

Mon 22 nd	1 st N-S	Jean-Charles & Mike	65%	2 nd	Paul Save.. & Dave	56%
	1 st E-W	Gunnar & Lars Gus..	63%	2 nd	John & Kenneth	55%
Wed 24 th	1 st N-S	Lars F & Arne	61%	2 nd	Britta & Jarne	55%
	1 st E-W	Gunnar & Lars Gus..	63%	2 nd	Jo & Tomas	61%
Fri 26 th	1 st N-S	Britta & Jarne	61%	2 nd	Gastone & Jean-Charles	57%
	1 st E-W	Bengt M & Wolfgang	67%	2 nd	Derek & Gerard	65%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

Hand B

What do you open with hand A?

♠ AK10932 ♠ Q
♥ A4 ♥ K72
♦ - ♦ KQ982
♣ AKQ76 ♣ J1032

With Hand B partner opens 1♠ and RHO bids 2♥, what do you bid?

Hand C

Hand D

With Hand C partner opens 1NT and RHO bids 2♣ (Multi-Landy showing both majors). What do you bid?

♠ AJ653 ♠ K73
♥ 72 ♥ KQ987
♦ 43 ♦ -
♣ A873 ♣ AJ1093

With Hand D RHO opens 2♠, what do you bid?

Hand E

Hand F

With Hand E RHO opens 1♦, what do you bid?

♠ K542 ♠ AJ8
♥ AQ9543 ♥ 10764
♦ - ♦ A763
♣ Q96 ♣ A5

With Hand F RHO opens 1♥, what do you bid?

Hand G

Hand H

With Hand G RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?

♠ 108 ♠ A4
♥ A74 ♥ -
♦ K105 ♦ AK10964
♣ KQ653 ♣ KQ542

With Hand H LHO opens 2♠ which partner doubles. What do you bid?

Bidding Sequences Quiz

J 2♠ dbl

What is dbl?

K 2♠ 3♠

What is the 3♠ cuebid? Is it Michaels?

L 2♠ 4♣

What is 4♣?

M 1♥ dbl redbl

What is redbl?

N 1♠ 2♥ 3♦ pass
4♣

What is 4♣ and is it forcing?

Upstairs, downstairs – too hot, too cold ...

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**“Unrelenting criticism that makes your life a living hell...
are we talking about your mother or your spell checker?”**

I was inundated by complaints on Friday, I am wondering if it is all worthwhile!

Just a few of the complaints on Friday: - need to climb a set of stairs; the wash rooms are too far away; there needs to be a toilet upstairs; the aircon is not turned on early enough, the temperature is too hot, the temperature is too cold (YES!! I actually had both of these complaints within a time span of two minutes! - we had one lady with a coat and scarf while another was complaining about being overheated); the beer is too expensive; the room is claustrophobic (no windows); smoking is not allowed upstairs; we have two beginners who don't know what they are doing (this complaint was by a pair who are just about past the beginner's stage themselves!); the coffee jug was not refilled after 3.30 p.m. (same pair); the sandwiches are not of an acceptable standard - they should be with wholemeal bread (same pair); etc. etc.

...

That's just a few. Are there any volunteers to take over the bridge club? Can **YOU** do better instead of simply continually complaining???

Anyway, I am fully aware of all of the problems and will try to fix **some** of them, others cannot be remedied at this hotel. The only **really permanent** solution is to have a club-house. The Tropicana is a **stop-gap** solution while Dave and I work things out, so can I please ask everybody (politely) to simply **get off my back** for a couple of months; another temporary move is out of the question. We have found a **reasonable** venue which will do us for the **short term**. It is better than playing at the Mercure for the same price when they provided nothing - Dave and I subsided our last three weeks at the Mercure and 'worked' at a loss and if we stayed there it would have cost the same as the current Tropicana price without tea/coffee/sandwich.

I am fully aware of the needs of the club:- easily accessible in Pattaya (not Jomtien); near a baht-bus route; plenty of parking; decent snacks with a choice of bread etc.; reasonably priced drinks (beer/tea/coffee/soft drinks/water etc.); air-conditioning with an even temperature that is turned on at 12.30; sensible playing fee (100bht per person for members); square tables; no stairs; washroom nearby; smoking facilities nearby, etc.

My current plan is to build a club house close to the Dolphin roundabout in North Pattaya. There will be free transport from an easily accessible meeting point (Best supermarket - Dolphin Roundabout) for those who need transportation. This may or may not come to fruition but either way we will be moving to a more permanent location in 3 months or so. **So please cut me some slack.**

About beginners

I had a complaint about one of our beginners. Apparently a beginner did not understand their partner's Blackwood or Gerber or whatever bid and talked during the auction. I got a complaint from the opposition – I was absolutely amazed! If I am at the table and a player makes a bid that their beginner partner obviously does not understand then I simply ask the person who made to bid to explain what it means. This may be against the rules of bridge, but this is a friendly club where we encourage beginners and try to help them improve; that's right, isn't it?

People who are rude or complain to the director because they do not like beginners will have to find somewhere else to play. No names this week, but they will follow if attitudes do not change.

Defending against Multi-Landy

Board 10 from Monday 22nd

I wrote an article on this last week – unfortunately not in time for E-W here at table A!

Dealer:	♠ AJ653			<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ 72			West	North(C)	East	South
Both vul	♦ 43			-	-	pass	1NT
	♣ A873			2♣ (1)	2♠ (2)	3♥	3♠ (3)
				pass (4)	4♠	pass	pass
				dbl (5)	all pass		
♠ Q10982	N	♠ -					
♥ Q1084	W E	♥ K953		<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
♦ Q98	S	♦ J1075		West	North(C)	East	South
♣ 4		♣ KJ952		-	-	pass	1NT
	♠ K74			2♣ (1)	dbl (2)	2♥	dbl (6)
	♥ AJ6			all pass			
	♦ AK62						
	♣ Q106						

- Table A: (1) A rather light Multi-Landy – showing 9 cards in the majors
(2) What did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? I covered the defence to Multi-Landy last week, see 'Expert' Table. This North enquired about the meaning of 2♣ and then bid his ♠'s regardless.
(3) And South did not seem to care that West had shown a ♠ suit either.
(4) I like this auction. (5) I really like this auction.
- 'Expert' Table: (1) Our expert has read last week's news sheet and knows to double the Multi Landy 2♣ bid when holding a major suit.
(6) South could pass and leave it up to partner, but with decent ♥'s and top tricks he decided to take the money. North would remove the double with an unsuitable hand (severe ♥ shortage).

And what happened? 4♠ doubled went for 800 but the only plus score in the N-S column was when one South actually made 4♠ doubled. Every other N-S went down in various contracts.

The bottom lines:

- Have a look at the defence to Multi Landy (and Cappelletti).
- It's generally a bad idea to bid a suit in which you know RHO has four or five cards.

A “High Reverse” is game forcing

Board 17 from Monday 22nd

I was asked how to reach 7♣ on this deal. Our experts came up with an answer.

Dealer: ♠ AK10932
 North ♥ A4
 Love all ♦ -
 ♣ AKQ76

♠ 876	N	♠ J54
♥ 965	W E	♥ QJ1083
♦ J6543	S	♦ A107
♣ 85		♣ 94
	♠ Q	
	♥ K72	
	♦ KQ982	
	♣ J1032	

Table A

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

Table B

West	North(A)	East	South
-	2♣ (1)	pass	2♦ (6)
pass	2♠	pass	3♦ (7)
pass	4♣ (8)	pass	6♣ (9)
pass			

‘Expert’ Table

West	North(A)	East	South
-	1♠ (1)	pass (2)	2♦ (10)
pass	3♣ (11)	pass	4♣ (12)
pass	4♦ (13)	pass	4♥ (14)
pass	7♣	all pass	

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this North hand A in this week’s quiz? It is strong enough for 2♣ but I personally don’t like to open 2♣ with two-suiters (see Table B and compare it with the ‘expert’ table for a perfect example of why).
 (2) A somewhat light overcall at the two-level, and it should have helped N-S.
 (3) What did you bid with this South hand B in this week’s quiz? It does not really have the values for a three-level response. A negative double (showing both minors) would have worked wonders and 7♣ probably reached!
 (4) Natural and absolutely forcing.
 (5) But having already overbid South decided to pass!

- Table B: (1) This North chose 2♣. I personally don’t like this opening but I expect that it will get the majority vote.
 (6) Waiting I guess.
 (7) 3♦ now showing the ♦ suit.
 (8) Natural, 2nd suit.
 (9) And here we see the problem with opening 2♣ – ♣’s cannot be agreed below the level of game, so South simply bid the small slam.

- ‘Expert’ Table: (1) Our expert knows all about the problem involved with opening 2♣ with a two suited hand and so opened 1♠.
 (10) A ‘high reverse’ – natural and game forcing,
 (11) 2nd suit
 (12) And here we see the great advantage of the 1♠ opening - ♣’s are agreed in a forcing sequence below the game level.
 (13) Cue bid (1st round ♦ control).
 (14) Cue bid (2nd round ♥ control).
 (15) North now knows that South has the all-important ♥K and also that South does not have 3 ♠’s (no support) and so can confidently bid the grand.

And what happened? Results were all over the place. Nobody bid the great 7♣ but a couple of pairs found the good 6NT - which South could bid at (9) at Table B.

The bottom lines:

- I don't like to open 2♣ with two-suiters.
- Blackwood is pretty useless with a void, but cue bidding works wonders.
- If you have three aces and a void then you can use Blackwood just to find out about kings – it worked for one pair on this deal (they reached 6NT) but the problem is that if partner turns up with one king missing the you don't know if it's in your void suit or not.
- A high reverse (opener's rebid is at the three level) is game forcing, whether there has been intervention or not.
- When partner opens a major and RHO overcalls with the other major, then negative double if holding both minors.

At Table A the bidding could have gone: -

West	North	East	South	
-	1♠	2♥	dbl	(a)
pass	4♣ (b)	pass	4♦ (c)	(b) Natural (agreeing trumps) & slam seeking
pass	4♥ (d)	pass	4♠ (e)	(c) cue bid (2 nd round control)
pass	5♦ (f)	pass	5♥ (g)	(d) cue bid (1 st round control)
pass	7♣ (h)	all pass		(e) cue bid (2 nd round control)
				(f) cue bid (1 st round control)
				(g) cue bid (2 nd round control)

And at (h) our North has even more information than at our expert table and can confidently bid the slam knowing that partner has the ♥K and a singleton ♠.

Defence to weak twos – Leaping Michaels

Board 17 from Wednesday 24th

Everybody had trouble with these E-W cards, with just two tables reaching a sensible 6♣/NT. Nobody got near to the cold 7♣. I wrote up leaping Michaels a few month back, but it comes up so seldom that I guess everybody forgot it; it would have worked a treat here.

Dealer: ♠ QJ10982
North ♥ AJ10
Love all ♦ J85
♣ 7

♠ A4 N ♠ K73
♥ - W E ♥ KQ987
♦ AK10964 S ♦
♣ KQ542 ♣ AJ1093
♠ 65
♥ 65432
♦ Q732
♣ 86

Table A

West(H)	North	East(D)	South
-	2♠	dbl (1)	pass
3♦ (2)	pass	3♥ (3)	pass
5♣ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass

'Expert' Table

West	North	East(D)	South
-	2♠	4♣ (1)	pass
4♦ (6)	pass	5♦ (7)	pass
5♥ (8)	pass	5♠ (9)	pass
7♣ (10)	pass	all pass	

Table A: (1) What was your answer to this East hand D in this week's quiz? Double is reasonable but I prefer to show 5 ♥'s with 3♥ unless Leaping Michaels has been agreed. One pair tried a 'normal' Michaels 3♠ (♥'s + a minor) but this is not a recognised defence over a pre-empt and I certainly do not recommend it.

A cue bid of 3♠ should show a much stronger hand with generally exactly 4 ♥'s.

(2) What did you bid with this West hand H in this week's quiz? 3♦ is a weak bid and non-forcing. I would cue bid 3♠, implying both minors and a dislike of ♥'s.

(3) This now shows a strong hand as partner may be bust.

(4) West thought that this showed a strong hand; I disagree.

(5) East has now shown his hand fully.

'Expert' Table: (1) Our expert have read about Leaping Michaels on the web site. The jump to 4♣ here shows a strong hand with exactly 5 ♥'s and 5 or 6 ♣'s.

(6) A cue bid, presumably agreeing ♣'s and showing slam interest.

(7) A cue bid, denying first round control in either major.

(8) Cue bid, 1st round control.

(9) Cue bid, 2nd round control

(10) West knows that East would not bid leaping Michaels with just ♣Jxxxx(x) and so knows that partner has the ♣A along with the ♦ shortage and ♠K already shown.

And what happened? Nobody bid 7♣. The only two slam bidders were 6♣(+1), 6NT(=) and 6♦(-1). The bottom lines:

- The direct cue bid (sequence K) is not generally played as Michaels over a weak two opening; it is best played as a very strong hand and game forcing.
- Leaping Michaels is up on the web.

Terrible 'take-out' doubles – part 1

Board 4 from Friday 26th

I noticed no less than four appalling 'take-out' doubles on Friday. A take out double should be short in the suit opened and playable in the three unbid suits – unless very strong. Let's just look at the next four deals.

Dealer:	♠ K542	West	North(E)	East	South
West	♥ AQ9543	1♦ (1)	dbl (2)	redbl(3)	pass (4)
Both vul	♦ -	pass	pass (5)		
	♣ Q96				

♠ Q106	N	♠ AJ97
♥ 1086	W E	♥ K2
♦ AKQJ9	S	♦ 743
♣ AK		♣ 10832
	♠ 83	
	♥ J7	
	♦ 108652	
	♣ J754	

- (1) With two 10's and an excellent 5 card suit I would (did) open 2NT.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand E in this week's quiz? Expert opinion is generally divided when 4-5 in the majors but I go along with the majority who overcall the 5 carder rather than double. With a good 6 carder there is no contest and 1♥ is clear.
- (3) Generally 9+ points, often short in partner's suit. With this hand I would simply bid 1♠ but redouble worked out remarkably well!
- (4) Obviously North should now bid 1♥.

And what happened? 1♦ redoubled making 12 tricks is apparently 1140 and scores more than bidding the slam. Results were all over the place as usual but 3NT by West was a popular spot; making 9 tricks on a ♥ lead (unless West risks the ♠ finesse) and 12 tricks on any other lead.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is short in the suit bid and playable in the other three suits, but with a five card major it is usually best to overcall and certainly so with a six card major.

Terrible 'take-out' doubles – part 2

Board 21 from Friday 26th

Here we have another poor double followed by a redouble, but this time opener was a beginner and the overcalling side got away with some appalling bidding.

Dealer:	♠ Q74				
North	♥ 985	West	North	East	South(F)
N-S vul	♦ J9	-	pass	1♥	dbl (1)
	♣ QJ1063	redbl(2)	2♣	2♥ (3)	pass
		pass	2♠ (4)	3♥ (5)	all pass
♠ 6532	N	♠ K109			
♥ -	W E	♥ AKQJ32			
♦ KQ1052	S	♦ 84			
♣ K987		♣ 42			
	♠ AJ8				
	♥ 10764				
	♦ A763				
	♣ A5				

- (1) What did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? If you chose double then I suggest that you read up on take-out doubles. There are a few books in the library and an article in the beginner's bidding section. A double here with four cards in the suit opened and just three in the unbid major is a really terrible bid – pass is the only sensible option.
- (2) Generally 9+ points and often short in opener's suit. With this shape and especially at this vulnerability I agree with the bid (well I have to – I made it).
- (3) But unfortunately East was a beginner and did not understand that he should pass and wait and see if partner will double (he would have).
- (4) This is a terrible bid!! East has let N-S off the hook but North jumps straight back on at the two level with a combined 19 count in a 3-3 fit! West's redouble at (2) had declared the majority of the points and usually a desire to penalise N-S.
- (5) But sometimes there simply is no justice and our beginner did not realise what the green cards in the box were for (and double is a good alternative to pass).

And what happened? 3♥ went two down for a totally undeserved complete top to N-S. 2♠ doubled would have gone minus three for a total top to E-W. N-S cannot make anything more than 1♣.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is short in the suit bid and playable in the other three suits; AJx in the unbid major and Ax in an unbid suit does not qualify and 10xxx is not shortage.
- A redbl often implies shortage in opener's suit and a desire to defend a doubled contract.
- Don't bid again when partner has redoubled.
- Don't bid again and then bid again when partner has redoubled.
- If an opponent has redoubled, showing the balance of power and the desire to defend, do not bid freely without a very shapely hand – you will go for a number, especially if bidding a three card suit!!

Terrible 'take-out' doubles – part 3

Board 19 from Friday 26th

Here we have the same N-S pair in action with an even worse 'take-out' double.

Dealer:	♠ 108				
South	♥ A74	West	North(G)	East	South
E-W vul	♦ K105	-	-	-	pass
	♣ KQ653	1♣	dbl (1)	pass	2NT (2)
		all pass			
♠ QJ65	N	♠ K943			
♥ K82	W E	♥ J1095			
♦ AQ	S	♦ 9432			
♣ 10942		♣ 8			
	♠ A72				
	♥ Q63				
	♦ J876				
	♣ AJ7				

- (1) What did you bid with this North hand G in this week's quiz? If you chose double then I suggest that you read up on take-out doubles. There are a few books in the library and an article in the beginner's bidding section. A double here with five cards in the suit opened and just three and two cards in the unbid majors is a really terrible terrible bid – pass is the only sensible option.
- (2) Showing 11-12 points, no 4 card major and a ♣ stop; the correct bid.

And what happened? 2NT made +1 but scored a near bottom.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is short in the suit bid and playable in the other three suits; AJx in one unbid major and 10x in the other does not qualify and KQxxx is not shortage.
- North actually suggested after the hand that South could have passed the double. This is nonsense, if this partnership's agreement is to double on any old flat junk then North should have passed initially and then pass South's presumed double.

Terrible 'take-out' doubles – part 4

Board 20 from Friday 26th

And now we have a complete hat-trick of terrible doubles by the same N-S pair.

Dealer:	♠ 94				
South	♥ J9	West	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ KQ7	-	-	-	pass
	♣ AQ8732	1♣	dbl (1)	pass	2♠ (2)
		all pass			
♠ 10	N	♠ Q762			
♥ AKQ86	W E	♥ 10542			
♦ 10953	S	♦ AJ64			
♣ K104		♣ 6			
	♠ AKJ853				
	♥ 73				
	♦ 82				
	♣ J95				

- (1) What would you bid with this North hand? If you think that double is best then I suggest that you read up on take-out doubles. There are a few books in the library and an article in the beginner's bidding section. A double here with just 94 in the unbid major and a ♣ suit of ♣AQ8732 is a really terrible terrible terrible bid – 2♣ is so obvious that I was too embarrassed to put this one in the quiz.
- (2) Showing around 8-10 points; the correct bid.

And what happened? North lucked out this time when South turned up with a six card suit – it would not have been so lucky if South had just 4 ♠'s. 2♠ made exactly for just above average.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is short in the suit bid and playable in the other three suits; 9x in the unbid major does not qualify.
- With 12 points and ♣AQxxxx, do not double but overcall 2♣

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A:** 1♠. 2♣ is not 'wrong' but I don't like to open 2♣ with two-suiters – you often do not have room to show both of your suits and this deal is a perfect example of it going wrong after a 2♣ opening.
- Hand B:** Dbl. Negative and showing both minors. 2♦ is a poor bid as the hand does not have the values for a game forcing three-level response. 2NT, showing 11-12 points and a ♥ stop is a very reasonable, perhaps better, alternative.
- Hand C:** Dbl. Showing a hand with a good holding in at least one major.
- Hand D:** 3♥. I prefer this to double having nothing in ♦'s. Note that 3♠ here is not Michaels (unless you have specifically agreed this), Michaels cue bids are generally pre-emptive and do not apply over a pre-emptive opening. I would play a 3♠ cue bid here as a very strong hand with usually exactly 4 ♥'s. But actually the very best bid, which describes this hand in a nutshell, is 4♣ - Leaping Michaels. This shows a good hand with exactly 5 ♥'s and 5 or 6 ♣'s.
- Hand E:** 1♥. With a good 6 card suit this is far better than double.
- Hand F:** Pass. Double is terrible.
- Hand G:** Pass. Double is terrible.
- Hand H:** 3♠. This shows a good (game forcing) hand and implies no interest in ♥'s as trumps.

Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- J** 2♠ dbl Double is take-out, generally with four ♥'s.
- K** 2♠ 3♠ A similar but stronger (game forcing) hand than above.
- L** 2♠ 4♣ 4♣ is best played as Leaping Michaels – strong with 5 ♥'s and 5 or 6 ♣'s
- M** 1♥ dbl redbl Redouble is 9+ points, often a mis-fit looking to penalize the opponents. It most certainly does not promise ♥'s.
- N** 1♠ 2♥ 3♦ pass 4♣ is natural and absolutely forcing.
4♣