



Monday 26/7/04

Friday 30/7/2004

1st = Jan/Jon 56%
 1st = Kenneth/David 56%

1st Chuck/Terry 66%
 2nd Dave/Bob 59%

We have something new this week, ‘The Devil’s Advocate’ – another point of view. This is a contribution from another member. I guess that everybody is getting tired of the same old things every week in the news-sheet? Anyway, this member has commented that I concentrate on the negative - so this week I will favour hands that were well bid, sorry that the sheet is so short.

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

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♠, what do you respond?
♠ 94	♠ AJ9	With Hand B partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♦.
♥ Q873	♥ J432	3♦ by you now is the Stayman bid and that’s what you do.
♦ Q3	♦ 5	Partner responds 3♠, what do you do?
♣ AKJ73	♣ K10872	
Hand C	Hand D	(a) What do you open with Hand C?
♠ KQ875	♠ K10842	(b) Suppose that you open 1♠ and partner bids 3NT (13-15, two ♠’s, balanced); what now?
♥ A9	♥ A6	
♦ AKJ	♦ Q8	(a) What do you open with Hand D?
♣ Q85	♣ AQ54	(b) Suppose that you open 1♠ and partner bids 2♦/♥; what now?

4NT quantitativeBoard 11 from Friday 30th, love all

North (A)	South (C)	West	North	East	South .
♠ 94	♠ KQ875	-	-	-	1♠
♥ Q873	♥ A9	pass	3NT (1)	pass	4NT (2)
♦ Q3	♦ AKJ	pass	pass (3)	pass	
♣ AKJ73	♣ Q85				

1♠ is the obvious opening with this South hand – it is too good for 1NT. But what did you bid with Hand A at (1) in this week’s quiz? 2♣? That would be my choice also as I would be afraid of missing a ♥ fit or possibly a ♣ slam. Anyway, this 3NT at (1) promised 13-15 points, balanced, with a doubleton ♠ and is an acceptable alternative I suppose.

And what did you bid with Hand C at (2)? There are just two alternatives – pass or a quantitative 4NT. North has a great ♣ suit but is minimum for his 3NT bid and so passed.

And what happened? The ♠A was onside and so 12 tricks were there. 3NT made just +1 at the other table. The bottom lines: -

- The jump to 3NT take up a lot of bidding space, make sure that it has a *precise* meaning in your partnership.
- 4NT after partner’s 3NT is always quantitative (slam invitational and passable).

As promised, an article from a member (Chuck). Now I am the editor of this new-sheet and have been accused in the past of always having the last word. So I'll just say a couple of things and leave it up to you.

I don't understand point 4 about switching aces. Isn't it even worse for E-W if North has the \spadesuit A and South a black ace? Anyway, suffice it to say that I believe that my comments last week are 100% correct and I totally disagree with *everything* below.

As for point 2, preaching. At equal vulnerability the rule of 3 applies (see Appendix A in the 2003 yearbook). The *guideline* is that the hand should be 6 playing tricks and so this $3\clubsuit$ bid is $1\frac{1}{2}$ shy. But the over-riding factors are the quality of the suit and defensive potential. Simply re-read what Marty Bergen said.

As for point 6, Marty Bergen is an acknowledged expert and ten times USA national champion, I guess that he must have found a decent partner somewhere?

So let's have the last word from the Devil, I understand that the furnaces are kept going by burning Marty Bergen books: -

The Devil's Advocate – Another point of view by Chuck.

The weekly bulletin is usually full of negative comments. On occasion I (Chuck) will give you other points of view that are often neglected. Take this deal from news-sheet 90.

Dealer:	\spadesuit AJ6	West	North	East	South
West	\heartsuit AQ65	$3\clubsuit$	3NT	$4\clubsuit$	pass
Love all	\diamondsuit QJ54	pass	dbl	all pass	
	\clubsuit AK				

\spadesuit 97	N	\spadesuit KQ32
\heartsuit J	W E	\heartsuit K98432
\diamondsuit K962	S	\diamondsuit 10
\clubsuit QJ10987		\clubsuit 54

\spadesuit 10865
 \heartsuit 107
 \diamondsuit A873
 \clubsuit 632

Other top players and I agree that Terry's comments are negative and not correct and that the $4\clubsuit$ bid is correct because: -

- 1- East has every reason to believe that opponents can make 3NT. – They can't because all cards are off.
- 2- West doesn't practice what he preaches. He has often, very often, said that the pre-empter should not be off more than 3 tricks non-vul and two tricks vul. He has a $4\frac{1}{2}$ trick hand. That is $4\frac{1}{2}$ tricks short of the nine that he bid.
- 3- He held six \clubsuit 's, not seven as he promised for a three level pre-empt.
- 4- Switch the aces in opponent's hands and the contract is down no more than two. Oh, if only he had a seventh club also.
- 5- I suggest that the CLUB SHEET take a more positive view and try not to highlight bidding errors of players but give positive comments on good play and good defence.
- 6- As far as Marty Bergen is concerned, I don't care what he has to say, EVER. He is known among top American and International players to be a radical bidder and cannot partner a top player.

Back to normal - this is me, Terry, again. So there you have it. It really should be a debate between Chuck and Marty Bergen, I just simply bid *exactly* as Marty sez with a hand ½ a trick stronger than Marty's. How am I to know that a 10 times national champion and author of *numerous best selling* bidding books has no idea what he is talking about, 'EVER'?

Let's leave it there.

A reasonable slam

Board 15 from Friday 23rd, N-S vul.

OK, so I'll try by best to find some good bidding. How about this slam from Monday?

West	East	West	North	East	South
♠ Q7	♠ AK86	-	-	-	pass
♥ QJ53	♥ 2	1NT	pass	2NT (1)	pass
♦ A97	♦ KQ10864	3♣ (2)	pass	4♣ (3)	pass
♣ AQ94	♣ 32	4♠ (4)	pass	6♦ (5)	all pass

Now this is reasonable bidding to a reasonable contract, but I'm not convinced that it is perfect bidding. Let's have a look: -

- (1) This pair play 4-way transfers, so 2NT is a transfer specifically to ♦'s.
- (2) This is a super-accept, promising 3♦'s to an honour (A,K or Q).
- (3) And that was as far as the partnership had discussed. What should a 2nd suit here show? My preferred method is that a 2nd suit after a transfer (so 3♥, 3♠ or 4♣) here is natural and game forcing, I would have bid 3♠ just in case there is a 4-4 (or 5-4) ♠ fit. It is usually considered as bad practice to bid Blackwood with a weak doubleton.
- (4) Anyway, this had not been discussed and so West took the bid as ace (keycard) asking.
- (5) So East obviously wants to be in 6♦ but I have a problem with this last bid. There is an ace missing and partner may have a tenace holding in ♣'s or ♥'s. West should be declarer. The best bid at (5) is 6♣, a re-transfer. But I guess that it takes a regular partnership and years of practice to iron out these niggling little details?

And what happened? 6♦ made. 3NT was bid and made an overtrick twice and the last table played in 5♦ for the wooden spoon.

The bottom lines: -

- Don't play in 5♦ if 3NT is a sensible option.
- If you're playing in ♦'s, then bid slam!
- 4-way transfers really work.
- A transfer (to any suit) followed by a new suit is best played as natural and game forcing.
- Unlike transfers to a major, a super-accept of a minor suit transfer only promises 3 card support and there may be a better fit elsewhere.
- It is usually better for the 1NT opener to be declarer.
- Understand re-transfers.

A Moysian Fit?

Board 24 from Friday 30th, love all

North (B)	South (D)	West	North	East	South .
♠ AJ9	♠ K10842	pass	pass	pass	1NT (1)
♥ J432	♥ A6	2♦	3♦ (2)	pass	3♠
♦ 5	♦ Q8	pass	pass (3)	pass	
♣ K10872	♣ AQ54				

(1) So what do you think of this 1NT opening with Hand D? It is 15 points, and in my opinion a good 15 points (the doubleton queen is a –ve factor but the 5 card suit with a 10, another decent 4-carder and two aces more than compensate; the hand is close to 16 points).

(2) Stayman.

(3) If South had bid 3♥ in response to Stayman then North would undoubtedly have raised to 4♥. But should he raise 3♠ to 4♠? With 9 working points and a singleton in the opponent's suit, I think that he should. The Moysian fit will play nicely with the short hand ruffing ♦'s and you never know, maybe partner has 5 ♠'s!

And what happened? 3♠ made +3, but to no avail as they bid 4♠ (making +1) at the other table.

The bottom lines –

- Know your Stayman etc after intervention.
- 9 points opposite a 1NT opener usually invites. If the opponents interfere so that there is no longer an invitational bid then you have to take the decision – so bid game with a good 9 count.
- Moysian fits play well when it is the short hand that gets the ruffs.

Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: Most people (me included) would bid 2♣. I guess that 3NT is not unreasonable at pairs where you hope it scores more than a possible 4-4 ♥ fit. But it's not my cup of tea.

Hand B: 4♠. RHO's overcall has taken away your invitational options, so do you bid game (4♠) or not? I would.

Hand C: (a) 1♠. It's too strong for 1NT.

(b) 4NT, quantitative. 3NT is reasonable but a bit too wet for me.

Hand D: (a) 1♠ or 1NT? It depends upon your style. This hand is a good 15 points and I prefer 1NT. North said that he preferred 1♠ as no response will embarrass you. I beg to differ....

(b) ...If you open 1♠ then you have no decent rebid over partner's natural 2♦ (or 2♥).

2♠ is acceptable but is usually a 6 card suit. 2NT is 12-14 and this hand

Hand E is much too good. 3♣ is game forcing and this hand is not good enough.

♠ A6 That is why most experts agree that you should open 1NT with a (semi)

♥ K10842 balanced hand within your 1NT range unless you have a good rebid.

♦ AQ54 Swap the suits around to get Hand E then 1♥ is fine as you always have a

♣ Q8 comfortable ♦ rebid.