



Monday 31/5/04

Friday 4/6/04

1<sup>st</sup> Richard (UK)/Terry 60%  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ian/Kees 59%

1<sup>st</sup> Kenneth/Alex 64%  
2<sup>nd</sup> = Richard(US)/Mike 58%  
2<sup>nd</sup> = Hans/Jan 58%

**Bidding Quiz**

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

Hand A Hand B What do you open with Hand A?

♠ 108 ♠ AK7  
♥ AKQ8632 ♥ KJ10962  
♦ - ♦ AK93  
♣ AJ95 ♣ -

What do you open with Hand B?

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

♠ 3 ♠ AK864  
♥ AKJ95 ♥ K7  
♦ AQJ432 ♦ Q4  
♣ J ♣ A974

With Hand D partner opens 1NT. You transfer and partner obediently bids 2♠. What do you bid now?

Hand E Hand F With Hand E LHO opens 1♥ and this is passed round to you. What do you do in 4<sup>th</sup> seat?

♠ Q1054 ♠ J6  
♥ Q73 ♥ Q  
♦ J72 ♦ 986  
♣ Q64 ♣ AQ109652

With Hand F LHO opens 1♥ and this is passed round to you. What do you do in 4<sup>th</sup> seat?

Hand G Hand H With Hand G you open 1♦ and partner responds 2♣. RHO then bids 2♠, what do you do?

♠ KQ103 ♠ QJ1095  
♥ KQ4 ♥ KQ32  
♦ AJ985 ♦ J5  
♣ 3 ♣ 94

With Hand H partner opens 1NT, (a) what do you bid. (b) suppose that you transfer with 2♥ and partner obediently bids 2♠, what now?

**Play Quiz**

Dealer: ♠ Q976  
South ♥ Q42  
N-S vul ♦ A9874  
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♦	pass	1NT	all pass

♠ K1083 N  
♥ AK8 W E  
♦ KJ10 S  
♣ 953

This is the hand that caused all the controversy (see next page). You are North and West is the dummy. Partner leads the ♣Q which declarer (East) wins with the ♣A. Declarer then leads the ♠J which you win with the ♠Q. What card do you return?

## Another One Bites the Dust.

There was a bit of a rumpus on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> when John Gavens was very rude towards his partner John Bourne, which resulted in John B walking out of the club. After the session I had a word with the other players who were at the table and it became obvious that John G had behaved very badly. Now this is not the first time that he has done this sort of thing and so, after studying the board in dispute, I wrote a personal warning (reproduced below) to John G and gave it to him on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. John read it and said that he did not accept it and he also walked out. Fine. Anyway, here's the note I wrote; it was not intended for public consumption, but since John G has left us I feel that people may wish to know why. Who knows, some may even suggest that I was heavy handed? :-

### Be Polite to Partner

Board 15 from Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ Q976				
South	♥ Q42	West	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ A9874	-	-	-	pass
	♣ 6	1♦	pass	1NT	all pass
♠ K1083	N	♠ J5	I'm not sure, but I assume that this was the		
♥ AK8	W E	♥ 965	bidding.		
♦ KJ10	S	♦ 653			
♣ 953		♣ AK874			
	♠ A42				
↑	♥ J1073				
dummy	♦ Q2				
	♣ QJ102				

This is, as I understand it, what happened: - South led the ♣Q which East won. The ♠J was then led and this was won by North's ♠Q.

♠ 976 North is now on lead with this holding, what should he lead? Obviously a ♠ looks very unattractive, so it's ♥ or a ♦. Which is the best bet?  
♥ Q42  
♦ A9874 If declarer has the ♥J then a ♥ lead gives away a trick. But if declarer has the ♣ - ♦Q then a ♦ lead costs nothing. And if partner has the ♦Q it still does not cost as declarer will finesse it anyway (the % play with KJ10 in dummy is to finesse the Q). So, I believe that North's decision to lead a ♦ is correct, but that really is not the issue. I believe that you made remarks about this lead that were *totally* out of order? And also against the rules. Now, as you know, you have been associated with this sort of behaviour before (Thorlief and Dave) but I will not accept any repeat. If you are rude to *anybody* in the club in future then you will be requested to leave.

Incidentally, do you agree with my analysis? Either way I believe that you owe John an apology.

So that is the note. John G disagreed with it and, just like with his partner's ♦ lead, he said 'I do not accept it'. Up to him. I believe that my reaction to John G's behaviour was the least I could do, agreed?

**A take out double?**Board 9 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 964  
 North ♥ K62  
 E-W vul ♦ 1052  
 ♣ AJ98

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

♠ A1085	N	♠ KJ32
♥ A1073	W E	♥ 84
♦ 976	S	♦ KJ8
♣ 32		♣ K765
	♠ Q7	
	♥ QJ95	
	♦ AQ43	
	♣ Q104	

(1) playing 4 card majors

This was not a success for E-W (it made), anything wrong? Yes. The double at (2) is a take-out double of ♥'s and is not penalties (it also cannot be penalties as East is a passed hand). With a 4 card ♠ suit, West should bid 2♠ at (3).

And what happened? 1NT doubled made exactly for a top. At another table E-W made 2♠ +1.

**A 4 level pre-empt?**Board 3 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AKQ762  
 South ♥ 107  
 E-W vul ♦ Q1075  
 ♣ 2

West (A)	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass
4♥ (1)	4♠	pass	pass
pass			

♠ 108	N	♠ 5
♥ AKQ8632	W E	♥ 94
♦ -	S	♦ KJ842
♣ AJ95		♣ KQ743
	♠ J943	
	♥ J5	
	♦ A963	
	♣ 1086	

4♠ went one down but was a clear top as E-W have 12 tricks in ♣'s or ♥'s. So what went wrong? This West hand has about 8½ - 9 tricks and if you believe the people (Hans) who say that this hand is what you need for a pre-empt when vulnerable then please continue to do so, especially if you are playing against me. This West hand is far too good for any kind of pre-empt, including 4♥. It's a strong two if you play them, otherwise either 1♥ or 2♣.

And what happened? Nobody bid the ♥ slam; one was in 4♥ and two in 5♥. But one of these got an easy top when North doubled 5♥! Did he really expect to make 2 or 3 ♠ tricks against 5♥?? I'd be happy to make just one.

**5-4 (or 4-5) in the Majors opposite 1NT**Board 3 from Fri 4<sup>th</sup>, E-W vul.

Partner opens 1NT and you have 5 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s (or 4 ♠'s and 5 ♥'s) with game going values. How do you bid it? Stayman or transfer?

Yes, I know, this is copied from last week's news-sheet, when I said that either option is playable (as long as that's the option that you agree). But what do you do with just invitational values? I did not explain that and unfortunately one player found a completely unsound 3<sup>rd</sup> option at Table A on Friday.

West	East (H)	<u>Table A</u>		<u>Table B</u>	
♠ K43	♠ QJ1095	West	East	West	East
♥ A9875	♥ KQ32	1NT	2♥	1NT	2♣
♦ A102	♦ J5	2♠	3♠ (1)	2♥	3♥ (2)
♣ A8	♣ 94	4♠	pass	pass (3)	

Now last week I explained about bidding 5-4's in the majors when holding a game forcing hand opposite partner's opening 1NT. The first thing to consider is, is this East hand worth a game force? It's close, but with two excellent majors I would consider it a game forcing hand. My preferred method is to bid Stayman and then raise a 2♥ or 2♠ response to game and jump to 3♠ (forcing, showing 5 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s) over a 2♦ response.

Fine, but both of these East's presumably considered the hand as only invitational. How does one bid invitational 5-4's? That is not so easy!

Table A: At Table A East chose to transfer but I don't know what he meant by his 3♠ bid? 3♠ at (1) shows a 6 card suit and is invitational. If you consider the East hand to be worth game, then bid 3♥, game forcing. If you consider it only worth an invitation then you have no choice but to bid 2NT now; the ♥ suit is then lost, that's why it's best to bid Stayman.

Table B: They got off to the best start here. East bid correctly if he considers his hand as invitational. West has a minimum point count but with 3 aces, a 10, excellent ♥ intermediates and 5 card ♥ support, I would accept the game invitation at (3).

And what happened? ♥ contracts scored 11 tricks and 4♠ scored 10 tricks.

The bottom lines.

- Even with the use of transfers and Stayman there are not quite enough sequences to simply show every responding major two-suiter hand type (5-5, 5-4 and 4-5) when weak, invitational and strong.
- Some players incorporate the jumps to 3♥ and 3♠ but the best scheme is described in the NT bidding book

**Balance in 4<sup>th</sup> seat? – part 1**Board 18 from Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 983  
 East ♥ 85  
 N-S vul ♦ Q104  
 ♣ AK972

♠ AK7 N ♠ J62  
 ♥ KJ10962 W E ♥ A4  
 ♦ AK93 S ♦ 865  
 ♣ - ♣ J10853  
 ♠ Q1054  
 ♥ Q73  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ Q64

Table A

West (B)	North	East	South (E)
-	-	pass	pass
1♥ (1)	pass	pass (2)	dbl (3)
2♥ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass

Table B

West (B)	North	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2♥	pass	3♣	pass
3♦	pass	3NT (6)	pass
4♥	pass	pass	pass

4♥ is a comfortable contract (it should make +1), what happened at Table A?

Table A: What did you open with hand B in this week's quiz? The hand has about 9 playing tricks and is worth a 2♣ opener. Anyway, this West elected to open 1♥. Should East say something? 6 points and the ace of partner's suit is surely worth a bid, I would bid 1NT. Anyway, the 1♥ bid was passed round to South, do you make a noise? 7 points is enough to balance and a 4 card ♠ suit makes it attractive. I guess that double is acceptable but, with nothing but quacks, so is pass.

Anyway, this gave West another shot and I would be tempted to bid 4♥ at (4) (teach 'em a lesson), but then I would have opened 2♣. Anyway, West bid just 2♥, so should East say anything this time? I would, South does not have much (he is a passed hand) and partner's 2♥ shows a non-minimum. North does not have much (he has passed twice). Where is all the power? Somebody at the table is being very conservative and it can only be West.

Table B: They got this right, although I would prefer 4♥ at (6) with 66% of my points in partner's 1<sup>st</sup> suit (the other suits are far too weak to suggest NT).

The bottom lines. With 9 playing tricks, open a strong bid. If partner has opened and you have passed (showing less than 6 points) then you are free to bid if you get a second chance (you have already shown a poor hand).

**Acol Bidding Quiz**

What would you open with these hands if playing Acol?

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4	Hand 5	Hand 6
♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ QJ95	♠ QJ95
♥ QJ95	♥ QJ95	♥ QJ95	♥ AQJ9	♥ AJ95	♥ AJ95
♦ AQ43	♦ AQ43	♦ AQ1043	♦ AQ1043	♦ 6	♦ Q6
♣ Q104	♣ KQ10	♣ Q4	♣ Q4	♣ AQJ4	♣ AJ4

Answers at the end of this news-sheet.

**Balance in 4<sup>th</sup> seat? – part 2**Board 16 from Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

Dealer:	♠ AQ42	
West	♥ 10732	
E-W vul	♦ K75	
	♣ K4	
♠ 3	N	♠ K109875
♥ AKJ95	W E	♥ 864
♦ AQJ432	S	♦ 10
♣ J		♣ 873
	♠ J6	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 986	
	♣ AQ109652	

<u>Table A</u>			
West (C)	North	East	South (F)
1♥	pass	pass	3♣
3♦	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	pass	pass	pass

<u>Table B</u>			
West (C)	North	East	South
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2♥ (1)	pass	2♠	pass
3♦	pass	4♥	pass
pass	pass		

The Table A pairs were the same as in part 1, and it's rock-crusher opener coupled with a dubious bid in 4<sup>th</sup> seat yet again.

Table A: What did you open with hand C in this week's quiz? The hand has about 9 playing tricks and is worth a 2♣ opener. Anyway, this West again elected to open 1♥. This was again passed round to South, do you make a noise? A better hand than last time but the ♥Q is probably useless. Pass is a real alternative (it perhaps depends upon the styles of partner and the E-W players) but 2♣ is OK I guess. But one bid that is not fine is a 'weak' 3♣. There is no such thing as a weak jump overcall in 4<sup>th</sup> seat. 3♣ here is strong, showing a much better hand (see news-sheet 81 for an example). Anyway, West got another chance and the easy game was reached.

Table B: This was very sensible bidding. It's normally best to bid a 6 card suit before a 5 carder, but the bidding would get uncomfortably high here.

The bottom lines.

*There is no such thing as a weak bid in the pass-out seat.* – News-sheet 81. Be wary of balancing in 4<sup>th</sup> seat with weak ♠'s.

If you have a hand that is so good that you would feel sick if an opening one level bid was passed out – then don't open with a one level bid!

## A Non-NT rebid promises 5 of the 1<sup>st</sup> suit

Board 19 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>, N-S vul

West	East	West	North	East	South
♠ 863	♠ QJ953	-	-	-	pass
♥ A965	♥ K8	pass	pass	1♠ (1)	pass
♦ J3	♦ AK764	1NT (2)	pass	2♦ (3)	pass
♣ J975	♣ K	2♥ (4)	pass	pass	pass

Obviously a silly contract, where did the wheels come off? The pair were playing Acol and the first two bids are obvious whatever system you play. 1NT is correct at (2) as it does not have enough for a two level bid. Now 1♠ at (1) could have been a 4 card suit, but once the rebid at (3) is another suit then this guarantees that the first bid suit was a five carder when playing Acol. And what should 2♥ at (4) show? In any system it shows a weak hand with 6+ ♥'s. With a weak hand and less ♥'s West should either pass or put opener back into his 5 card ♠ suit. Obviously 2♠ is correct here. And what happened? 2♥ made scoring 110 but every other E-W pair were in ♠'s scoring 140.

## Open a 4 card major when playing Acol?

As there are a number of Acol players in the club just now so I'll just summarize when you open 4 card majors. You only open a 4 card major if your rebid is NT, thus when the hand has 15 or more points. And, as I said above, if you rebid in a suit then that guarantees that the 1<sup>st</sup> bid suit was a 5 carder.

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4	Hand 5	Hand 6
♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ Q7	♠ QJ95	♠ QJ95
♥ QJ95	♥ QJ95	♥ QJ95	♥ AQJ9	♥ AJ95	♥ AJ95
♦ AQ43	♦ AQ43	♦ AQ1043	♦ AQ1043	♦ 6	♦ Q6
♣ Q104	♣ KQ10	♣ Q4	♣ Q4	♣ AQJ4	♣ AJ4

- Hand 1: We met this hand earlier, an Acol player incorrectly opened 1♥. This is wrong because you then have no rebid over, say, 1♠. 1NT would show 15-16 points and 2♣ or 2♦ would promise 5 ♥'s. The correct opening is 1NT.
- Hand 2: Slightly stronger now. This time the correct opening playing Acol is 1♥ as your rebid is 1NT over 1♠ and 2NT over 2♣/♦.
- Hand 3: You may choose to open this 1NT. If you choose 1♦ then you cannot rebid 1NT over 1♠ (that shows 15-16 points in Acol) and so you have to rebid the ♦'s.
- Hand 4: This time you have enough points to open the 4 card major (you can jump rebid in NT) but with this shape it's best to reverse (16+ points). So open 1♦ and rebid 2♥ over 1♠/1NT/2♣.
- Hand 5: This one is tricky (4441 type hand are tricky in most systems). You have the values for a 4 card major opening but not the shape for a NT rebid. With this one I would open 1♣ playing Acol. If you open 1♥ and partner responds 1NT you cannot then bid 2♣ or 2♠ as that would promise 5 ♥'s; and if you open 1♠ and rebid 2♣ or 2♥ then that promises 5 ♠'s.
- Hand 6: This time you can open a 4 card major as you have a NT rebid. Open 1♥ and rebid 2NT over 2♣/♦. Note that you should not open 1♠ as then a ♥ fit may be lost (a 2♥ rebid would promise 5 ♠'s).

## No Jacks

Board 16 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup>, E-W vul

North	South (D)	West	North	East	South
♠ 953	♠ AK864	pass	1NT (1)	pass	2♥
♥ AQ4	♥ K7	pass	2♠	pass	4♠ (2)
♦ AK1093	♦ Q4	all pass			
♣ K8	♣ A974				

A comfortable 6♠ slam was missed, just unlucky or was anyone to blame?

Now this one is tricky as there is no blatantly obvious culprit. The 1NT opening at (1)? It's 16 points but worth much more. A 5 card suit headed by the AK is an excellent +, as are the 10,9 in the suit. Two aces and no jacks are a definite + also. Whether that all adds up to too strong for a 1NT opening is debatable. So let's say it absolutely top of the range but acceptable.

Then what about South's 4♠ at (2)? 16 points, but again very good ones. A 5 card suit headed by the AK is a good +, and an outside 4-carder headed by the ace is another +. Two aces and no jacks are a definite + also. This hand is worth 17+.

So it's 17 + 15-17. 32 is usually only good enough for slam if there is a fit but South did not know that North had 3 ♠'s. Could he have done anything else?

Yes! The correct bid at (2) is 3♣. A 2<sup>nd</sup> suit and game forcing. North then has a few options but if he simply bid 3♠ that would show 3 card support and slam interest (slow arrival). That's all South needs and the slam is then easy.

And what happened? Two pairs did bid the slam. Well done chaps.

The bottom lines.

- Jacks are the most over-rated cards in the deck. Add on a good + for a jackless hand. Note that the addition of 3 jacks (♣, ♦ & ♥) to these hands would not affect the outcome! Aces and kings are equally under-rated. Add on a + for two aces. Add on a big big + for 5 card suits headed by the AK.
- If partner opens 1NT and you have a game forcing two suiter with a 5 card major, transfer and then bid the other suit.
- If you have opened 1NT and partner transfers and bids another suit (so game forcing), 3 of the major is encouraging; 3NT denies 3 card support for the major (and shows good guards in the two unbid suits) and 4 of the major usually shows 3 card support but is discouraging.
- A jump to game in a game forcing situation is fast arrival and is weaker than the slow approach.

## Nobody bids game!

Board 17 from Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ KQ103  
North ♥ KQ4  
Love all ♦ AJ985  
♣ 3

### Table A

West	North (G)	East	South
-	1♦	pass	2♣
2♠	pass (1)	pass	pass (2)

♠ J97654      N      ♠ -  
♥ J7      W E      ♥ A9832  
♦ KQ6      S      ♦ 107  
♣ QJ      ♣ 986542  
♠ A82  
♥ 1065  
♦ 432  
♣ AK107

### Table B

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

### Table C

-	1♦	pass	2♣
pass	2♦ (3)	pass	pass (5)
pass			

3NT is a very reasonable contract for N-S yet all three tables played in part-scores on Friday. Let's have a look: -

- Table A: What did you do with hand G at (1) in this week's quiz? Unless you have agreed to the contrary, double is most definitely penalties here. I have gone all through this in past news-sheets (17 & 44); partner has shown values (11+) and you are sitting over the overcaller, ergo penalties. It will be a glorious massacre, you really should be able to teach people a lesson when they overcall at the two level with suits like this when you have shown the power. If you play Support Doubles (as far as I know nobody but Chuck does) then you have to pass at (1) and South should re-open with a double at (2).
- Table B: Now then, what do you rebid at (3) when there is no intervention? 2♠ is a reverse and is *game forcing*, South cannot pass at (4).
- Table C: This depends upon your partnership style. 2♦ is reasonable if you need more for a reverse and I would expect partner to make another bid at (5) having responded at the two level.

What happened? 2♠ by North made +1. 2♠ by West (undoubled!) went minus three. 2♦ by North made +2. Nobody bid 3NT, in fact nobody even bid NT or any sort of game.

The bottom lines.

- A reverse is forcing. A reverse after a two level response is forcing to game.
- The modern style in Standard American is that if you respond at the two level then you promise another bid.
- Check up on penalty doubles. In this situation a double at (1) is penalties unless you have specifically agreed otherwise (and if you do agree otherwise, then partner must re-open with a double at (2)).

## **Bidding Quiz Answers**

- Hand A: 2♣ or 1♥. It's probably good enough for a game forcing 2♣, but 1♥ (followed by a game forcing 3♣) is also perfectly reasonable. What is not reasonable is any sort of pre-empt including 4♥, this hand is way too strong.
- Hand B: 2♣. This hand is too strong for 1♥.
- Hand C: 2♣. Again, too strong for 1♦ or 1♥.
- Hand D: 3♣. Game forcing.
- Hand E: I would pass.
- Hand F: Either 2♣ or pass. 3♣ is not an option, it shows a strong hand – there is no such animal as a pre-empt in the pass-out seat.
- Hand G: Double. 'Standard' is to play this as penalties – you are sitting over the bidder.
- Hand H: (a) I would consider this hand game forcing. My preferred method with 4-5 or 5-4 in the majors is to bid Stayman and then jump to 3 of the long major if partner responds 2♦. If you consider the hand only invitational, then also bid Stayman; raise 2♥/♠ to 3♥/♠ and bid 2NT over a 2♦ response.
- (b) But transferring works equally well if you consider it game forcing. If you transfer then your 2<sup>nd</sup> bid must be 3♥. This shows 5 ♠'s & 4♥'s and is game forcing unless you have a specific agreement to the contrary. If you consider the hand only invitational then transferring does not work as you then cannot show the ♥ suit without forcing to game.

## **Play Quiz Answer**

A low ♦. A ♠ is unattractive. A ♥ will work if partner has the ♥J but will give away a trick unnecessarily if declarer has the ♥J. A low ♦, however, cannot cost. If declarer has the ♦Q it costs nothing and if partner has that card then declarer will obviously finesse it later.

## **Acol Bidding Quiz Answers**

- Hand 1: 1NT
- Hand 2: 1♥
- Hand 3: 1♦ (or 1NT if that's your style).
- Hand 4: 1♦
- Hand 5: 1♣
- Hand 6: 1♥