid with this North hand D(b) in this week's quiz? With no agreement here I guess that North has to bid 2♥?
- 'Expert' Table (4) But our experts do have an agreement of course, it is defined below and this pass shows equal length in the majors.
- (5) And our experts have another trick up their sleeve here - 2♥ is a transfer to get the 1NT opener as declarer.
- (6) North completes the transfer.

And what happened? As it happened 2♥ played fairly well (better than 1NT) and made +1 and +2 the two times it was bid. These were the only +ve scores for N-S (nobody found the superior 2♣) with three pairs going down in 1NT. The bottom lines: -

- When Stayman 2♣ is doubled that gives opener two extra bids (pass and redouble) and these really should be put to good use by experienced partnerships. One scheme is: -

pass = equal length in the majors – 3-3, 4-4 or possibly 2-2 without good ♣'s
rdbl = good ♣'s and denying a 4-card major, offering 2♣ redoubled as a final contract if responder has good clubs, and showing good ♣ stops in the more likely scenario that he does not.
2♦ = no 4-card major (and thus 2-3 or 3-2 in the majors without good ♣'s). So this bid actually implies length/strength in ♦'s.
2♥/♠ = a 4 (or 5 card suit) but not 4-4 in the majors.

After 1NT pass 2♣ dbl pass pass then responder knows that opener is equal length in the majors and he should bid 2♦/♥ to transfer into the best fit.

This is one treatment; another is to play pass as no 4-card major and 2♦ as 4-4 in the majors.

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 1NT. With a ♠ stopper I prefer this to 2♦ with such a poor ♦ suit.

Hand B: (a) 2♣. This hand really is too powerful for a 1♣ opening.

(b) Either 3♣ or 2NT, whichever you consider the best of the evils. 4441 type hands are always difficult in a natural system. If you bid 2♠ then you are very likely to find yourself in 4♣ with a 4-3 or 4-2 fit and needing to take a ♦ ruff in the 4 trump hand. 3♣ is probably the best bid if you know that partner will bid a 4 card suit and not support with 4♣.

Hand C: 4♦; Namyats, showing a good 4♠ (8-8½ playing tricks) opener. If you do not play Namyats then you have to find the least bad alternative. Playing strong twos it's 2♠; playing Benjamin it's 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ and playing none of these you have to open 1♠ as it's nowhere near good enough for a traditional strong 2♣.

Hand D: (a) 1NT. These two 10,9 combinations in 4-card suits easily make the hand worth a strong NoTrump.

(b) 2♥, I guess. But I have described a couple of schemes on the previous page where you can show equal length in the majors in this situation.

Hand E: 2♣, Garbage Stayman. On a good day you will find a 4-4 fit and even a 4-3 fit may play better than 1NT.

Hand F: 3♦ or 3♥. 4♣ is terrible as it goes past 3NT. 3NT would be poor as there may be a 4-4 ♥ fit. There is no need to rush about as the sequence is game forcing and either 3♦ or 3♥ now will find a possible 4-4 ♥ fit and enable you to play in 3NT if that is the best spot.