

Mon 15 th	1 st N-S	Jan Roos & Per-Ake	64%	2 nd	Dave & Jo	61%
	1 st E-W	Arne & Lars	70%	2 nd	Gunnar & Lars Gus..	63%
Wed 17 th	1 st N-S	Ivy & Gulia	57%	2 nd	Bob & Mike	57%
	1 st E-W	Paul Sav.. & Dave	67%	2 nd	Lasse & Janne	64%
Fri 19 th	1 st N-S	Sophus & Ase	58%	2 nd	Jan Roos & Per-Ake	57%
	1 st E-W	Lars Gus.. & Lars Br..	63%	2 nd	Gunvor & Margit	57%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A

Hand B

With Hand A RHO opens 1♥, what do you bid.

♠ 532

♠ AJ97

With Hand B RHO opens 1♥. (a) What do you bid?

♥ Q6

♥ QJ6

(b) Suppose you double and LHO bids 1NT; what now?

♦ AK83

♦ AQ107

(c) Suppose you double and partner bids 2♣; what now?

♣ A1082

♣ A7

Hand C

Hand D

What do you open with Hand C?

♠ 95

♠ KJ6

♥ A

♥ 732

With Hand D partner opens a weak 2♠, what do you bid and what are your intentions?

♦ K85

♦ AKQ

♣ AKQJ1086

♣ Q1043

Hand E

Hand F

With Hand E partner opens 3NT (long solid minor with no outside ace or king). What do you bid?

♠ AJ1084

♠ J10985

♥ KJ109

♥ 10843

With Hand F you are vul with non-vul opponents. Partner opens 1NT and RHO overcalls 2♠ (Cappelletti or Multi Landy) showing 5 ♠'s and a 4 or 5 card minor. What do you bid?

♦ QJ104

♦ A7

♣ -

♣ KQ

Bidding Sequences Quiz

G 3NT

What is a 3NT opening?

H 1♥ dbl pass 2♣
pass 2NT

How many points is 2NT?

J 1♥ dbl 1NT pass
pass 2♦

How strong is 2♦?

Don't double with flat hands – part 1Board 3 from Monday 15th

Dealer: ♠ AJ97
 South ♥ QJ6
 E-W Vul ♦ AQ107
 ♣ A7

♠ Q32	N	♠ K105
♥ AK753	W E	♥ 108
♦ 83	S	♦ K9652
♣ KJ10		♣ 653
	♠ 864	
	♥ 942	
	♦ J4	
	♣ Q9842	

Table A

West	North(B)	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♥	dbl (1)	1NT (2)	pass
pass	2♦ (3)	pass (4)	pass
pass			

Table B

West	North(B)	East	South
-	-	-	pass
1♥	dbl (1)	pass (2)	2♣
pass	2NT (5)	all pass	

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand B(a) in this week's quiz? 1NT (15-18) with a ♥ stop seems clear to me. Some people believe that with 4 ♠'s you should double 1♥ - I don't go along with that philosophy as if partner does not also have 4 ♠'s then you are stuck next go.
- (2) 1NT after RHO's double should be around 8-10 points (pass with less) but it's always nice to describe one's hand and it has good shape with two tens.
- (3) What did you bid with this North hand B(b) in this week's quiz? Obviously you would not be in this position had you overcalled 1NT. Anyway, bidding again here shows a very good hand (too good for a 2♦ overcall) and a very good ♦ suit. I cannot see that this North hand qualifies on either count. North should simply pass now – E-W have both shown values and partner has nothing!
- (4) East did think of doubling, but it may just be that North actually had his bid?
- Table B: (1) Another North chose to double.
- (2) This East chose to pass – fine.
- (5) What did you bid with this North hand B(C) in this week's quiz? Here we see why double at (1) is wrong – what is North meant to do when partner does not bid ♠'s? 2NT is terrible – it shows 19-21 points.

And what happened? 2♦ went minus three for a poor score. Just two North's correctly bid 1NT at (1) and played there for good scores; everybody else overbid with the North hand.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is playable in the other three suits (or very strong).
- A double followed by NoTrump shows a hand too strong for 1NT (so 19+).
- With a balanced 15-18 and a stop, bid 1NT rather than double even if you hold 4 of the unbid major.
- When you are non-vul it often pays to get the 1NT bid in before the opponents. Here North will go one down (-50) but if East plays 1NT he makes for +90.

Don't double with flat hands – part 2

Board 10 from Monday 15th

Dealer: ♠ AK986
East ♥ A1073
both Vul ♦ 952
♣ 3

♠ 532	N	♠ Q107
♥ Q6	W E	♥ 42
♦ AK83	S	♦ Q1076
♣ A1082		♣ 7654
	♠ J4	
	♥ KJ985	
	♦ J4	
	♣ KQJ9	

Table A

West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1♥
dbl (1)	redbl (2)	pass (3)	pass
pass (4)			

Table B

West(A)	North	East	South
-	-	pass	1♥
pass (1)	1♠ (5)	pass	2♣
pass	4♥ (6)	all pass	

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this West hand A in this week's quiz? I would need much better (and preferably four) ♠'s to double 1♥.

(2) 9+ points

(3) East has nothing to say (bid a 5 card suit).

(4) Obviously West should run (to 2♣).

Table B: (1) This is best – do not double with flat hands, especially with three small in the unbid major

(5) I would splinter with 4♣ but I guess it's OK to show this good suit.

(6) With a singleton opposite partner's 2nd suit North settles for game.

And what happened? Most pairs were in 4♥ making. At Table A declarer lost a ♥ trick (he quite reasonable expected West to be short in ♥'s) and so made only 9 tricks but who cares when you are getting 1520 on the board anyway.

The bottom lines:

- A take-out double is playable in the other three suits (or very strong).
- Do not double 'to show an opening hand'.
- ♠532 is not a good enough holding to double 1♥.

A classic hold-up

Dealer: ♠ AKQ862
North ♥ 1052
Love all ♦ 7
♣ A52
♠ J5 N ♠ 1074
♥ 63 W E ♥ AQ7
♦ QJ1043 S ♦ AK82
♣ KQ76 ♣ 983
♠ 93
♥ KJ984
♦ 965
♣ J104

Board 17 from Monday 15th

North's enthusiastic bidding paid off on this deal when the defence slipped up.

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

- (1) A clear pass if you read the previous two pages.
(2) Quite acceptable in the balancing seat.

And what happened? East cashed the ♦A and then tried a 2nd round (a ♣9 switch sets the contract). Declarer ruffed and drew trumps. He then led the ♥10. What card should East play?

Answer: The ♥7. Playing the ♥A and belatedly switching to a ♣ allowed declarer to set up the ♥'s with a finesse for two ♣ discards and make the contract.

The bottom lines:

- With a running (or finessable and running) suit in dummy, hold up with the ace if dummy has no entry.
- In situations like this partner will give count to indicate how many times to hold up. West would have played the ♥6 (high-low) to show an even number of ♥'s and East knows to hold up twice. Declarer is then down, losing 2 ♣'s, a ♦ and a ♥.

A play problem (continued from last week)

Remember this problem from last week? You are in 6NT with plenty of entries in all of the other suits. How do you play the following suit for max one loser at pairs?

♦A87654 opposite ♦Q109

Eddie sent an e-mail suggesting playing low towards the ♦Q109 and covering whatever is played. Eddie says: -

"Surely the best line on the hand given the number of entries to either is to lead **from** the hand holding Axxxx towards the QT9 and **just covering** any card played by North. This will only lose to a singleton J in the South hand or if N plays small from Kx which would be a hell of a good play to find at the table! – i.e. 1 deal (or a very unlikely 3 deal(s)). Your line of playing the Q and running it would lose two tricks every time N held KJx(x) – i.e. 3 hands. And if you ran the T it would also lose two tricks to KJx(x) in the North hand for which there are the same 3 possible hands.

Of course my line gives up on making all 13 tricks but that is so unlikely missing 4 cards including the K & J – and incidentally it is impossible to make 13 tricks on the actual deal unless there was a revoke or an incredibly stupid play by South who must surely make a trick holding KJx when he can see QT9 in Dummy!!"

This is me, Terry again. I checked the scores and West did indeed make 13 tricks. I believe that South played the ♦J under the ♦Q – "an incredibly stupid play". Banging down the ♦A is also an acceptable line; losing in three cases (including the actual one) and winning all the tricks when South has singleton king. Eddie's line is probably best against non-experts but gives up the 5% chance of making all of the tricks.

Multi Landy does it's job

Board 6 from Friday 19th

As you probably know, Multi Landy is my favourite defence to 1NT and is what I encourage club players to play. It worked a treat on this deal, against one of the club's top pairs.

Dealer:	♠ KQ643				
East	♥ K96	West	North	East(F)	South
E-W Vul	♦ KJ92	-	-	pass	pass
	♣ 8	1NT	2♠ (1)	dbl (2)	2NT (3)
		pass (4)	3♦	pass (5)	pass
		pass (6)			
♠ A72	N	♠ J10985			
♥ AQ2	W E	♥ 10843			
♦ 104	S	♦ A7			
♣ AJ1093		♣ KQ			
	♠ -				
	♥ J75				
	♦ Q8653				
	♣ 76542				

- Table A:
- (1) Multi Landy – showing 5 ♠'s and a 4 or 5 card minor.
 - (2) What did you bid with this East hand F in this week's quiz? This East chose double - penalties. As it turns out 3NT may have worked better, especially at this vulnerability.
 - (3) Which minor do you have?
 - (4) West could double here to say that he can penalise at least one minor.
 - (5) And now East has problems. He has the values for 3NT but fears a ♦ attack.
 - (6) And clearly West can do nothing with just ♦104 and uncertainty about partner's values.

And what happened? 3♦ made exactly for a complete top to N-S. 3NT was bid 5 times and made on 4 occasions (once +2 and once +3). There were also the usual spurious results.

The bottom lines:

- Play Multi Landy; it may or may not be the best defence to 1NT but if it's what most people in this club play and it makes life easier for scratch partnerships.
- E-W can only make 8 trick in No Trumps on a ♦ lead; had East decided to bid 3NT at (2) as happened at a number of tables then West will make 3NT (plus a few) on a ♠ lead. That may well have been the best option at this vulnerability.
- Playing Lebensohl East would have to bid 2NT at (2) and then 3NT after partner's forced 3♣ response – showing a ♠ stop.

Defence to Multi Landy

Board 14 from Monday 15th

A 2♣ overcall of 1NT is very often showing both majors (Multi Landy for example) and partnerships have to agree what to do over it. Over a natural 2♣ then double is often played as Stayman, but do you want to bid Stayman when RHO has advertised 9+ cards in the majors?

Dealer: ♠ K8754
East ♥ K654
both Vul ♦ J4
♣ J3

♠ AJ109	N	♠ -
♥ A8	W E	♥ QJ102
♦ A97	S	♦ 10862
♣ K1082		♣ AQ764
	♠ Q632	
	♥ 973	
	♦ KQ53	
	♣ 95	

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
1NT	2♣ (1)	3♣ (2)	pass (3)
3♦ (4)	pass	4♣ (5)	pass
5♣	all pass		

'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South
-	-	pass	pass
1NT	2♣	dbl (2)	2♠ (6)
dbl (7)	pass	3NT (8)	

- Table A: (1) Multi Landy – showing at least 9 cards in the majors.
(2) Without any agreement (or over a natural 2♣ bid) this is Stayman. I don't know whether this East intended it as natural or Stayman or whatever they play a 3♣ response to 1NT with no overcall as (maybe an ambiguous splinter?).
(3) There is no need for South to mention his ♠'s at the three level.
(4) West thought that 3♣ was a transfer to ♦'s. This is a new one on me; if you play 4-way transfers and agree to play systems on over any type of 2♣ overcall then 2NT is the transfer to ♦'s. But I do not recommend this when 2♣ shows both majors (see overleaf for a defence to Multi Landy).
(5) 3NT is an option – but E-W have got themselves into a mess and nobody knows what's going on any more.

- Table B: (2) Our experts have an agreement over a major suited 2♣ overcall of course (I spell it out on the next page). When 2♣ shows the majors then there is little point in having a Stayman bid; so double says that East can happily defend one (or both) of the majors doubled.
(6) Now south obviously bids his best major.
(7) Penalties.
(8) And East is in the happy position of having two good options – pass or 3NT. With a void in ♠'s 3NT looks best – in this auction he knows that partner has good ♠'s.

And what happened? 5♣ made +1 for about average. Most of the field were in 3NT making anything from 9 to 11 tricks.

The bottom lines:

- Established partnerships need a defence to Multi Landy/Cappelletti.
- Jumps to the three level over partner's 1NT opening (assuming no interference) have to be agreed. Standard is that they are a good suit and game forcing but all of the options (including a number of better ones) are discussed in the NoTrump bidding book.

A Defence to Multi Landy.

If partner's 1NT opening is overcalled with a natural bid then it is generally best to play double as penalties and all other bids as natural (Lebensohl).

The one case where I like to differ from this philosophy is when it's a 2♣ overcall. Over a natural 2♣ overcall I like to play double as Stayman and systems on (2♦ = transfer to ♥'s etc.). Over any higher overcall then double is penalties and systems are off.

But when the opponents overcall is artificial (often the case these days) then things are different. For example there is little point in doubling an artificial bid for penalties and little point in bidding Stayman if RHO has shown both majors.

Here is a scheme for combating Multi-Landy (and with a minor change, Cappelletti): -

Multi Landy bid	meaning	responder's bid	meaning
2♣	both majors	pass dbl 3♣ other	generally less than invitational values can penalise at least one major natural and forcing basically natural (Lebensohl)
2♦	single suited hand	pass dbl 3♦ other	generally less than invitational values Stayman natural and forcing basically natural (Lebensohl)
2♥/♠	5♥/♠'s an a minor	pass dbl 3♥/♠ other	generally less than invitational values penalties for the major bid. three of the major = game forcing Stayman basically natural (Lebensohl)
2NT	♣'s and ♦'s	pass dbl 3♣ 3♦ 3♥/♠	generally less than invitational values can penalise at least one minor Stayman, not game forcing Stayman, game forcing natural and game forcing

If the defenders play Cappelletti then make the obvious changes to the 2♣/♦ overcall.

Note that over 2♣ (or 2♦ defending against Cappelletti) there is no need for Stayman (dbl says at least one major).

The 'generally less than invitational values' over 2♣/♦/NT may be stronger but just waiting to see what the opposition say.

It's only worth an invite

Board 30 from Friday 19th

16 points opposite a weak two opener, with 3 card support, is only worth an invitation.

Dealer:	♠ KJ6	<u>Table A</u>			
East	♥ 732	West	North(D)	East	South
Love all	♦ AKQ	-	-	pass	2♠ (1)
	♣ Q1043	pass	4♠ (2)	all pass	

♠ A7	N	♠ 108	<u>Table B</u>			
♥ KJ985	W E	♥ Q106	West	North(D)	East	South
♦ 1098654	S	♦ 732	-	-	pass	2♦ (1)
♣ -		♣ AKJ92	pass	2NT (3)	pass	3♠ (4)
	♠ Q95432		pass	pass (5)	pass	
	♥ A4					
	♦ J					
	♣ 8765					

Table A: (1) A weak two.

(2) What did you bid with this North hand D in this week's quiz? It has nice trumps but otherwise it's very poor (AKQ in a 3 card suit and totally flat). The hand is only (just about) worth an invitation (so, 2NT playing Ogust or else pass).

Table B: (1) This pair play the Multi (a weak 2♥/♠ or a strong hand).

(3) And this asks partner's hand type.

(4) Weak ♠'s with a poor hand (3♦ shows weak ♠'s with a decent 8-9 points).

(5) And North wisely decided not to press on.

And what happened? Seven (!) out of nine pairs overbid to 4♠. One was rescued when the opponents 'sacrificed' in 5♦ and the other six all went one down. 3♠ making was a top apart from the phantom 5♦ sacrifice.

The bottom lines:

- 2NT over partner weak two is best played as Ogust – to find out precisely how strong opener is.
- Over a Multi 2♦ 2NT still asks but it's not quite so accurate as there are only two responses for each major suit.
- Downgrade AKQ trippleton – points belong in long suits.

A 3NT opener?

Board 30 from Friday 19th

What does a 3NT opening mean? I've been over this a few times and the only sensible option is the gambling 3NT – showing a completely solid minor suit with ABSOLUTELY NO outside ace or king. If it were not for the horrendous 6-0 ♣ break a cold 6♣ or reasonable 6NT would have been missed on this deal by the 3NT openers.

Dealer:	♠ 95				
North	♥ A	West	North(C)	East	South(E)
E-W vul	♦ K85	-	3NT	pass	pass (2)
	♣ AKQJ1086	pass			

♠ -	N	♠ KQ7632
♥ Q874	W E	♥ 6532
♦ A53	S	♦ 972
♣ 975432		♣ -
	♠ AJ1084	
	♥ KJ109	
	♦ QJ104	
	♣ -	

- (1) What did you open with this North Hand C in this week's quiz? If you play the gambling 3NT in the only sensible way (absolutely nothing outside) then 3NT is an appalling bid.
- (2) What did you bid with this South Hand E in this week's quiz? South had a long think here. North had promised no ace or king outside ♣'s, South has all of the other three suits stopped – but no entry to the North hand! Eventually South decided not to pull it to 4♣ as North may just have a suitable queen or even a nine as an entry.

And what happened? Two pairs bid and made slam somehow. One went down in 4NT. And 5 pairs stopped in 3NT making anything from 9 to 12 tricks.

The bottom lines:

- I think that 3NT is a horrendous opening by North. But then both the reigning club champion and the runner-up both chose 3NT. Just goes to show something, but I don't know what. Perhaps I should retire and they should be writing the news-sheets?
- What should you open with this North hand? I would not argue with:
 - . 2♣ followed by 3♣ (game forcing) – this would be my choice, or ...
 - . 1♣ followed by 3NT or ...
 - . 2♣ followed by 2NT or 3NT or ...
 - . A Benjamin 2♣ followed by 3♣ or ...
 - . A Multi bid showing a good hand and good minor.
- The only bid which I don't like is an opening 3NT which is **clearly defined** by most established partnerships as **absolutely nothing** (no ace or king) outside the suit.
- To have 'something(s) in reserve' erodes partnership trust and misses slams.

