

Fri 1st July

Club News Sheet – No. 139

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|----------------------|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Mon 27 th | 1 st Tobjorn/Gunn | 64% | 2 nd Bob/Dave | 59% |
| Wed 29 th | 1 st Tobjorn/Gunn | 63% | 2 nd Bill/Gene | 58% |
| Fri 1 st | 1 st Tobjorn/Gunn | 56% | 2 nd Bob/Dave | 54% |

Well done Tobjorn/Gunn, the triple at the first attempt.

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A Hand B With Hand A Partner opens 1♥ and RHO overcalls 2♦, what do you do?

| | |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ KJ1083 | ♠ A987 |
| ♥ 105 | ♥ 72 |
| ♦ 108 | ♦ Q2 |
| ♣ K532 | ♣ 98652 |

With Hand B partner opens 1♥ and you respond 1♠. Partner then bids 2♦, what do you do?

Hand C Hand D With Hand C partner opens 1♦ and you bid 1♥. Partner then bids 3♣, what do you do?

| | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ 9652 | ♠ AQ7 |
| ♥ KQJ76 | ♥ AK865 |
| ♦ 107 | ♦ 9 |
| ♣ J10 | ♣ A964 |

With Hand D you open 1♥ and LHO overcalls 2♦. Partner doubles (negative, promising only 4+ ♠'s and 6+ points) and RHO bids 3♦. What do you do?

Hand E Hand F What do you open with Hand E?

| | |
|------------|------------|
| ♠ K | ♠ 7 |
| ♥ AQJ85432 | ♥ AQJ85432 |
| ♦ K | ♦ 7 |
| ♣ K72 | ♣ 872 |

What do you open with Hand F?

Hand G Hand H With Hand G partner opens 1♥ and you respond 1♠. Partner then bid 2♦, what do you do?

| | |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ AJ1086 | ♠ 84 |
| ♥ 103 | ♥ A9876 |
| ♦ 103 | ♦ 84 |
| ♣ Q643 | ♣ A874 |

With Hand H partner opens 1♥, what do you bid?

Who's right?

I overheard this conversation between one pair on Friday – who (if anyone) is right?

Player A: You overcalled, so I assumed you had an opening hand.

Player B: No, if I had an opening hand I would have doubled.

The Multi 2♦

I was asked if I could write something about the multi 2♦ opening, so here goes: -
There are many different variations of the multi but here is one pretty good variation:

- 2♦ = either (1) A weak (6 card) ♥ or ♠ hand, say 6-9 points.
or (2) A strong hand with a good long minor suit
or (3) A big balanced NT hand.

Now responder does not know what type of hand his partner has and should assume it is type (1). So he normally responds 2♥ which opener will pass or correct to 2♠. One exception is when responder has a hand with decent ♥'s such that he can bid to 3♥ (or more) if partner has a weak ♥ hand but not opposite a weak ♠ hand. With such a hand responder bids 2♠ which opener will either pass or correct to 3♥ holding weak ♥'s (or 4♥ with a max).

If responder has game ambitions opposite a presumed weak major hand, he can enquire about opener's hand type by bidding 2NT. Typical responses are: -

- 3♣ = weak ♥'s, upper point range (8-9)
3♦ = weak ♠'s, upper point range (8-9)
3♥ = weak ♥'s, lower point range (6-7)
3♠ = weak ♠'s, lower point range (6-7)
3NT = strong NT hand, see below for point range (I suggest 22-24).
4♣ = strong hand with a good long ♣ suit
4♦ = strong hand with a good long ♦ suit

Note that it's OK to go past 3NT with the strong ♣/♦ type hands as partner is also strong and slam may be there. My personal preference after a 4♣/♦ response is that the next suit up (i.e. 4♦ over 4♣ and 4♥ over 4♦) is RKCB (Kickback) as 4NT is not suitable to ask for aces/keycards with a minor suit as trumps.

What's the point range for 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT?

It's up to you, but here's my suggestion: -

- Your opening 2NT is 20-21
2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT is 22-24
2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT is 25+

The big advantage of this scheme is that you never need to open or rebid 3NT, so Stayman and transfers are always on. Another big advantage is that a 2♣ opening is always absolutely game forcing.

How strong a hand for 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣/♦?

It's up to you. I recommend something like: -

- ♠ 65 or ♠ 5 i.e. about 9 playing tricks.
♥ A ♥ A6
♦ AKQ9854 ♦ KQJ
♣ A65 ♣ KQJ9874

So what is an opening 2♥/♠ bid?

Again, it's up to you. You can play them as strong but one popular treatment in Holland is weak (say 6-9) with 5 cards in the major and 4 cards in an unspecified minor. 2NT by responder would then ask for the minor.

So no weak 2♦?

If you play 2♦ as the multi then obviously you have lost the 2♦ as a weak hand – no great loss in my opinion. But the Dutch have actually come up with a solution!! Some (mainly Dutch) players play that an opening 2♣ bid is either very strong or else is a weak 2♦ opening. This means that when partner opens 2♣ you have to bid 2♦ unless you have a hand good enough to press on over a weak two in ♦'s. We'll leave it there!

That Moysian fit again

Board 20 from Monday 27th

I mentioned last week that occasionally a 4-3 major suit fit may work, especially if you have goods high trump cards and you take ruffs in the short trump suit hand. I was asked how anybody could bid to a poor 4♠ on these E-W cards, I happen to know as I was West!

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------|-------|
| Dealer: | ♠ J97 | | | | |
| West | ♥ J104 | West | North | East | South |
| Both vul | ♦ AQJ965 | pass | 2♦ | 3♣ | pass |
| | ♣ 5 | 3♥ | pass | 4♣ | pass |
| | | 4♠ (1) | all pass | | |
| ♠ KQ43 | N | ♠ 862 | | | |
| ♥ K7653 | W E | ♥ A | | | |
| ♦ 74 | S | ♦ 1082 | | | |
| ♣ 86 | | ♣ AKQJ107 | | | |
| | ♠ A105 | | | | |
| | ♥ Q982 | | | | |
| | ♦ K3 | | | | |
| | ♣ 9432 | | | | |

(1) Partner's 3♣ overcall promised a good hand. 3♥ was not forcing and partner's 4♣ bid shows an even better hand. 5♣ is possible but there may well be 3 top losers, pass is obviously a very sensible (perhaps the best?) option. It's pushing it, but I tried 4♠.

And what happened?

4♠ made as the trumps split with the ace on-side. There was the odd silly contract so 3♣ making or making +1 scored badly.

The bottom line:-

A Moysian fit may play well if you can get a ruff in the short trump hand. This particular contract was very lucky to make but West played it well (sorry, scrap that - he was simply lucky) by leading up to the ♠ KQxx twice, drawing trumps and running the ♣'s. The contract can be beaten on a ♦ lead from North or if North gets a ♣ ruff – as I said, a lousy contract and a lucky make.

A possible Moysian fit again?

Board 2 from Monday 27th

Dealer: ♠ 94
East ♥ 743
N-S vul ♦ J7542
♣ Q87

| | | |
|----------|-----|---------|
| ♠ KJ1083 | N | ♠ AQ7 |
| ♥ 105 | W E | ♥ AK865 |
| ♦ 108 | S | ♦ 9 |
| ♣ K532 | | ♣ A964 |

♠ 652
♥ QJ9
♦ AKQ63
♣ J10

| West(A) | North(me) | East(D) | South |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| - | - | 1♥ | 2♦ |
| dbl (1) | 3♦ (2) | 3♥ (3) | pass |
| pass (4) | pass | | |

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? You cannot bid 2♠ as that promises 11+ points, correct is a negative double. This promises 4+ ♠'s and 6+ points.
- (2) Now 'The Law' says that, all things being equal, you can compete to the total number of trumps (so 4♦ here?). But here all things are not equal, N-S are vulnerable and the opponents probably have far more points. 'The Law' needs adjusting here and 3♦ is quite sufficient with this North hand in this situation.
- (3) But even the modest raise to 3♦ gave East a problem. What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? If we assume that partner's negative double only promises ♠'s (that's what I recommend) then 4♣ is out as that would show a much stronger hand. The choices are thus pass, 3♥, 3♠ or double. Which did you choose? I prefer 3♠ - it may well be a Moysian fit but with two great top trumps and the ability to ruff ♦'s in the short trump hand I most definitely prefer 3♠ - even if it turns out to be a 4-3 fit. Double (take-out) and asking partner to choose the suit/level is an equally good alternative.
- (4) Pass here is obviously correct. If partner had bid 3♠ (or dbl) then West should try 4♠.

And what happened? Obviously a ♠ contract is far better than ♥'s and 3♥ scored badly. 4♠ was bid and made just once and just two other pairs managed 3♠.

The bottom line. This is a 'new theme' for the last couple of news-sheets – it's sometimes OK to support with 3 cards (so a possible 4-3 fit) if you have decent trumps and can ruff the danger suit in the 3 trump hand.

Is a 4♥/♠ opening weak or strongish?

Board 20 from Monday 27th

Dealer: ♠ 842
North ♥ K8
Both vul ♦ 10954
♣ Q1098

West North East(E) South
- pass 4♥ (1) pass
pass (2) pass

♠ AQ3 N ♠ K
♥ 7 W E ♥ AQJ85432
♦ AQ762 S ♦ K
♣ A653 ♣ K72
♠ J109765
♥ 106
♦ J83
♣ J4

- (1) What did you open with this East hand E in this week’s quiz? An opening 4♥/♠ is normally played a pre-emptive; the same as a 3♥/♠ opening but with one more trump.
- (2) And I too would pass with this West hand as slam looks remote.

And what happened? 13 tricks were easy with the ♥K doubleton on-side.

Hand F So an easy 6♥ missed, what went wrong? Now I agree that 4♥ is a better opening than 1♥ provided that partner knows that it may be this good.
♠ 7 But then what do you open with this Hand F from the quiz?
♥ AQJ85432 Clearly you cannot make the same opening bid.
♦ 7 The answer is to play Namyats.
♣ 872 In my (and many others) opinion 4♣ and 4♦ are not really good as natural pre-emptive bids (as they go past 3NT if partner has a good hand) – so with a weak minor hand open 3♣/♦ or 5♣/♦ or a gambling 3NT.

So that leaves 4♣/♦ ‘spare’ and the best use of these is to distinguish between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ 4♥/♠ openings. So a 4♣ opening is a good 4♥ and a 4♦ opening is a good 4♠. So playing Namyats we open Hand E with 4♣ and with Hand F with 4♥.

Simple Preference - Part 1

Simple preference is just that, it says that the bidder prefers partner's 1st bid suit to his 2nd bid. It does not imply support and is very often made on a doubleton. This would be a typical example: -

| | | | |
|---------|---------|------|--------|
| West | East(B) | West | East |
| ♠ Q4 | ♠ A987 | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ♥ AQJ85 | ♥ 72 | 2♦ | 2♥ (1) |
| ♦ KJ54 | ♦ Q2 | pass | |
| ♣ 73 | ♣ 98652 | | |

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand B in this week's quiz? East has a weak hand and does not want to press on but pass is incorrect. 2♥ is the correct bid, it simply says that East has a weakish hand and prefers ♥'s to ♦'s. The fact that the ♦'s are slightly better is irrelevant – partner has 5 or 6 ♥'s and maybe only 4 ♦'s – so put him back into the first bid suit as that's a known 5-2 fit and also it's a major (so scores more if it makes).

But there were a couple of examples of it going wrong on Friday: -

Simple Preference - Part 2

Board 11 from Friday 1st

Dealer: ♠ AJ1086

South ♥ 103

Love all ♦ 103

♣ Q643

♠ 943

N

♠ K52

♥ 96

W E

♥ K84

♦ 975

S

♦ AQ42

♣ J10752

♣ AK8

♠ Q7

♥ AQJ752

♦ KJ86

♣ 9

| | | | |
|------|----------|----------|--------|
| West | North(G) | East | South |
| - | - | - | 1♥ |
| pass | 1♠ | pass | 2♦ (1) |
| pass | 2♠ (2) | all pass | |

- (1) South has options here. I don't consider the hand quite good enough for 3♥ and so the choice is between 2♦ and 2♥. Either is fine by me.
- (2) But what did you bid with this North hand G in this week's quiz? North has only promised 4♠'s and so decided to show his 5th. Without extra values or extra ♠ length (so 6+) this is incorrect. Partner has shown a weakish hand with 5+ ♥'s and 4+ ♦'s. He may be very short in ♠'s and North should give preference to 2♥ to play in the known 5(+)-2 fit.

And what happened? The usual mixed results but 3♥ and 2♠ both made exactly and 2♠ scored a bottom_

Simple Preference - Part 3

Board 19 from Friday 1st

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| Dealer: | ♠ AK1073 | |
| South | ♥ 543 | |
| E-W vul | ♦ J9 | |
| | ♣ Q85 | |
| ♠ J | N | ♠ 9652 |
| ♥ A98 | W E | ♥ KQJ76 |
| ♦ AK652 | S | ♦ 107 |
| ♣ AK42 | | ♣ J10 |
| | ♠ Q84 | |
| | ♥ 102 | |
| | ♦ Q843 | |
| | ♣ 9763 | |

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

| <u>Table B</u> | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| West(me) | North | East | South |
| - | - | - | pass |
| 1♦ | 1♠ (1) | dbl (6) | pass |
| 2♠ (7) | pass | 3♥ (8) | pass |
| 4♥ (9) | all pass | | |

- Table A:
- (1) I would overcall 1♠ here.
 - (2) This is simple preference. What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz? It's a very good 7 points (a good 5 card major and good intermediates) and I would bid 3♥ here. The auction is game forcing and it certainly can do no harm to show this excellent 5 card ♥ suit rather than giving preference with a two card suit. The difference between this example and the last one is that the previous auction was not forcing.
 - (3) West expected ♦ support and bid 4♦. I would bid 4♥ even though it should be a Moysian fit, East can always correct to 5♦ with 4 weak ♥'s.
 - (4) I consider this auction game forcing but perhaps not everybody agrees with me? I would bid 4♥ here but then I would not be in this position.

- Table B:
- (1) This North overcalled 1♠.
 - (6) But that's no bother for East as a negative double shows exactly the same as 1♥ at Table A, 4+ ♠'s and 6+ points.
 - (7) West is in much the same position as his counterpart at Table A but North's ♠ overcall has actually helped. Rather than bid a (game forcing) 3♣ I chose to bid 2♠. You know me – if partner has a ♠ stop then I want (him) to be in 3NT.
 - (8) This denies a ♠ stop but does not promise a 5 card ♥ suit.
 - (9) And if you read last week's news sheet you'll know that I'm not afraid of a possible Moysian fit if we take the ruffs in the short trump hand.

And what happened. 4♥ played very nicely, 4♦ did not.

The bottom lines: -

- You don't have to give preference if you have a more descriptive bid and extra values.
- You don't have to give preference in a game forcing situation.
- Simply giving preference shows a minimal hand and does not promise a fit.

A Pre-emptive jump raise?

Board 7 from Friday 1st

Dealer: ♠ 84
South ♥ A9876
Both vul ♦ 84
♣ A874

| West | North(H) | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|-------|
| - | - | - | 1♥ |
| pass (1) | 2♥ (2) | 2♠ | pass |
| 4♠ | all pass | | |

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| ♠ QJ62 | N | ♠ AK1053 |
| ♥ 3 | W E | ♥ 105 |
| ♦ KQJ1096 | S | ♦ 73 |
| ♣ J10 | | ♣ K632 |
| | ♠ 97 | |
| | ♥ KQJ42 | |
| | ♦ A52 | |
| | ♣ Q95 | |

- (1) A 2♦ overcall is an alternative.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand H in this week's quiz? Now you all know me, I would bid 4♥ here, simply because I have 5 trumps and so a total of at least 10. But N-S are vulnerable and some people may prefer a more conservative 3♥ and that's fairly reasonable I suppose, 2♥ is simply not enough.

And what happened? 4♠ made comfortably. Every other N-S pair played in 3♥ or 4♥.

Now the 3♥ bidders did well as 3♥ made and 4♥ went one down, but I don't think that 3♥ by North is enough. If North bids 3♥ then that keeps East quiet (even 2♠ was a bit pushy) but if 3♥ gets passed round to West he can (should) safely double. If partner bids ♠'s or ♦'s that's fine and if partner bids 4♣ then West can convert into 4♦ - this does not show a big hand (as it normally would) as West has already passed and it would show this hand type exactly.

But it would be a bold West indeed who ventures a bid over 4♥ had North bid that.

The bottom lines: -

- With 5 card support for partner's 1♥/♠ opening – jump to 4♥/♠ unless the hand is too strong.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: Dbl (negative). You do not have the values to bid 2♠, so double to show 4+ ♠'s and 6+ points.
- Hand B: 2♥. This is simple preference and does not promise anything other than that you probably prefer to play in ♥'s than ♦'s. You cannot bid 2NT here as that would show 11-12 points and 3♣ would be the 4th suit and forcing to game.
- Hand C: 3♥. The auction is game forcing and so there is no need to give preference on a two card suit. Show this great ♥ suit.
- Hand D: 3♠ (or dbl). Partner has only promised 4 ♠'s so it may be a Moysian fit, but 3♠ is a much better bid than 3♥ in my view. The hand is not strong enough to force to game but a free bid at the 3 level now is highly invitational and so correct. It depends upon how you play your negative doubles, but I play that partner's double of 2♦ here only promises 4 ♠'s (and not also 4 ♣'s) and so to bid 4♣ would show a strong (game forcing) hand in my style. Double, asking partner to choose between ♥'s and ♠'s, is an equally good bid.
- Hand E: 4♣ (Namyats). If you don't play Namyats it's a problem as it's too good for 4♥ and not good enough for 2♣. You would have to open 1♥. Even if you play strong twos (or Benjamin) I would still prefer a Namyats 4♣ as it may prevent the opponents bidding their ♠'s.
- Hand F: 4♥. Pre-emptive with 8 ♥'s.
- Hand G: 2♥. Simple preference. Partner has shown a weakish hand with the red suits and you are not good enough to go past 2♥.
- Hand H: 4♥. You know me, follow The Law (of total tricks). Some players may prefer 3♥, especially if vulnerable, but I don't think it's enough against good opposition. 2♥ is feeble.

Who's right? Both players were incorrect.

A direct overcall at the one level is around 7-16 points so neither denies nor promises opening values.

A double is generally about opening strength but you should not double with an unsuitable hand or a hand more suitable for an overcall just because it has 12+ points.

But note that an overcall at the two level should be around opening values. With a weak hand and a 6 or 7 card suit you can make a weak jump overcall.

Packing up the Bidding boxes?

Most clubs in the UK and elsewhere request members to pack up their bidding boxes at the end of the session, and a few members have mentioned to me that some players do not. We have a variety of different kinds of bidding boxes in the club and they are all *very* expensive; as I don't want them broken can I ask people *not* to pack up the bidding boxes unless they are completely sure about how to do it. It only takes me a few seconds and I prefer taking a bit more time clearing up at the end of a session than to have broken boxes.