

		<u>Winner</u>		<u>Runner-up</u>		
Mon 20 th	N-S	1 st	John/Kenneth	59%	2 nd Mike(Can)/Bill	56%
	E-W	1 st	Richard(Irl)/Ursula	59%	2 nd Clive/Dave	57%
Wed 22 nd	N-S	1 st	Alan/Bob Short	62%	2 nd Mike(Can)/Bill	54%
	E-W	1 st	Clive/Hans(Hol)	59%	2 nd John/Kenneth	57%
Fri 24 th	N-S	1 st	Chuck/Paul Kelly	63%	2 nd Barbara/Bev Estes	56%
	E-W	1 st	Dave/Hans(Hol)	65%	2 nd Emil/Terry	60%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♥, what do you bid?
♠ A965	♠ AQ75	With Hand B you open 1♣ (or 1♦ if you prefer), LHO overcalls 1♥ and partner bids 1♠. What do you bid?
♥ 643	♥ Q	
♦ AKQ6	♦ K942	
♣ Q2	♣ AKQ2	
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1♥. (a) What do you bid? (b) Suppose you choose 2♣ and partner bids 2♦, what now?
♠ AQJ6	♠ AJ8	(a) What do you open with Hand D? (b) Suppose you open 1♦ and partner bids 2♣, what do you bid?
♥ A7	♥ KJ4	
♦ 82	♦ AKJ105	
♣ J10642	♣ Q9	
Hand E	Hand F	Do you open with Hand E (2 nd seat vul)?
♠ KQJ32	♠ AQJ9632	With Hand F partner opens 1♦. (a) What do you bid? (b) Suppose that you bid 1♠ and partner bids 2♣, what now?
♥ 43	♥ AK7	
♦ Q75	♦ 105	
♣ K94	♣ A	

Bidding Sequences Quiz

G	1♦ - 1♠ - 2♣ - 3♠	3♠ is strong, but is it forcing?
H	2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 4♣	What is 4♣?
J	2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 4NT	What is 4NT?
K	1♦ - 2♣ - 2NT	How strong is 2NT?
L	1♦ 1NT(overcall)	How strong is the 1NT overcall?

Lead Quiz

You are on lead against 3NT and partner has indicated that he wants a ♥ lead.

M What do you lead from ♥K85 ?

N What do you lead from ♥K105 ?

No psyches please

Because of the large number of inexperienced players in the club, **psyching is not allowed**. Let's have a quote from the ACBL Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge: -

'People who employ psychic calls against less experienced players may be guilty of unsportsmanlike psyching and thereby in violation of League regulations'. In this club there is no 'may be' about it – psyching is simply not allowed. Repeated offenders will be suspended/thrown out.

12 off the top

Board 10 from Wednesday 22nd

What was your answer to sequence K (1♦ - 2♣ - 2NT) in this week's quiz. South got it wrong at table A.

Dealer:	♠ K6	<u>Table A</u>				
East	♥ A85	West	North	East	South(D)	
Both vul	♦ 64	-	-	pass	1♦ (1)	
	♣ AK7643	pass	2♣	pass	2NT (2)	
		pass	3NT (3)	pass	pass (4)	
		pass				
♠ Q107432	N	♠ 95				
♥ 63	W E	♥ Q10972				
♦ 83	S	♦ Q972	<u>Table B</u>			
♣ J102		♣ 85	West	North	East	South(D)
	♠ AJ8		-	-	pass	2NT (1)
	♥ KJ4		pass	4♣ (5)	pass	4♠
	♦ AKJ105		pass	6NT	all pass	
	♣ Q9					

- Table A: (1) What did you open with this South hand D(a) in this week's quiz? 19 points, so 1♦ followed by a jump in NT seems superficially correct. But I prefer the opening at Table B.
(2) This is sequence K. What did you bid with this South hand D(b) in this week's quiz? South thought that he was showing 18-19 points. Unfortunately he is not. After a two level response 2NT is the cheapest NT bid available and shows 12-14. To show 18-19 you have to jump, so 3NT.
(3) Opposite 12-14 North quite reasonably signed off in 3NT.
(4) And South thought that North has the minimal 6-10 points.
- Table B: (1) This South chose a 2NT opening. This ♦ suit makes it worth 2NT in my opinion.
(5) Gerber.

And what happened?

Everybody made 13 tricks in NT, but 5 out of 7 pairs stopped in 3NT.

The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade a AKJ10x holding, it is easily worth 9+ points
- After a two level response from partner, 2NT is 12-14 and 3NT is the bid hand.

Don't deny a 4 card major

Board 22 from Monday 20th

A recurring theme in the news-sheets, but this time things went wrong not because a 4-4 fit was missed, but for another reason: -

Dealer:	♠ 843	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ 72	West(A)	North	East	South
E-W vul	♦ 3	-	-	1♥	pass
	♣ J1098764	3NT (1)	all pass		

♠ A965	N	♠ KJ7	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ 643	W E	♥ AKQ105	West(A)	North	East	South
♦ AKQ6	S	♦ 10942	-	-	1♥	pass
♣ Q2		♣ 3	1♠ (1)	pass	2♦ (2)	pass
	♠ Q102		4♥ (3)	all pass		
	♥ J98					
	♦ J875					
	♣ AK5					

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? Opinion is divided when responder has 4 ♠'s and 5 ♥'s opposite a 1♥ opening. I generally always bid 1♠ but with a weak hand it may be best to bid 2♥. But with game going values and weak ♥'s I prefer 1♠ with west hand. This 3NT ('showing the points') was silly.

Table B: (1) This West got it right.
(2) Even though the ♥ suit is great (and thus re-biddable) I still prefer to bid this ropey ♦ suit. It shows the shape of the hand.
(3) And West now knows that East has at most 4 black cards and so 3NT will be very dicey indeed. Had East responded 3♣ then 3NT would be reasonable although many would still prefer the 5-3 ♥ fit.

And what happened?

North led the ♣J. South correctly overtook, played a ♣K and then the ♣5 and that was a deserved 3 down, so 300 for N-S. As this was the only negative score for any E-W it did not matter how many it went down.

The bottom lines: -

- 4-4 fits are 'golden'. But 5-3 fits sometimes play better in NT especially if the trumps are poor. It's not applicable in this actual deal, but 5-3 fits play very well even with poor trumps when the 3 card trump hand also has shortage elsewhere (so you get a ruff in the short hand).
- Never deny a 4 card major. A natural bid of 1NT, 2NT or 3NT over partner's opening denies a 4 card major.
- The 'I wanted to show my points' excuse is not good enough. We all play natural systems, if you 'want to show your points' then take up Precision.

A splinter?

Board 15 from Monday 20th

West at Table A asked me just how bad his 2nd bid(4) on this deal was. My answer was that it was slightly better than his partner's 2nd bid(5): -

Dealer:	♠ 6			<u>Table A</u>				
South	♥ AK753			West(B)	North	East	South	
N-S vul	♦ Q3			-	-	-	pass (1)	
	♣ 98653			1♦ (2)	1♥	1♠ (3)	pass	
				4♣ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass	
♠ AQ75	N		♠ J98432					
♥ Q	W E		♥ 10862	<u>Table B</u>				
♦ K942	S		♦ J	West(B)	North	East	South	
♣ AKQ2			♣ J4	-	-	-	pass (1)	
	♠ K10			1♣ (2)	1♥	1♠ (3)	pass	
	♥ J94			3♥ (4)	pass	4♠ (5)	all pass	
	♦ A108765							
	♣ 107							

- Table A:
- (1) I would open a weak 2♦ so I guess that this pair do not play 2♦ as weak?
 - (2) I prefer to open 1♣ when equal length (3-3 or 4-4) in the minors but that's just my personal preferred style.
 - (3) This 1♠ bid seemed to be popular. With no overcall I would bid 1♠ but with an overcall I would pass and bid ♠'s at the lowest level later (often it will go round to partner who doubles 'automatically' and you can then bid 1♠. Another treatment is to play negative free bids but I don't really recommend them, especially to inexperienced players.
 - (4) What did you bid with this West hand B in this week's quiz? This 4♣ bid is obviously forcing but I don't understand it. 3♣ is natural and forcing and so 4♣ should be a splinter. I would choose the bid at Table B.
 - (5) Obviously East should not pass, I suppose he thought 4♣ was natural and did not want to get too high?

- Table B:
- (2) This West chose 1♣, fine – that would be my choice.
 - (3) And this East also decided to bid.
 - (4) This is the answer to the Hand B quiz. A splinter agreeing ♥'s.
 - (5) Now it depends upon how you play your splinters. I prefer to play them as game forcing, so 4♠ here is fast arrival and 'shut up'.

And what happened?

The good 4♠ was the most popular spot, arrived at by various routes.

The bottom lines: -

- One above the forcing natural bid is a splinter.
- My personal style is to respond to partner's 1♣/♦ opening with a weak hand and shortage in his suit, but there is no need to do this if RHO overcalls.

4th suit forcing – part 1

Board 8 from Friday 24th

If you have the 4th suit, then bid NT!: -

Dealer: ♠ K954
West ♥ J9
Love all ♦ KJ10964
♣ 8

West	North	East(C)	South
1♥	pass (1)	2♣ (2)	pass
2♦	pass	2♠ (3)	pass
3♣ (4)	pass	pass (5)	pass

♠ 8	N	♠ AQJ6
♥ KQ853	W E	♥ A7
♦ A753	S	♦ 82
♣ AQ7		♣ J10642
	♠ 10732	
	♥ 10642	
	♦ Q	
	♣ K953	

- (1) A weak jump overcall of 3♦ is an alternative.
- (2) What did you bid with this East hand C(a) in this week's quiz. You could bid 1♠ but most experienced players these days bid the minor and then ♠'s next go – showing the shape and game forcing.
- (3) But you have to change tack as a ♠ bid now is the 4th suit. What did you bid with this East hand C(b) in this week's quiz? Now partner could just be 4540 shape but that's unlikely. ♠'s is the 4th suit and a 2♠ bid here as 4th suit has little point. Simplest is to simply bid 3NT although 2♠ is technically correct (and bid 3NT later if partner does not 'support' ♠'s).
- (4) West has no ♠ stop, but 3♣ is fine as he considered the auction to be game forcing.
- (5) East missed his 2nd chance to bid 3NT.

And what happened?

3♣ made +2 and scored a near zero.

The bottom lines: -

- A bid of the 4th suit is not natural.
- If you have a good holding in the 4th suit, then NT is probably best.
- There are various treatments for 4th suit forcing. It's simplest to play it as game forcing by an unlimited bidder.
- Some 4th suit sequences are tricky. One thing that you have to decide is what is a raise of the 4th suit? It's probably best to play it as natural if it is possible for you to have the suit and it's a major.

4th suit forcing – part 2

Board 20 from Monday 20th

If you don't play strong jump shifts, then you have to understand 4th suit forcing: -

Dealer:	♠ K54			<u>Table A</u>			
West	♥ 4			West	North	East	South(F)
Both vul	♦ AKQ62			pass	1♦	pass	1♠ (1)
	♣ Q1074			pass	2♣	pass	4NT (2)
				pass	5♦	pass	6NT (3)
				all pass			
♠ 8	N	♠ 107					
♥ J96	W E	♥ Q108532		<u>Expert Table</u> (playing weak jump shifts)			
♦ J983	S	♦ 74		West	North	East	South(F)
♣ K9865		♣ J32		pass	1♦	pass	1♠ (1)
	♠ AQJ9632			pass	2♣	pass	2♥ (2)
	♥ AK7			pass	2♠ (4)	pass	4NT (5)
	♦ 105			pass	5♥ (6)	pass	5NT (7)
	♣ A			pass	6♦	pass	7♠ or 7NT (8)

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand F(a) in this week's quiz? If you play strong jump shifts it's easy - 2♠ is game forcing and sets ♠'s as trumps. If you play weak jump shifts then you have to bid 1♠.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand F(b) in this week's quiz? Neither 2♠ nor 3♠ are forcing and so you have to bid like the expert table. This 4NT bid was apparently normal Blackwood.
- (3) South could (perhaps should) have asked for kings but the answer of two would not show if the all-important ♠K was present.
- Expert Table: (1) We'll assume that our experts play weak jump shifts.
- (2) 4th suit forcing. They play it as game forcing.
- (4) This denies a ♥ stop and probably shows 3 ♠'s or a good doubleton ♠.
- (5) RKCB. South could equally well mess around with a bit of cue bidding first.
- (6) Two key cards (one ace and the ♠K) and no ♠Q.
- (7) Kings?
- (8) 7♠ is sure (South knows that he can ruff a ♥ if necessary) but at pairs 7NT may be worth the gamble.

The bottom lines: -

- It really is easy if you play strong jump shifts.
- I do not recommend weak jump shift unless you are an experienced pair and completely happy with 4th suit forcing sequences.
- If you choose to play weak jump shifts then it is often necessary to use the 4th suit to set up a game force.
- There are various treatments for 4th suit forcing. It's simplest to play it as game forcing by an unlimited bidder.

Would you open?

Board 9 from Monday 20th

I was asked if I would open this East hand. I said yes – it was not hindsight, I was not shown the other hands.

Dealer:	♠ 54				
North	♥ Q1062	West	North	East(E)	South
E-W vul	♦ 962	-	pass	pass (1)	2NT
	♣ Q1062	pass	3NT (2)	all pass	

♠ 1076	N	♠ KQJ32
♥ KJ875	W E	♥ 43
♦ 843	S	♦ Q75
♣ 85		♣ K94
	♠ A98	
	♥ A9	
	♦ AKJ10	
	♣ AJ73	

- (1) Did you open with this East hand E in this week's quiz? It's only 19 for the rule of 20 but I would open because all of the points are outside the doubleton and the ♠ suit is excellent.
- (2) I would bid Stayman but the same 3NT contract will be reached anyway.

And what happened? West led a ♥ and 3NT made overtrick(s).

Had West led a ♠ then South would not have had such an easy time (Deep Finesse says that there are only 8 tricks for N-S in 3NT). The bottom lines: -

- Upgrade a hand with a suit like KQJxx.
- Upgrade a hand where the points are in the long(ish) suits.

Bidding Sequence Answers

- G** 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♣ - 3♠ 3♠ is strong, but is it forcing? No. If you want to make a forcing 3♠ bid then you have to bid the 4th suit (2♥ here) followed by a subsequent 3♠ bid.
- H** 2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 4♣ What is 4♣? This is a tricky one, and it really depends upon what 4NT would mean here. Since partner's 2NT opening is very clearly defined (20-21) there really is no need for a quantitative 4NT. So playing 4♣ as natural and 4NT as (RKC) Blackwood seems logical to me.
- J** 2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 4NT What is 4NT? RKCB if you go along with the above.
- K** 1♦ - 2♣ - 2NT How strong is 2NT? 12-14. If you have the 18-19 point hand then you have to jump in NT.
- L** 1♦ 1NT(overcall) How strong is the direct 1NT overcall? 15-18 (or 15-17). Anybody who believes that it is 12-15 needs to learn some bridge basics or else has an ulterior motive for saying they play such a silly bid (perhaps to avoid being suspended again for repeated **unsportsmanlike** psyching?). Some may disagree, but I am not stupid; be aware – **no** psyching.

What do you lead from Kxx? And from K10x? Board 19 from Friday 24th

Dealer: ♠ A1075
West ♥ J3
Love all ♦ 10952
♣ K105

♠ K3	N	♠ QJ642
♥ K10842	W E	♥ A76
♦ AQ6	S	♦ KJ8
♣ 843		♣ AJ

♠ 98
♥ Q95
♦ 743
♣ Q9762

	N	
♥ 6	W E	♥ Q1074
	S	

♥ AJ932

It seems that – it depends?

I won't go into the bidding (4♥ is a nice contract) but West ended up as declarer in 3NT.

Don't ask me why, but North decided to lead a ♣, that's how to set the contract. But the question is which ♣ should North lead?

She reasonably(?) led the ♣5 but the suit was then blocked as it was not clear to throw the ♣10 on the next round.

So should one lead the ♣K or ♣10 from this holding? I don't know. But let's have a similar problem from Wednesday 15th. I don't have the complete deal.

West again ended up as declarer in 3NT and in the bidding South had indicated that he wanted a ♥ lead. North had no entry and in this situation it is imperative that he leads a low ♥ so that N-S pick up 5 ♥'s off the top.

So what's correct? What should one lead from Kxx (Quiz M) and from K10x (Quiz N)? Can anybody who is a better defender than me (yes, I know that that's 1/2 of the club) help me out here. I guess it's low from Kxx and either the K or 10 from K10x? Give me (or send by e-mail) your opinion. Or you can always post it on the web-site guest book which I have just installed.

Bidding Quiz Answers

Bidding Sequence answers are on the previous page.

Hand A: 1♠. With a weak hand 2♥ may be best, but with game values it's best to bid the ♠ suit.

Hand B: 3♥. A splinter showing ♥ shortage and agreeing ♠'s.

Hand C: (a) 2♣. This is preferable to 1♠. Note that it is not denying a major as you intend to bid a (game forcing) 2♠ over a 1NT or 2♥ rebid from partner. This shows your shape. If you initially respond 1♠ and then bid 3♣ that implies 5 ♠'s.

(b) 3NT. Partner has thwarted your attempt to bid out your shape. A 2♣ bid now would be 4th suit forcing. It is technically correct but there is little point (unless partner is 4540 shape) and you have to agree what a raise of the 4th suit means.

Hand D: (a) 2NT. AKJ10x is worth far more than 8 points and the hand is easily worth a 2NT (20-21) opener.

(b) 3NT. A 2NT rebid after partner responds at the two level shows 12-14 and so you have to jump in NT to show a hand too strong to open 1NT (18-19).

Hand E: 1♠. Of course you can pass if you prefer but I upgrade a hand with ♠KQJxx.

Hand F: (a) 2♠. A strong jump shift; setting trumps and game forcing. If you play weak jump shifts then you have to bid 1♠.

(b) 2♥. 4th suit forcing. If you play weak jump shifts then it really is important to understand 4th suit forcing as 3♠ here is not forcing. You have to bid 2♥ with the intention of bidding ♠'s next go as a forcing bid.