

Mon 5 th	1 st	Bill & Mike	63%	2 nd	Bob Short & Terry	59%
Wed 7 th	1 st	Bill & Mike	58%	2 nd	Dave & Kenneth	58%
Fri 9 th	1 st	Jan & Phil	65%	2 nd	Jean-Marc & Michael	57%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ 10965	♠ A6542	With Hand B you open 1♠ and partner responds 2♠, what do you bid?
♥ A106	♥ 32	
♦ J9	♦ A4	
♣ K1072	♣ AK73	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♥, what do you bid?
♠ Q98652	♠ KJ107	With Hand D partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♦: (a) How many ‘points’ is this hand worth? (b) What do you bid? (c) Suppose you choose 2♠ and partner bids 4♠, what now?
♥ -	♥ J109	
♦ 76	♦ 10952	
♣ K10754	♣ A8	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♥. What do you do?
♠ AQ95	♠ -	With hand F you open 1♥, LHO overcalls 1♠, partner bids 2♥, and RHO bids 2♠. What do you bid?
♥ J8	♥ AKJ106	
♦ 104	♦ 10965	
♣ QJ1075	♣ AJ72	

Editorial

Manners at our club. I have tried to stress that our club is a friendly club – **rudeness will not be tolerated**. I have recently warned two players and on Wednesday another player was apparently very rude to two ladies. I only heard about it on Friday and contacted the two ladies. Fortunately the ladies did not make a big deal of it (otherwise the culprit would most certainly have been banned) and said that he was just ‘grumpy’. Note that this was a different person from ‘Grumpy’ who I had previously had a word with regarding another incident.

Please bear in mind that there a large number of inexperienced players in the club and I have made a big effort in encouraging them. I expect other members to cope with them in a polite way. If you cannot be courteous and cannot adapt to less gifted players then that is no problem now – a club was recently set up expressly for rude people (Henrik, John Gavens, Alex etc...) who have been expelled from or are not welcome at the Pattaya bridge Club. I understand that they need a few more members anyway and I am certainly happy to swell their ranks by ejecting rude players from our club.

And please note the club rules on revokes. I expect any player at the table to ask any other if he suspects that they may have have revoked. Then the matter can be sorted our immediately with no penalty. To sit back and claim extra trick(s) at the end is considered to be unsportsmanlike behaviour at this club.

Never deny a 4 card major

Board 18 from Monday 5th

Same old chestnut, and this time the 4-4 fit was missing the AKQ but was still superior to NT: -

Dealer: ♠ J842
East ♥ 97
N-S vul ♦ AK2
♣ AQ53

♠ KQ3	N	♠ A7
♥ Q42	W E	♥ KJ853
♦ Q764	S	♦ 10853
♣ J94		♣ 86
	♠ 10965	
	♥ A106	
	♦ J9	
	♣ K1072	

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East	South(A)
-	-	pass	pass
pass	1♣	pass	1♠ (1)
pass	2♠	all pass	

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand A in this week's quiz? Never deny a 4 card major, especially with a weak doubleton.

Table B: (1) This South got it right.

And what happened? 1NT went down for a poor score. Two tables bid as table B and made or made +1.

The bottom lines: -

- Never deny a 4 card major
- It is incorrect to think that NT scores more at pairs, the 4-4 major suit fit virtually always makes one trick more.
- Suit quality is not important, just 4 cards. Here the 4-4 ♠ fit is missing the top 3 honours but is still a far superior strain to NT.

The Law (of total tricks) in action.

Board 3 from Monday 5th

You can sacrifice above 'The Law', especially at favourable vulnerability: -

Dealer:	♠ A104				
South	♥ 76	West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ K109543	-	-	-	1♣
	♣ 42	dbl (1)	1♦	1♠ (2)	2♦ (3)
		4♠ (4)	5♦	dbl	all pass
♠ KQJ32	N	♠ 9876			
♥ A10532	W E	♥ J98			
♦ -	S	♦ AQ82			
♣ A86		♣ 93			
	♠ 5				
	♥ KQ4				
	♦ J76				
	♣ KQJ1075				

- Table A:
- (1) This hand is good enough to double and then remove a ♦ bid from partner. 5-5 in the majors is a great shape.
 - (2) A free bid (East does not have to bid with a poor hand once North has bid. This should be about 6-9 points and 4 + ♠'s, so spot on.
 - (3) It is rarely correct to support partner's minor suit opening with just 3 cards, but after West's double South can be pretty sure that North has more than 4 ♦'s and the ♦J74 should be very useful with a ♠ singleton. The alternative of 2♣ is also very reasonable and what most would bid.
 - (4) Opposite a free bid this hand is now worth a shot at game.
 - (5) North was expecting 4 ♦'s opposite so the 5 level is one above the Law. But at favourable vulnerability it's fine to go even 3 down assuming that the opponents can make their vulnerable game.

And what happened? 5♦ went 3 down for 500 but E-W have an easy 620 in 4♥.

The bottom lines: -

- Notice the importance of good intermediates in your trump suit. Swap the ♦8 with the ♦9 and 5♦ would probably be 4 down for a bottom.
- 5-5 in the majors is great shape, especially with a void in opponent's suit.
- When your partner makes a take-out double, a non-jump shows about 0-8 points. But if the next player bids then you no longer need to and a non-jump is now about 6-9. This is called a free bid (i.e. you made the bid freely as you were not forced to bid).

Walsh always finds the 4-4 major fit

Board 17 from Wednesday 7th

What is 'Walsh'? It is a treatment whereby responder to a 1♣ opening will bid a 4 card major rather than a 4 or 5 card ♦ suit in response to partner's 1♣ opening when he has a weak hand. There are numerous reasons why Walsh is better than standard 'up-the-line' but they really are too complex to go into here. However, all 4 tables missed the 4-4 ♠ fit on this deal and it would have been trivial playing Walsh: -

Dealer:	♠ J985		<u>Table A</u>			
North	♥ J85		West	North	East	South
Love all	♦ J10762		-	pass	pass	1♣
	♣ 2		pass	1♦ (1)	pass	2NT (2)
			pass	pass (3)	pass	
♠ Q3	N	♠ K76				
♥ K63	W E	♥ Q94	<u>'Walsh' Table</u>			
♦ Q94	S	♦ K53	West	North	East	South
♣ J10843		♣ K765	-	pass	pass	1♣
	♠ A1042		pass	1♠ (1)	pass	4♠ (4)
	♥ A1072					
	♦ A9					
	♣ AQ8					

- Table A: (1) This is obviously what most players (those who do not play Walsh) would bid.
(2) And this is again standard – your 2NT rebid shows a balanced 18-19 and may well hide a 4 card major (or two!). This is not considered denying a 4-card major as partner rarely passes and then a 4-4 major suit fit comes to light.
(3) But unfortunately North is too weak to bid again on this occasion.
- 'Walsh' Table (1) But playing Walsh one ignores a 4 or 5 card ♦ suit when holding a very weak hand in order to ensure that a possible 4-4 major suit fit is located.
(4) And South clearly bids game in the known 4-4 fit.

And what happened? 2NT went one down and 3NT at another table went 5 down. Nobody found the 4-4 ♠ fit at any level, 4♠ is probably making.

The bottom lines: -

- Walsh is excellent, but few players apart from the experts seem to play it.

Applying the Law

Board 25 from Wednesday 7th

We all know by now about competing to the level of ‘the Law’. See how effective it was on this deal:” -

Dealer: ♠ AK1074
North ♥ K10
E-W vul ♦ 10842
 ♣ Q9

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

♠ J3	N	♠ -
♥ J8763	W E	♥ AQ9542
♦ KQ53	S	♦ AJ9
♣ A8		♣ J632
	♠ Q98652	
	♥ -	
	♦ 76	
	♣ K10754	

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand C in this week’s quiz? 4♠ is very clear – showing a weak hand with long ♠’s.
- (2) And West is in a fix. He has a known 5-5 ♥ fit but is 5♥ too high? After a bit of a huddle he decided to double as he has decent defensive cards.

And what happened? 4♠ doubled made exactly. 5♥ was bid and made at another table.

The bottom lines: -

- Raise partner pre-emptively to the 4 level with 5+ trumps.

Worth a jump invite?

Board 27 from Wednesday 7th

Many bridge players consider 12-14 as minimal, 15-17 as good and 18+ as very good. If they open say 1♠ and get a 2♠ response, they will usually invite with the 'good' hand. Is this wise with just 15? I believe that the above is more prevalent with Acol players, as the 2♠ response usually guarantees 4 card ♠ support. But playing 5 card majors partner's 2♠ response may be feeble, i.e. a hand that an Acol player would respond 1NT with: -

Dealer: ♠ A6542
South ♥ 32
Love all ♦ A4
♣ AK73

♠ J8	N	♠ KQ7
♥ Q106	W E	♥ AJ95
♦ Q1063	S	♦ J952
♣ J1082		♣ Q6
	♠ 1093	
	♥ K874	
	♦ K87	
	♣ 954	

Table A

West	North(B)	East	South
-	-	-	pass
pass	1♠	pass	2♠ (1)
pass	3♣ (2)	pass	3♠ (3)
all pass			

Table B

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

- Table A: (1) 2♠ here is correct playing 5-card majors, but an Acol player would respond 1NT. If you play 2/1 then a forcing 1NT followed by 2♠ is the way to show a poor raise. And note that playing the forcing NT has another advantage – if partner bids 2♥ then you can pass that and play in a superior 4-4 fit.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand B in this week's quiz? This actual 3♣ bid was a help-suit game try. The hand has nice shape and excellent top cards – but... look at the total lack of intermediates. This 'empty' hand is not worth an effort and table B got it right.
- (3) No ♣ help and minimum.

Table B: (2) This North correctly passed the 2♠ bid.

And what happened? 3♠ went one down. Every other table played in 2♠ making.

The bottom lines: -

- Intermediates count.
- You need a good hand to make an effort after 1♠ - 2♠. An empty 15 is not good enough.
- But if you play 2/1 it's different and many players play a direct 2♠ raise as constructive and go via the forcing NT with a poor raise like this one.

A dummy reversal

Board 3 from Friday 9th

Dealer:	♠ AQ1094	
South	♥ 943	
E-W vul	♦ K72	
	♣ 43	
♠ 642	N	♠ -
♥ Q75	W E	♥ AKJ106
♦ QJ8	S	♦ 10965
♣ K985		♣ AJ72
	♠ KJ873	
	♥ 82	
	♦ A43	
	♣ Q106	

Table A			
West	North	East(F)	South
pass	pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠ (1)	3♥ (2)	pass
pass	pass		

Table B			
West	North	East(F)	South
-	-	-	pass
pass	pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠ (1)	3♣ (2)	pass
4♣ (3)	pass	4♥	all pass

- Table A: (1) 3♠ or 4♠, depending upon your agreements here, are also reasonable bids.
 (2) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? East meant this as a try for game – unfortunately it is not, it is simply competitive. In fact, any bid other than 3♥ is a game try!
- Table B: (2) This South got it right, 3♣ is a help-suit-game try.
 (3) West is accepting of course, but it does no harm to show his ♣ support in case East is fishing for a slam.

And what happened? 4♥ should make, but everybody made just 9 tricks. I guess I'll have to make one of my irregular diversions into the play. Here is what typically happened; declarer ruffed the opening ♠ lead, drew trumps, took a losing ♣ finesse, ruffed the ♠ return with his last trump and then lost the ♦ AK and 3 ♠ tricks.

Is there a way to make the 4♥ contract? Even if the ♣Q was onside trippleton, thus giving you 4 ♣ tricks, you still only have 9 tricks and you again run out of trumps before you have time to set up a ♦ trick.

	♠ Q10	
	♥ 943	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 43	
♠	N	♠ -
♥ Q75	W E	♥ AK
♦ Q	S	♦ 109
♣ K985		♣ AJ72
	♠ KJ	
	♥ 82	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q106	

So what's the solution? As always, count your tricks. You do not have enough without setting up two ♦ tricks. You should attack ♦'s at trick two, and **not** pull trumps. The defence will presumably continue leading ♠'s but that is no problem. At trick 5 the defence lead a ♠ for the 3rd time and you ruffed with the ♥J. And now you are in this position. Having been able to take the force and set up your winners it is time to draw trumps. You already have 3 tricks (3 trumps) so now cash the ♥AK, cross to dummy with the ♣K and draw the last trump with the ♥Q. Note that declarer has no trump left – this is called a dummy reversal – getting ruffs in the long trump hand and then eventually drawing the last trump with the short

trump hand. So you now have 7 tricks (6 trumps and the ♣K) and need 3 more. Do not be greedy (take an unnecessary ♣ finesse) or you will go down. Cash the ♦Q, cross to the ♣A and cash the ♦10 for 10 tricks. You made 6(!) trumps, 2 ♦'s and just 2 ♣'s. Any play that tried to set up ♣ trick(s) was doomed.

The bottom lines: -

- Count you tricks.
- Do not adopt a line that may make 8-9 tricks if there is a good alternative for 10 tricks.
- Understand being forced.
- And understand the dummy reversal (often the answer to being forced).

- And in the bidding; in a competitive auction, bidding your suit at the 3 level is just competitive and not invitational. Use the HSGT to invite.
- Note that a high trump in dummy is essential for this dummy reversal.
- And note the power of intermediates, the $\spadesuit 10,9$ were real jewels.

The 4♥/♠ rebid is a big hand (18-19 pts)

Board 2 from Friday 9th

Dealer: $\spadesuit 5$
 East $\heartsuit 85$
 N-S vul $\diamondsuit KJ8743$
 $\clubsuit QJ92$

$\spadesuit AQ986$ N $\spadesuit KJ107$
 $\heartsuit AKQ6$ W E $\heartsuit J109$
 $\diamondsuit A$ S $\diamondsuit 10952$
 $\clubsuit 106$ $\clubsuit A8$

$\spadesuit 42$
 $\heartsuit 7432$
 $\diamondsuit Q6$
 $\clubsuit K7543$

Table A

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

Table B

West	North	East(D)	South
-	-	pass	pass
1♠	2♦	2♠ (1)	pass
4♠ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand D(b) in this week's quiz? This double was negative (promising 4+♥'s). A very strange bid but it is forcing!
 (2) Absolutely correct, showing about 18-19 points and 4 ♥'s. A 4♦ splinter is a poor bid with a singleton ace.
 (3) East simply corrected, but this hand is enormous once partner has shown 18+ points with ♠'s and ♥'s and East should look for slam. A 5♣ cue bid is probably best although Blackwood would also work and RKCB would show that partner has the ♥K and so make 6♠ a near certainty.
- Table B: (1) This East correctly chose to support ♠'s, and 2♠ is 6-10. However, this hand has greatly improved with partner opening ♠'s and RHO showing ♦ length and the hand is really worth 3♠ (assuming you play that as 11-12).
 (4) 18-19, spot on
 (5) What did you bid with this east hand D(c) in this week's quiz? East should look for slam and I would bid 5♣ showing the ♣A although Blackwood is a reasonable alternative if you are not happy with cuebidding.

And what happened? Just two out of 5 pairs bid 6♠, with 13 tricks off the top.

The bottom lines: -

- When opener jumps to 4 of a major, it shows 18+ points.

When your No Trump opening is interfered with

Board 7 from Friday 9th

If your partner opens 1NT and the next hand overcalls, say 2♠, then you have lost an awful lot of bidding space. There is not enough room to show all types of hand (weak, invitational and forcing) and bidding Stayman and/or showing/asking for stops in the overcalled suit is obviously very difficult:

Dealer:	♠ K843	<u>Table A</u>			
South	♥ AK10973	West	North	East(E)	South
Both vul	♦ 83	-	-	-	pass
	♣ 4	1NT	2♥	3♣ (1)	all pass

♠ J62	N	♠ AQ95				
♥ Q52	W E	♥ J8	<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♦ AKQ97	S	♦ 104	West	North	East(E)	South
♣ A3		♣ QJ1075	-	-	-	pass
	♠ 107		1NT	2♥	3♥ (1)	pass
	♥ 64		3NT (2)	all pass		
	♦ J652					
	♣ K9862					

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? This is clearly a problem. Is 3♣ forcing? What is the Stayman bid? Etc. See 'expert' table for the real solution. This East chose 3♣ which they had agreed is weak and to play. It's far too good for a weak bid of course.

'Expert' Table (1) Playing Lebensohl this bid is Stayman (so showing 4 ♠'s) and is also denying a ♥ stop. What a great convention!
(2) Partner has shown game values and Qxx should be a good enough stop.

And what happened? With the black kings well placed 3NT is a doddle.

The bottom lines: -

- Lebensohl is a really great convention that, for some reason, is not as popular as it should be.
- I have written up Lebensohl on the web and I also have a booklet by Mike Lawrence if anybody is interested.
- For those of you who do play Lebensohl, remember 'slow shows'. So:
1NT 2♠ 2NT p 3♣ p 3♥ is Stayman with a ♥ stop.

Slow arrival

Board 5 from Friday 9th

Dealer: ♠ K6
North ♥ KJ85
N-S vul ♦ 962
♣ Q964

♠ 108 N ♠ AQJ43
♥ 107642 W E ♥ A
♦ AQ74 S ♦ KJ108
♣ 72 ♣ AK5

♠ 9752
♥ Q93
♦ 53
♣ J1083

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

- (1) This is probably better than 3♥ with no honours in the ♥ suit, especially as 3♥ takes up so much space.
- (2) 2nd suit, the auction is game forcing.
- (3) Agreeing ♦'s, and showing slam interest. Note that 5♦ here would be weak (say a similar hand without the ♦A) and 4♦ here shows just this type of hand.
- (4) East should look for slam, Blackwood is the obvious bid but I would simply bid 6♦ as it should make regardless of whether partner has the ♦A or not.

And what happened? Only one pair bid slam, but 5♦+2 scored badly as it was beaten by the 3NT bidders.

The bottom lines: -

- When you go past 3NT in a minor suit and game forcing auction, then you are looking for slam.
- If your side has loads of points then it's usually bad to play in 5♣/♦. You will score badly against those in 3NT, so bid the minor suit slam!

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 1♠. Never deny a 4 card major, even ♠xxxx. Finding the 4-4 major suit fit is what bridge bidding is all about! 1NT ('to show your points') is a very poor bid.

Hand B: Pass. Not quite good enough for a game try in my opinion; close if you play Acol.

Hand C: 4♣. And be prepared to go to 5♠ if pushed – The Law.

Hand D: (a) 11-12. This hand is not 9 points. KJ10x in partner's major is excellent; 4 small cards in the opponent's suit is excellent (no wasted values and partner is likely to be short); the hand has good shape and great intermediates.

(b) 3♠, assuming that you play that as 11-12.

(c) 5♣, a cue bid showing the ♣A and looking for slam.

Hand E: 3♥. A cuebid of the opponent's suit is (game forcing) Stayman. If you play Lebensohl this also denies a ♥ stop.

Hand F: 3♣. A help-suit-game try. 3♥ is not inviting partner but is simply competing. I would not argue if you simply bid 4♥.