



# Club News Sheet – No. 120

18/2/2005



|             | <u>N-S winners</u>                  |      | <u>E-W winners</u>                   |      |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Mon 14/2/05 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Alex/Thorlief       | 65 % | 1 <sup>st</sup> Joe/Marten           | 59 % |
|             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bob/Dave            | 63 % | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ken/Clive            | 58 % |
| Wed 16/2/05 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs Chauveau   | 66 % | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tom Grovshien/Jan    | 60 % |
|             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bob/Austin          | 55 % | 2 <sup>nd</sup> = Joe/Marten         | 53 % |
|             |                                     |      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> = Richard (USA)/Kees | 53 % |
| Fri 18/2/05 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Michael/Jeff        | 62 % | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bob/Dave             | 67 % |
|             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Austin/Jean Charles | 61 % | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ken/Clive            | 62 % |

## Bidding Quiz

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

|          |            |  |
|----------|------------|--|
| Hand A   | Hand B     | With both sides vulnerable, what do you open in 2 <sup>nd</sup> seat with Hand A?            |
| ♠ J53    | ♠ 8        |  |
| ♥ KQJ842 | ♥ KQJ864   | With Hand B you open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠, what is your rebid?                         |
| ♦ Q742   | ♦ AQ109    |  |
| ♣ -      | ♣ 96       |  |
| Hand C   | Hand D     | With Hand C partner opens 2♥, what do you do?  |
| ♠ A982   | ♠ K42      |  |
| ♥ A963   | ♥ QJ84     | With Hand D you open 1♣ and LHO overcalls 1NT (15-18). Partner doubles this, what do you do? |
| ♦ J      | ♦ K10      |  |
| ♣ AKJ6   | ♣ KJ93     |  |
| Hand E   | Hand F     | With Hand E the opponents bid and support ♠'s and bid strongly to 6♠, what do you do?        |
| ♠ QJ102  | ♠ KJ42     |  |
| ♥ J6     | ♥ K        | With Hand F partner opens 1♦ and you respond 1♠. Partner then bids 2♦, what do you do?       |
| ♦ J83    | ♦ J954     |  |
| ♣ 10832  | ♣ J653     |  |
| Hand G   | Hand H     | With Hand G partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1NT, what do you do?                          |
| ♠ Q107   | ♠ -        |  |
| ♥ K72    | ♥ A965     | With Hand H you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♠, what do you rebid?                              |
| ♦ AJ32   | ♦ A1087632 |  |
| ♣ 1087   | ♣ KQ       |  |
| Hand J   | Hand K     | With Hand J LHO opens 1♣ and RHO responds 1♥, what do you do?                                |
| ♠ A965   | ♠ A72      |  |
| ♥ K642   | ♥ K643     | With Hand K partner opens 1NT, what do you do?   |
| ♦ J974   | ♦ 742      |  |
| ♣ 5      | ♣ J105     |  |

## What went wrong?

Board 4 from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

6♥ is a pretty easy contract with these N-S cards, so what went wrong?

|          |          |          |          |      |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|----------|
| Dealer:  | ♠ J53    |          |          |      |          |
| West     | ♥ KQJ842 | West     | North(A) | East | South(C) |
| both vul | ♦ Q742   | pass     | 2♥ (1)   | pass | 4♥ (2)   |
|          | ♣ -      | all pass |          |      |          |

|         |        |         |
|---------|--------|---------|
| ♠ Q64   | N      | ♠ K107  |
| ♥ 75    | W E    | ♥ 10    |
| ♦ K1065 | S      | ♦ A983  |
| ♣ 10952 |        | ♣ Q8743 |
|         | ♠ A982 |         |
|         | ♥ A963 |         |
|         | ♦ J    |         |
|         | ♣ AKJ6 |         |

- (1) Now especially when vulnerable, a pre-empt should be a decent hand with points in the long suit. So what did you open with this North hand A in this week's quiz? 2♥?
- (2) A nice hand, with 4 card trump support, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round controls in every suit, and a singleton; so is 4♥ enough? What did you bid with this South hand C in this week's quiz?

Interesting. Now this was the bidding by one of our top pairs, and so who am I to comment? But I will anyway. Let's start with the 2♥ opener. It's 9 points – but what a nine! KQJxxx is worth far more than 6 points; the hand has enormous playing strength, solid trumps, three cards in the other major and a void, it's too good for 2♥ in my opinion. I would open 1♥, with 3♥ as a reasonable alternative.

But we all know what this North player thinks of 3 level pre-empt with a 6 card suit! – he even wrote a couple of pages criticising such a 3♣ bid (by me) and an ex world-champion subsequently agreed with me that it was all nonsense and that a *good* 6 card suit is often opened at the three level these days. Anyway, this hand is worth 1♥, especially in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat when pre-empting is not too attractive, so let's bid 1♥ then.

Now what about South's 4♥? I think it's reasonable. You could ask for aces but that really does not help. You could try a 2NT enquiry, but what you really want to know is if partner is maximum *and* has little wasted values in ♦'s. If you play splinters in this situation then I think that 4♦ is the bid – showing ♦ shortage and seeking slam. 6♥ would then be easy.

So either could have bid better and they can agree to share the blame, although this pair rarely agree about anything; and this North hands it out all the time but rarely accepts criticism (especially from me).

And what happened? Out of 8 tables only one pair bid 6♥.

The bottom lines: -

- KQJxxx is worth far more than 6 points.
- If your partner opens and you have values for at least game, then splinter with a shortage.
- If you hand it out all the time, then you should be able to take it? Right?

## Look for the 4-4 fit

Board 23 from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ J65  
South ♥ A5  
both vul ♦ 8743  
♣ Q1053

|          |     |           |
|----------|-----|-----------|
| ♠ 8      | N   | ♠ AKQ1032 |
| ♥ KQJ864 | W E | ♥ -       |
| ♦ AQ109  | S   | ♦ KJ62    |
| ♣ 96     |     | ♣ A84     |

♠ 974  
♥ 109732  
♦ 5  
♣ KJ72

### Table A

| West(B) | North | East   | South    |
|---------|-------|--------|----------|
| -       | -     | -      | pass     |
| 1♥      | pass  | 1♠ (1) | pass     |
| 4♥ (2)  | pass  | 6♥ (3) | all pass |

### Table B

| West   | North | East   | South    |
|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| -      | -     | -      | pass     |
| 1♥     | pass  | 1♠     | pass     |
| 2♦ (2) | pass  | 3♣ (4) | pass     |
| 3♥ (5) | pass  | 3♠ (6) | pass     |
| 4♥ (7) | pass  | 4♠ (8) | all pass |

### Table C

| West   | North | East    | South    |
|--------|-------|---------|----------|
| -      | -     | -       | pass     |
| 1♥     | pass  | 1♠      | pass     |
| 2♦ (2) | pass  | 4NT (4) | pass     |
| 5♥     | pass  | 6♦      | all pass |

Table A: (1) 2♠ (strong, good suit and game forcing is a sound alternative).  
(2) But what did you rebid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? 4♥ is an overbid and unnecessarily fixes trumps. If you think that the hand is worth a game force then 3♦ is fine. If you want to emphasise the good ♥'s rather than show the ♦ suit then I suppose that 3♥ is the bid. I would simply rebid 2♦.  
(3) And after the 4♥ bid East is totally fixed of course. East's thoughts were that 4NT is really of no use, 4♠ is too rude and pass is too cowardly. I sympathise.

Table B: Now this table started off much better:  
(4) The 4<sup>th</sup> suit, setting up a game forcing auction.  
(5) So 3♥ is fine now, promising 6♥'s and 4♦'s.  
(6) But East went stray here, I prefer 4♦.  
(7) I can't see that West has any other bid now.  
(8) And again East failed to support the ♦'s.  
A good auction up to (4) but then both parties kept on bidding their own suit instead of concentrating on the 4-4 ♦ fit.

Table C: The sledgehammer approach, often very effective. A good 4-4 fit, so that's where you want to play slam! Quite so.

And how should the hand be bid to 6♦? Obviously the table C approach is OK, but I like the bidding at Table B up to (6) where I would bid 4♦ with the East hand.

And what happened? Just two of the 7 tables bid the easy slam.

The bottom lines: -

- Look for the 4-4 fit, even in a minor if you envisage slam.
- Using 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing to set up a forcing sequence is often a good ploy.

## Doubling a 1NT overcall

Board 14 from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 8653  
East ♥ 65  
Love all ♦ 8654  
♣ 654

### Table A

| West(G)  | North | East | South   |
|----------|-------|------|---------|
| -        | -     | 1♣   | 1NT (1) |
| pass (2) | pass  | pass |         |

|        |         |        |
|--------|---------|--------|
| ♠ Q107 | N       | ♠ K42  |
| ♥ K72  | W E     | ♥ QJ84 |
| ♦ AJ32 | S       | ♦ K10  |
| ♣ 1087 |         | ♣ KJ93 |
|        | ♠ AJ9   |        |
|        | ♥ A1093 |        |
|        | ♦ Q97   |        |
|        | ♣ AQ2   |        |

### Table B

| West(G) | North | East(D) | South    |
|---------|-------|---------|----------|
| -       | -     | 1♣      | 1NT (1)  |
| dbl (2) | pass  | 2♣ (3)  | all pass |

Table A: (1) A 1NT overcall is 15-18 with good stop(s) in the suit bid, this overcall is fine. (2) What did you bid with this West hand G in this week's quiz? Pass is not the answer although more than one player did pass on Wednesday.

Table B: (2) Of course you should double. This is simple, it says that you have 9+ points and that the opponents will not make 1NT (and probably not anything else that they run to).  
(3) This is terrible What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? You do not even have to look at your cards again, pass is automatic.

And what happened? Two E-W pairs got it right and collected the 500 penalty for 1NT minus two. 1NT went minus two at three other tables but was not doubled! 2♣ made and scored an undeserved average and there was another partscore.

The bottom lines: -

- If partner opens and there is a 1NT overcall then double shows 9+ points and is for penalties.
- Most other bids are thus weak and non-forcing.

## That Multi 2♦ again

Back in news-sheet 118 I warned people about how to defend against the multi – generally wait to find out what opener's long major is before you make any rash decisions. The Multi 2♦ is very popular on mainland Europe and Marten and Joe play it. They told me of yet another case just last week when one of them opened 2♦ with a 6 card ♥ suit and the opponents ended up in a hopeless 4♥ contract!

The bottom line: - Read news-sheet 118.

## Don't be greedy

Board 24 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 4  
West ♥ 10542  
Love all ♦ Q10542  
♣ J96

|          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| ♠ K765   | N       | ♠ A983 |
| ♥ AQ9873 | W E     | ♥ K    |
| ♦ 6      | S       | ♦ AK97 |
| ♣ A5     |         | ♣ KQ74 |
|          | ♠ QJ102 |        |
|          | ♥ J6    |        |
|          | ♦ J83   |        |
|          | ♣ 10832 |        |

### Table A

| West   | North | East   | South (E) |
|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
| 1♥     | pass  | 2♦ (1) | pass      |
| 2♠ (2) | pass  | 4NT    | pass      |
| 5♥     | pass  | 6♠ (3) | pass (4)  |
| pass   | pass  |        |           |

### Table B

| West   | North | East   | South    |
|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| 1♥     | pass  | 1♠ (1) | pass     |
| 2♥ (3) | pass  | 4NT    | pass     |
| 5♥     | pass  | 6NT    | all pass |

Table A: (1) Now with a very strong responding hand you can by-pass a 4 card major and then bid the major later, but this generally implies 5+ ♦'s and I would simply bid 1♠ here.

(2) This is a reverse, indicating about 16+ points. A simple 2♥ is correct.

(3) Now East knows that all the aces are present and with points to spare, 6NT may be better than the 4-4 ♠ fit. But there again, West has introduced the suit and so East understandably assumed it was a slam quality suit.

(4) You knows that 6♠ will go one down, so what did you bid with this South hand E in this week's quiz? I hope that you did not double because it may well be that they can run to a making 6NT (they can!). You should pass.

Table B: (1) The simplest, and best, response.

(3) Now this West later went into some length to try to explain to me why 2♥ is a better bid than 2♠ here. It's falling on deaf ears. He claimed that if partner has a weak hand and passes then it's most likely that he is in a 6-3 or 6-2 fit and 2♥ will be fine. There are a number of reasons why this is faulty logic: -

1. If partner has 4 ♠'s and 3 ♥'s and a weak hand then he may well choose to bid 2♥.
2. The a 4-4 fit will usually play better than a 6-2 or 6-3 fit.
3. Partner may have 5 ♠'s and/or just one ♥ and pass; what a silly contract!

And what happened? 6♠ went one off. One South doubled 6♠ at (4) and so let the opponents escape into the easy 6NT. Most pairs ended in 6NT making exactly but two reached 7NT going down.

And how should the hand be bid? Obviously it should start 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♠ and then after a few cue bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood East or West should opt for 6NT rather than 6♠ because of the ample points and poor quality of the ♠'s (especially no ♠Q). The absence of the ♠Q can be discovered using RKCB. The bottom lines: -

- Look for the 4-4 fit.
- But if it's a slam then the suit must be of good quality.
- It's a sign of excellent bidding if you can locate a 4-4 fit and then play in a superior NT contract.
- Don't double the opponents if they have somewhere to run to.
- A reverse promises about 16+ points.
- Play RKCB.

## A Silly Take-out Double?

Board 19 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ Q108  
South ♥ Q10975  
E-W vul ♦ AK3  
♣ J4

|          |     |        |
|----------|-----|--------|
| ♠ K7     | N   | ♠ A965 |
| ♥ J83    | W E | ♥ K642 |
| ♦ 1082   | S   | ♦ J974 |
| ♣ Q10962 |     | ♣ 5    |

♠ J432  
♥ A  
♦ Q65  
♣ AK873

| West     | North   | East(J) | South    |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| -        | -       | -       | 1♣       |
| pass     | 1♥      | dbl (1) | pass     |
| 2♣ (2)   | dbl (3) | 2♦ (4)  | pass (5) |
| pass     | 2NT (6) | pass    | 3NT      |
| all pass |         |         |          |

- (1) So what did you bid with this East hand J in this week's quiz? With a passed partner and both opponents bidding and unlimited any sort of bid here is extremely foolhardy. Pass is clear. Now I have said in earlier news-sheets that double does not necessarily promise an opening hand, but it does in this situation! Double is a very poor bid.
- (2) I would bid 1NT, 6 points is just enough and bidding the opponent's suit is misleading. Opposite a sound double by partner a pass would also be reasonable (but not opposite this hand/partner).
- (3) I assume that this was for penalties.
- (4) And East is in loads of trouble - at least he would have been if I was sitting either North or South!
- (5) North's double at (3) showed extras (he can hardly have ♣'s), and so at this vulnerability I would double here.
- (6) And with AKx of trumps I would most certainly double here.

And what happened? East should have gone for about 1100 in 3♦ doubled, but 3NT made at this table for a reasonable score to N-S but 3NT failed at some other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- 8 points is not usually enough for a take-out double
- You need a very good hand to bid in 4<sup>th</sup> seat if LHO opens, partner passes and RHO bids; this is totally the opposite of balancing and you will usually end up in trouble.
- At favourable vulnerability it's often best to double the opponents for penalties when you know that you have the clear majority of the points and they have no fit.
- It's usually best to take the vulnerable money (especially if it's going to be 800 or 1100) rather than play in a dodgy non-vul 3NT.

## Who should bid on?

Board 7 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

Most N-S pairs reached 5♦ (or even 6♦!) on this deal, but this pair stopped in a miserable 2♦, who do you think is at fault?

Dealer: ♠ KJ42  
South ♥ K  
Both vul ♦ J954  
♣ J653

| West     | North(F) | East     | South (H) |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| -        | -        | -        | 1♦ (1)    |
| pass (2) | 1♠       | pass (3) | 2♦ (4)    |
| pass     | pass (5) | pass     |           |

|         |     |         |
|---------|-----|---------|
| ♠ A9873 | N   | ♠ Q1065 |
| ♥ Q1087 | W E | ♥ J432  |
| ♦ Q     | S   | ♦ K     |
| ♣ 942   |     | ♣ A1087 |

♠ -  
♥ A965  
♦ A1087632  
♣ KQ

- (1) A clear 1♦ opener.
- (2) Now sometimes 8 points is enough for a take-out double, and double would not be too unreasonable with this West hand.
- (3) But this is a similar situation to the last deal and double by East would be too dangerous.
- (4) So should South make a noise here? What did you bid with this South hand H in this week's quiz? North's 1♠ response has not improved this hand and 2♦ is fine.
- (5) So what did you do with this North hand F in this week's quiz? There are a number of reasons why you should not pass but bid 3♦: -
  - 1 – You have at least 10 combined trumps and so the 3 level is 'safe' (the Law).
  - 2 – This hand is well above minimum and is worth another bid.
  - 3 – It's more difficult for East to come in now if it's their hand.
  - 4 – Partner may have a hand like this one when he will bid and make 5♦! Indeed, North should expect South to have an even stronger hand than this one as E-W have been silent throughout the auction.

## That 4333 type shape again

Board 14 from Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

One member brought this deal to my attention, he reads the news sheets and so devalued a 4333 type hand – with excellent results!

|          |         |      |       |          |       |
|----------|---------|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Dealer:  | ♠ J1043 |      |       |          |       |
| East     | ♥ 87    | West | North | East (K) | South |
| Love all | ♦ Q53   | -    | -     | pass     | pass  |
|          | ♣ AKQ6  | 1NT  | pass  | pass (1) | pass  |

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
| ♠ Q65   | N        | ♠ A72  |
| ♥ AQ    | W E      | ♥ K643 |
| ♦ AK986 | S        | ♦ 742  |
| ♣ 972   |          | ♣ J105 |
|         | ♠ K98    |        |
|         | ♥ J10952 |        |
|         | ♦ J10    |        |
|         | ♣ 843    |        |

(1) So what did you bid with this East hand K in this week's quiz? With 8 points it's usually enough to invite (so start with 2♣ here) but the 4333 shape is bad - deduct a point. I too would pass.

And what happened? 1NT is about the limit on the hand. Other E-W pairs bid to 2NT (and even 3NT) and mostly went down.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

Hand A: 1♥. It's too good for 2♥ even when vulnerable in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat. 3♥ is the only other bid that I would even consider.

Hand B: 2♦. 2♥ or even 3♥ are reasonable but I prefer to show this good 2<sup>nd</sup> suit. 4♥ is an overbid that is too unilateral. 3♦ is not too bad but is also a bit of an overbid.

Hand C: 4♥. It's not good enough to go slamming. But, actually, it is good enough for a mild try, and I would bid 4♦ if you play that as a splinter. If partner is max with no wasted values in ♦'s then slam should be there.

Hand D: Pass. Automatic. Partner's double is for penalties and you do not even have to look at your hand again.

Hand E: Pass. They may be able to run to a making 6NT.

Hand F: 3♦. With a non-minimum and 4 trumps it's too good to pass.

Hand G: Double (for penalties). Your side has the balance of power and 1NT will go down.

Hand H: 2♦. It's not good enough for 2♥ (a reverse) nor for 3♦.

Hand J: Pass. It's much too dangerous to double here as partner is a passed hand and both opponents have bid and are unlimited.

Hand K: Pass. Deduct a point for the 4333 type shape and it's not worth a bid.