

			<u>Winners</u>				<u>Runners-up</u>
Mon 16 th	N-S	1 st	Chuck/Lewis	64%	2 nd	Bob/Dave	62%
Mon	E-W	1 st	Clive/Ken	61%	2 nd	Gerry/Terry	55%
Wed 18 th	N-S	1 st	Chuck/Lewis	68%	2 nd	Bill/Emil	59%
Wed	E-W	1 st	Tom/Jan	65%	2 nd	Clive/Ken	58%
Fri 20 th	N-S	1 st	Bob/Dave	60%	2 nd	Chuck/Hans	59%
Fri	E-W	1 st	Derek/Gerard	64%	2 nd	Clive/Ken	59%

Don't forget that there's an accompanying 'beginner's' news sheet – no. 133. This week it covers what you do when partner makes a take-out double.

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A Hand B

- ♠ 10 ♠ A10
- ♥ 9875 ♥ AJ5
- ♦ KJ10752 ♦ A92
- ♣ J8 ♣ AJ963

With Hand A you pass as dealer and partner opens 1 ♠ .
What, if anything, do you bid?

With Hand B you open 1 ♣ and partner responds 1 ♠ , what do you bid now?

Hand C Hand D

- ♠ AK54 ♠ K82
- ♥ 652 ♥ J43
- ♦ AQ86 ♦ A32
- ♣ A5 ♣ Q652

With Hand C you open 1NT and partner transfers with 2 ♦ .
You bid 2 ♥ and partner then bids 3NT, what do you do?

With Hand D partner opens 1 ♣ , what do you bid?

Hand E Hand F

- ♠ Q95 ♠ KJ72
- ♥ 2 ♥ 103
- ♦ J104 ♦ 1065
- ♣ A108754 ♣ AK65

With Hand E partner opens 1NT, what do you bid?

With Hand F everybody is vulnerable. Partner opens 1 ♦ and RHO overcalls 1 ♠ , what do you do?

Lead Quiz

Dealer:	♠ 10943	West	North	East	South
West	♥ J2	pass	1 ♠	pass	2 ♦ (1)
Both vul	♦ 974	pass	3NT	all pass	
	♣ KJ94				

You are East, what do you lead against 3NT by North?

Lead Problem - solution

Board 20 from Monday 16th

Dealer: ♠ AKJ62
West ♥ A75
Both vul ♦ K2
♣ A75

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	2♦ (1)
pass	3NT	all pass	

♠ Q75	N	♠ 10943
♥ K10864	W E	♥ J2
♦ Q105	S	♦ 974
♣ 102		♣ KJ94
	♠ 8	
	♥ Q93	
	♦ AJ863	
	♣ Q863	

The bidding is fairly straightforward but I would bid 1NT at (1) as the South hand is not good enough for a new suit at the two level. Anyway, 3NT was reached at the majority of tables on Monday, but what did you lead as East in this week's lead quiz?

The opponents have bid ♠'s and ♦'s and so either ♣'s or ♥'s are indicated. You may be lucky and find partner with a ♣ honour if you lead a ♣, but more than likely a ♣ lead from this holding will help declarer. You know from the bidding that partner has at least 4 ♥'s and quite likely 5, so lead that suit. I led the ♥J.

And didn't that work out well!

What happened? My partner was very happy (I always try to keep my partner happy). 3NT went three down on the ♥J lead but made overtricks at other tables.

The bottom lines: -

- If you don't want to lead your suit, then lead partner's.
- You can often make an educated guess about partner's suit by listening to the bidding.

With a weak responding hand

Board 13 from Monday 16th

We had the same heading on a very similar deal in last week's news-sheet, but one very experienced North went astray in a virtually identical situation on Monday (having just read the news-sheet?): -

Dealer: ♠ 10
North ♥ 9875
Both vul ♦ KJ10752
 ♣ J8

<u>Table A</u>			
West	North(A)	East	South
-	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	2♦ (1)	pass	3♣ (2)
pass	pass (3)	pass	

♠ Q8764	N	♠ 95
♥ AKJ	W E	♥ Q1042
♦ 86	S	♦ A43
♣ 962		♣ A1075
	♠ AKJ32	
	♥ 63	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ KQ43	

<u>'Expert' Table</u>			
West	North(A)	East	South
-	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	1NT (1)	pass	2♣
pass	2♦ (4)	all pass	

- Table A (1) What did you bid with this North hand A(a) in this week's quiz? It's a mis-fit for partner and passing 1 ♠ is certainly a very reasonable option. But there may well be a fit in a red suit and I certainly would not argue if you chose to bid – but only if you chose the right thing to bid! You cannot bid 2♦ as that promises 11 points – passed hand or not!
- (2) This 'high reverse' is, of course, absolutely game forcing....
- (3) and so North passed.
- 'Expert' Table (1) With 5 points and good intermediates I would bid 1NT with this North hand.
- Table It makes no difference if you play 1NT by a passed hand as forcing, semi-forcing, natural or whatever, it is the only possible bid here.
- (4) And isn't it wonderful how sensible bidding lands you in the best spot. It's just the same as last week, a 1NT response followed by a suit is a weak bid – to play.

And what happened. 3♣ went minus 3 for a very poor score.

The bottom line: - Generally in natural systems you bid your suit first and then show your points. This is a very important exception – a 1NT response to a 1♥/♠ opening followed by a new suit is weak, just the same as it was last week and will be next week.

The 2NT response = 11-12

Board 15 from Friday 16th

Dealer: ♠ Q765
South ♥ AK86
N-S vul ♦ J6
♣ K74

West	North	East	South(D)
-	-	-	pass
pass	1♣	pass	2NT (1)
all pass			

♠ AJ103	N	♠ 94
♥ Q5	W E	♥ 10972
♦ Q10985	S	♦ K74
♣ 83		♣ AJ109
	♠ K82	
	♥ J43	
	♦ A32	
	♣ Q652	

(1) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? A 1NT response is 6-9 and 2NT is 11-12. 10 points is in the middle and it's usually best to be cautious and bid just 1NT unless it's an *exceptionally* good 10 points. And how good a 10 points is this South hand D? With its totally flat 3334 (so deduct a point) shape and lack of intermediates it's about as miserable as it gets. 2NT is a gross overbid with this hand.

And what happened? 2NT went one down. 1NT making by N-S would have been a complete top. But even 1NT should not make – that shows just how miserable this South hand is.

The bottom lines –

- The 2NT response is 11-12 points
- Knock a point off for the 4333 type shape.
- Devalue a hand with no intermediates.

'I would have doubled' ?

Board 8 from Friday 16th

Dealer: ♠ J864
West ♥ K84
Love all ♦ 65
♣ Q962

West	North	East (E)	South
1NT	pass	3NT (1)	all pass

♠ K107	N	♠ Q95
♥ QJ1063	W E	♥ 2
♦ AQ2	S	♦ J104
♣ KJ		♣ A108754
	♠ A32	
	♥ A975	
	♦ K9873	
	♣ 3	

(1) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? Playing SAYC then 3♣ would show an invitational (to 3NT) hand with a good ♣ suit. We had not agreed that (and had also not agreed 4-way transfers) and I think that the East hand is worth a shot at 3NT anyway, so that's what I bid.

When dummy hit the table North commented that if he knew that I would raise to 3NT 'with only 7 points' then he would have doubled!

So obviously we have a difference of opinion about hand evaluation. This East hand has a good 6 card suit and excellent intermediates. Anyone who thinks that 'it is only 7 points' really needs to read up on hand evaluation.

And what happened? Even with the ♣Q not dropping my partner had no problem making 9 tricks. Two other tables bid and made 3NT for the shared top.

The bottom lines.

- Upgrade a hand with a 6 card suit, especially if partner has opened 1NT (and so promises at least two cards in the suit).
- Upgrade a hand with good intermediates.

And as a special note for those of you who are unfamiliar with my preachings, note the difference between this East hand E and the South hand D of the previous hand. This East hand is worth two extra points, the previous South hand should deduct two points. High card point are not the whole story, shape and intermediates are very important.

5-3 fit or NT?

Board 15 from Wednesday 18th

I was asked in one of my classes when to go for the 5-3 fit and when to play in NT (Say 4♥ or 3NT). The answer often depends upon the shape and point distribution in the hand with just 3 'trumps'. Here's an example from Wednesday: -

Dealer:	♠ J2					
South	♥ AJ8		<u>Table A</u>			
N-S vul	♦ J107		West	North	East(C)	South
	♣ J10642		-	-	-	pass
			pass	pass	1NT	pass
			2♦	pass	2♥	pass
♠ 876	N	♠ AK54	3NT	pass	pass (1)	pass
♥ KQ973	W E	♥ 652				
♦ K2	S	♦ AQ86	<u>Table B</u>			
♣ Q73		♣ A5	West	North	East	South
	♠ Q1093		-	-	-	pass
	♥ 104		pass	pass	1NT	pass
	♦ 9543		2♦	pass	2♥	pass
	♣ K98		3NT	pass	4♥ (1)	all pass

Table A (1) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? With 4♥'s it's easy – bid 4♥. With just 2♥'s it's also easy – pass 3NT. But with 3 trumps you have to decide which contract is going to play best, and it's not always 4 of the major. The 5-3 fit may sometimes play better in 3NT and the guidelines I use are (a) if I have 3 decent trumps, Qxx or better, then I will bid 4 of the major.
 (b) if I have a doubleton then I will normally bid 4 of the major (you will often get a ruff in the short hand.
 (c) with 3 weak trumps and no doubleton (so 3433 if it's ♥'s) then I pass 3NT.

Table B (1) So with this East hand C I would bid 4♥ because of the doubleton ♣.

And what happened? I'm pleased to say that 5 out of the 6 tables found the superior 4♥ contract.

A penalty 'double' at the one level ?

Board 7 from Friday 16th

Dealer: ♠ AQ1054
South ♥ KQJ8
Both vul ♦ 7
♣ 872

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

♠ 63	N	♠ KJ72
♥ A754	W E	♥ 103
♦ AJ932	S	♦ 1065
♣ Q10		♣ AK65
	♠ 98	
	♥ 962	
	♦ KQ84	
	♣ J943	

- (1) It's debatable whether North should overcall 1♠ or double. I certainly will not argue with the 1♠ overcall, and double would have met a similar fate anyway (East would re-double)
- (2) But what did you do with this East hand F in this week's quiz? You have the values (and ♠ stops) for 2NT but there is no guarantee that you have game (indeed, partner is minimum and would pass 2NT). In these situations when I know that we have the majority of the points, have good trumps sitting over the overcaller and they are vulnerable I usually go for the penalty. So I would double if playing penalty doubles here; but my partner on this occasion plays negative doubles (a far better system) and so I passed...
- (3) ... awaiting his 'automatic' re-opening double...
- (4) ... which I then passed for penalties.

And what happened? 2♠ went -2 and the resultant 500 gave E-W a 2nd top. This was only beaten by Derek/Gerard who will have to tell me sometime how they bid to 3NT with these E-W cards (and made +2!). Other results were mixed but I note that one N-S pair got away with 2♠ (going 3 down but undoubled). Obviously that East does not have my blood lust.

The bottom lines: -

- Sometimes you can get a profitable penalty even at the one level (especially if the opponents are vulnerable).
- And you don't necessarily need 5 trumps.
- I will only play negative doubles with a partner who virtually always re-opens with a double.
- And remember that if you play negative doubles then you have to pass with a penalty hand.

A Jump rebid shows a good long suit

Board 17 from Monday 16th

Dealer: ♠ QJ653
North ♥ Q42
Love all ♦ Q104
♣ Q4

West	North	East	South(B)
-	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♠	pass	3♣ (1)
pass	3NT	all pass	

♠ K982	N	♠ 74
♥ 10973	W E	♥ K86
♦ 63	S	♦ KJ875
♣ K87		♣ 1052
	♠ A10	
	♥ AJ5	
	♦ A92	
	♣ AJ963	

(1) What did you rebid with this South hand B in this week's quiz? I don't like 3♣. To start with I would like a longer and better suit. Also the hand is a bit too good for an invitational 3♣. 2NT is 18-19 here and seems to fit the bill perfectly.

And what happened? 3NT went one down on a ♦ lead. At most tables South was declarer in 3NT and so escaped the ♦ lead and made or made +1 or even +2 (I guess that West failed to find a ♦ switch when he got in with his first black king?).

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: 1NT. It's a point shy but the decent 6 card suit and good intermediates make it worth a bid. You cannot bid 2♦ as that promises 11 points; being a passed hand is totally irrelevant.
- Hand B: 2NT. 18-19. 3♣ is incorrect because it does not show such a powerful hand and indicates longer and better ♣'s.
- Hand C: 4♥. With 3 trumps you have to decide whether 3NT or 4♥ will play better. With a doubleton I will generally go for the 5-3 fit.
- Hand D: 1NT. This hand is nowhere near worth 2NT (deduct a point for the 4333 type shape and the lack of intermediated make it a miserable hand). And note that 1NT is a better bid than 2♣ as partner may have only 3 ♣'s.
- Hand E: 3NT. It's only '7' points, but with the good 6 card suit and good intermediates I would (did) upgrade the hand enough to bid 3NT. If you play 3♣ as a decent hand with a ♣ suit (invitational to 3NT) then that's a rather less aggressive but acceptable alternative (and better than 2NT which is also an option).
- Hand F: Pass (or double if you play that as penalties). I play negative doubles and expect partner to re-open with a double which I will pass. Obviously 2NT is a reasonable alternative but I think that 'effectively doubling' will usually work out best with this hand type if the opponents are vulnerable. 3NT is an optimistic alternative.

Lead Quiz: Lead the ♥J, partner probably has that suit and leading away from these ♣'s may give a trick away.