

My mobile number is **086 6089887**

Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> N-S	Alain & Gastone	59%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob & Mike	57%
	1 <sup>st</sup> E-W	Jan & Royd	63%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kenneth & Phyllis	57%
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> N-S	Phil & Tomas	59%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Claudia & Tony	56%
	1 <sup>st</sup> E-W	Jan & Gastone	61%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alan & Hans	58%
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> N-S	Per-Ake & Palil	57%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ivy & Wolfgang	54%
	1 <sup>st</sup> E-W	Paul K & R Watson	57%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Johann & Kjartan	51%

**Bidding Quiz**

**Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.**

**Hand A**

**Hand B**

With Hand A partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♠, what do you do?

♠ 83

♠ KQ9

♥ KQ9865

♥ J1087

♦ K32

♦ J6

♣ 108

♣ KJ53

With Hand B LHO opens 1♦ and partner overcalls 1♠. RHO either doubles (negative) or passes (it makes no difference). What do you bid?

**Hand C**

**Hand D**

With Hand C partner opens 2♠, what do you do?

♠ A

♠ J109

♥ AK10932

♥ KQJ974

♦ K4

♦ 7

♣ Q742

♣ J87

With Hand D partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♠, what do you bid?

**Hand E**

**Hand F**

With Hand E partner opens 2♠, what do you do?

♠ AQ10

♠ AK4

♥ A932

♥ 962

♦ K4

♦ Q2

♣ Q1042

♣ AJ1096

With Hand F RHO opens 1♥, what do you bid?

**Hand G**

**Hand H**

With Hand G LHO opens 1♥ and RHO bids 1♠, what do you do?

♠ 9

♠ A9

♥ A965

♥ AJ764

♦ AQ876

♦ -

♣ AK5

♣ AQ8643

With Hand H RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?

**Bidding Sequences Quiz**

**All of these sequences occurred this week**

**J** 1♣ 1♠ 2♥

How many points for the 2♥ bid?

**K** 1♥ pass 1NT dbl

What does the dbl mean?

**L** 1♣ pass 1♦

What does the 1♦ bid mean?

## Leading Quiz

West	West	North	East	South
♠ 1064	-	-	-	1♣
♥ K763	pass	1♦	pass (1)	1♥
♦ Q4	all pass			
♣ A852				

You are West, on lead against 1♥. (a) What do you lead?

(b) What would you lead if partner, at (1), had asked 'what does the 1♦ bid mean'.

## An Unassuming cue bid

Board 28 from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

What did you bid with Hand B in this week's quiz? The Unassuming cue bid keeps you low.

Dealer: ♠ KQ9  
 West ♥ J1087  
 N-S vul ♦ J6  
 ♣ KJ53

### Table A

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

♠ 1064	N	♠ 52
♥ Q953	W E	♥ AK6
♦ AQ3	S	♦ K10974
♣ 1097		♣ Q62
	♠ AJ873	
	♥ 42	
	♦ 852	
	♣ A84	

### Table B

West	North(B)	East	South
pass	pass	1♦	1♠
pass (1)	2♦ (2)	pass	2♠ (3)
all pass			

Table A: (1) A negative double, showing 4+ ♥'s.

(2) What did you bid with this North hand B in this week's quiz? 3♠ is fine if partner has a 12+ point overcall but is too high with a weakish overcall.

Table B: (1) This West chose to pass, but it makes no difference to North's bid.

(2) This is the answer to question B – the Unassuming cue bid. It shows a sound raise to 3♠ but enables N-S to stay low (2♠) if partner has just 7-11 points.

(3) And with a bare 9 points South stays low.

And what happened? Two N-S's bid too high and three stopped in 2♠. I don't know how many actually used the Unassuming cue bid.

The bottom lines:

- Unlike an opening, an overcall at the one level may be as few as 7 points, so with 11-12 points in support of partner's overcall, cue bid.

**A new-suit 2-level response is 10+ points**

Board 29 from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ Q1065  
North ♥ AJ  
both vul ♦ 976  
♣ KQ54

♠ K2	N	♠ AJ974
♥ 1074	W E	♥ 32
♦ AJ84	S	♦ Q105
♣ J963		♣ A72
	♠ 83	
	♥ KQ9865	
	♦ K32	
	♣ 108	

Table A

West	North	East	South(A)
-	1♣	1♠	2♥ (1)
pass	2NT (2)	pass	3♥
pass	3NT (3)	all pass	

Table B

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

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand A in this week's quiz? This 2♥ bid is forcing and promises 10+ points.  
(2) 12-14 with a ♠ stop.  
(3) With useful ♥'s, North expected 3NT to have a good shot at making.
- Table B: (1) A negative double, showing 4+ ♥'s, this is the answer to question A.  
(4) And here we see the advantage of South making a negative double – it's one level lower.  
(5) And South now shows his weakish hand with 5+ ♥'s, perfect.

And what happened? 3NT was a disaster when E-W found near perfect defence, collecting the first 8 tricks for 300 and a joint top. Just one table stopped in 2♥ for a near top to N-S.

The bottom lines:

- You need 10+ points to respond with a new suit at the two level.
- If RHO has bid and it makes it awkward – then that's exactly why negative doubles were invented

## Worth an effort?

Board 22 from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Many of you probably know that Hans and myself have totally opposite bidding 'styles' and have rarely agreed on anything over the past ten years. After dozens of articles I now make a point of never kibitzing his table when I am not playing, and not commenting upon his bidding. I do, however, respond when he comments upon a bid of mine: -

Dealer:	♠ A				
East	♥ AK10932	West	North(C)	East	South
E-W vul	♦ K4	-	-	pass	2♠
	♣ Q742	pass	pass (1)	pass	
♠ Q7	N	♠ J1054			
♥ Q754	W E	♥ J86			
♦ A1032	S	♦ Q95			
♣ A85		♣ 1096			
	♠ K98632				
	♥ -				
	♦ J876				
	♣ KJ3				

(1) What did you bid with this North hand A in this week's quiz? I was North and don't think that a 16 count with a singleton ace in partner's suit is worth an effort. Hans (West), with whom I virtually never agree, offered the unsolicited advice that he thought it worth a try.

So, who's right? Obviously I am biased here but this is my case for passing: -

- A singleton in partner's 6 card suit is not good, even if an ace.
- There is no way of finding out if there is a better fit (and/or game) in ♥'s.
- A 3♥ bid at (1) is forcing and if opener simply responds 3♠ (as he would in this case) then North is no better off and one level higher.
- 2NT (Ogust) would establish that South is maximum and presumably propel N-S into some sort of poor game.
- Of course you can construct hands where 4♣ or 4♥ will make, but there are many more hands where 3♠ will go down opposite a minimum or game go down (as here) opposite a decent 2♠ opener.
- East may balance (with a dbl) and you can clobber them (this would probably have happened if the E-W hands were reversed).
- At pairs scoring it is best not to go for pushy games – take the + score. But I don't consider this even worth a try at a push.
- My partner is not renowned for his prowess as a declarer (having just failed to notice a 4333 split on a previous deal and ruffing the good 13<sup>th</sup> card from dummy instead of discarding a loser). The defenders, however, (Hans and Alan) are two of the best in the club; but this did not affect by decision either as I don't even think it's close.

Doubtless Hans has an equally impressive list of reasons why (and how) North should make an effort. I will, of course, be happy to publish any opinion from him.

And what happened? Two pairs did bid 4♣ and went one or two down. Had the ♦A been offside it would have been a lot worse. 2♠ made +1 for an average score.

The bottom lines:

- You need a **good** 16+ to make a move opposite a weak two, and a singleton in partner's suit is not good!

Hand E But change the North hand slightly to this Hand E and it's a different story. This hand is actually a 'point' less but this one is well worth a try for game. The difference is that it has three (good) card trump support.

♠ AQ10  
♥ A932  
♦ K4  
♣ Q1042

An excellent fit and good shape are all important.  
Put this opposite the South from the previous page and you'll make 10 or 11 tricks, depending upon the location of the ♦A.

The bottom lines:

- You need a **good** 16+ to make a move opposite a weak two. This Hand E, with AQx in trumps, two tens and excellent shape is worth a really good 16+.
- Understand hand evaluation – if you don't see that Hand E should make an effort but Hand C (with one 'point' more) should pass then read up on it. I have a couple of books in the library and there is a section on the web.
- Bridge bidding is not simply a matter of "with a combined 25 points – bid game". **Fits** and **shape** are just as important as points; points (excuse the pun) that it appears that many members do not fully understand.

**Don't ask unethical questions**

Board 20 from Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

If RHO bids a suit in which you have length and strength, then it's usually best to quietly pass. What you most certainly **cannot do** is ask 'what does that bid mean?'

Dealer:	♠ 1064				
West	♥ K763	West	North	East	South
Both vul	♦ Q4	1♣	pass	1♦	pass (1)
	♣ A852	1♥	all pass		

♠ J975	N	♠ A82	
♥ AQJ5	W E	♥ 1098	(1) At this point, South asked West what the
♦ 2	S	♦ 108753	1♦ bid meant.
♣ KQ64		♣ 109	

♠ KQ3  
♥ 42  
♦ AKJ96  
♣ J73

And what happened? North led the ♦Q! What was your answer to this week's leading quiz question?

- (a) A ♠ or a small trump both seem fine, I would lead a small trump.
- (b) The ♦Q would never occur to me unless I had been influenced by an illegal comment from partner. In this situation you should go out of your way NOT to lead the suit unless it is totally obvious.

The bottom lines:

- If RHO bids your suit then it is illegal/cheating to ask what the bid means.
- If partner does indeed ask what an obviously natural bid means then it is illegal/cheating to lead that suit unless the lead is totally obvious.
- A ♦ lead from this hand is not totally obvious!

As it happened West got a good score and so I did not need to make an adjustment.

## Dave's Column

### Play to ensure the contract Board 27 (and 24) from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Dave set up two virtually identical hands (one E-W and one N-S). I (Terry) did not declare the hand and it went one down the two times it was played at my table. Here is the extract from Dave's book: -

Dealer:	♠ K63	West	North	East	South
South	♥ 764	-	pass	pass	2NT
Love all	♦ Q63	pass	3NT	all pass	
	♣ J1096				

♠ QJ109	N	♠ 854
♥ J953	W E	♥ Q8
♦ 75	S	♦ J1092
♣ AQ2		♣ 8543
	♠ A72	
	♥ AK102	
	♦ AK84	
	♣ K7	

You are South in 3NT, what's the best line of play with the ♠Q lead?

Hint: You have 2 ♠'s, 2 ♥'s, 3 ♦'s and need only 2 tricks from ♣'s.

Tip: Sometimes it is best not to take a finesse when you don't need it for the contract.

Play: You duck the first trick and win the ♠ continuation with the ♠A. Then play the ♣K. West wins with the ♣A and continues with a 3<sup>rd</sup> ♠. But you win and play another ♣, West can win and cash a ♠ but you have the remainder.

It would be a mistake to win the first ♠ in dummy and to lead the ♣J as West will win and you will not have the entries to set up your 9<sup>th</sup> trick in clubs.

On this hand you have to hope that ♠'s are 4-3 or if 5-2 that East has one of the ♣ honours.

And what happened at the Pattaya Bridge Club? The boards were played a total of 13 times with 3NT making 6 times, although I don't know if anybody actually found Dave's book's line.

## Don't bid your hand 3 times

Board 20 from Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AKQ873  
West ♥ 6  
both vul ♦ J1098  
♣ Q5

West	North	East(D)	South
1♣	1♠	dbl (1)	pass
2♦ (2)	2♠ (3)	3♥ (4)	pass (5)
pass	3♠ (6)	dbl (7)	all pass

♠ 6542	N	♠ J109
♥ 5	W E	♥ KQJ974
♦ AQ53	S	♦ 7
♣ AK102		♣ J87
	♠ -	
	♥ A10832	
	♦ K642	
	♣ 9643	

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand D in this week's quiz? This has cropped up a few times in recent weeks. You do not have the values for a forcing 2♥ bid and so a negative double is best. I play this as only guaranteeing the other major.
- (2) Whether you consider this as a reverse or not is up to partnership agreement. I think it's best played as not showing extra values.
- (3) This excellent ♠ suit is certainly worth bidding again.
- (4) Having not bid a forcing 2♥ at (1), this 3♥ bid now just shows a hand with long ♥'s and is simply competitive.
- (5) Double is a possibility – but South will be repeatedly end-played and 3♥ probably makes.
- (6) But bidding this hand 3 times is pushing it.
- (7) 3♠ is not going to make.

And what happened? 3♠ doubled actually went four down for 1100 to E-W.

The bottom lines:

- You need 11+ points to respond at the two level; if RHO has intervened then a negative double is often the solution.
- Don't bid your hand three times.

## A bad double – part 1

Board 12 from Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Dealer: ♠ AK4  
West ♥ 962  
N-S vul ♦ Q2  
♣ AJ1096

♠ Q8	N	♠ J965
♥ AKQ7543	W E	♥ 10
♦ K83	S	♦ AJ4
♣ 7		♣ KQ832

♠ 10732  
♥ J8  
♦ 109765  
♣ 54

### Table A

West	North(F)	East	South
1♥	dbl (1)	redbl (2)	pass
pass (3)	2♣	dbl (4)	pass
pass (5)	pass		

### Table B

West	North(F)	East	South
1♥	2♣ (1)	pass (6)	pass
3♥ (7)	pass	3NT	all pass

- Table A: (1) What did you bid with this North hand F in this week's quiz? With three cards in the suit opened and only three cards in the other major, double is a very poor bid.  
(2) 9+ points and usually a mis-fit for partner – generally looking for a penalty.  
(3) West correctly passes – wait and see what happens.  
(4) Luvvly bubbly.  
(5) At any other vulnerability West may consider pulling the penalty double to 3♥, but at favourable vulnerability it must be best to take the penalty.

- Table B: (1) This North got it right, a 2♣ overcall is clear with this North hand F. This shows 11+ points and 5+ ♣'s, there is absolutely no point in the double chosen at table A.  
(6) E-W play negative doubles and so East passes, awaiting partner 'automatic' re-opening doubles.  
(7) But West holds one of those rare hands where you should not re-open with a double. He does not know for sure that partner has a good hand with ♣'s and this 3♥ bid is very reasonable.

Notice the difference between West's decision at (5) and (7). At (5) West knows that partner is out for blood and does not have a ♥ fit – pass is clear. At (7) it is very reasonable for West to repeat his ♥'s. North's silly double at (1) made it easy for the opponents at table A.

And what happened? 2♣ doubled went three down for 800 to E-W. Every other E-W pair were in 4♥, generally making exactly for 420.

The bottom lines:

- Do not double when an overcall is more descriptive.
- An overcall at the two level promises 11+ points.
- Do not make a take-out double with three cards in opener's suit.
- It's usually bad to make a take-out double with just three cards in the other major.
- The direct redouble is 10(or 9) + points and very often a mis-fit for opener. Responder has advertised the balance of power and opener/responder should cooperate in looking for a lucrative penalty.

## A bad double – part 2

Board 8 from Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

If the last double was bad, this one is terrible.

Dealer: ♠ 10765432  
West ♥ 82  
Love all ♦ K  
♣ QJ4

West	North	East	South(G)
1♥	pass (1)	1NT	dbl (2)
2♥	4♠ (3)	dbl	all pass

♠ KQ	N	♠ AJ8
♥ KQJ743	W E	♥ 10
♦ 10	S	♦ J95432
♣ 8732		♣ 1096
	♠ 9	
	♥ A965	
	♦ AQ876	
	♣ AK5	

- (1) A weak 3♠ is reasonable.
- (2) What did you bid with this South hand G in this week's quiz? This double should be a take-out double of ♥'s. So short in ♥'s with 4 ♠'s and playable in ♣'s, ♦'s and ♠'s. Pass or 2♦ are the only sensible bids.
- (3) Quite reasonable if South had had his bid.

And what happened? South won the ♥ lead and made the curious play of ♦A followed by ♦Q. E-W then scored their high trumps separately on a cross-ruff for two down and a joint top for E-W.

The bottom lines:

- A double in the sandwich seat is dangerous.
- A double of 1♥ (or 1♥ – pass – 1NT – dbl) is playable in ♠'s unless very strong.
- Do not make a take-out double with four cards in opener's suit.

### A bad double – part 3

Board 16 from Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

If the last double was terrible, this one is horrendous.

Dealer:	♠ Q86				
West	♥ Q9	West	North	East(H)	South
E-W vul	♦ AJ5	pass	1♣	dbl (1)	1NT
	♣ K10975	3♠ (2)	pass	4♠ (3)	dbl
		all pass			
♠ 107542	N	♠ A9			
♥ K83	W E	♥ AJ764			
♦ K7643	S	♦ -			
♣ -		♣ AQ8643			
	♠ KJ3				
	♥ 1052				
	♦ Q10982				
	♣ J2				

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand H in this week's quiz? A take out double here should be short in ♣'s and playable in the other three suits and deny a 5 card major. This simply has to be one of the most ridiculous doubles that I have ever seen. 1♥ is clear.
- (2) With a useful void this is well worth 3♠, I would not argue with 4♠.
- (3) And East never got round to mentioning his ♥'s.

And what happened? 4♠ doubled went minus two. 4♠ was reached at another table also going minus two. Three pairs found the good 4♥, making or making +1.

The bottom lines:

- Do not double when an overcall is more descriptive.
- A double should be short in the suit opened.
- AQ8643 is not shortage.
- Do not make a take-out double with six cards in opener's suit.

## Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A:** Dbl, negative. You should double, showing 4+ ♥'s and later bid ♥'s to show 5+ and insufficient values for an immediate 2♥ bid (which is forcing).
- Hand B:** 2♦. An Unassuming cue bid, showing around 11 points in support of ♠'s. A 3♠ bid is too much here as partner has only promised about 7-8 points for his 1-level overcall. Actually, 3♠ is best played as a pre-emptive bid, with the Unassuming Cue Bid used to show a sound raise to 3♠ or better.
- Hand C:** Pass. 16 points is not enough for a try with a singleton in partner's suit. If you make a try (with 2NT Ogust) or bid a forcing 3♥ you are asking to go negative.
- Hand D:** Dbl, negative, and showing 4+ ♥'s. This hand is not good enough for a forcing 2♥. This is virtually the same problem as question A – it comes up a lot.
- Hand E:** 4♠, or else make a try with 2NT (Ogust). This hand is totally different from Hand C. You have excellent trump support and good shape. Whether you bid game or just a try (2NT) probably depends upon vulnerability, position at the table and how weak your partner opens with his pre-empts.
- Hand F:** 2♣, showing 5+ ♣'s and 11+ points, perfect. Double is pointless and silly.
- Hand G:** Pass. 2♦ is reasonable I suppose but double is a very poor bid.
- Hand H:** 1♥. Double is absolutely appalling.

## Bidding Sequences Quiz Answers

- J** 1♣ 1♠ 2♥ 2♥ here is forcing and shows a 5+ card ♥ suit with a good 10+ points. With only 4 ♥'s or less than 10 points then negative double.
- K** 1♥ pass 1NT dbl This dbl is best played as a take-out of ♥'s, so showing ♥ shortage and playable in the other three suits unless very strong/distributional.
- L** 1♣ pass 1♦ Obviously it's natural, but one player did (unethically?) ask.

## Leading Quiz Answer

- (a) A ♠ or a small trump both seem fine, I would lead a small trump.
- (b) The ♦Q would never occur to me unless I had been influenced by an unethical comment from partner. In this situation you should go out of your way NOT to lead the suit unless it is totally obvious.