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Mon 30 th	1 st	Bengt & Janne	73%	2 nd	Albert & Dennis	65%
Wed 2 nd	1 st	Sonja & Roar	60%	2 nd	Dave & Jan	56%
Fri 4 th	1 st	Bengt & Janne	61%	2 nd	Bob & Ivy	60%

Bidding Quiz

Standard American is assumed unless otherwise stated.

Hand A	Hand B	With Hand A partner opens 1♣, what do you bid?
♠ A104	♠ A9876	With Hand B LHO opens 1♦ and RHO bids 2♦,
♥ K54	♥ K43	(a) What do you do?
♦ Q43	♦ A82	(b) Suppose you pass, LHO passes and partner doubles, what
♣ QJ53	♣ 1064	do you bid now?
Hand C	Hand D	With Hand C partner opens 1♠, what do you respond?
♠ 92	♠ 5432	With Hand D RHO opens 1♦. (a) What do you do?
♥ AK6	♥ Q92	(b) Suppose you pass, LHO bids 2♦ and this is passed
♦ AJ104	♦ A5	round to you, what do you do now?
♣ 10852	♣ A965	
Hand E	Hand F	With Hand E partner opens 1♠, what do you respond?
♠ 2	♠ AK63	With Hand F partner opens 1♥, (a) what do you bid?
♥ A1053	♥ 43	(b) Suppose you bid 1♠ and partner bids 1NT, what now?
♦ K543	♦ Q73	
♣ QJ43	♣ J975	
Hand G	Hand H	With Hand G partner opens 1♣ and you bid 1♠. Partner raises
♠ Q432	♠ AJ74	to 2♠, what do you bid?
♥ 93	♥ AK2	With Hand H RHO opens 1♣, (a) What do you bid.
♦ AQ9	♦ KQ109.	(b) Suppose you double and partner bids 2♥, what do you
♣ Q763	♣ A8	bid now?
Hand J	Hand K	With Hand J you open 1♣, LHO overcalls a weak 2♠ and partner
♠ 4	♠ AJ94	doubles (negative). What do you bid.
♥ Q975	♥ J982	With Hand K partner opens 3♣ and RHO doubles, what
♦ K	♦ A972	do you do?
♣ AQJ8652	♣ 10	

This week's **Bidding Sequences Quiz** is on the next page.

Bidding Sequences Quiz**All of these sequences occurred this week**

L	2♥	pass	4♥	dbl	What is dbl – take-out or penalty?
M	2♠	pass	4♠	dbl	What is dbl – take-out or penalty?
N	1♥	pass	2NT	pass	How many points is 2NT?
P	1♠	pass	2NT	pass	2NT is the same point range as above, but what shape? Specifically, how many ♠'s and how many ♥'s?
Q	1♥	pass	1♠	pass	How many points is 2NT?
	1NT	pass	2NT		
R	1♣	dbl	pass	1♥	(a) How many points is 2NT?
	pass	2NT			(b) Could the doubler/2NT bidder have 4 ♠'s?
S	1♦	pass	2♦	2♠	What is double – take-out or penalty?
	dbl				
T	2NT	pass	4♣	pass	4♣ is Gerber and 4♠ is two aces, what is 4NT?
	4♠	pass	4NT		

An extra chanceBoard 16 from Friday 4th

North missed the chance of an extra overtrick on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ A104	West	North	East	South
West	♥ AJ105	pass	1NT	pass	2♣
E-W vul	♦ A10	pass	2♥	pass	4♥
	♣ K972	all pass			

♠ KQ65	N	♠ J92
♥ 632	W E	♥ Q8
♦ Q742	S	♦ KJ9863
♣ J5		♣ 84
	♠ 873	
	♥ K974	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AQ1063	

There's nothing to the bidding, with everyone in 4♥. But how do you play the hand on a ♣ lead? Declarer played the ♣10 from dummy and won the ♣J with the ♣K. Being scared of a ♣ singleton with East it is certainly best to play a ♥ to the ♥K and then finesse West for the ♥Q. So North led the ♥5 to the ♥K and took the finesse that lost. Could declarer have done better (not double dummy)? Answer next page.

An extra chance - answer

North should not lead the ♥5 at trick two but the ♥J, you can afford it and you never know- East may cover. East said that she would indeed have covered the ♥J if it had been led. If the ♥J is not covered then declarer should carry on with his original plan of going up with the ♥A and finessing West for the ♥Q – that is unless he noted a marked pause/uneasiness when East played low to the ♥J!

A negative double promises the unbid major Board 28 from Friday 4th

Everybody missed slam on this deal, which would have made +1 had the ♣K been onside.

Dealer:	♠ 4	West	North(J)	East	South
West	♥ Q975	pass	1♣	2♠ (1)	dbl (2)
N-S vul	♦ K	pass (3)	3♣ (4)	pass	3♥ (5)
	♣ AQJ8652	pass	4♥ (6)	pass	pass (7)
		pass			

♠ J102	N	♠ KQ9875
♥ J4	W E	♥ 103
♦ J109632	S	♦ Q75
♣ 72		♣ K3

♠ A63
♥ AK862
♦ A84
♣ 109

- (1) A weak jump overcall, fine opposite a passed partner.
- (2) A negative double. I would bid a forcing 3♥, but this pair play negative free bids and so in their system 3♥ would not be forcing.
- (3) I would raise to 3♠, but then I always raise partner's pre-empt with 3 card support.
- (4) What did you bid with this North hand J in this week's quiz? Actually, I think it's quite close, but not with 3♣ as an option! I would bid either 3♥ or 4♥. Partner has promised 4♥'s and at least values to compete to the three level. This 3♣ bid denies 4♥'s.
- (5) Showing 5♥'s and forcing in their system (playing negative free bids).
- (6) Feeble.
- (7) Obviously South cannot press on as North has shown 3♥'s at most (could be 2♥'s).

And what happened? 4♥ made +2 and nobody bid slam. The bottom lines: -

- When partner negative doubles then he is showing 4 cards in the unbid major.
- Do not deny a 4-4 major suit fit even if you have a minor as good as AQJxxxx.
- I am not that familiar with negative free bids. I do not like them and do not play them myself.
- This deal, actually, is a perfect example of how they can go wrong. If I was West I would have bid 3♠ at (3) and 4♥ from North at (4) would probably have ended the auction. But if not playing negative free bids then South would bid a forcing 3♥ at (2) - promising game values and 5♥'s - and slam should easily be reached whether West interferes or not.
- That's one disadvantage of negative free bids – if you get interference it's difficult as you have not shown your suit or strength (in fact the double is pretty nebulous).
- In fact, if playing negative free bids, the sequence 1♣ 2♠ dbl does not actually guarantee 4♥'s; that's just another reason why I don't play negative free bids.

The double fit

Board 23 from Monday 30th

A double fit means tricks galore and you can bid way above the level of the “Law” when you have a double fit. On this deal N-S can make 10 tricks in ♠’s or 11 tricks in ♦’s and E-W can make 11 tricks in ♥’s or 12 tricks in ♣’s – but most E-W’s let N-S play comfortably in 4♠.

Dealer: ♠ KQ107
South ♥ K
Both vul ♦ KQ97
♣ Q832

♠ 52	N	♠ 4
♥ A1076532	W E	♥ QJ94
♦ 3	S	♦ A5
♣ J64		♣ AK10975
	♠ AJ9863	
	♥ 8	
	♦ J108642	
	♣ -	

Table A

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	pass (1)
2♥ (2)	dbl	4♥ (3)	4♠
pass (4)	pass	pass (5)	

Table B

West	North	East	South(B)
-	-	-	2♠ (1)
pass (6)	4♠ (7)	pass (8)	pass
pass			

- Table A: (1) I prefer South’s opening at Table B.
(2) Because he was vulnerable and had poor trumps West decided to open just 2♥ instead of 3♥.
(3) Obeying the Law.
(4) West wishes that he had opened 3♥ now that partner has supported, but it’s too late now as partner is the captain and West is obliged to pass.
(5) And it’s difficult for East; he assumes that partner has just 6 ♥’s and so the opponents may lose 1♥, 1♦ and 2 ♣’s. Had West opened 3♥ then East would push on (with 5♣ for the lead).

- Table B: (1) This South chose the pre-emptive 2♠ opening, looks good to me.
(6) And West cannot bid as any bid over a weak opening shows strength.
(7) With these excellent ♠’s it’s well worth 4♠.
(8) East could bid here, but is double for take-out? What was your answer to sequence M? You could play this as the infamous ‘optional double’ and in that case it would work extremely well when partner bids ♥’s; but it would not be so nice if partner bid 5♦! A simple 5♣ is the alternative.

And what happened? 4♠ was bid twice and made +1 on both occasions. One pair were pushed into 5♠ and made that doubled and one West played in 5♥ making for the E-W top.

So at all of the tables where N-S played in ♠’s by South they all made 11 tricks. I believe that West led the ♦3 at every table but East did not give his partner a ruff. With the ♦KQ on view it’s very likely that the ♦3 is singleton (and a certainty if South carelessly follows suit with the ♦2). I assume that all of the East’s wanted to cash a ♣ trick before giving their partner a ruff and that seems fairly reasonable to me as East has no reason to believe that South has a ♣ void. Unlucky. The bottom lines: -

- Bid with shapely hands?

Balancing

Board 3 from Monday 30th

N-S missed a comfortable ♠ partscore here at Tables A and B – whose fault?

Dealer: ♠ 5432
South ♥ Q92
Both vul ♦ A5
♣ A965

♠ QJ N ♠ K10
♥ AJ105 W E ♥ 876
♦ K987 S ♦ J643
♣ J83 ♣ KQ104

♠ A9876
♥ K43
♦ A82
♣ 1064

Table A

West	North(D)	East	South(B)
-	-	-	pass
1♦	pass (1)	2♦ (2)	pass (3)
pass	pass (4)		

Table B

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

'Expert' Table

West	North(D)	East	South(B)
-	-	-	pass
1♦	pass (1)	1NT/2♦ (2)	pass (3)
pass	dbl (4)	pass	2♠ (5)
all pass			

- Table A:
- (1) What did you bid with this North hand D(a) in this week's quiz? It's reasonable shape for a double but not quite strong enough, and with miserable majors pass is clearly best.
 - (2) This pair play a short ♣, so the 1♦ opening promised 4+ ♦'s and then 2♦ is preferable to 1NT, playing in the 4-4 or better fit is bound to be superior to 1NT.
 - (3) What did you bid with this South hand B(a) in this week's quiz? In the direct seat a 1♠ overcall would be fine, but this is the sandwich seat and 2♠ is far too dangerous; pass is best as LHO may well have a strong hand and double by him (sequence S) would be for penalties. But there's no problem; if LHO is weak and passes then partner will presumably balance.
 - (4) What did you bid with this North hand D(b) in this week's quiz? The hand was not good enough for a double at (1) but should certainly double now.

Table B: - Much the same as table A.

'Expert' (2) It should not make any difference to N-S if East bids 1NT or 2♦.

- Table: (4) Our experts understand balancing and North has a clear double 2nd time round. To some this may seem strange – that you don't double at the one level but do later double at the two level. The point is that this time round both opponents are limited and you know that partner has values.
- (5) What did you bid with this South hand B(b) in this week's quiz? You should not get carried away - 2♠ is quite sufficient, partner is balancing and bidding your hand for you in the safe seat.

And what happened? 2♦ made for the top; 1NT went one down for a poor score; one N-S pair bid to 3♠ and made for a clear top; and the deal was passed out once.

The bottom lines: -

- Be wary of overcalling in the sandwich seat.
- Understand balancing.

A case for MUD

Board 16 from Friday 4th

Not everybody likes MUD leads, I certainly do and it could have worked a treat on this deal: -

Dealer:	♠ KQJ5	West	North	East	South
North	♥ Q732	pass	1NT	pass	2NT
E-W vul	♦ A62	pass	3NT	all pass	
	♣ KQ				

♠ 107	N	♠ 9862
♥ 98	W E	♥ AK64
♦ 973	S	♦ K10
♣ AJ8742		♣ 963
	♠ A43	
	♥ J105	
	♦ QJ854	
	♣ 105	

There's nothing to the bidding, with everyone in 3NT except that one South did pass 1NT.

East is on lead and led a ♠. That's good news for declarer and I would have won with the ♠A, taken the losing ♦ finesse and emerge happily with 9 tricks before the defence find their ♣'s. At the table where I was kibitzing North won the ♣ lead and played on ♥'s. West won but failed to find the killing ♣ switch.

Let's suppose that East realizes that ♣'s is the only chance of defeating 3NT, which ♣ should he lead? If he leads the ♣9 (top of nothing) then West obviously ducks (covers the ♣10 with the ♣J). But when East regains the lead and leads the ♣6 or ♣3 West does not know whether to duck again or not.

The solution is that East should lead the ♣6 first, followed by the ♣9 (MUD – Middle – Up – Down). This low-high signal informs West that East has 3 ♣'s and he knows to rise with the ♣A at the 2nd turn to set the contract by a number of tricks (E-W should make 8 tricks).

And what happened?

Nobody found a ♣ switch from East and 3NT made or made +1 and 1NT made +3.

A Word about Gerber

In some situations 4♣ is used to ask for aces, this is usually when NoTrumps is likely to be the final strain, my recommendations as to when to use 4♣ and when to use 4NT are in a page in the conventions folder and on the website (conventions > section 3 > Blackwood or Gerber). Anyway, if 4♣ has been used as the ace ask then a subsequent 4NT is to play; 5♣ is asking for kings. I note that somebody thought that 4NT was asking for kings, it is not – it's to play.

Too strong for a 1NT overcall

Board 4 from Friday 4th

N-S missed a comfortable 3NT on this board

Dealer:	♠ AJ74	
West	♥ AK2	
Both vul	♦ KQ109	
	♣ A8	
♠ K82	N	♠ 1095
♥ J10	W E	♥ 7653
♦ AJ62	S	♦ 875
♣ K1076		♣ J52
	♠ Q63	
	♥ Q984	
	♦ 43	
	♣ Q943	

West	North(H)	East	South
1♣	dbl (1)	pass	1♥
pass	2NT (2)	pass	pass (3)
pass			

- (1) What did you bid with this North hand H(a) in this week's quiz? Assuming that you play the Unusual NoTrump you have to double first and then bid No Trumps when you have a hand that is too strong for a 1NT overcall (15-18).
- (2) What did you bid with this North hand H(b) in this week's quiz? This is spot on, showing 21-22.
- (3) But South was of the opinion that it showed 18-19.

The bottom lines: -

The generally accepted scheme for showing a strong NoTrump hand in this sequence is: -

1♣ 1NT	=	15-18
1♣ dbl pass 1♥ pass 1NT	=	19-20
1♣ dbl pass 1♥ pass 2NT	=	21-22
1♣ dbl pass 1♥ pass 3NT	=	23+

The 2NT response – part 1

Board 8 from Friday 4th

Dealer:	♠ 3	
West	♥ J10754	
Love all	♦ Q52	
	♣ AJ93	

West	North	East(C)	South
1♠	pass	2NT (1)	pass
3♠ (2)	pass	3NT (3)	pass
4♠ (4)	all pass		

♠ AQ8765	N	♠ 92
♥ 8	W E	♥ AK6
♦ K986	S	♦ AJ104
♣ K4		♣ 10852
	♠ KJ104	
	♥ Q932	
	♦ 73	
	♣ Q76	

- (1) What did you bid with this East hand C in this week's quiz, and what was your answer to sequence P? This 2NT response is OK (but max), generally exactly 2344 shape and 11-12 points. With two 10's, I would bid 3NT (13-15).
- (2) With nice shape and a presumed 2 ♠'s opposite and a 4-4 ♦ fit, West could try 4♠.
- (3) With his super-max East bid game.
- (4) And with this shape West corrected to 4♠.

And what happened? 4♠ is the best contract but was reached only at this table; others played in inferior 2NT or 3NT contracts.

The 2NT response – part 2

Board 21 from Friday 4th

Dealer: ♠ AJ94
 North ♥ J982
 N-S vul ♦ A972
 ♣ 10

Table A
 West North(K) East South
 - pass pass 3♣ (1)
 dbl (2) 3NT (3) dbl (4) all pass

♠ AQ8765 N ♠ 2
 ♥ 8 W E ♥ A1053
 ♦ K986 S ♦ K543
 ♣ K4 ♣ QJ43
 ♠ 107
 ♥ 74
 ♦ 86
 ♣ A987652

Table B
 West North East(E) South
 - pass pass pass (1)
 1♠ pass 2NT (5) pass
 4♣ (6) all pass

'Expert' Table
 West North East(E) South
 - pass pass pass (1)
 1♠ pass 1NT (7) pass
 2♠ all pass

- Table A: (1) Very wild at this vulnerability.
 (2) I would bid 3♣, but double turned out very well...
 (3) ... because of this crazy bid. Pass is obvious.
 (4) East knows very well that 3NT is not making with a passed hand opposite a pre-empt.
- Table B: (1) Everybody else sensibly passed.
 (5) What did you bid with this East hand E in this week's quiz? 2NT is a poor choice for two reasons: - (a) It denies 4♥'s, and (b) This hand is not good enough for a two level response in my opinion. If you really want to bid at the two level, then bid 2♣, not 2NT.
 (6) West expects a better hand with 2344 shape opposite and quite reasonably bids 4♣.
- 'Expert' Table: (7) This is the best answer to question E, with a singleton in partner's suit and no intermediates this hand is not worth a two-level response.

And what happened? 3NT doubled went for a well deserved 1400. One E-W pair stopped nicely in 2♣ making +1 and the other two E-W's both overbid to 4♣ -1.

The bottom lines: -

- The 2NT response denies a 4 card major.
- It is 11-12 points or a very good 10
- Downgrade a hand with a singleton in partner's suit
- Opposite a 1♠ opening, the 2NT response is usually exactly 2344 shape.

The 2NT response – part 3

Board 20 from Monday 30th

Every E-W overbid on this deal: -

Dealer: ♠ 109
 West ♥ AJ82
 Both vul ♦ J954
 ♣ A83

♠ 74	N	♠ AK63
♥ KQ765	W E	♥ 43
♦ K106	S	♦ Q73
♣ KQ2		♣ J975

♠ QJ852
 ♥ 109
 ♦ A82
 ♣ 1064

Table A

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

Table B

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

'Expert' Table

West	North	East(F)	South
1♥	pass	1♠ (1)	pass
1NT (2)	pass	pass (3)	pass

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this East hand F(a) in this week's quiz? 2NT here is 11-12 points but it is totally incorrect as the bid denies a 4-card major. East apparently bid it to 'show his points'. If you think that this hand is worth 2NT then you should bid as Table B. Never deny a 4 card major – especially one as good as AKxx.

(2) A borderline raise, pass is the alternative.

Table B: (1) This East correctly bid 1♠.

(3) What did you bid with this East hand F(b) in this week's quiz? Now this sequence is much better than Table A, but is this East hand worth 2NT? 2NT is the same here as at (1) and is 11-12; but with a doubleton in partner's suit this is a poor 10 and should pass.

'Experts' (3) Our expert stops comfortably in 1NT. Pass is the correct answer to question F(b).

And what happened? Three pairs overbid to 3NT and went two down (twice) or one down. The fourth pair stopped in 2NT and went one down. The bottom lines: -

- 2NT by responder in either sequence N or Q is 11 to 12 points, or a very good 10.
- Downgrade a hand with xx in partner's suit.
- Do not bid 2NT with a poor 10.

Dave's Column Here is this week's Dave input involving the best play for the contract.

North	South
♠ 9	♠ A104
♥ AQ	♥ K54
♦ A987	♦ Q43
♣ AK10742	♣ QJ53

You reach a reasonable 6♣ by North on the this deal, with no opposition bidding, and East leads the ♥10. You win with the ♥Q, play the ♠A and ruff a ♠, cash the ♥A and draw trumps ending in south, East having the doubleton. Now you discard a ♦ on the ♥K and ruff a ♠.

North	South
♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ A98	♦ Q43
♣ A10	♣ J5

Neither opponent has thrown a ♦. That leaves these N-S cards remaining with the lead with North; how do you play the ♦ suit now?

Dave's Column answer

Dealer: ♠ 9
 North ♥ AQ
 Love all ♦ A987
 ♣ AK10742

♠ Q86532	N	♠ KJ7
♥ J76	W E	♥ 109832
♦ K52	S	♦ J106
♣ 9		♣ 86
	♠ A104	
	♥ K54	
	♦ Q43	
	♣ QJ53	

Board 1 from Wednesday 2nd

Table A

West	North	East	South(A)
-	1♣	pass	2NT (1)
pass	3♦ (2)	pass	3NT (3)
pass	6♣	all pass	

'Expert' Table

West	North	East	South(A)
-	1♣	pass	2♣ (1)
pass	3♠ (4)	pass	4♠ (5)
pass	6♣ (6)	all pass	

Table A: (1) What did you bid with this South hand A in this week's quiz? 2NT promises 11-12 points and no 4 card major and is spot on. It's up to partnership understanding whether you respond 2NT or 1♦ to 1♣ when 3343 shape and 11-12 points.

(2) A reverse and forcing.

(3) Presumably showing both majors stopped, 4♣ is the alternative.

'Expert' Table: (1) Our experts play inverted minors and this is an alternative to 2NT although many partnerships demand 5♣'s for the bid, especially if 1♣ may be short.

(4) After an inverted raise one normally bids stoppers up the line, but North is looking for slam and so splinters.

(5) South's ♠ holding is ideal and so he cue bids.

(6) And North hopes that South has a suitable ♦ holding.

North	South	Anyway, North ends up in 6♣. How do you play ♦ suit having stripped the hand? The lead is with North.
♠ -	♠ -	<u>Hint:</u> Do you need the ♦K onside or is there another possibility?
♥ -	♥ -	<u>Tip:</u> When there is a critical holding which is in the closed
♦ A98	♦ Q43	hand (North), do not assume perfect defence.
♣ A10	♣ J5	

This hand was misanalysed in IPBM and the correct line is to lead the ♦9 and to run it if East plays low. If however, East plays the ♦10 or ♦J, you should duck in dummy and then play low on the enforced ♦ return. It might seem that this will also lose when East has say ♦Jx(x) or ♦10x(x), but West will not know that he should insert the ♦J or ♦10 with these holdings. If North's ♦'s were ♦K109, the ♦J would be fatal, and if North hand ♦K98, then a no-play slam would be let through. Playing low to the ♦Q is against the odds, as West is likely to have longer ♦'s, because he had shorter ♣'s. The ♦9 is the better card to lead as it keeps open the possibility of both ♦K109 and K98 in the North hand.

Terry's comments: - Phew!! A bit too complex for me, I would have covered with the ♦Q and gone down gracefully. At the Pattaya bridge club (Table A) the declarer ended up in the South hand and led the ♦Q; he made his contract when West did not cover!

At the other 3 tables it was 6NT minus one (twice) and 3NT + 1.

Nicely bid

Board 9 from Friday 4th

I was kibitzing this table where E-W bid quite nicely to game.

Dealer:	♠ 10876	West	North	East	South
North	♥ 863	-	pass	pass (1)	1♣ (2)
E-W vul	♦ K8	dbl	pass	2♠ (3)	pass
	♣ J1032	3♠ (4)	pass	4♠ (5)	all pass

♠ A43	N	♠ KQJ92	(1) With two nice suits I would open this 11 count.
♥ KQ109	W E	♥ J7	(2) South correctly opened this shapely 11 count.
♦ J1065	S	♦ A932	(3) This is fine, showing about 9-11 points.
♣ A5		♣ 76	(4) Invitational.
	♠ 5		(5) Maximum.
	♥ A542		
	♦ Q74		
	♣ KQ93		

And what happened? 4♠ is where you want to be. One E-W pair went down in 6♠ and the other two went down in 3NT.

Not so nicely bid

Board 20 from Friday 4th

This E-W pair did not do so well on this board.

Dealer:	♠ J98	West	North	East(G)	South
West	♥ 1052	1♣	pass	1♠	pass
Both vul	♦ J863	2♠	pass	3♠ (1)	pass
	♣ 1094	4♠ (2)	all pass		

♠ A765	N	♠ Q432	(1) What did you bid with this East hand G in this week's quiz? With poor trumps and three queens (bad cards) I would pass.
♥ QJ87	W E	♥ 93	
♦ 105	S	♦ AQ9	(2) This is clearly an overbid, West should certainly pass with his minimum.
♣ AJ5		♣ Q763	
	♠ K10		
	♥ AK64		
	♦ K742		
	♣ K82		

And what happened? 4♠ went two down. At two tables E-W stopped in 3♠ (so presumably both East's chose 3♠ at (1) and West passed at (2). 3♠ made exactly on both occasions.

Dave's 2nd Column

Board 16 from Wednesday 25th

This is another hand that Dave put in on Wednesday.

West	East	You reach a reasonable 6NT by West on the this deal, with no opposition bidding, and North leads the ♠Q. How do you make 12 tricks?
♠ A72	♠ K54	
♥ A5	♥ J32	
♦ KJ5	♦ AQ7	
♣ K10854	♣ AQJ7	

Dave's 2nd Column answer

Board 16 from Wednesday 25th

Dealer: ♠ QJ1093
 West ♥ KQ7
 E-W vul ♦ 1064
 ♣ 32

West	North	East	South
1NT	pass	4♣ (1)	pass
4♣ (2)	pass	6NT	pass

(1) Gerber (2) Two aces

♠ A72	N	♠ K54
♥ A5	W E	♥ J32
♦ KJ5	S	♦ AQ7
♣ K10854		♣ AQJ7

You arrive in a reasonable 6NT and receive the ♠Q lead, how do you play?

You have 11 top tricks and the 12th will have to come from a squeeze.

Apparently, according to Dave's book, the best line is to win the opening lead with the ♠A in hand and run the ♦'s and then the ♣'s. That leaves this position, with the lead with West.

When the ♣10 is led North is squeezed and has to throw the ♥7, dummy pitches the ♠5. West then leads the ♥A and the ♥5 which North wins and dummy's ♠K and ♥J take the last two tricks.

♠ 86
 ♥ 109864
 ♦ 9832
 ♣ 96

♠ J10
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

♠ 72	N	♠ K5
♥ A5	W E	♥ J32
♦ -	S	♦ -
♣ 10		♣ -

Terry's Comment

This may or may not be the best line, I am no expert but if South had a ♥ honour and the remaining ♦ then the contract would go down.

♠ 8
 ♥ 986
 ♦ 9
 ♣ -

And what happened at the Pattaya bridge club? One pair stopped in 3NT + 2. Two pairs went down in 6NT and one pair made 6NT. How did this declarer make it? Not being able to see all of the

cards he simply followed the rule of rectifying the count. He won the first ♠ with the ♠K and immediately led a ♥ which he let South win with the ♥10. The ♠ return was won with the

♠A and he ran the ♣'s, discarding the ♠5 from dummy. The ♦'s were then run and this was the three card ending.

West led the ♦J and North was in trouble.

Without excellent partnership signaling methods North does not know the ♥/♠ position. North assumed from declarer's play of a ♥ at trick 2 that West had another ♥ and so he discarded his ♠J. West's ♥A and ♠7 took the last two tricks.

♠ J
 ♥ KQ
 ♦
 ♣ -

♠ 7	N	♠ -
♥ A	W E	♥ J3
♦ J	S	♦ Q
♣		♣ -

♠ -
 ♥ 98
 ♦ 9
 ♣ -

The bottom lines: -

- Never give up. If you don't know what you are doing, like this declarer, then rectify the count early (lose a trick) and just play the hand out!
- When there is a critical holding which is in the closed hand, do not assume perfect defense.

Bidding Quiz Answers

- Hand A:** 2NT, 11-12 points and no 4 card major. If you play Inverted minors then 2♣ is possible but many partnerships require 5 ♣'s for that bid. Note that in strict SAYC the 2NT response is 13-15 and so this hand is unbidable.
- Hand B:** (a) Pass, 2♠ is far too dangerous in the Sandwich seat.
(b) 2♠, partner failed to double 1st time and is simply balancing now, i.e. he's bidding your hand for you in the safe seat. To bid 3♠ now would be 'hanging partner'.
- Hand C:** 2NT or 3NT. This hand is the correct shape for a 2NT response but is top of the range. If you feel it's a bit too good (as I do) then bid 3NT.
- Hand D:** (a) Pass, it's not quite good enough for a double, especially with such poor majors.
(b) Double, it's different now in the balancing seat. Both opponents are limited and partner has values that he was unable to bid in the dangerous sandwich seat. So double now to 'protect' him.
- Hand E:** 1NT. This hand is not worth a two level response. If you disagree and want to bid at the two level, then bid 2♣ as 2NT would deny a 4 card ♥ suit and also imply 2 ♠'s.
- Hand F:** (a) 1♠, never deny a 4 card major. 1NT or 2NT are both poor bids.
(b) Pass. A raise to 2NT should be 11-12 (or a very good 10), This is a very poor 10 (the small doubleton in partner's suit is very bad).
- Hand G:** Pass. These trumps are very poor and the rest of the hand is not that great – it's not good enough for an invitational bid of 2NT or 3♠.
- Hand H:** (a) Double, it's far too good for a 1NT overall ...
(b) ... so jump to 2NT having doubled to show a balanced 21-22 points. 1♠ or 2♠ show a strong hand but are wrong because they promise a 5+ card suit.
- Hand J:** 3♥ or 4♥. I think it's close. The one bid that I would not make is 3♣ - partner's negative double promises 4 ♥'s and values to compete to at least 3♥, so support him.
- Hand K:** Pass, obviously, as quickly as ethically allowed. This is only in the quiz as one player found 3NT and went for 1400 on a partscore deal.

Bidding Sequence Quiz Answers

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|---|
| L | 2♥ | pass | 4♥ | dbl | The dbl is take-out, promising 4 ♠'s, but of course partner may choose to pass with a suitable hand for defending. |
| M | 2♠ | pass | 4♠ | dbl | This one is up to partnership understanding. It's probably best to play it as values, i.e. 'optional' with 4NT as take-out. |
| N | 1♥ | pass | 2NT | pass | 2NT is 11-12. |
| P | 1♠ | pass | 2NT | pass | 2NT is usually 2344 shape exactly; so 2 ♠'s and 3 ♥'s. |
| Q | 1♥ | pass | 1♠ | pass | 2NT is 11-12 |
| | 1NT | pass | 2NT | | |
| R | 1♣ | dbl | pass | 1♥ | (a) A jump to 2NT having doubled is about 21-22.
(b) And it could well contain a 4 card ♠ suit. |
| | pass | 2NT | | | |
| S | 1♦ | pass | 2♦ | 2♠ | This double is penalties. |
| | dbl | | | | |
| T | 2NT | pass | 4♣ | pass | 4NT, having used Gerber, is always to play. |
| | 4♠ | pass | 4NT | | |