

8<sup>th</sup> July

## Club News Sheet – No. 140

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean-Marc/Terry	65%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bill/Gene	60%
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	John Gavens/Terry	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tobjorn/Gunn	60%
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean-Marc/Phil	61%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob/Dave	58%

### Bidding Quiz

**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated**

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♦ and you respond 2♣. Partner then rebids 2♦, what do you do?
♠ 1052	♠ K82	
♥ AQ	♥ A103	With Hand B LHO opens 2♥ which partner doubles, what do you do?
♦ KQ	♦ K862	
♣ AQ9654	♣ 1093	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C you are playing Acol – so a weak NT for a change. Partner opens 1NT (12-14). (a) What do you bid? (b) Suppose you try 2♣ stayman, then what do you bid if partner responds 2♠?
♠ AQ7	♠ A10	
♥ 10	♥ AQ	
♦ KJ75	♦ AKQ842	With Hand D RHO opens 3♥, what do you do?
♣ AJ742	♣ J32	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E you open 1♦ and partner responds 2♣ (a) What do you rebid? (b) Suppose that you choose 2♦ and partner bids 2♥, what do you bid now?
♠ AK86	♠ AJ32	
♥ 983	♥ J5	
♦ A9865	♦ J10	With Hand F RHO opens 2♥, what do you do?
♣ 8	♣ KQ842	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1♦ and RHO doubles, what do you do?  With Hand H partner opens 3♥, what do you do?
♠ 63	♠ A2	
♥ J83	♥ 62	
♦ A98	♦ Q10	
♣ J8543	♣ AKQJ1042	

### Natural or 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing?

West	East	There was a debate about this bidding sequence on Monday. Is West's 2♠ bid natural or 4 <sup>th</sup> suit forcing?
1♦	2♣	
2♦	2♥	
2♠?		

#### 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing or natural?

Board 25 from Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

E-W went astray here (but lucked out in the end). What was your answer to the 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing/natural question in this week's quiz? Here's the complete deal:

Dealer:	♠ 94				
North	♥ J107642	West(A)	North	East(E)	South
E-W vul	♦ 32	-	pass (1)	1♦	pass
	♣ K72	2♣	pass	2♦ (2)	pass
		2♥ (3)	pass	2♠ (4)	pass
♠ 1052	N	♠ AK86	3♠ (5)	pass	4♠ (6) dbl
♥ AQ	W E	♥ 983	5♦ (7)	pass	pass dbl (8)
♦ KQ	S	♦ A9865	all pass		
♣ AQ9654		♣ 8			
	♠ QJ73				
	♥ K5				
	♦ J1074				
	♣ J103				

- (1) At favourable vulnerability a 2♥ opening is not totally unreasonable with these cards.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand E(a) in this week's quiz? 2♦ is perhaps the best of the poor choices. 2♠ is a reverse and shows a strong hand in most people's style. 2NT(12-14) is a reasonable alternative (but then there would be no story).
- (3) West is in a spot here, what did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? You obviously have game going values and so must make a forcing bid. 3♣ is not forcing and 4♣ or 4♦ go past 3NT and are probably not forcing anyway. I was West here and chose to 'manufacture' a 2♥ bid – if partner subsequently insists on ♥'s I can always try to retreat into NT? Anyway, it's difficult unless you simply punt 3NT.
- (4) What did you bid with this East hand E(b) in this week's quiz? I would simply bid 2NT or 3NT as I consider 2♠ to be 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing here.
- (5) And West is again in a spot, what should he respond to East's '4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing' bid? Now E-W were (obviously) not a familiar partnership and West did not want to bid 3♣ in case East did not take it as forcing (I think it's easiest to play that everything after the 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing is forcing to game). Anyway, West decided to simply raise the 4<sup>th</sup> suit; raising the 4<sup>th</sup> suit is a nebulous business and may or may not be natural – but it certainly is forcing.
- (6) And East thought that it was natural (i.e. West was 4405 shape).
- (7) West knew that this was a total screw up and so simply bid the ♦ game.
- (8) Although West had alerted East's 2♠ bid at (4) South did not bother to ask. He assumed that he had a ♠ trick coming (incorrect) and a ♦ trick coming (correct). He also assumed that E-W had no idea what they were doing (correct) and so decided to double. I think that this is rather silly – obviously E-W have missed 3NT and simply passing 5♦ should net a good score.

And what happened? 5♦ doubled made for 750 and an 'undeserved' top to E-W (but South deserved his bottom). 3NT was bid and made at two tables and there were the usual few random results.

The bottom line: -

- 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing still applies if one player has repeated his suit.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing

After the afore mentioned debate I consulted 'my library' and I did indeed find one old book that implied that 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing was only by responder. I think that that is nonsense. Anyway, I then found a rather more up-to-date book on conventions that agreed with me.

East	West	North	East	South
♠ A86	-	pass (1)	1♦	pass
♥ 98	2♣	pass	2♦ (2)	pass
♦ AK8765	2♥ (3)	pass	? (4)	pass
♣ Q5				

So let's get back to our example and change the East hand to this. What would you bid at (4)? Of course you have to bid 2♠, 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing, as Axx is very unlikely to be a sufficient ♠ stop if you bid 3NT and partner has nothing in ♠'s. In fact many experienced pairs play that the 4<sup>th</sup> suit in this actual situation only asks for a ½ stop (say Qx) as it is unlikely that East would be looking for 3NT if he himself held nothing in ♠'s. And if partner indeed has ♠Qx then 3NT needs to be played with him as declarer.

#### A take-out double is playable in the other 3 suits

Board 20 from Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

There was a query on the traveller for this result; how on earth could North possibly end up in 3♦? I happen to know because I was (West) at the table: -

Dealer:	♠ K82	West	North(B)	East	South(F)
West	♥ A103	pass	pass	2♥	dbl (1)
Both vul	♦ K862	pass	3♦ (2)	pass	pass
	♣ 1093	pass	pass		
♠ Q1074	N	♠ 96			
♥ 84	W E	♥ KQ9762			
♦ AQ974	S	♦ 53			
♣ J7		♣ A65			
	♠ AJ32				
	♥ J5				
	♦ J10				
	♣ KQ842				

(1) What did you bid with this South hand F in this week's quiz? The hand has 4 ♠'s and double will work nicely if partner is co-operative enough to bid ♠'s. But the problem is that if North responds with 3♦ then South is totally fixed. I would simply pass.

(2) And here we see the problem, North did indeed bid his ♦ suit.

But what did you bid with this North hand B in this week's quiz? With reasonable ♥'s and a miserable ♦ suit I would bid 2NT (which South would obviously pass).

And what happened? Clearly 3♦ is a poor contact for North and it went 4 down, so 400 away. 2NT by North at another table went just two down. 2♥ was passed out once and went minus two for 200 to N-S. The bottom lines: -

- A take-out double should be playable in the other 3 suits.
- A 1NT response to partner's take-out double is 6-10 with a stop.
- If the opening bid was at the two level you need a little more for 2NT, say 8-11.

## Don't bid again having pre-empted

Board 8 from Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

How many times have I said this in the news-sheets? But one of our top players disagrees with it on this particular deal and tried to justify it, it's falling on deaf ears with me and I stick to my principles.

Dealer:	♠ KJ963				
North	♥ 6	West	North(me)	East	South
Love all	♦ KJ104	pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
	♣ AJ4	4♥ (1)	4♠ (2)	pass	pass
		5♥ (3)	dbl	all pass	
♠ Q2	N	♠ A74			
♥ K10752	W E	♥ AQ985			
♦ A95	S	♦ Q86			
♣ 873		♣ 92			
	♠ 1085				
	♥ J3				
	♦ 732				
	♣ KQ1065				

- (1) This is correct (the Law). In competitive situation bid to the limit of 'The Law'.
- (2) And West's pre-emptive jump has made life difficult for North. If West has passed then North would make a game try (which South would decline). But West's excellent 4♥ bid has put on the pressure and North gambled 4♠ because of his decent shape.
- (3) But this is totally wrong. After a pre-empt nobody really knows what's going on and 4♠ may well be too high. West should pass.

His 'excuse' was that if 4♠ was going down then East should have doubled. I totally disagree; East has nothing more than his two level overcall suggested and has absolutely no reason to double. But West has much more than he needed for the pre-emptive raise to 4♥. West should be happy to defend, especially as he has a reasonably good defensive hand. If anybody should double 4♠ it is West; but I would pass.

And what happened? 5♥ doubled was 2 down for a clear top to N-S. 4♠ was doubled at another table and went -3. Another 4♠ contract went one down undoubled and 3♠ made exactly. So nobody made 10 tricks in ♠'s. I note that one other pair bid on to 5♥ but were not doubled, I most certainly would (did) double with the North hand – if only to stop South from bidding 5♠ as South may quite reasonably expect North to have a better hand for his 4♠ bid.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not bid again having pre-empted (a jump to the 4 level of partner's overcall is a pre-empt).

## Sportsmanlike behaviour

There was a minor 'incident' on Wednesday. I was partnering John Gavens and he was declarer against Dave and Chuck. About ½ way through the hand John led a card from dummy and both defenders discarded. John and I simultaneously asked which of the defenders had revoked (so they can correct it immediately with the minimal amount of fuss). It was, of course, Chuck. So the complete opposite of the infamous 'unsportsmanlike' incident. I simply commented that that's the way we do it at our club. Agreed?

## That Moysian fit yet again

Board 14 from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

The 4-3 fit has been a theme in the last couple of news sheets. This time I was involved but it was my partner who chose to put me in the Moysian game contract – and he had not yet read the recent news sheets. So it's not just me who thinks it is sometimes correct.

Dealer:	♠ AQ7				
East	♥ 10	West	North(C)	East	South(me)
Love all	♦ KJ75	-	-	pass	1NT (1)
	♣ AJ742	pass	2♣ (2)	pass	2♠
		pass	4♠ (3)	all pass	
♠ J32	N	♠ 964			
♥ QJ964	W E	♥ K8732			
♦ Q64	S	♦ 932			
♣ 106		♣ K5	(1) 12-14		
	♠ K1085				
	♥ A5				
	♦ A108				
	♣ Q983				

- (1) I was playing Acol with this partner, so 1NT is 12-14.
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand C(a) in this week's quiz? You have the values for 3NT but the ♥ suit may be wide open. I like my partner's 2♣ Stayman bid here – presumably with the intention of bidding 3NT if partner bids 2♥.
- (3) What did you bid with this North hand C(b) in this week's quiz? You could try 3♣ if you play that as forcing but most play it as a weak hand with 4 ♥'s and 5+ ♣'s. No, easily the best bid is 4♠ - go for the Moysian 4-3 ♠ fit game as 3NT will be dodgy when the opponents are known to hold at least 9 ♥'s. Well bid partner.

And what happened? 4♠ played very well and made 12 tricks for a complete top. Even if the trumps broke 4-2 it is still easily the best contract. And at other tables? On pair found a reasonable 5♣ which made exactly for an average score. The 3 other pairs all bid the poor 3NT, with only two getting what they deserved and going down.

The bottom lines: -

- Think about the Moysian fit if you have good 3 card support for partner's 4 card major and are short in another suit and so can take a ruff or two in the short trump hand.

And how should the bidding go playing Standard American assuming no interference?

There are a few options, here is one: -

North	South	(4) You could bid 2♥ here, 4 <sup>th</sup> suit, primarily to check for a ♥ stopper. But I would prefer to simply bid 4♠, going for the Moysian fit anyway as 1 stop may not be enough.
-	1♣	Another alternative is to bid the 4 <sup>th</sup> suit to ask for a stopper, but one stopper may not be enough and it gets a bit too complex for me when you have a simple 4♠ bid available.
1♦	1♠	
4♠ (4)	pass	

## Redouble is for blood

Board 25 from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

I've mentioned this a few times in the past but two players apparently did not understand this on Wednesday. When Partner opens and RHO doubles, then re-double shows 9+ points and is generally out for blood (to double the opponents wherever they rest if you can). Any subsequent double by either opener or responder is strictly for penalties.

Dealer:	♠ Q10985				
North	♥ A1095	West	North	East(G)	South
E-W vul	♦ 54	-	pass	pass	pass
	♣ Q6	1♦	dbl (1)	redbl(2)	1♠ (3)
		dbl (4)	redbl(5)	3♣ (6)	pass
♠ AJ	N	♠ 63	3NT (6)	all pass	
♥ KQ4	W E	♥ J83			
♦ KQ1063	S	♦ A98			
♣ K107		♣ J8543			
	♠ K742				
	♥ 762				
	♦ J72				
	♣ A92				

- (1) Some may prefer a 1♠ overcall.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand G in this week's quiz? This redouble is incorrect of course, redouble here shows 9+ points and generally a mis-fit for partner. Now one can bid 1NT but that really should be upper range +- 8-9 after a double. I would pass with this hand.
- (3) Pass may be theoretically correct (only bid with a 5 card suit) but South was fairly sure that partner had both majors for this auction and so bid his 4-carder.
- (4) Penalties. With '9+' points opposite West thought that setting the opponents was the best bet. It's debatable at this vulnerability when they have a fit. I certainly would not double as pass is forcing after partner's strength-showing redouble – and if partner cannot double 1♠ because he does not have a decent ♠ holding then game (possibly slam) is there in a suit somewhere (assuming he has his 9+ points and knows what he is doing).
- (5) This is nonsense of course. North later explained that he redoubled because he thought that 1♠ would make. Exactly! Talk about being greedy. 1♠ would have made easily and if he'd passed then N-S would get a lovely top for making 1♠ doubled with an overtrick.
- (6) East wisely decided to bid as he has already mislead partner.
- (7) And West bid what he thought he could make (opposite the supposed 9+ points). At this stage I assume that he realised that partner did not have his redouble bid?

And what happened? 3NT was bid at 4 of the 5 tables (with a different auction I hope) and went the obvious two down at most tables for 200 away. 1♠ doubled +1 would have netted 260. Just one E-W pair stopped in 3♣ for the top score their way.

The bottom lines: -

- A redouble of RHO's initial overcall is 9+ points, often with a mis-fit.
- A subsequent double by either opener or responder is for penalties.
- If you expect to make a doubled contract, don't get greedy and redouble – especially if the opponents have somewhere to run.

5♦ did not score well here and I was asked how to bid the E-W hands.

Dealer:	♠ K72					
North	♥ 1085		West(D)	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ 976		-	-	-	3♥
	♣ Q1054		dbl (1)	4♥ (2)	4♠ (3)	pass
			5♦ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass
♠ A10	N	♠ QJ8543				
♥ AQ	W E	♥ 2				
♦ AKQ842	S	♦ 103				
♣ J32		♣ A986				
	♠ 96					
	♥ KJ97643					
	♦ J5					
	♣ K7					

- (1) What did you bid with this West hand D in this week’s quiz? Without the ♠ suit I will not double and I would bid 3NT.
- (2) Now ‘The Law’ says to compete, but there are always exceptions. You have 10 combined ♥’s but with this totally flat heap 4♥ is very dangerous at this vulnerability – you only need to go two down to get a bottom even if the opponents can make game.
- (3) East has some values and a good 6 card suit, a free bid here shows values and 4♠ is correct.
- (4) And now we see the problem with the initial double. Partner (not unexpectedly) bid ♠’s but West does not know that it’s a 6 card suit (if he had bid 3NT initially and East bid ♠’s the he would know it was a long suit). Anyway, West bid 5♦ now, showing a good hand.
- (5) And it’s difficult for East to bid on as he has already shown values and has no extras.

And what happened? 5♦ made +1 but scored poorly. 4♥ was doubled once and went for 800. The reasonable 4♠ was bid twice and made 2 overtricks. Nobody bid 3NT but Jean-Marc & Phil did bid to the excellent 6NT for 990 – well done.

The bottom lines: -

- The simple version of ‘The Law’ (compete to the total number of trumps) is only applicable when the points are roughly equal. When the opponents clearly have more points it is dangerous and is especially dangerous at unfavourable vulnerability.
- Devalue totally flat (4333 type) hands – like this North one.
- Generally speaking, don’t double ♥’s without 4 ♠’s.
- Think NT when you have a double stop over the pre-empter.
- As is often the case with a decent long minor, think NT.

## If 3NT is an option – then bid it? – part 2

Board 16 from Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ 96543  
West ♥ 4  
E-W vul ♦ J83  
♣ 9765

West	North	East(H)	South
3♥ (1)	pass	3NT	all pass

♠ KJ	N	♠ A2
♥ KJ9873	W E	♥ 62
♦ K652	S	♦ Q10
♣ 8		♣ AKQJ1042
	♠ Q1087	
	♥ AQ105	
	♦ A974	
	♣ 3	

- (1) Perhaps some may consider this too strong for a pre-empt and open 1♥. I won't argue with either as when vulnerable (against not) one's pre-empts should be decent.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand H in this week's quiz? You all know me by now – with a long solid minor, bid NT. I simply bid 3NT.

And what happened? 11 tricks were there on the ♦ lead (that ♦10 was very useful). Just one other E-W pair found 3NT and the majority ignored my continual advice about 3NT being better than 5♣/♦ and played in 5♣ either making or going one down, a poor score either way.

The bottom lines: -

- As is often the case with a decent long minor, think NT.
- If 3NT is an option – then bid it?

## Packing up the bidding boxes

I mentioned this last week, please don't pack them up unless you are completely sure how to do it. In particular the rectangular red ones are a bit tricky – this is because I have laminated some cards and protected others with selotape (otherwise they wear out in no time) and they are a tight fit and must be replaced in the box in exactly the right way.

Also the 'old fashioned' green boxes (with the side-ways cards) are easily broken, two to date, but I only now need to use them when we get 20+ tables. I too can dream.



## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A: This is very tricky; you have game forcing values and cannot make a weak or invitational bid (so 2♦, 2NT, 3♣ and 3♦ are out). Also you cannot go past 3NT (so should not bid 4♣/♦) as 3NT may easily be the best spot. 3NT is very reasonable but I was worried about possible ♠ losers and so bid 2♥ (ostensibly natural and certainly forcing) assuming that partner would bid NT if he had ♠'s stopped – and with something like ♠Kx partner needs to be declarer in NT. If you think that this is too devious (I certainly won't argue) then bid 3NT. If you play 2/1 over 1♦ then 3♣ is forcing here and that is then clearly the best bid.
- Hand B: 2NT. I would like slightly better ♥'s but the ♥A is excellent as you can hold up two rounds if necessary.
- Hand C: (a) 2♣, Stayman. Now normally a 2♣ bid *guarantees* a 4 card major but this hand is a rare exception (I'll explain why at (c) later).  
(b) 4♠. It's a 4-3 fit but with a singleton and 3 good trumps it is surely the best bet.  
(c) Now partner may have bid 2♥ over your 2♣. You would then bid 3NT and if partner was 4-4 in the majors he would convert to 4♠ assuming that you too had 4 ♠'s. I think that that's a risk worth taking and the 4-3 ♠ fit may play better than 3NT anyway, especially if partner's ♥'s are poor.
- Hand D: 3NT. Double is a poor bid without 4 ♠'s. 4♦ is not forcing and I would fancy my chances of making 3NT anyway. Double followed by 4♦ over partner's expected 3♠ response would be forcing, but where are you going and it's gone past 3NT which is probably the best spot. And if you double and partner has a decent hand with just 4 ♠'s he will jump to 4♠ and you are again fixed as you have no idea if he has 4,5 or 6+ ♠'s!
- Hand E: (a) 2NT or 2♦. 2NT is 12-14 as it is the cheapest NT bid available - it is partner who has pushed the bidding up to the two level. 2♦ is a reasonable alternative and some may prefer that to bidding NT with a singleton in partner's suit. 2♠ is incorrect as that is a reverse and shows a stronger hand unless you have agreed otherwise (i.e. play 2/1 in this situation).  
(b) 2NT (or 3NT). You have the ♠'s stopped so bid NT now (if you did not bid it last go). 2♠ is incorrect as it is 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing and principally asking partner for a ♠ stop in this situation.
- Hand F: Pass. If you double you will be in trouble if partner responds 3♦.
- Hand G: Pass. Without the double you would have made a 'courtesy' bid of 1NT; but now that RHO has bid you should only bid 1NT if it is constructive (i.e. about 8-9 points) as partner has another bid if he has a strong hand.
- Hand H: 3NT. Far better than mentioning the ♣ suit, especially at pairs scoring.

### Natural or 4<sup>th</sup> suit?

I would play this as 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing, asking partner to describe his hand further with the first priority being to bid NT with a ♠ stop. If West had a real ♠ suit here then he should simply bid NT himself, East cannot realistically also have 4 ♠'s for his bidding to date. If East indeed had 4405 shape then I would have responded 1♥ with the hand in order to avoid any possible mis-understandings over 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing and possibly missing a 4-4 ♠ fit.