

**Club News Sheet – No. 113**

31/12/2004



Mon 27/12/04	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 st Alex/Jeff	61%	1 st Knut/Age	63%
	2 nd Clive/Ken	57%	2 nd Gisli/Niklas	61%
Wed 29/12/04	1 st Chuck/Louis	63%	2 nd Margit/Beryl	60%
Fri 31/12/04	N-S winners		E-W winners	
	1 st Paul-Eric/Terry	58%	1 st Gisli/Niklas	55%
	2 nd Clive/Ken	56%	2 nd Bjorn/Kenneth	54%

Bidding Quiz**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.**

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A you are playing Acol and partner opens a weak 1NT (12-14). What do you bid?
♠ AKQ5	♠ 7632	
♥ A	♥ J742	With Hand B you open 1♣ and partner bids 1♦
♦ KJ42	♦ A9	(a) what do you bid?
♣ Q1065	♣ AKJ	(b) suppose you bid 1♥ and partner bids 1♠, what do you do?
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C LHO passes as does partner. RHO opens 1♦ and you pass, LHO raises to 2♦ and partner doubles. What do you do?
♠ 1095	♠ A765	
♥ 97	♥ AQ3	
♦ KJ109	♦ Q53	With Hand D you elect to open 1♣ in 3 rd seat. Partner bids 1♥ and RHO overcalls 2♦, what do you do?
♣ 10542	♣ 963	
Hand E	Hand F	Both vulnerable; what, if anything, do you open with Hand E?
♠ QJ9	♠ 82	
♥ KJ7642	♥ 108	
♦ -	♦ K109876	Both vulnerable; what, if anything, do you open with Hand F?
♣ J874	♣ KQ10	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G RHO opens 1♦, what do you bid?
♠ K1043	♠ AKQ5	With Hand H partner opens 1♣.
♥ 95	♥ A	(a) What do you bid?
♦ AJ42	♦ KJ42	Suppose you choose 1♦, then
♣ A52	♣ Q1065	(b) What do you bid after partner rebids 1♥?

Look for the 4-4 fit.

Board 24 from Wednesday 29th

Dealer: ♠ 7632
West ♥ J742
Love all ♦ A9
♣ AKJ

♠ 1094	N	♠ J8
♥ 10863	W E	♥ KQ95
♦ Q73	S	♦ 10865
♣ 987		♣ 432
	♠ AKQ5	
	♥ A	
	♦ KJ42	
	♣ Q1065	

Table A

West	North(B)	East	South (H)
pass	1♣	pass	1♦ (1)
pass	1♥ (2)	pass	1♠ (3)
pass	2♠ (4)	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	dbl	5NT
pass	6♦	pass	7♠ (5)
all pass			

Table B

West	North(B)	East	South (A)
pass	1NT	pass	6NT (6)
all pass			

- Table A: (1) There's no need to leap about and 1♦ is the best bid, in search of a fit.
(2) What did you bid at (2) with this North hand B in this week's quiz? Of course you should not deny a 4 card major, even motley suits like this; 1NT would be a very poor bid here.
(3) Natural and forcing (this pair play a jump to 2♠ as 4th suit forcing in this sequence).
(4) And of course North would never deny 4 card support.
(5) There is a king missing, but because of East's double South was pretty sure that it was the 'useless' ♥K and so he bid the grand.

- Table B: (6) What did you respond to partner's weak 1NT opening with this South hand A in this week's quiz? You have 19 points opposite partner's balanced 12-14, that's 31-33 so not usually enough for a small slam unless there is a fit. Regardless of it being pairs scoring I don't like this bull in a china shop approach. I would bid 2♣ Stayman and if there is no ♠ fit then look for a minor suit fit for slam.

And what happened? 6NT needs the ♦ finesse and so went down. 6♠ was bid at most tables and easily makes – the power of the 4-4 fit, simply ruff the 3rd round of ♦'s instead of finessing. 7♠ luckily made when declarer ruffed the 3rd round of ♦'s and the ♦Q came down. 6NT or 7♠ are not the best contracts, 6♠ is.

The bottom lines: -

- Never deny a 4 card major.
- A 4-4 fit will usually provide an extra trick.
- If you want to know how to find a 4-4 minor suit fit after Stayman has failed to locate a fit, you can use SARS (shape Asking Relays after Stayman). It's described in my book on NT openings - ask me if you want to borrow it, but it's a bit advanced.

The Support Double

Board 20 from Friday 31st

Dealer: ♠ 82
West ♥ 108
Both vul ♦ K109876
♣ KQ10

♠ QJ9	N	♠ A765
♥ KJ7642	W E	♥ AQ3
♦ -	S	♦ Q53
♣ J874		♣ 963

♠ K1043
♥ 95
♦ AJ42
♣ A52

West (E)	North (F)	East (D)	South (G)
pass (1)	pass (2)	1♣ (3)	pass (4)
1♥	2♦ (5)	dbl (6)	pass (7)
3♥	pass	4♥ (8)	dbl (9)
all pass			

- (1) Did you open with hand E in this week's quiz? A nice hand but I would not open it. It's two shy of the rule of 20. Pass or a weak 2♥ are the two options, I would pass as it will play well in ♠'s if partner has that suit.
- (2) And did you open hand F? I would open a weak 2♦.
- (3) A poor opener, but it's 3rd seat so anything goes.
- (4) What did you do with this South hand G in this week's quiz? It's the best hand at the table, but there's nothing to say – you cannot double with just two poor ♥'s.
- (5) This hand is not good enough for a vulnerable two level overcall. A weak 3♦ jump is acceptable I suppose but it should have opened a weak 2♦.
- (6) So what did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? Normally one would simply support ♥'s with a 2♥ bid, but there is a convention that enables you to distinguish between four and three card support – The Support Double. So when playing this convention an immediate 2♥ raise promises 4 card support and a double is 3 card support.
- (7) Again, there's no rush for South to say anything – let's see what happens.
- (8) East has shown his hand exactly and with this absolute minimum he should pass. However, this was an unfamiliar partnership and I believe that East was not sure that West played Support Doubles and so supported here.
- (9) Partner has made a vulnerable two level overcall and so South assumed that E-W did not have the values for game.

And what happened? 4♥ doubled went one down for a top to N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- The support double is an excellent convention – but only use it if you know that partner plays it!
- If you don't play support doubles then the double is traditionally for penalties.
- A vulnerable two level overcall should be close to opening values.

It's still take-out by a passed hand

Board 22 from Friday 31st

Dealer:	♠ 1095	West	North(C)	East	South
East	♥ 97	-	-	pass	pass (1)
E-W vul	♦ KJ109	1♦	pass	2♦	dbl (2)
	♣ 10542	pass	pass (3)	pass	

♠ AK84	N	♠ 72
♥ A108	W E	♥ Q62
♦ A8653	S	♦ Q742
♣ K		♣ AJ73
	♠ QJ63	
	♥ KJ543	
	♦ -	
	♣ Q986	

Pretty much a disaster for N-S,
what went wrong?

- (1) The hand conforms with the rule of 20 but I prefer pass as it may be easier to describe the hand better at a later opportunity.
- (2) And didn't it turn out well! A perfect take-out double at this vulnerability.
- (3) Unfortunately North was confused by the fact that partner had initially passed. What did you bid with this North hand C in this week's quiz? 3♣ is theoretically correct and 2♠ is reasonable, but I prefer 2NT – it's a trifle light but safe as you know that partner will not leap about as he is a passed hand. Anyway, North cannot pass.

And what happened? 2♦ doubled made an overtrick for a near top to E-W. The bottom lines:

- If the opponents have bid and supported a suit, then a low-level double is for take-out.
- A passed hand can still double for take-out. It is rarely correct to pass partner's take-out double.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 2♣, Stayman. A combined 31-33 points is not usually enough for 6NT without a long suit, so look for a fit. If no ♠ fit materialises then you should then look for a minor suit fit, how you do that is up to you. If there is no fit at all then a quantitative 4NT will suffice.
- Hand B: (a) 1♥, never deny a 4 card major.
(b) 2♠, do not deny 4 card support.
- Hand C: Partner's double is for take-out. Nothing is attractive but there are three reasonable options; 2♠, 2NT or 3♣. The one thing that you cannot do is pass!
- Hand D: 2♥ or pass. It's an absolute minimum opener and you can show that by passing. But you do have decent ♥ support and so 2♥ is also sensible. But actually there is a better option; if you play Support Doubles then a double here shows 3 card ♥ support (a direct 2♥ would promise 4 ♥'s).
- Hand E: I prefer pass. 2♥ is acceptable but I don't like it as partner may have ♠'s and this would be very nice support.
- Hand F: 2♦.
- Hand G: Pass. Double would be acceptable over a 1♥ opening but not over 1♦.
- Hand H: (a) 1♦, look for the 4-4 fit.
(b) 1♠, look for the 4-4 fit. Some players play that 1♠ is either natural or 4th suit forcing. Others play that 1♠ is natural and a jump to 2♠ is the 4th suit.