

Mon 27 th	1 st N-S	Jan & Royd	67%	2 nd	Alan & Lewis	65%
	1 st E-W	Derek & Gerard	57%	2 nd	Bjorn & Knud	56%
Wed 29 th	1 st N-S	Alan & Lewis	60%	2 nd	Derek & Gerard	55%
	1 st E-W	Kenneth & Phil	56%	2 nd	Jan & Royd	56%
Fri 1 st	1 st N-S	= Dave & Mike G			= Alan & Lewis	57%
	1 st E-W	Lard G & Gunnar	65%	2 nd	Richard m & Margit	57%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

Hand B

With Hand A LHO opens 1NT and partner doubles. What do you do?

♠ 9862
♥ 952
♦ AK93
♣ 75

♠ AK9
♥ 765
♦ KQ83
♣ 642

With Hand B RHO opens 1♥. (a) What do you bid?
(b) Suppose you pass and partner bids 1NT in the balancing seat, What do you bid now?

Hand C

Hand D

(a) What do you do as opener with Hand C?
(b) and what do you plan to rebid if you decide to open?

♠ KQJ106
♥ QJ7542
♦ -
♣ 74

♠ A
♥ A103
♦ KQJ632
♣ K103

With Hand D you open 1♦ and partner responds 1♥. What do you bid now?

Hand E

Hand F

With Hand E LHO opens 1♥ and this is passed round to you. What do you bid?

♠ 632
♥ KQJ
♦ 764
♣ AK87

♠ KJ54
♥ 10
♦ K72
♣ KQJ62

With Hand F you open 1♣ and LHO overcalls 3♦. Partner doubles (negative but not guaranteeing both majors). What do you bid?

Bidding Sequences Quiz

G	1NT	dbl			What is dbl?
H	1NT	dbl	pass	2♣	What is 2♣?
J	1♥	dbl	3♥		What is 3♠?
K	1♣	1♦	dbl		Dbl is negative, what does it promise in the majors?
L	1♣	2♦	dbl		Dbl is negative, what does it promise in the majors?
M	1♣	3♦	dbl		Dbl is negative, what does it promise in the majors?
N	1NT	pass	2♣	pass	What is 3NT? How many ♠'s?
	2♥	pass	3NT		
P	1NT	pass	2♣	pass	What is 3♥? Is it forcing? How many ♥'s? How many ♠'s?
	2♦	pass	3♥		
Q	1♣	pass	1♠	pass	What is 4NT – quantitative or Gerber? (from board 8 on Wednesday)
	2NT	pass	4NT		

The Bridge Club Championship Races

The current standings for all competitions are in the results folder and on the web-site. There the main move of the week was Alan getting his 30 qualifying results for the Gold Cup and moving into 6th place
We currently have 8 people qualified for contention (30 results above 53%) in the Gold Cup:

1	Dave Cutler	1865.6
2	Bob Pelletier	1795.8
3	Bob Short	1784.3
4	Phil Lovell	1771.1
5	Michael Guin	1760.9
6	Alan Purdy	1749.9
7	Bill Noe	1747.5
8	Kenneth Johansson	1746.7

The top standings for the Silver Plate (best 10) and Bronze medal (best 5) are as follows. For clarity I have removed Dave, Bob P and Bob S who are currently in the top 3 positions of the Gold Cup.

Silver Plate

4	Clive Bell	637.8
5	Phil Lovell	633.8
6	Alan Purdy	628.6
7	Lewis Berg	627.1
8	Hans Bijvoet	624.2
9	Derek & Gerard	623.7
10	Jan v Koss	617.2

Bronze Medal

2	Clive Bell	334.3
3	Lewis Berg	331.6
6	Phil Lovell	328.5
7	Ruth Ibler	327.2
8	Jim Wallington	327.1
9	Alan Purdy	325.8
10	Hans Bijvoet	325.1

Basic 2/1

A couple of our more experienced players have finally decided to take the very sensible step of learning 2/1, so I have written a couple of pages on it. It is intended for anybody with a good understanding of Standard American to pick up the basics of 2/1. Copies are in the conventions folder and I will doubtless improve upon it when I get feedback/questions.

I will put it up on the internet when it's finalised and after I have had some comments.

A double of a 1NT opening is penalties...

Board 17 from Monday 27th

... advancer (doubler's partner) should only bid with a very weak hand (5 or less points). At least two (that I know of) players got this wrong on Monday. And as it's an obvious 1NT opening and equally obvious double but as 1NT doubled was the final contract only twice I suspect that a number more got it wrong.

Dealer: ♠ 9862
North ♥ 952
Love all ♦ AK93
♣ 75

Table A

West	North(A)	East	South
-	pass	1NT	dbl (1)
pass (2)	2♦ (3)	pass	2♠ (4)
all pass			

♠ 103	N	♠ K5
♥ 863	W E	♥ AK104
♦ 8542	S	♦ 1076
♣ J862		♣ KQ103
	♠ AQJ74	
	♥ QJ7	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ A94	

Table B

West	North(A)	East	South
-	pass	1NT	dbl (1)
pass (2)	2♣ (5)	pass	pass (6)

- Table A: (1) With a decent 17 points, a clear penalty double.
(2) With such a weak hand West would run if there was somewhere to run to, but with no 5 card suit it's best to pass and hope for the best.
(3) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week's quiz? Partner has made a penalty double of 1NT and with 7 good points you expect to defeat the contract. Of course you should pass. But see Table B for a really amazing bid!
(4) With just a doubleton ♦ and a decent ♠ suit, South decided to bid 2♠.
- Table B: (5) What is the most ridiculous two level bid that North can make? Anything but pass is silly, but 2♣!! It appears that North thought that this was some sort of Stayman? That's a new one on me. North actually tried to justify this ludicrous bid by saying that 4♠ makes!
(6) With three decent ♣'s pass is clearly best here.

And what happened? Deep finesse says that N-S can make 10 tricks in NoTrumps, but that's double dummy. In practice 1NT goes one down on a ♠ lead. 100 for 2♣ minus two was the only +ve score in the E-W column.

The bottom lines: -

- A double of 1NT is penalties – about 15-18 points.
- Only remove partner's double with a very weak hand (5 or less) and a long (5+) suit.

1NT in the balancing seat. A 1NT overcall is 15-18, but that's only in the direct seat. If it goes 1 something pass pass 1NT then this 1NT in the balancing seat is considerably less. Different partnerships have varying agreements. I like to play around 10-13; others play something like 12-14 and I note that Brian Senior (in "balancing after 1-level openings" which is in the club library) recommends a large range like 11-16 with a Crowhurst type 2♣ enquiry. I don't like the Crowhurst convention but it may well be very useful in this particular scenario where there are simply not enough bids to show the large point spread.

Dealer:	♠ Q105				
North	♥ A10942	West(E)	North	East(B)	South
E-W vul	♦ A92	-	1♥	pass (1)	pass
	♣ K9	1NT (2)	pass	3NT (3)	all pass

♠ 632	N	♠ AK9
♥ KQJ	W E	♥ 765
♦ 764	S	♦ KQ83
♣ AK87		♣ 642
	♠ J874	
	♥ 83	
	♦ J105	
	♣ J1053	

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand B(a) in this week's quiz? With no ♥ shortage (and with only 3 ♠'s) double is a poor choice. Pass is correct, if partner understands balancing you get another chance.
- (2) What did you bid with this West hand E in this week's quiz? With a flat hand and good ♥ stops 1NT is correct. Note that this does not promise 15-18 as it does in the direct seat. Partner has values and you 'borrow' a king from him.
- (3) What did you bid with this East hand B(a) in this week's quiz? Unfortunately East did not understand the theory of balancing and thought that partner had 15-18. The correct bid is 2NT which West would pass with his poor flat 12 count.

And what happened? Deep finesse says that E-W can make 8 tricks in No Trumps. I note that 1♥ was passed out 6 times (!) for 80 to N-S or 50 to E-W. With the other two pairs reaching 3NT it appears that nobody !! understands balancing as all the E-W pairs either underbid (passing out 1♥) or overbid to 3NT.

The bottom lines: -

- Understanding balancing!
- There are a couple of books on balancing in the library, let me know if you want to borrow one.
- In particular, we have a couple of copies of the booklet "balancing after 1-level openings" by Brian senior.

Double followed by 1NT in the balancing seat. As we have just seen, everything is different in the balancing seat. A possible treatment is given at the bottom of this page.

Dealer:	♠ KQ4				
East	♥ K863	West	North	East	South
N-S vul	♦ A65	-	-	1♦	pass
	♣ A107	pass	dbl (1)	pass	1♠ (2)
		pass	1NT (3)	pass	2NT (4)
		pass	pass (5)	all pass	

♠ Q863	N	♠ A86
♥ J107	W E	♥ Q54
♦ 1083	S	♦ KQ94
♣ Q862		♣ J93

♠ J973
♥ A92
♦ J73
♣ K54

- (1) What would you bid with this North hand? Double is correct as the hand is far too good for a balancing 1NT in most player's style.
- (2) With a totally flat hand it's not quite worth a jump.
- (3) This is fine.
- (4) But here we have the problem. Not many non-steady partnerships have agreed the range for a 1NT rebid in the balancing seat having doubled. South assumed it was around 14-17.
- (5) But North thought that he was minimal for his bidding, and with a totally flat hand and no agreement about the strength I think he's probably right.

And what happened?

North made 10 tricks for a near top as only one pair bid the 3NT game.

Who was to blame for not bidding game? With no agreement about the exact point range I think that South should have bid 3NT rather than 2NT at (4).

The bottom lines.

- Regular partnerships should agree the ranges for balancing NoTrump bids.
- Since the 1NT bid in the balancing seat needs to include a fairly low point count (say 10 or 11) there really is not much room to be that precise. One possibility is: -

No Trump bids in the balancing seat

1NT	10-13
dbl followed by 1NT	14-17
dbl followed by 2NT	18-19
2NT	20-23

This assumes that partner has made a minimum response at the one-level. If partner makes a non-jump response at the two level then it's even more problematic! Note that a pre-emptive Unusual 2NT is not needed in the balancing seat and so the 2NT overcall can be used to help to fill in the large point spread. It really is not a good idea to have a four point spread for any No Trump bid, but there really is no alternative unless you want to use Crowhurst.

In No Trumps, play on your longest suitBoard 11 from Monday 27th

Very simple and obvious I know, basic beginner's stuff, but I watched as one declarer went two down in 1NT when 3NT was made at another table – a difference of four tricks with no bad breaks or long suits around!

Dealer:	♠ AK3	West	North	East	South
South	♥ K1095	-	-	-	pass
Love all	♦ AK4	pass	1NT	all pass	
	♣ 654				

♠ Q94	N	♠ J8765
♥ Q82	W E	♥ AJ74
♦ Q1082	S	♦ 93
♣ 1072		♣ AK
	♠ 102	
	♥ 63	
	♦ J765	
	♣ QJ983	

There's nothing to the bidding, so onto the play. You get the obvious ♠ lead and win the 2nd round. Which suit do you attack? ♣'s is totally obvious. Play on your longest suit. This declarer simply banged down the ♦AK and made just 5 tricks. Everybody else managed at least 7 with Phil/Tomas making 9. Deep finesse says 8.

The bottom line:

- Whether declarer or defending No Trumps, it's usually best to attack your longest suit.

With 12 points opposite a double – do somethingBoard 2 from Monday 27th

Our same non-dynamic North did nothing but pass on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ 1095	West	North	East	South
East	♥ KJ54	-	-	2♦ (1)	pass
N-S vul	♦ AQ2	2♥ (2)	pass	pass (3)	dbl (4)
	♣ Q52	2NT (5)	pass	3♣	pass (6)
		pass	pass (7)		

♠ A7642	N	♠ Q3
♥ 103	W E	♥ AQ872
♦ K95	S	♦ 76
♣ J107		♣ 9863
	♠ KJ8	
	♥ 96	
	♦ J10843	
	♣ AK4	

- (1) A multi bid with various meanings including weak with 5 ♥'s and a minor suit.
- (2) A relay showing a non-strong hand.
- (3) So weak with ♥'s and a minor.
- (4) South has only 3 ♠'s but I think that double is the only sensible option.
- (5) Hoping to find a 5-3 minor suit fit.
- (6) South has already bid his hand
- (7) But unfortunately North refused to bid his, 3NT is obvious.

And What happened?

- 3♣ went minus three for 150 away. This was a near top for E-W as N-S have an easy 3NT. The bottom lines: -
- With 12 points opposite a partner who has doubled – don't pass!
- Don't be pushed around just because the opponent's play strange muti two bids – simply listen to their explanations.

Be wary of raising a minor past 3NT

Board 3 from Wednesday 27th

Sometimes partner may have to 'dig up' a non-existent minor in order to find a forcing bid – so don't raise it to the 4 level unless you have excellent support and slam ambitions: -

Dealer:	♠ 85	West	North	East	South(D)
South	♥ KQ654	-	-	-	1♦ (1)
E-W vul	♦ 94	pass (2)	1♥	pass (3)	3♣ (4)
	♣ Q642	pass	4♣ (5)	pass	4NT (6)
		pass	5♣ (7)	pass	pass (8)
		pass			
♠ QJ643	N	♠ K10972			
♥ 83	W E	♥ J97			
♦ A1075	S	♦ 8			
♣ 95		♣ AJ87			
	♠ A				
	♥ A103				
	♦ KQJ632				
	♣ K103				

- (1) Clearly the best opening.
- (2) A 1♠ overcall is reasonable here.
- (3) But a 1♠ overcall in the sandwich seat would be very dangerous, this pass is best.
- (4) What did you bid with this South hand D in this week's quiz? The problem is that 3♦ is not forcing and neither is 2♣. The hand is too good for 2NT and that's not a good bid with good 3 card ♥ support and a singleton. I believe that the best bid is 3♣; game forcing. If partner bids 3♦ or 3♥ you can look for a slam there. If partner bids 3♠ you can bid 3NT and if partner bids 3NT you can either pass or raise quantitatively with 4NT. But...
- (5) ... the only problem is if partner raises ♣'s! I would never raise to 4♣ with such a weak hand and weak ♣ support. Rebidding the good 5 card ♥ suit is clearly best.
- (6) South is in a mess now. He assumed that partner had only 4 ♥'s and had good ♣ support.
- (7) Zero (or 3) Key cards.
- (8) And another problem for South. He cannot retreat into 5♦'s even if he wanted to as that would be asking for the ♣Q.

And what happened?

5♣ went one down. As it happens 5♦ (bid at one table) is also one down because of the bad ♦ position. Obviously 4♥ or 5♥ is the best contract. Two E-W pairs bid to 4♠ (clearly following the Law); one was doubled but it made for 790 and the top for E-W; the other went one down for an average as 4/5♥ makes. Three N-S pairs bid to 4/5 ♥'s for the top scores to N-S.

The bottom lines: -

- Sometimes it is necessary to 'dig up' a forcing 3♣ or 3♦ bid.
- Such a bid should rarely be supported at the four level.

5-6 in the majors is a great hand!

Board 7 from Wednesday 27th

5602 shape with 9 points in the majors is a great offensive hand – do not defend!

Dealer:	♠ 9543	West	North	East	South(C)
South	♥ A103	-	-	-	1♥ (1)
Both vul	♦ Q854	2♦	2♥ (2)	3♣ (3)	4♥ (4)
	♣ J8	5♣ (5)	pass	pass	5♥ (6)
		pass	pass	dbl	all pass
		pass			

♠ 872	N	♠ A
♥ 6	W E	♥ K98
♦ AKJ10962	S	♦ 73
♣ Q5		♣ AK109632

♠ KQJ106
♥ QJ7542
♦ -
♣ 74

- (1) What did you open with this South hand C(a) in this week’s quiz? I consider this hand to be huge and opened 1♥ with the intention of (b) reversing into ♠’s if necessary.
- (2) With a weak hand it’s usually best to support partner’s ♥’s rather than show 4 ♠’s (with a negative double in this case)
- (3) 3NT is an alternative here which East later said he should have bid. However it makes no difference with this South (me)...
- (4) ... as I am always bidding game once partner has made a noise in support of ♥’s. I most certainly would never defend 3NT (as three South’s did).
- (5) A good bid; partner must have excellent ♣’s. 5♦ is equally good.
- (6) As I said, I am not defending with this hand.

And what happened?

The three pairs in 3NT all made overtricks. 5♣ was bid (and doubled!) twice; it made +1 and -1. Nobody bid 5♦ which looks fairly secure as the cards lie. 5♥ doubled was reached by two South’s and went for just 500, so scoring very well.

The bottom lines: -

- Do not defend with a hand like this South hand.
- Upgrade a hand that is 5-6 in the majors, especially with a void and all the points in the major suits.

Bid 3NT or the 4-card major?

Board 15 from Friday 27th

When the level is so high that you cannot safely show both your stop for No Trumps and a four card major then you have to make a decision: -

Dealer:	♠ Q2	West(F)	North	East	South
South	♥ Q63	-	-	-	pass
Both vul	♦ AQ109863	1♣	3♦ (1)	dbl (2)	pass
	♣ 5	3NT (3)	all pass		

♠ KJ54	N	♠ A98
♥ 10	W E	♥ K853
♦ K72	S	♦ J5
♣ KQJ62		♣ A984
	♠ 10763	
	♥ AJ972	
	♦ 4	
	♣ 1073	

- (1) Weak
- (2) Negative. At this level it cannot show both majors. I think it's best to play it as showing values and only guaranteeing one 4-card major.
- (3) What did you bid with this West hand F in this week's quiz? Should you look for a 4-4 ♠ fit or bid 3NT with a ♦ stop? There was some discussion at the table with one experienced player adamant that West should bid 3♠. I agree with the 3NT bid because: -
 - (a) You have a ♦ stop which may be worthless if partner ends up as declarer.
 - (b) Partner almost certainly has ♥'s and so may well not have 4 ♠'s.
 - (c) If you bid 3♠ then there is no chance of getting into 3NT if that's the best spot.
 - (d) If partner happens to have both majors then he will probably bid 4♦ (pick a major) and you can then bid 4♠.

And what happened?

3NT made twice for about average and went down once. 4♠ was bid once and made (Deep Finesse says it only makes 8 tricks) and there were the usual spurious results like 6♣ minus three.

The bottom lines: -

- When you have no room to show both a 4-card major and a stop for NoTrump you have to make the decision. I think it's usually best to opt for 3NT but it depends upon the exact hand.

