

BRIDGE

INTERMEDIATE

BIDDING



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STRONG HANDS**RESPONDER'S REVERSE**

Responder can also make reverse bids that force opener to bid again. (Usually showing 12+)

Let's look at a mantra often heard at the table - "Never suppress a four card major"

WEAK HANDS WHERE YOU WILL ONLY BID ONCE

PARTNER OPENS 1♣.

You hold

♠ 63
♥ K952
♦ J985
♣ K106

OR

♠ A3
♥ K952
♦ KQ85
♣ K106

On these hands it is recommended that you simply bid your four card suits *up the line* respond 1♦. You haven't suppressed anything! If opener has four hearts, he rebids them now.

PARTNER OPENS 1♦.

You hold

♠ Q3
♥ 9752
♦ 83
♣ KQ1096

OR

♠ K32
♥ 10952
♦ Q8
♣ Q1096

These are the hands where the mantra is correct. Respond 1♥
Some players are still responding 2♣ on the first hand
Some players are still responding 1NT on the second hand

STRONGER HANDS WHERE YOU CAN BID ON TO AT LEAST THE 3 LEVEL

PARTNER

♠ K4
♥ K1093
♦ AQ1096
♣ 85

YOU HOLD

♠ Q3
♥ AQ52
♦ J3
♣ KJ1096

Partner opens 1♦. You have the strength to bid again.
You respond 2♣ Partner is not strong enough to reverse, into his 2nd suit, so rebids 2♦ to show a minimum opener.
You now bid 2♥ - - **A Reverse** which forces partner to bid again.

PARTNER

♠ KJ104
♥ 93
♦ AQ1096
♣ Q5

YOU HOLD

♠ Q3
♥ AQ52
♦ J3
♣ KJ1096

Partner opens 1♦. You have the strength to bid again.
You respond 2♣ Partner cannot reverse, so rebids 2♦ to show a minimum opener. You now bid 2♥ - - **A Reverse!**
Knowing that you have a strong hand partner can now bid 2NT to show the spade stops.

PARTNER

♠ KJ10
♥ 1032
♦ AK1096
♣ A8

YOU HOLD

♠ A932
♥ KQJ54
♦ J3
♣ 96

Partner opens 1♦. You respond 1♥
Partner rebids 1NT showing a balanced 15/16.
With game values, you can now bid 2♠ - - **A Reverse!**
Partner can show the 3 card heart support and you bid 4♥!

PARTNER

♠ 87
♥ AK10973
♦ AJ4
♣ J9

YOU HOLD

♠ AK932
♥ 4
♦ 1032
♣ AQ72

Partner opens 1♥. You respond 1♠
Partner rebids 2♥. Usually a six card suit.
With game values, you can now bid 3♣ - - **A Reverse!**
Partner can show the diamond stop by bidding 3NT!

WEAK HANDS AGAIN, WHERE YOU WILL ONLY BID ONCE

PARTNER

♠ 4
♥ K1032
♦ AK1096
♣ A83

YOU HOLD

♠ K8732
♥ QJ54
♦ 83
♣ 96

Partner opens 1♦. It looks obvious to bid 1♠ but do you think that you are strong enough to make a forcing bid of 2♥? over partner's rebid of 2♦? - - NO.
With only one bid, you would be advised to respond 1♥ and pass partner's rebid of 2♥

A LITTLE FIB!

♠ AK54
♥ AQ863
♦ 95
♣ 83

♠ Q10976
♥ 74
♦ Q742
♣ 64

♠ J83
♥ 1092
♦ AJ106
♣ 1097

♠ 2
♥ KJ5
♦ K83
♣ AKQJ52

S	N
1C	1H
2D	2S
3H	4NT
5H	6H

After north shows 6+ pts. south must reverse to show a strong hand of 17+.
3♣ is an option, showing six or more clubs but with KJx of partner's suit, hearts may be the contract. It also takes up a lot of bidding space.

How else could you reverse?
Well 2NT is not good with a singleton spade.
What about 2♦? (*Partner is unlikely to bid 5♦!*)
When partner then bids 2S, 4th suit forcing, (*he knows that you don't have four spades*) you can complete the shape of your hand with 3H (*showing 1-3-4-5*)

4NT is now RKCB agreeing hearts

ONLY 15 PTS!

♠ A985
♥ 943
♦ J6
♣ KT75

♠ T643
♥ J72
♦ Q82
♣ A94

♠ -
♥ AKT85
♦ AK7543
♣ J8

♠ KQJ72
♥ Q6
♦ T9
♣ Q632

E	S	W	N
1D	1S	P	2S
4H	P	6H?	

East must recognise the playing strength of this 6-5-2-0 playing hand, which is strengthened even more when LHO overcalls spades. It is a 30 point pack.

West should not be tempted to respond 1NT!
(*No spade stop and not 9 pts.*)

East now shows the shape and strength by bidding 4H.
(*This MUST be five hearts and therefore six diamonds*)

If east can bid to game opposite a passed hand, west, with an 8 card heart fit and a 9 card diamond fit AND ♣A to cover one of east's losers should think long and hard about bidding 6♥.

STRENGTH TO BID AGAIN?

♠ KQ732
♥ K754
♦ Q9
♣ 105

♠ 9864
♥ J102
♦ 10532
♣ AK

♠ J105
♥ 83
♦ 74
♣ QJ9876

♠ A
♥ AQ96
♦ AKJ86
♣ 432

S	W	N	E
1D	P	1S	P
2H	P	4H	

This hand is interesting because north is JUST strong enough to bid spades first. IF south had been weaker and unable to reverse, north with 10 pts can make a responder's reverse of 2♥.

HOWEVER if north's hand was weaker e.g. **K754 Q9 105**
a better response to 1♦ is 1♥

Even after south's reverse, a fit and 10 HCPs north wisely signs off in game with his aceless hand.

WHEN 2NT FORCES TO GAME

♠ AK10
♥ AQ1042
♦ J86
♣ K7

♠ J743
♥ J96
♦ K
♣ AQ985

W	E
1H	2C
2NT	3H
4H	

Another subtle use of the 2NT reverse allows you to find the 5/3 heart fit, despite having 17 HCPs.

When you accept that 2NT cannot be passed, east can show three card support with no fear of it being passed.
A diamond lead could set 3NT.

♠ KQ
♥ AQ42
♦ K87
♣ K76

♠ A74
♥ J96
♦ A5
♣ AQ985

W	E
1H	2C
3NT	6NT

On this hand west has only 4 hearts so there is no need for west to look for the three card support.

This enables west to show 17/18 pts. by jumping to 3NT
Even with no fit, 15 pts. should be enough to jump to 6NT.
It needs diamonds 3/2 but set up a heart trick immediately.

STRONG HANDS RESPONDER'S JUMP SHIFT

When partner opens the bidding do not jump shift simply because you have an opening hand. The jump shift is a game force *with slam interest* and should have : 17+pts. (equivalent to a 5 loser) a fairly solid 6 card suit, and some support for partner's opening suit. It is RARE! With which of these hands would you jump shift after partner opens 1♦

<p>♠ 2 ♥ KQ ♦ AKQ9643 ♣ KJ4</p> <p>♠ AJ63 ♥ 54 ♦ 872 ♣ Q862</p>	<p>♠ K108754 ♥ 1096 ♦ J ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ Q9 ♥ AJ8732 ♦ 105 ♣ A109</p>
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♠ K103 ♥ A ♦ Q4 ♣ AKQ9872	♠ - ♥ AKJ1062 ♦ KJ92 ♣ A74	♠ AKQJ865 ♥ 5 ♦ K73 ♣ A9	♠ AKJ1095 ♥ K5 ♦ A73 ♣ K10
Void and great diamond fit		Perfect	

♠ AK92 ♥ AQJ106 ♦ Void ♣ A1085	♠ KQ1082 ♥ A ♦ J6 ♣ AKJ97	♠ AQ ♥ AJ8654 ♦ Q5 ♣ KQ3	♠ AK1084 ♥ A98 ♦ A8 ♣ A54
Void in partner's suit	Two suited	Not solid	Only two spade tricks

YES

This north hand has all the requirements for a jump shift and despite south's minimum opening bid, 6♥ or 6♦ are excellent contracts.

<p>♠ 862 ♥ K ♦ AK653 ♣ A1053</p> <p>♠ AJ4 ♥ Q986 ♦ 1098 ♣ KQ7</p>	<p>♠ ♥ J107532 ♦ QJ42 ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ KQ109753 ♥ A4 ♦ 7 ♣ 964</p>
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N	S
1D	2S
4NT	5S*
6S**	

NO

Unlucky in spades, but south did not have 17+ or a solid 6+ cards suit.

North assumed, quite naturally, that the trump ace was with the jump shifter!

A more sensible auction might have been -

1♦	1♠
2♣	4♠/4NT (if south felt that it was worth it).
5♥	5♠

<p>♠ J7 ♥ AKQJ543 ♦ AQ9 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Q8432 ♥ 106 ♦ 86 ♣ Q532</p>	<p>♠ A1065 ♥ 2 ♦ KJ10742 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ K9 ♥ 987 ♦ 53 ♣ AKJ864</p>
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S	W	N	E
1C	P	2H	X
4H	4S	4NT/5H/6H	

MAYBE

No support - BUT north has a solid 7 card suit, 17 pts. and a 4 loser. North bids STOP 2♥! East's takeout double shows the other two suits.

South rebids 4NT (RKCB) and you get to 6♥ Unfortunately the hands don't fit but it does make! ♠A LEAD and another to ♠K. Draw trumps, play ♣A and ♣K. Throw a diamond and notice what falls!! You now have a ruffing finesse against west's ♣Q. and an entry to the clubs with ♥9 (East's double showed diamonds and spades.)

<p>♠ AKQJ42 ♥ K ♦ Q4 ♣ A1084</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ QJ6532 ♦ J862 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 8753 ♥ 1087 ♦ 103 ♣ KJ53</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A94 ♦ AK975 ♣ Q976</p>
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S	W	N	E
1D	P	2S	P
3C	P	3H	P
3NT	P	4NT	P
5H	P	6NT	

YES

South opens 1♦, expecting to rebid 2♣ but north's game forcing 2♠ requires a 3♣ rebid.

North now bids 4th suit forcing (3♥).

South bids 3NT to show the heart stop and to deny any spade support.

With no fit - 4NT is traditional Blackwood and when south shows two aces, north bids 6NT.

STRONG HANDS

4TH SUIT FORCING

The less trust there is in a partnership, the more each partner will leap to game contracts fearing that their partner may pass before game is reached. Often the wrong contract is reached or slam is missed. Strong hands can be bid slowly and weak hands should be bid pre-emptively. Pairs should agree that the use of 4th suit forcing bids at the 3 level, commits the partnership to game.

♠ AQ3		♠ 86
♥ K954		♥ A8732
♦ J932		♦ K1065
♣ A5		♣ 72
♠ 974	□	
♥ QJ10		
♦ Q874		
♣ Q104		
♠ KJ1052		
♥ 6		
♦ A		
♣ KJ9863		

S	N
1C	1H
1S	2D
2S	4S
4NT*	5S**
6S	

SLOWLY SLOWLY. THERE IS NO RUSH!

If north simply punts 3NT it may go off on a ♦5 lead (or HQ lead if south bids NTs). As long as north continues to make forcing bids the excellent slam can be reached. After north's FSF bid of 2♦, south can show the full 6/5 shape of the hand.

*RKCB
**5S = 2 key cards + SQ

PLAY
Best lead is H♥ which north should not cover. Heart continuation is ruffed. Take top two clubs and ruff a club with ♠A. Draw trumps and claim

♠ AJ752		♠ KQ843
♥ 52		♥ 763
♦ KJ4		♦ Q76
♣ AQ2		♣ 83
♠ 109	□	
♥ AJ1098		
♦ 83		
♣ J1065		
♠ 6		
♥ KQ4		
♦ A10952		
♣ K974		

S	N
1D	1S
2C	2H
2NT	3NT

AVOIDANCE PLAY (DANGER HAND)

South shows 5 diamonds and 4 clubs. With 5 spades, north needs to know about south's other four cards. The bid of NTs shows a decent heart stop and not 3 spades.

PLAY
There is no danger to this contract and no need to duck, as long as declarer finesse diamonds into the safe hand. (west)! This protects his ♦Q4

♠ 10		♠ K9542
♥ A9632		♥ 107
♦ QJ94		♦ 10875
♣ AQ3		♣ J7
♠ AQ86	□	
♥ KJ84		
♦ 32		
♣ 852		
♠ J73		
♥ Q5		
♦ AK6		
♣ K10964		

N	S
1H	2C
2D	2S
3C	5C

LAST RESORT

North shows 5 hearts and four diamonds. with no spade stop, south uses 4SF and hopes that north can bid 3NT. Unfortunately on this occasion there is no spade stop and north bids 3♣ to show the 1-5-4-3 shape. South bids game in the minor suit.

PLAY
West begins with ♣5. East plays a 2nd trump when declarer plays a spade at trick 2. Declarer can ruff one spade and throw the last on ♦Q. Declarer will lose 1 heart and 1 spade.

♠ QJ10		♠ K732
♥ J95		♥ K8
♦ AQJ954		♦ 107
♣ A		♣ K9763
♠ 6	□	
♥ Q764		
♦ 82		
♣ QJ10854		
♠ A9854		
♥ A1032		
♦ K63		
♣ 2		

S	N
1S	2D
2H	3C
3D	3S
4H	4NT
5H	6S

WHICH SUIT?

The 4SF bid of 3♣ commits the partnership to game. South can pass any spade raise by north. So north bids 4SF and south shows the 5-4-3-1 shape.

PLAY
West begins with ♣Q. After a successful spade finesse draw trumps. three of your heart losers vanish on north's three diamond winners.

STRONG HANDS

JACOBY 2NT

<p>♠ J109 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ QJ10 ♣ QJ2</p> <p>♠ AK54 ♥ 97 ♦ 9754 ♣ A85</p> <p>♠ Q763 ♥ Q1083 ♦ AK ♣ K107</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ 642 ♦ 8632 ♣ 9643</p>	<p>N 1H 3NT S 2NT P</p> <p>TWO BALANCED HANDS</p> <p>With two balanced hands and plenty of points south chooses to play in 3NT</p>	<p>S 1S 3D 4NT 6S N 2NT 4D 5H etc</p> <p>SINGLETON OR VOID</p> <p>3D shows a singleton or void 4D is a cue bid. 4NT is RCKB. 4H is 2 key cards without trump queen.</p>	<p>♠ KJ1084 ♥ Q3 ♦ A965 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ J10 ♦ QJ10832 ♣ 9832</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ K986 ♦ K7 ♣ QJ1054</p> <p>♠ A9532 ♥ A7542 ♦ 4 ♣ A6</p>
<p>♠ A987 ♥ QJ3 ♦ KJ102 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ 643 ♥ 985 ♦ Q43 ♣ 10873</p> <p>♠ KQJ105 ♥ K6 ♦ 96 ♣ K654</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ A10742 ♦ A875 ♣ J92</p>	<p>S 1H 4H 5D N 2NT 4NT 5S</p> <p>FAST ARRIVAL.</p> <p>After 2NT south shows NO interest in slam but north persists.</p> <p>5D shows 1 or 4 North gets the message and signs off in 5S</p>	<p>S 1H 3H 4NT N 2NT 3S 5H etc.</p> <p>STRONGER</p> <p>3H is stronger than 4H ONLY when in a game forcing sequence - like this one. It gives you more bidding space to cue bid etc.</p>	<p>♠ AQ4 ♥ AJ32 ♦ K532 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ 8632 ♥ 76 ♦ J107 ♣ A872</p> <p>♠ J1097 ♥ 84 ♦ Q984 ♣ 1064</p> <p>♠ K5 ♥ KQ1095 ♦ A6 ♣ KQJ5</p>
<p>♠ J985 ♥ KQ1065 ♦ 108 ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ K742 ♥ 2 ♦ Q96 ♣ J10976</p> <p>♠ AQ1062 ♥ 43 ♦ 7432 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ - ♥ AJ987 ♦ AKJ5 ♣ 8542</p>	<p>S 1H N 4H</p> <p>FAST ARRIVAL.</p> <p>North is a 7 loser but should not use Jacoby 2NT. A simple raise to game is required</p>	<p>S 1H 3C 4NT 6H N 2NT 3S 5S</p> <p>SINGLETON</p> <p>North's hand gets better when the singleton club is shown.</p>	<p>♠ AQ72 ♥ KQ108 ♦ QJ4 ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ 10954 ♥ 42 ♦ 85 ♣ KQ873</p> <p>♠ J8 ♥ 95 ♦ 10763 ♣ A10964</p> <p>♠ K63 ♥ AJ763 ♦ AK92 ♣ 5</p>
<p>♠ KQ42 ♥ J73 ♦ A95 ♣ Q54</p> <p>53 KQ8 J10876 1083</p> <p>♠ 187 ♥ A96542 ♦ Q32 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ AJ1096 ♥ 10 ♦ K4 ♣ AK762</p>	<p>S 1H 4C 4NT 6H N 2NT 4D 5S</p> <p>TWO SUITED</p> <p>After 2NT south shows a good side suit. (Usually 5 card suit). Then cue bid. Then RCKB.</p>	<p>S 1H 4D 4NT 6H N 4C 4S 5S</p> <p>NOT JACOBY</p> <p>With an unbalanced hand, the alternative to J2NT is a splinter bid. 4C shows a singleton or void in the suit bid. It agrees hearts!</p>	<p>♠ A53 ♥ KQ864 ♦ KJ52 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ KQJ6 ♥ 95 ♦ 1084 ♣ J872</p> <p>♠ 10874 ♥ 102 ♦ 763 ♣ KQ63</p> <p>♠ 92 ♥ AJ73 ♦ AQ9 ♣ A1094</p>

STRONG HANDS

A RANGE OF CUE BIDS

CUE BIDS.

There are five basic types of cue bid used by club players

1. Showing a VERY strong hand.
2. Showing 1st round control after suit agreement.
3. Asking for a stop in enemy suit or tell me more.
4. Unassuming Cue bid asks "How good was your overcall?"
5. A Michaels Cue Bid. Used alongside the unusual 2NT to show 5/5s

You are south.
with this hand

♠ AK106
♥ 3
♦ AKQ1095
♣ A2

East opens 1H

1. Occasionally you pick up a very strong hand and then your RHO surprisingly opens the bidding. You are far too strong to overcall. You could of course double, but double does not express the full strength of the hand. If you have no partnership agreement, a bid of the opponent's suit is never natural. Without any special agreement, the bid simply shows a rock crusher of a hand. Bid **2♥** (*Must be alerted*) to show this game forcing hand. (*HOWEVER, most club players will play this direct cue bid as a Michael's Cue Bid*). See 5.

You are south.
with this hand

♠ A97
♥ AK1095
♦ 8
♣ AQ2

2. When you have agreed a major suit fit during the auction, any bid outside that suit is not natural. Why would you tell opponents that you have another biddable suit?

In a sequence such as

S	N
1♥	3♥
	3♠ (<i>Must be alerted</i>)

The 3♠ bid can be a cue bid showing 1st round control. (Ace or void)
If north was to bid 3♦ showing 1st round control in diamonds, slam looks like a probability.

You are north.
with this hand

♠ 52
♥ AQJ2
♦ KJ43
♣ A63

South opens 1D

3. South opens 1♦. After west passes you respond 1♥. East overcalls 1♠. Partner rebid 2♣ showing 5/4 in diamonds and clubs. You side certainly have game values but you cannot bid NTs without a spade stop. So you simply cue bid the enemy suit (**2♠**) (*Must be alerted*) to ask south for more information. When south bids 2NT to show a spade stop, you can sign off in game - 3NT
IF south could only rebid 3♦ you can bid game in 5♦

You are north.
with this hand

♠ K65
♥ 72
♦ Q43
♣ AK762

South overcalls 1S

4. Overcalls are wide ranging and could be anything from a 7 count up to 15 HCPs. If partner overcalls you know that they have a good five card suit, but their strength is uncertain. If you have 12ish pts. game could be on if partner has overcalled on a decent hand. To find out, you can simply cue bid the opener's suit e.g.

E	S	W	N
1♦	1♠	p	2♦

 If partner is weak he can simply rebid 2S but he will bid more if he is close to opening values. This type of cue bid is called an *Unassuming Cue Bid*. It assumes nothing. Bid **2♦** (*Must be alerted*) It also takes up no bidding space. If you jump to 3S on this hand, partner could go off when is overcall was weak

You are south.
with this hand

♠ A10982
♥ QJ1065
♦ 8
♣ 54

East opens 1D

5. To show two suits with one bid is a desirable thing. Most club players in this area use Michaels Cue Bids to show two suited hands when overcalling. After 1 of a minor, an overcall in that suit promises both majors. After 1 of a Major, an overcall in that suit promises 5 of the other major and a 5 card minor. Use Michaels Cue bids when you are weak 5 -9 or when you are strong 15+. 'Michaels' is used alongside the *Unusual 2NT* which shows 5/5 in the two lowest unbid suits. Overcall **2♦**. (*Must be alerted*)

STRONG HANDS

A RANGE OF CUE BIDS

♠ 52
 ♥ AQJ62
 ♦ KJ4
 ♣ A63

♠ Q87
 ♥ 10973
 ♦ 86
 ♣ 10972

♠ KJ963
 ♥ K4
 ♦ 97
 ♣ KJ84

♠ A104
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AQ10532
 ♣ Q5

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	2H	P
3D	P	3S	P
3NT			

HAVE YOU A STOP IN THE ENEMY SUIT?

You can count nine top tricks.

After cashing diamonds, a heart finesse will bring home 11 tricks at pairs.

SHOWING 1ST ROUND CONTROL WHEN SUIT IS AGREED

If north raises to 3H rather than 4H south should cue bid 1st round control in spades. North can show club control. South uses RKCB and finds HK.

♠ K76
 ♥ K10974
 ♦ 543
 ♣ A7

♠ 5432
 ♥ 86
 ♦ QJ98
 ♣ QJ5

♠ QJ98
 ♥ J
 ♦ K1072
 ♣ 9642

♠ A10
 ♥ AQ532
 ♦ A6
 ♣ K1083

S	N
1H	3H
3S	4C
4NT	5H
6H	

♠ J65
 ♥ 872
 ♦ AQ1073
 ♣ Q10

♠ K7
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ J9542
 ♣ 972

♠ A10982
 ♥ QJ1065
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 54

♠ Q43
 ♥ 94
 ♦ K6
 ♣ AKJ863

S	W	N	E
1C	2C*	P	3H
?	4H	?	
*A Michael's Cue bid			

IF YOU PLAY MICHAEL'S CUE BIDS

After a minor opening the cue bid shows both majors. 4H makes by setting up spade winners. 5C is two or three off! Without Michaels overcall higher ranking suit but you are barely strong enough to bid again

TELL ME MORE

North realises that game should be on and cue bids to get more info from south. With this holding, 3NT is the spot.

On another day 4H/4S/5C may be the contract.

♠ AK982
 ♥ J2
 ♦ 85
 ♣ KQ52

♠ QJ6
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ AJ10972
 ♣ 109

♠ 10753
 ♥ 10876
 ♦ 43
 ♣ J86

♠ 4
 ♥ AK543
 ♦ KQ6
 ♣ A743

S	W	N	E
1H	2D	2S	P
3C	P	3D	P
3NT			

♠ AK1063
 ♥ 3
 ♦ AKQ1095
 ♣ A

♠ QJ97
 ♥ J104
 ♦ 63
 ♣ 8532

♠ 842
 ♥ AKQ76
 ♦ 2
 ♣ KJ107

♠ 5
 ♥ 9852
 ♦ J874
 ♣ Q964

W	N	E	S
1H	2H	P	3C
P	3H	P	4D
?			

ROCK CRUSHER OR MICHAELS

With this 2 loser hand, 6D is cold and you should get there whether you play Michaels or not!

HAVE YOU A STOP?

C7 LEAD

1S bid is constructive! As long as south holds up CA for 2 rounds, and finesses hearts, it makes.

Is a 1NT opening for east an option?

♠ AK965
 ♥ 105
 ♦ A763
 ♣ J10

♠ J1074
 ♥ Q642
 ♦ 954
 ♣ 75

♠ Q83
 ♥ K7
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ KQ9642

♠ 2
 ♥ AJ983
 ♦ KJ82
 ♣ A83

E	S	W	N
1C	1H	P	1S
2C	2D	P	3C
X	3NT		

♠ K65
 ♥ 72
 ♦ Q43
 ♣ AK762

♠ 1083
 ♥ AKJ106
 ♦ AJ72
 ♣ 3

♠ 94
 ♥ Q985
 ♦ 10985
 ♣ 1085

♠ AQJ72
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K6
 ♣ QJ94

E	S	W	N
1H	1S	P	2H
P	3D	P	4S

UNASSUMING CUE BID - HOW GOOD WAS YOUR OVERCALL

LEAD H5

With a 13 count south can bid the diamond feature and north bids game.

UNASSUMING CUE BID

LEAD H7

Unusual, but with a 12 count and a good heart stop south can rebid 2NT to say, Yes this was a strong overcall.

North converts to game

♠ AQ
 ♥ 952
 ♦ 653
 ♣ AKJ98

♠ J7654
 ♥ 74
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 10632

♠ K983
 ♥ AQ863
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ Q5

♠ 102
 ♥ KJ10
 ♦ AKJ1092
 ♣ 74

E	S	W	N
1H	2D	P	2H
P	2NT	P	3NT

ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

Roman Key Card Blackwood is used alongside ordinary Blackwood - NOT instead of!
 Use RKCB when a fit has been established and use ordinary Blackwood when no fit is found.

It was popularised in the 1980's by Eddie Kantar and it counts *key cards*, rather than simply aces.
The king of trumps becomes a fifth ace and it is sometimes referred to as "*Five Ace Blackwood*".

R.K.C.B. is *ONLY* used when a trump fit has been established.

Responses to 4NT in RKC Blackwood are :

5♣	= 0 or 3	of five key cards.
5♦	= 1 or 4	of five key cards.
5♥	= 2	of five without the queen of trumps.
5♠	= 2	of five with the queen of trumps.

If partner subsequently bids 5NT asking for kings, use the normal Blackwood scale, but obviously exclude the king of trumps if you've already shown it.

Trump agreement is often obvious e.g. 1♠ - 3♠, but is sometimes shown by implication.
 If partner jumps to 4NT from a suit, it is assumed that the last bid suit will be the trump suit.

1♠ - 3♠ 4NT - 5♣ 5♠ - 6♠	3♠ sets spades as trumps. 4NT = RKCB 5♣ = 0 or 3 controls 5♠ = to play, if no controls 6♠ = 3 controls
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1♠ - 2♣ 2♥ - 4NT 5♠ - 6♥	4NT sets hearts as trumps. 5♠ = either two aces and ♥Q. or one ace and ♥K and ♥Q.
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If over 4NT partner responds 5♣ or 5♦, your bid of the next suit up (excluding the trump suit) would specifically ask partner whether s/he hold the *queen of trumps*.
 S/he answers using (*stepped responses*.)
 If partner *did not* have the queen of trumps s/he would bid the cheapest suit.
 If partner *did* have the queen of trumps, s/he would bid one suit higher than the cheapest suit. e.g.

1♠ - 2♣ 2♥ - 4NT 5♣ - 5♦ 5♠ - 7♥	4NT sets hearts as trumps. 5♣ = 0 or 3 5♦ = Have you the ♥Q? 5♠ = Yes I have it!
---	---

1♠ - 2♣ 2♥ - 4♠ 4NT - 5♦ 5♥ - 5♠ 6♠	4NT sets spades as trumps. 5♦ = 1 or 4 5♥ = Have you the ♠Q? 5♠ = No, I don't have it!
---	---

♠ AJ432 ♥ 5 ♦ K42 ♣ AKQ3	♠ Q1065 ♥ A843 ♦ A7 ♣ 952
W	E
1♠	3♠
4NT	5♠
6♠	

♠ AJ432 ♥ 5 ♦ K42 ♣ AKQ3	♠ 10765 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ A7 ♣ 952
W	E
1♠	3♠
4NT	5♦
5♠	

♠ KQ73 ♥ AJ ♦ AJ862 ♣ 43	♠ AJ964 ♥ 4 ♦ K5 ♣ AKQ5
W	E
1♦	1♠
3♠	4NT
5♣	5♦
5♠	7♠

If the bidding develops without a fit e.g. 1♥ - 1♠
 3NT - 4NT use be *normal* Blackwood.

ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

Easy bid. Easy play

North is a 4 loser with 3 aces and four card support.
Using RKCB south shows 2 key cards AND the trump queen.
Surely enough for 7♠!

I hope you played the trump honour from the hand with two top honours FIRST

♠ A942
♥ 6
♦ A7
♣ AKQ965

♠ J875
♥ J432
♦ QJ10
♣ J3

♠ -
♥ KQ105
♦ 98532
♣ 10742

♠ KQ1063
♥ A987
♦ K64
♣ 8

S	N
1S	4NT
5S	7S

With 10 you can catch ♥Q

North is a *just about* a Benji 2♣ opening. but when the 10 card heart fit is revealed. North uses RKCB and finds south with two key cards.

Even without the ♥Q, it would be VERY unlucky to find a 3-0 break with west holding the three cards.

I hope you played ♥A first. (From the hand with no tenace).

♠ AKQ642
♥ A9543
♦ A
♣ 8

♠ J875
♥ -
♦ KQ53
♣ J7642

♠ 109
♥ Q108
♦ J9864
♣ K105

♠ 3
♥ KJ762
♦ 1072
♣ AQ93

N	S
1S	2H
4NT	5H
7H	

N	S
2C	2D
2S	3H
4NT	5H
7H	

Opener's jump rebid

South's rebid of 3♠ shows a 5 loser hand.
North's 4NT reveals 0 or 3 key cards.
5♦ asks for trump queen. - Without it, south would respond 5♥.
6♣ says I have ♠Q and I also have ♣K.

I hope you played the trump honour from the hand with two top honours FIRST. (& drew trumps immediately).

♠ A10964
♥ 4
♦ K5
♣ AQJ52

♠ J852
♥ 109732
♦ Q103
♣ 8

♠ -
♥ KQ865
♦ 974
♣ 97643

♠ KQ73
♥ AJ
♦ AJ862
♣ K10

S	N
1D	1S
3S	4NT
5C	5D
6C	7S

To Benji or not to Benji

South's opening bid is a marginal Benji 2♣.
Sometimes cue bidding is not as relevant as locating key cards in the trump suit.
When the trump queen is missing south signs off in 6♥.
I hope you played ♥K first. (From the hand with no tenace).

♠ 2
♥ K6432
♦ Q107
♣ AK93

♠ J1073
♥ -
♦ 98652
♣ Q765

♠ 86
♥ Q1087
♦ KJ3
♣ J1084

♠ AKQ954
♥ AJ95
♦ A4
♣ 2

S	N
2C	2D
2S	3H
4NT	5H
6H	

S	N
1S	2H
4NT	5H
6H	

Importance of trump king

North 3♠ is a splinter bid to agree hearts and show a singleton or void in spades.
4NT is RKCB
5D shows 1 or 4 key cards
Missing either 2 aces or an ace and trump king.
South signs off in 5♥

♠ 2
♥ J975
♦ QJ93
♣ AKQ5

♠ AQ53
♥ K10
♦ 852
♣ J1073

♠ K10984
♥ 42
♦ 74
♣ 9842

♠ J76
♥ AQ863
♦ AK106
♣ 6

S	N
1H	3S
4NT	5D
5H	P

Importance of trump king

North 3♠ is a splinter bid to agree hearts and show a singleton or void in spades.
4NT is RKCB
5♥ shows 2 key cards without the trump queen.
Because of north's splinter bid, south knows that north has ♣A and ♥K.
I hope you didn't finesse ♣Q. You have 12 top tricks

♠ 2
♥ K975
♦ QJ93
♣ AQ54

♠ K10954
♥ 94
♦ 72
♣ J1085

♠ AQ83
♥ J10
♦ 854
♣ K972

♠ J76
♥ AQ863
♦ AK106
♣ 6

S	N
1H	3S
4NT	5H
6H	P

STRONG HANDS

SPLINTER BIDS.

1ST ROUND SPLINTER, CUE BID, RKCB.

♠ A5
♥ KQ864
♦ KJ52
♣ 53

♠ KQJ6
♥ 95
♦ 1084
♣ J872

♠ 108743
♥ 102
♦ 763
♣ KQ6

♠ 92
♥ AJ73
♦ AQ9
♣ A1094

S	W	N	E
1H	P	4C	P
4D	P	4S	P
4NT	P	5S	P
6H			

After SK lead, draw trumps and throw losing spade on your long diamond

HIGHER THAN A JUMP SHIFT

♠ AKQ
♥ KQ96
♦ AJ842
♣ 3

♠ 1062
♥ A4
♦ 1065
♣ K10975

♠ J93
♥ J105
♦ 93
♣ QJ642

♠ 8754
♥ 8732
♦ KQ7
♣ A8

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1H	P
4C	P	4D	P
4S	P	4NT	P
5D	P	6H	

3C would be a jump shift showing 17 pts., 5 diamonds, 4/5 clubs Getting to the 50% slam that makes.

1ST ROUND SPLINTER, CUE BID.

♠ QJ8
♥ -
♦ AK952
♣ AJ953

♠ 10764
♥ AK96
♦ 863
♣ 42

♠ 53
♥ J875432
♦ QJ4
♣ 8

♠ AK92
♥ Q10
♦ 107
♣ KQ1076

S	W	N	E
1C	P	3H	P
3S	P	4C	P
4S	P	4NT	P
5H	P	7C	

Note here that 3H is the splinter . (2H would be a forcing jump shift). 3S is a cue bid 4C is a cue bid 4NT is RKCB 5H = 2 key cards + CQ

OPENER'S SPLINTER.

♠ 752
♥ Q1092
♦ Q97
♣ Q54

♠ KQ106
♥ 543
♦ K842
♣ 76

♠ J98
♥ 87
♦ AJ1065
♣ A32

♠ A43
♥ AKJ6
♦ 3
♣ KJ1098

S	W	N	E
1C	P	1H	P
3D	P	4H	P
P	P		P

Note here that 3D is the splinter . (2D would be a forcing reverse). Stop 4H is the weakest bid possible. in this game forcing sequence.

SPLINTER in ENEMY SUIT, CUE BID, RKCB.

♠ KQJ876
♥ Q1052
♦ 7
♣ A7

♠ 104
♥ 93
♦ AK1098
♣ Q852

♠ 952
♥ 74
♦ Q6542
♣ 643

♠ A3
♥ AKJ86
♦ J3
♣ KJ109

S	W	N	E
1H	2D	4D	P
4S	P	4NT	P
5C	P	6H	

After west's overcall, a jump in that suit is a splinter. 3D would be asking south for more info, perhaps heading for a NT contract if a stop could be shown. After SK lead, draw trumps and throw losing spade on your long diamond.

SIMPLE 1ST ROUND SPLINTER.

♠ 9
♥ Q8743
♦ AK7
♣ Q632

♠ 108532
♥ 109
♦ 9542
♣ AK

♠ QJ76
♥ A
♦ Q1086
♣ 8754

♠ AK4
♥ KJ652
♦ J3
♣ J109

S	W	N	E
1H	P	3S	P
4H			

North has a minimal hand with which to splinter. South's fast arrival shows no interest in slam. NOTE - The contract can be set on DK lead, then DA (to show doubleton). East can give west a club ruff when in with HA

NOT EASY

♠ A862
♥ AKQJ102
♦ AKQ
♣ -

♠ KJ953
♥ 83
♦ 53
♣ 8653

♠ Q1087
♥ 4
♦ 964
♣ AJ972

♠ -
♥ 9765
♦ J10872
♣ K1043

N	E	S	W
2D*	P	2H	P
3H	P	4S	P
7H		*Benji	

With a good fit and a void, south should splinter in spades. (3S would be natural and forcing).

Trump lead best.

Do not draw trumps or cash SA. simply ruff the three spade losers.

2ND ROUND SPLINTER BY RESPONDER

♠ AK
♥ J87
♦ A962
♣ AQJ9

♠ J10754
♥ AK103
♦ Q5
♣ 102

♠ 9832
♥ Q9642
♦ 43
♣ 84

♠ Q6
♥ 5
♦ KJ1087
♣ K7653

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	X*
3D	P	4H	P
4S	P	4NT	P
5D	P	6C	

*West's double showed the other two suits. After agreeing diamonds 3H would be a cue bid. 4H is a splinter.

STRONG HANDS

OOPS.

♠ 3
♥ KQ107
♦ -
♣ AQJ97643

♠ A10965
♥ 3
♦ Q10862
♣ 108

♠ QJ874
♥ 862
♦ A73
♣ K2

♠ K2
♥ AJ954
♦ KJ954
♣ 5

S
1H
4H
5D

N
3S
5C
6H

BUT
results showed that only 5 out of 16 bid and made 6♥

6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
4♥	S	12	680	16	14	
6♠*	E	8	800	20	10	
5♣	N	11	600	9	21	
4♥	S	10	620	12	18	
6♣	N	11		100	2	28
6♥	S	11		100	2	28
5♥	S	12	680	16	14	
5♥	S	12	680	16	14	
6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
6♥	S	11		100	2	28
6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
5♣	N	11	600	9	21	
6♥	S	12	1430	26	4	
6♠	E	9	150	6	24	

A ROOM FULL OF PESSIMISTS

When north picks up this whopping 3 loser hand and partner opens 1♥! The only decision is whether 7♥ can be made. (Partner would need ♠A, ♥A and either ♥K or a void.) Your instinct tells you to simply bid 6♥ but if you have gadgets like splinters, I suppose you should use them. 3♠ is a splinter bid and partner's 4♥ denies ♣A and ♦A. Could partner still have ♠A? 5♣ is a cue bid and partner shows ♦K which is useless! So you bid the 6♥ that you assume **everyone** will bid.

Two pairs somehow failed to make it!
6♠ is a good sacrifice but because too many pairs failed to bid the slam, it scored poorly.
How you can get to 5♣ without finding the 8 card heart fit is a mystery

♠ K108762
♥ 9
♦ J54
♣ AK8

♠ 93
♥ AKQJ8
♦ Q8
♣ Q652

♠ AQ4
♥ 6
♦ AK10932
♣ J94

♠ J5
♥ 1075432
♦ 76
♣ 1073

W
1H
3H
5D
P

N
2S
P
P
X

E
3D
4NT
6NT
P

S
P
P
P
P

LIGHTNER DOUBLE or A PICKLE DOUBLE

West opens 1♥ and north overcalls 2♠ (5 spades, 6 loser minimum)
East bids 3♦ (forcing) and west rebids 3♥.
East now uses Blackwood. West's 5♦ shows one ace.
East, bids 6NT.
Without any further bidding south will lead a spade, but north had doubled! North had meant this to be a 'Lightner Double' (asking for a less than obvious lead). South, who thought that E/W were in a pickle and were simply in a poor contract, led a spade!

An impossible contract doubled and making gave N/S 0/30 matchpoints.

♠ 3
♥ KQJ
♦ 543
♣ AK10852

♠ 875
♥ 8
♦ AK862
♣ 9764

♠ AKJ62
♥ 107542
♦ J109
♣ -

♠ Q1094
♥ A963
♦ Q7
♣ QJ3

S
1NT
P

W
P
P

N
3NT
P

E
X

A NEW ONE ON ME

After south's 1NT, north with 13 points and a good source of tricks, responded 3NT.
Disconcertingly, east doubled and although south wisely asked west what the double showed, west did not know.

As you can see the contract has no chance even though the diamond suit is blocked.
However, west surprisingly led his 4th highest diamond?!?! and ten tricks rolled in. 0/30 for E/W

Surely the lead should have been ♦A to see why partner had doubled. The spade switch would now be clear.

The double apparently asked for a spade lead.
This is not a convention we will be adopting.

TIP FOR THIS WEEK

Although having sufficient tools in your toolbox is important, your success at this game often depends on making fewer mistakes than your opponents.

THE MOST FREQUENT CALLS FOR HELP

The most common call for guidance at Monday's duplicate is by players whose RHO opens a suit in which they hold length. - With five of the opponent's suit it is nearly always correct to simply pass and await further developments. e.g. You are west and ideally you hope that the auction develops something like this.

S 1H 2H
W P X
N 1NT P
E P

♠ 85
♥ AQ1063
♦ K4
♣ A654

Sitting west, you know that south does not have reversing values. North has 6-9 pts. and N/S do not have a spade fit. It looks like a mis-fit. Your side have no game contract but 2Hx -1 will score you a huge +200. UNFORTUNATELY, the 'natural' meaning of your double is 'Takeout' (because partner has not yet bid). Therefore, if you agree to play this as a penalty double, it **must** be alerted!

This example is from Bridge Club Live, an online site that is worth trying <http://www.bridgeclublive.com/abf/>

♠ AQ6
♥ 102
♦ J985432
♣ 2

♠ 85
♥ 43
♦ AKQ106
♣ J654

♠ KJ32
♥ AK96
♦ 7
♣ AK109

♠ KQ5
♥ AQ63
♦ A9
♣ J1054

♠ J10842
♥ 75
♦ QJ3
♣ KQ2

S 1C X P
W 1D 2D P
N P X
E 1H P

AS SMOOTH AS SILK OR DON'T PUT YOUR HEAD ON THE BLOCK!

West's 1D overcall is fine. A good lead directing bid which north passes, as smooth as silk. East inadvicably bids! (A bid after partner's overcall should be constructive, suggesting that something more might be on. It should never be a rescue!). South's re-opening takeout double of 1H informs north of the strong hand. West should pass, but, fatally bids diamonds again with only a 5 card suit! North's double is, of course, for penalties.

With 15-18 pts., a couple of stops and four of your opponent's suit, you could bid 1NT. Partner can then use Stayman or transfers to reach the best contract.

Another uncertainty that inexperienced players have, is how to balance HCPs and 'the playing strength' of the hand - AND the notion of bidding 'No Trumps' **without** a balanced hand. Like this hand from Friday.

♠ A83
♥ 53
♦ AQJ9653
♣ 8

♠ 10764
♥ J10986
♦ 8
♣ A6

♠ QJ9
♥ KQ72
♦ K2
♣ K972

♠ K52
♥ A4
♦ 1074
♣ QJ1053

S 1NT
N 3NT

HCPs OR A SOURCE OF TRICKS

North has a doubleton and a singleton and only 11 HCPs but to play in 3D or to bid 2NT on a hand like this would be to deny yourself any pleasure in bridge. Bridge is a card game and nothing can be guaranteed but surely the enjoyment of taking a small gamble to score well on hands like this, outways the fearfully pessimistic possibility of going off. If you do go down on hands like this, well, there are more important things in life to worry about!

Some Monday players often want to respond with a 'Jump Shift' just because they have an opening hand. The bid should be used VERY sparingly. Perhaps once a year and even then it may be a marginal compromise.

RESPONDERS JUMP SHIFT

82
AKQ32
AQ9
AQ4

♠ K74
♥ 10874
♦ J10532
♣ 2

AQJ
J95
K6
KJ865

S 1C 4NT** 5NT 6NT
N 2H* 5D*** 6C****

S 1C 1NT 5D 6H
N 1H 4NT 5NT 6NT

S 1C 1NT 5D
N 1H 4NT 7NT

* The jump shift should guarantee a solid SIX card suit and 17ish pts. and secondary support for opener. Here north has 21 HCPs.
** RKCB agreeing hearts.
*** 5D shows 1 or 4 key cards. (South assumes HQ)
**** When north shows no kings, south signs off in 6NT

On this 2nd auction north rejects the jump shift. When south rebids 1NT showing 15/16 pts. (N/S have 36 pts.) 4NT is traditional Blackwood. (NOT quantitative). Again the king enquiry reveals only three kings, and 6NT is bid.

On the 3rd auction, north is less pessimistic and after checking that all aces are in place, simply bids 7NT. Well, when did you last have 36 pts. between your two hands??

ENJOY YOUR BRIDGE OVER THE SUMMER!.