

Friendly **Bridge** **Classes** at Newburn Leisure Centre



**A SERIES OF LESSONS
FOR CLUB PLAYERS
AUTUMN TERM 2015**

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♠ 7 6
 ♥ A J 4 2
 ♦ K 3 2
 ♣ J 9 8 4

♠ K Q 10 3
 ♥ 8 6 5
 ♦ Q 10 9
 ♣ K 5 3

♠ J 9 8 5 4
 ♥ Q 10 3
 ♦ J 6 5 4
 ♣ 7

♠ A 2
 ♥ K 9 7
 ♦ A 8 7
 ♣ A Q 10 6 2

S N
 1C 1H
 2NT 3NT

DEFENCE - ON THE LEAD OF A KING (AGAINST NTs)

West correctly led ♠K. BUT - East did not throw ♠J! So - - - - West **CORRECTLY** switched. (Assuming south was using the 'Bath Coup'). On a diamond switch, declarer wins ♦K and runs ♣J. Although this loses to west's ♣K declarer now has 9 tricks!

On the lead of a king against NTs, east MUST throw ♠J at trick 1.

Now west can continue with ♠K forcing out the ♠A. When declarer finesses ♣J, west wins and can cash ♠10 before continuing with ♠3 to east's two winning spades.

The defence take four spades and ♣K to set the contract.

A king lead against NTs MUST be from a sequence of three cards.

♠ K Q J 3

The only exception is this near sequence of three. (missing ♠J)

♠ K Q 10 3

The following holdings would require a 4th highest lead.

♠ K Q 9 3 - ♠ K J 10 3 - ♠ A K 8 5 3 2

♠ 76
 ♠ KQ102 ♠ 9854
 ♠ AJ2
 This is what east's play suggested.

♠ 8 4 2
 ♥ 8 7 5
 ♦ J
 ♣ K J 10 8 4 3

♠ K 10 7 6 5
 ♥ K J 10 3
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ 7 6

♠ A J 3
 ♥ 9 6 2
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 6
 ♣ 5 2

♠ Q 9
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ A K 7 4 3
 ♣ A Q 9

S N
 2NT 3NT

DEFENCE - RETURNING PARTNER'S SUIT

Two pairs played this in 1♦!?!?!
 One pair played, and went off in 5♣.
 The obvious opening with a balance 20-22 is 2NT
 I was asked how should south bid after an opening 2NT by north. My questioner was unhappy about bidding 3NT with a singleton diamond but unconcerned about the three rags in hearts & spades.

Although 3NT is clearcut, it can surely never make on the unfortunate spade holding AND a 4th highest lead of spades. Well 8 out of 15 pairs DID make 9 or 10 tricks in 3NT!?!? HOW?

TRICK 1. ♠6 - ♠2 - *♠A - ♠9 *3rd in hand, east MUST play highest card as there is nothing to guard in dummy.

TRICK 2. and the end for the defence! East, from ♠J3, returned ♠3 - ♠Q - ♠K - ♠4. This blocked the suit!

TRICK 3. ♠5 - ♠8 - ♠J - ♦3
 East now cannot reach west's two winning spades.

The principle for returning partner's suit, against NT contracts is not difficult. With two cards left, return in a hi-lo manner. If you **started** with four of the suit, return your lowest card from the three remaining.

AND TWO MORE ERRORS FROM THIS MONDAY'S DUPLICATE.

♣ 4
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ -
 ♦ 987
 ♣ AK108652

♣ J3
 ♣ Q97

3NT

Once ♣A is led there is no recovery. The normal 4th highest is correct!

♣ 2
 ♣ K843
 ♣ AJ1076
 ♣ Q95

3NT

After west finds the super lead of ♣3, east, 3rd in hand, must play ♣A and return ♣J. This is covered by ♣Q and west wins ♣K. WHAT NOW? West must follow the principle, with 8-4 left, play back the ♣8. Otherwise, you BLOCK the suit.

♠ KJ1062
♥ 74
♦ J43
♣ K95

♠ 8
♥ J96
♦ KQ92
♣ J10764

6S

♠ 43
♥ A108
♦ 10876
♣ Q832

♠ AQ975
♥ KQ532
♦ A5
♣ A

S	W	N	E
1S	P	3S	P
4C	P	4S	P
6S			

BIDDING - BID TO THE LEVEL OF THE FIT

2♠ from north would not be wrong but you have a 9 count and FIVE spades. It is therefore reasonable to optimise and bid 3♠ with this hand. Having agreed spades, 4♣ would never be natural! 4♣ is a cue bid showing first round control. (ace or void) IF north could have bid 4♥ to show ♥A, 7♠ would be a possibility. As it is - 6♠ is still a good bet.

PLAY ON ANY LEAD - SEEING THE PROBLEM

PICTURE SOUTH AS THE MASTER HAND

<i>Spades.</i>	0 losers	(Ten top trumps)
<i>Hearts.</i>	1 losers	(Only ♥A to lose)
<i>Diamonds.</i>	1 loser	(A fast loser on ♦K lead)
<i>Clubs.</i>	0 losers	(♣A bare)

Two losers! We can only lose ONE.

Look around for a surplus winner. On good days like this, Bridge is easy.

LEAD ♦K

When you win ♦K with ♦A, you now have a fast loser in diamonds. If you were to force out opponent's ♥A now, opponents would cash ♥A and return a diamond to west's ♦K and you would be one down.

Immediately cash ♣A to creat a void. Play ♠A and then low to ♠K. Lead ♣K and throw ♦5. Now lead towards your ♥KQ and claim.

This is a VERY easy example to illustrate what you have to do BEFORE you play to trick 1 on EVERY hand.

♠ -
♥ J82
♦ AQ10984
♣ A832

♠ K8
♥ A1053
♦ KJ72
♣ J106

4S

♠ 752
♥ KQ6
♦ 653
♣ Q754

♠ AQJ109643
♥ 974
♦ -
♣ K9

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

BIDDING - A CHANGE OF SUIT IS 100% FORCING

When partner, north, opens 1♦, south should be thinking of a game contract - but only needs to bid 1♠ (100% forcing) North can rebid 2♣ to show 5-4 or 2♦ to show a 6 card suit. (Both are limit bids which could be passed.)

South should take responsibility and bid game in spades.

On a heart lead the contract cannot be made. (This is an unfortunate consequence of opener rebidding 2♣)

PLAY ON A CLUB LEAD - SEEING THE PROBLEM

On a club lead the contract is laydown!! IF you see the problem!

PICTURE SOUTH AS THE MASTER HAND

<i>Spades.</i>	7 tricks	1 loser	(You will lose ♠K)
<i>Hearts.</i>		3 losers	(North cannot help)
<i>Diamonds.</i>		0 loser	
<i>Clubs.</i>		0 losers	(♣A in north covers your ♣9)

Four losers and you can only afford three losers. How can you ditch a loser?

To improve your play you really must train yourself to SEE these problems and the simple solution.

Win ♣A and IMMEDIATELY throw a heart on ♦A!! Sometimes, bridge really is that easy!!

SAME PRINCIPLE AS THE LAST TWO HANDS - BUT SLIGHTLY MORE OBSCURE

♠ AJ74
♥ K8
♦ K82
♣ A1084

♠ 9832
♥ QJ105
♦ Q10
♣ K62

1NT

♠ 105
♥ 974
♦ AJ753
♣ QJ3

♠ KQ6
♥ A632
♦ 964
♣ 975

N	E	S	W
1S	P	1NT	P
P	P		

BIDDING 9 +15 IS NOT ENOUGH FOR GAME.

North opens 1♠. South responds 1NT (6-9 any shape except 4 spades). North has 15 pts. and therefore knows that game is NOT on. East leads ♥Q.

PLAY - SEEING THE PROBLEM

On any lead the contract is laydown but can you make more?

PICTURE NORTH AS THE MASTER HAND supported by south.

Spades. 4 top tricks

Hearts. 2 top tricks

Diamonds. 0 tricks and potential danger to a lead from West.

Clubs. 1 trick

So - there is no problem in making your contract!

BUT IF there is a safe chance of making more, do NOT run for home!

As long as you can keep west off lead, you can try for more tricks

What about clubs? They might break 3-3

Win ♥K and use your spade suit simply to get into the south hand. ♠4 to ♠K

From south, lead and run ♣9. (Unless west plays ♣K which is unlikely.) ♣9 loses to east's ♣Q.

East returns ♥9. With any luck - if you duck - west will also duck. He does!

So east plays a 3rd heart, which you win with ♥A.

You are still safe, so lead ♣7. West ducks and it loses to ♣J. You have now made an extra club trick! THEN - - -

East panics and cashes ♦A (WRONG PLAY!) before leading a 2nd diamond which you win with ♦K!!!

You now cash ♣A which drops east's ♣K to claim 9 tricks and a top. 4 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 2 clubs.

S	W	N	E
1H	P	3H	P
?			

♠ 9763
♥ A972
♦ J75
♣ K6

♠ 1084
♥ K
♦ A8432
♣ Q987

3H

♠ KJ
♥ J10
♦ Q1096
♣ AJ543

♠ AQ52
♥ Q86543
♦ K
♣ 102

BIDDING

North *could* respond 2♥ (6-9) or 3♥ (9 pts., 3 controls, 8.5 loser.)

South has nothing extra and should pass. (11 pts. incl. singleton king.)

PLAY - HOW TO PLAY EACH SUIT! West LEADS ♣7

CLUBS - West would not lead a club from the ace, SO don't play ♣K! East INCORRECTLY played ♣A. *See notes below - giving us 10 tricks.

HEARTS (TRUMPS) - The only finesse position is against ♥K so play off ♥A and low to ♥Q. When ♥K drops there are no trump losers (after cashing ♥Q). IF you had led ♥Q - you would have lost a trump trick!!

DIAMONDS - One obvious loser. IF you could play *towards* singleton ♦K in the hidden hand, there is a chance that east might duck if he held ♦A. No such luck today though!

SPADES - There are two potential losers, and you cannot avoid at least one loser in the suit. There is however an obvious finesse position.

Lead *towards* ♠AQ.

Cover east's ♠J with ♠Q. When it holds, cash ♠A.

You only lose 1 spade, 1 diamond & 1 club.

*(You should lose 2 clubs)

Your main focus should be on getting to the north hand to take the spade finesse.

*West led ♣7. This is either from ♣72 or ♣Q87 or ♣873 or ♣Q987 **NEVER from ♣A97**

East cannot gain by playing ♣A and should follow the established principle of trying to win with 2nd highest card if it is a 9 or higher. Defender should **KEEP ♣A TO GUARD ♣K**

♠ J1073 ♥ AQ1072 ♦ - ♣ AJ64		♠ 42 ♥ 953 ♦ Q7 ♣ K109852	
♠ 985 ♥ K64 ♦ AK108654 ♣ -	4S		
DECLARER ♠ AKQ6 ♥ J8 ♦ J932 ♣ Q73			

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

On another day

	S	N
	1NT	2D
	2H	2S
	4S	

BIDDING - FORCING PARTNER TO BID

When partner, south, opens the bidding, north should be thinking of a game contract.

IF west had passed, north would bid 2♦ (a transfer to hearts)

After the completion of the transfer north should bid 2♠ (forcing).

When south supports with 3♠, north is no longer an 11 count.

Now north is a 6 loser!! & even opposite an 8 loser, should bid game.

BUT After a 2♦ overcall by west, Stayman and transfers are OFF, 2♥ would NOT be forcing. X would be for penalties.

How can north force partner to bid? Answer - CUE BID west's suit!
South knows that they must do SOMETHING. - 3♠ is obvious!

PLAY

Ruff the ♦A lead, and NOTICE that north's heart suit requires a finesse to pull in the maximum number of tricks. Cash ♠J.

Return to hand with a trump. Both defenders follow. Run ♥J.

When it holds, take out the final trump and finesse ♥10.

12 tricks are available!

♠ J ♥ A53 ♦ AQ8643 ♣ J76		♠ 8542 ♥ K64 ♦ 7 ♣ AKQ93	
♠ 96 ♥ J1092 ♦ K92 ♣ 10542	4S		
DECLARER ♠ AKQ1073 ♥ Q87 ♦ J105 ♣ 8			

N	E	S	W
1D	2C	2S	p
3D	p	4S	

BIDDING - BIDDING A NEW SUIT AFTER RHO OVERCALLS PARTNER'S OPENING BID - IS FORCING FOR 1 ROUND!

When partner, north, opens the bidding south knows that game is on.

IF east had passed, south would bid a simple 1♠ (not 4♠)

When east overcalls 2♣, south should bid 2♠ (100% forcing)

North can only repeat diamonds 3♦ (a limit bid that could be passed).

Now south must take responsibility and bid 4♠.

When dummy goes down this is what you should SEE. picturing SOUTH as the master hand.

Spades. Should be 6 tricks

0 losers

Hearts. Ace is OK but two potential losers,

2 losers

Diamonds. 5 certain tricks **once trumps are drawn!**

1 loser

Clubs. One loser.

1 loser

LEAD ♣5 to ♣Q. (Defender always tries to win with the lowest of touching cards.)

East continues with ♣K which south ruffs.

PLAY - You have a lovely side suit in diamonds THEREFORE you should draw trumps immediately !!!

Draw trumps **from the top** (as you have no safe re-entry if you play low to ♠J).

You are in the correct hand to run ♦J (and still have a trump, if the finesse fails and a club is returned).

It holds the trick! Now run ♦10 etc. throwing your losing hearts on the diamonds to make 12 tricks.

Yes you can make all 13 tricks if west leads ♥J

All the conventions that we have introduced can be played by average club players and it is disappointing when they are not recognised at the table or you are playing with someone who has never heard of them. Here is a reminder!

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

BIDDING

Here is a freely dealt illustration of the ***UNASSUMING CUE BID**.

West opens 1♦. South makes a simple overcall. (8 -15 pts)

North is now a 7 LOSER (as well as 11 HCPs.)

AND diamonds are working *assuming west has the ace*.

North could bid 3♠ but if south's overcall was weak e.g.

♠ K9843
♥ KJ4
♦ 62
♣ Q65

This could be one level too high

SO with an interest in game - -

South should make an **unassuming cue bid** of 2♦!

After which, south can jump directly to 4♠

♠ 7652		♠ J
♥ AQ9		♥ J6532
♦ KQ84		♦ 532
♣ 98		♣ J732
♠ Q10	4S	
♥ 108		
♦ AJ1097		
♣ AK104		

PLAY ON ♣A LEAD & ♣K CONTINUATION

There is NO play on this hand 10 tricks are cold. (Losing ♣AK ♦A)

IF any west led ♦A (*and didn't trust partner's ♦2 or have a signalling system*) then continued a diamond, declarer would make 11 tricks.

♠ AK9843
♥ K74
♦ 6
♣ Q65

***UNASSUMING CUE BID.**

IF partner makes a simple overcall and you have an interest in game, you can ask partner "How good was your overcall?" by cue bidding the opponent's suit.

If the overcall was poor (8-10 points, or an 8 loser hand,) partner will simply rebid the suit as cheaply as possible (after which you can pass).

1. With a hand that is stronger 12+ with length and shape, partner can bid game in the 6 card suit.
2. With a hand that is stronger, 12+ with a stop in the opponent's suit, partner may bid NTs.
3. With a hand that is stronger, 12+, 7 loser, partner may bid a high card feature outside of the trump suit.
4. With a hand that is stronger 12+ with a void/singleton, partner may splinter e.g

	WEST		EAST					WEST might have been
1	♠ AK9843 ♥ K74 ♦ 6 ♣ Q65	THE HAND ABOVE	♠ 7652 ♥ AQ8 ♦ KQ84 ♣ 98	S 1D P	W 1S 4S	N P	E 2D	♠ KQJ98 ♥ 974 ♦ 976 ♣ Q
2	♠ KJ983 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ6 ♣ 965	WITH A STOP	♠ Q6 ♥ Q108 ♦ J74 ♣ AK107	S 1D P	W 1S 2NT	N P P	E 2D 3NT	♠ KJ983 ♥ 975 ♦ A6 ♣ 965
3	♠ AKJ98 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 62 ♣ 965	OUTSIDE FEATURE	♠ Q76 ♥ Q108 ♦ J74 ♣ AK107	S 1D P	W 1S 2H	N P P	E 2D 4S	♠ KJ983 ♥ K72 ♦ 62 ♣ 965
4	♠ KQJ98 ♥ A74 ♦ Q762 ♣ 9	SPLINTER	♠ A76 ♥ Q1083 ♦ AK7 ♣ 1053	S 1D P	W 1S 4C	N P P	E 2D	♠ KJ983 ♥ K74 ♦ 62 ♣ 987

Where even 3♠ might have been too high!

<p>♠ J1062 ♥ 109 ♦ 852 ♣ KQJ9</p>	<p>♠ 543 ♥ 762 ♦ K643 ♣ 764</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ AKQJ43 ♦ A107 ♣ 82</p>	<p>♠ KQ87 ♥ 85 ♦ QJ9 ♣ A1053</p>	<p>2♣ OPEN 2♦ RELAY</p> <p>2♥ Natural 2NT Negative</p> <p>3♥ to play.</p>
<p>S 2C W 2H N 2D E 2NT</p> <p>S 3H W P N P E P</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 2S W P N 2NT E P</p> <p>S 3S W P N 4S E P</p>	<p>♠ 105 ♥ 9743 ♦ KQ5 ♣ AK43</p>	<p>2♣ OPEN 2♦ RELAY</p> <p>2♠ Natural 2NT Negative</p> <p>3♠ to play.</p> <p>4♠ = can offer two tricks. ♥K & club ruff</p>
<p>♠ 105 ♥ 9743 ♦ KQ5 ♣ AK43</p>	<p>♠ 762 ♥ KQ52 ♦ 8763 ♣ 109</p> <p>♠ AKQJ43 ♥ A6 ♦ A2 ♣ J87</p>	<p>♠ 98 ♥ J108 ♦ J1094 ♣ Q652</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 2S W P N 2NT E P</p> <p>S 3S W P N 4S E P</p>

<p>♠ 632 ♥ 743 ♦ A874 ♣ J43</p>	<p>♠ KQ1098 ♥ K ♦ J1096 ♣ 987</p> <p>♠ J54 ♥ AQJ1086 ♦ KQ ♣ AK</p>	<p>♠ A7 ♥ 952 ♦ 532 ♣ Q10652</p>	<p>2♣ OPEN 2♦ RELAY</p> <p>2♥ = Natural 2♠ = Natural</p> <p>3♠ = 3+ spades 4♠ = Nothing to cue bid</p>
<p>S 2C W 2H N 2D E P</p> <p>S 3S W P N 4S E P</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 2S W P N 4S E P</p>	<p>♠ 86 ♥ AJ9 ♦ J1084 ♣ J875</p>	<p>2♣ OPEN 2♦ RELAY</p> <p>2♠ = Natural</p> <p>4♠ = Natural</p>
<p>♠ 86 ♥ AJ9 ♦ J1084 ♣ J875</p>	<p>♠ K75 ♥ Q10854 ♦ K73 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ AQJ942 ♥ 32 ♦ Q2 ♣ AKQ</p>	<p>♠ 103 ♥ K76 ♦ A965 ♣ 10643</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 2S W P N 4S E P</p>

<p>♠ J108 ♥ 1054 ♦ 76 ♣ QJ1075</p>	<p>♠ 643 ♥ J8632 ♦ Q3 ♣ K63</p> <p>♠ AKQ9 ♥ Q9 ♦ AKJ1085 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ 752 ♥ AK7 ♦ 942 ♣ 9842</p>	<p>2♦ OPEN 2♥ = negative</p> <p>3♦ = natural 3♥ = natural.</p> <p>3♠ = natural 3NT to play</p>
<p>S 2D W 3D N 3H E P</p> <p>S 3S W P N 3NT E P</p>	<p>S 2D W P N 2NT E P</p> <p>S 3H W P N 4NT E P</p> <p>S 5D W P N 5NT E P</p> <p>S 6H W P N 7NT E P</p>	<p>♠ 98754 ♥ 4 ♦ J863 ♣ Q63</p>	<p>2♦ OPEN 2NT = 8+</p> <p>4NT is RKCB agreeing hearts.</p>
<p>♠ 98754 ♥ 4 ♦ J863 ♣ Q63</p>	<p>♠ K6 ♥ J53 ♦ 9742 ♣ A842</p> <p>♠ AQJ ♥ AKQ876 ♦ AKQ ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ 1032 ♥ 1092 ♦ 105 ♣ J10975</p>	<p>S 2D W P N 2NT E P</p> <p>S 3H W P N 4NT E P</p> <p>S 5D W P N 5NT E P</p> <p>S 6H W P N 7NT E P</p>

<p>♠ QJ1063 ♥ 10753 ♦ Q105 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ 875 ♥ K9 ♦ 8643 ♣ 9652</p> <p>♠ AK4 ♥ A82 ♦ A9 ♣ AKQ43</p>	<p>♠ 92 ♥ QJ64 ♦ KJ72 ♣ 1087</p>	<p>2♦ OPEN 2♥ = negative</p> <p>2NT = natural 3NT = to play.</p>
<p>S 2D W 2NT N P E P</p> <p>S 3H W P N 3NT E P</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 3H W P N 4H E P</p>	<p>♠ Q9642 ♥ J10 ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q103</p>	<p>2♣ OPEN 2♦ = relay</p> <p>3♥ = 9 playing tricks</p> <p>4♥ = I can offer you 1 trick! (spade ruff)</p>
<p>♠ Q9642 ♥ J10 ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q103</p>	<p>♠ 5 ♥ 84 ♦ J8753 ♣ 98752</p> <p>♠ AK3 ♥ AKQ9732 ♦ 42 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ J1087 ♥ 65 ♦ K109 ♣ AK64</p>	<p>S 2C W P N 2D E P</p> <p>S 3H W P N 4H E P</p>

♠ K10542
♥ KJ
♦ KQ86
♣ J3

N	S
1S	2C
2D	6S/4NT
5D	6S

DONT JUMP SHIFT! Monday Newburn.

♠ 986
♥ 432
♦ 5432
♣ K96

6♠

♠ Q3
♥ Q10975
♦ J97
♣ Q52

♠ AJ7
♥ A86
♦ A10
♣ A10874

After a 1♠ opening bid from north, south **must not** jump shift (which would simply take up your bidding space). You do not yet know where the final contract will be. (You do know almost certainly that north has 3 kings!)

When north rebids 2♦ you know that the contract will be in spades.

I am not sure whether it is necessary to bid 4NT, but if you do, north will assume diamonds to be the suit and should bid 5♦ (One key card.)

PLAY An expected heart lead allows you to throw ♣J on ♥A and an early diamond ruff gives you 13 tricks. On a club lead only 12 tricks are possible.

TIP - ONLY jump shift when you are sure of the denomination of your final contract and only the level is in doubt.

A RARE GRAND SLAM Monday, Brunton

♠ 962
♥ KQJ2
♦ 1053
♣ 1084

WEAK TWOS - IN THREE SUITS

W	E	
2C	2D*	2D* simply denies a 5 card suit
2S	4NT	with 2 of the top 3 honours!
5D	6S	
7S**		

BENJI

W	E
2D	2NT
3S	4NT
5D	6S
7S	

♠ AKQJ1083
♥ A5
♦ A6
♣ K6

7♠

♠ 754
♥ 10964
♦ K4
♣ AQ75

♠ -
♥ 873
♦ QJ9872
♣ J932

A grand slam where opener is surprised when partner asks for aces.

**7S When east signs off in 6♠, west should think -

“Would partner be asking for aces from an aceless hand.?” Surely not!

TIP - Trust your judgement, (and your partner.)

♠ AJ83
♥ 874
♦ KQ
♣ K954

N	E	S	W
1NT	X	P*	P**
XX	P	2♥	?
2♠	?	?	?

WRIGGLING Monday Newburn

All the elements are here for a reasonable escape that challenges E/W to risk a double.

Unless they hold their nerve, E/W are likely to bid after the spade fit is found.

BIDDING RECAP

South's *PASS must be alerted!
It is forcing and requests a XX from opener.
(Opener can break this request and bid a FIVE card suit if he has one.)

West's **PASS confirms 6+ pts.
(Happy with partner's penalty double).

North's XX = as instructed!

2♥ = I have four hearts & four spades
2♠ = Brilliant, we have found an 8 card major fit. Dare they double this?

TIP - Keep doubling when opponents wriggle.

♠ KQ2
♥ 105
♦ A76542
♣ J8

♠ 9654
♥ J632
♦ 109
♣ 1072

♠ 107
♥ AKQ9
♦ J83
♣ AQ63

NS	EW	Bid	By	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	34	2H-4	W	400		32	2
2	36	2H	E		110	27	7
3	20	1Nx-3	N		800	4	30
4	22	1Nx-3	N		800	4	30
6	31	3D+2	W		150	22	12
7	33	1N-4	N		400	12	22
8	35	3D	W		110	27	7
9	19	4H-1	E	100		30	4
10	24	1N-4	N		400	12	22
11	26	1N-4	N		400	12	22
12	28	3D+2	W		150	22	12
13	30	5D	W		600	8	26
14	32	1Nx-3	N		800	4	30
16	23	1Nx-1	N		200	17	17
17	25	3D+2	W		150	22	12
18	27	1Nx-1	N		200	17	17

In the U.K, most Acol players use a weak 1NT (12-14). It is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers. Balanced hands played without a trump suit, need aces and kings to win tricks!

Although an opponent's first round double of a *suit bid* is for 'Take out', their double of 1NT is for penalties.

If opponents double your 1NT *and partner is weak*, accept that you are in trouble. Some form of escape into a suit contract is usually desirable. There are a number of such 'Wiggles' available. This is one of them!

THE EASY BIT - After 1NT is doubled responder can transfer into ANY five card suit.

After 1NT has been doubled, Stayman is OFF, but responder can now **transfer** into **any** five card suit. (Minors as well as majors). Responder **should** transfer with 0-5 points. With 6+ HCPs we suggest that responder can PASS.

N	E	S	
1NT	- X	- XX	= Transfer to clubs. (I have 5 or more clubs)
1NT	- X	- 2♣	= Transfer to diamonds. (I have 5 or more diamonds)
1NT	- X	- 2♦	= Transfer to hearts. (I have 5 or more hearts)
1NT	- X	- 2♥	= Transfer to spades. (I have 5 or more spades)

Transfer with
0 - 5 HCPs

All transfer bids after 1NT X, must be alerted. (Not announced).

Although these are no more than weakness takeouts, they ensure that the contract is being played by the stronger hand. The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.)

THE HARDER BIT - When responder is weak and does NOT not have a five card suit responder should choose one of these options:

- With a 4-3-3-3 shape, and 4/5 HCPs, pass. Look confident. *Partner will alert and re-double! Still looking confident, pass the re-double & hope your LHO panics and bids. They usually do.*
- With any 4-3-3-3 shape, and 0-3 HCPs, you are in real trouble! Responder should pretend that they have a 5 card suit and transfer into their only four card suit! Do this even if not doubled because **you will be!**

- With any 4-4-3-2 shape responder PASSES. **The pass MUST be alerted by opener, because it is forcing!**
1NT - X - PASS The PASS asks opener to *XX for one of two reasons.

- If responder has 6+ pts. s/he can pass opener's XX. Seven tricks in 1NT XX becomes a game score. Although the number of times that partner has the points to allow 1NT XX to make are rare, it does put extra pressure on the defenders for whom 1NT XX, making would be a disastrous score.

- With 0-5 pts. responder will bid the lower of his **TWO** four card suits. The search is for a 4-4 fit, but sometimes a 4-3 is the best you will find. If at any time the opponents stop doubling - PASS!

***If opener has a FIVE CARD SUIT s/he would bid this suit, (rather than re-doubling!)**

	N	
	16	
W		E
13		6
	S	
	5	

Let us take a brief look at the possible distributions of the 40 HCPs

West opens 1NT 12-14
North doubles 15-18
You, east have 6 HCPs Relax, look confident.

South is the one under pressure. Not immediately, but if south passes and west re-doubles, north will pass and when east passes, south has a horrible decision to make.

Can west make 1NT doubled and re-doubled into a vulnerable game score?

Most south's will think that would be far too risky, and bid.

	N	
	18	
W		E
13		5
	S	
	4	

Obviously the more points that north has, the fewer there are for east and south, and greater the likelihood of south taking out the double.

FOOTNOTE After writing the last page, Inga, sitting behind a Vulnerable 1NT opener, held a 19 count. She knew that with 19 pts I would be likely to have only 2 or 3 pts and would take it out, so she wisely passed hoping for a 200 or 300 score rather than us playing in 2 of something for 110. On the lie of the cards we only managed to set this by 1 trick. At the other table the 19 count DID double and responder **PASSED WITH 1 PT.** So we lost 3 IMPs on the board!

WRIGGLE after a direct double.

<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ Q972 ♣ KQ6 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid brown; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J7 </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPENER</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>XX</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>*?</td></tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">*Fair chance of making.</p>	S	W	N	E	1NT	X	P	P	XX	P	P	*?	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ Q85 ♥ 53 ♦ Q9753 ♣ 963 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid brown; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ83 ♦ K86 ♣ J7 </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPENER</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>X</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>P?</td><td>*?</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">* 5-3 fit can't be bad!</p>	S	W	N	E	1NT	X	2♣	P	2♦	P?	*?		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ 9854 ♥ J103 ♦ Q972 ♣ 63 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid brown; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ K106 ♥ AQ84 ♦ K8 ♣ J1073 </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPENER</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>XX</td><td>p</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>P?</td><td>*P</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">* Content with 4-3 fit</p>	S	W	N	E	1NT	X	P	P	XX	p	2♦	P	2♥	P?	*P		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ 854 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q1063 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid brown; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ♠ K106 ♥ AQ84 ♦ K1086 ♣ J7 </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPENER</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>XX</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td></tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">* Perfect. Dare they double?</p>	S	W	N	E	1NT	X	P	P	XX	P	2♣	X	2♦	P	2♥	P
S	W	N	E																																																								
1NT	X	P	P																																																								
XX	P	P	*?																																																								
S	W	N	E																																																								
1NT	X	2♣	P																																																								
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S	W	N	E																																																								
1NT	X	P	P																																																								
XX	p	2♦	P																																																								
2♥	P?	*P																																																									
S	W	N	E																																																								
1NT	X	P	P																																																								
XX	P	2♣	X																																																								
2♦	P	2♥	P																																																								

Is there any point in learning these complicated CONVENTIONAL BIDS when opponent's are happy to play in a part score with 28 HCPs?

♠ KQ84 ♥ K763 ♦ J10 ♣ KJ8 ♠ AJ75 ♥ J954 ♦ Q853 ♣ 6 ♠ 109632 ♥ 1082 ♦ 62 ♣ 532	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">6♦</div>	♠ - ♥ AQ ♦ AK974 ♣ AQ10974							
			NS	EW	Bid	By	EW	NS	EW
			1	26	2C+1	E	110	21	3
			3	30	2C	E	90	23	1
			4	32	3C+2	E	150	11	13
			5	18	2C+2	E	130	16	8
			6	20	2C+2	E	130	16	8
			7	22	2C+2	E	130	16	8
			8	24	3N+1	E	430	2	22
			12	31	3N+1	W	430	2	22
			13	17	3C+3	E	170	8	16
			14	19	2C+2	E	130	16	8
			15	21	2C+4	E	170	8	16
			16	23	4D+3	E	190	5	19

I watched this hands being bid at a couple of tables on Monday. Two pairs managed to find the 3NT game.

East CANNOT overcall 2♣ or 3♣ with a hand like this!

N/S can successfully wriggle into spades

Preferring to play in game east should double first and then cue bids the opponents suit.

If west can bid 3NT, south must be close to a Yarborough. A 2nd cue bid of spades clearly asks for the best minor and 6♦ is found. All finesses working!

Just a suggestion :

N	E	S	W
1NT	X	2H	P
2S	3S	P	3NT
P	4S	P	5D
P	6D		

Have fun with your bridge!

When 1NT is doubled in Protective Position.

S	W	N	E
1NT	pass	pass	X
2?	<i>(After east doubles, opener would obviously bid any five card suit held.)</i>		

S	W	N	E
1NT	pass	pass	X
pass	pass	? *	

***? In this auction north can choose between :**

- Pass** = a willingness to play in 1NT x. *(or a 4-3-3-3 hand where there is no sensible alternative).*
- XX*** = a FIVE card minor. *(Responder obviously does not have a 5 card major or they would have transferred)*
Opener rebids 2♣ and responder either passes or corrects to 2♦.
- 2♣** = four clubs and four of a higher ranking suit.
- 2♦** = four diamonds and four of a major.
- 2♥** = 4/4 in the majors.

THINK AHEAD

Partner has opened 1NT and you find yourself with this hand

♠ J74 ♥ 8643 ♦ 532 ♣ 1087	RHO opponent passes
------------------------------------	---------------------

Don't PASS, thinking that you might have a lucky escape.
 Pre-empt the situation by making an immediate transfer to hearts.
 A fib but now when LHO doubles, will RHO take it as penalties *or a lead directing double showing diamonds?*
 (Usually a double of a conventional bid is lead directing. Unless opponents are clued up, there will be uncertainty)
You know that you have only 1 HCP. The opponents don't. 2♦ gives nothing away about the strength of the hand.

OPENER ♠ K106 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K8643 ♣ J8	East ♠ 854 ♥ 532 ♦ Q97 ♣ Q976	OPENER ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K863 ♣ J8	East ♠ Q854 ♥ J532 ♦ Q9 ♣ 976	OPENER ♠ K1062 ♥ AQ84 ♦ K86 ♣ J8	East ♠ 854 ♥ 53 ♦ Q9742 ♣ K97
W N E S 1NT P P X 2♦ P P	W N E S 1NT P P X P P 2♥ X 2♠ P P ?	W N E S 1NT P P X P P XX P 2♣ X 2♦			

Opener bids the 5 card suit.	East shows 4 hearts & 4 spades. West obviously chooses spades.	East's XX shows a 5 card minor West bids 2♣. East corrects to 2♦
------------------------------	---	---

On a lot of these auctions you will be delighted to hear the opponents bid because they have no certainty as to what their bids mean.

Although all bridge players need a range of conventional bids in their toolbox, how many they decide to play, should depend on how often they play, at what level they play, AND whether they have a regular partner that can interpret the bidding language.
Some conventional bids like the 'Wriggle' are complex, take up lots of brain space, and occur so infrequently that the correct bids are often forgotten when they do crop up.
If you can live with the occasional disaster, forget this gadget. The transfer bit, is easy and worth playing!

♠ Q53
 ♥ 98
 ♦ K542
 ♣ AK82

 ♠ J1096
 ♥ Q109863
 ♦ 98
 ♣ 5

 ♠ AK842
 ♥ AKJ7
 ♦ J6
 ♣ 102

 ♠ 7
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ1073
 ♣ J109743

5♣

N	E	S	W
1NT	X	XX	P
2♣	X	P	2♥
P	P	3♦	P
P	3♥	P	P
4♦	4♥	P	P
5♣	P	P	P

Unusual use of the WRIGGLE

Under normal circumstances, south would not 'wriggle' with a 6 count. XX requests a transfer to clubs. (West, with only 3 HCPs is relieved, but when east doubles again, west has to bid hearts.)

East & north suspect that both partners are weak.

However south unexpectedly comes back to life with 3♦.

What does north know???

Well if south were 5/5 in the minors south would have transferred to diamonds first.

South's 3♦ MUST show FIVE diamonds!

Therefore south MUST have SIX clubs.

A nice game contract but surprisingly not doubled by east!

♠ Q862
 ♥ AK10
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ 10872

 ♠ A1053
 ♥ 982
 ♦ J865
 ♣ AQ

 ♠ K9
 ♥ Q65
 ♦ AK943
 ♣ K64

 ♠ J74
 ♥ J743
 ♦ 72
 ♣ J953

2♠

N	E	S	W
*1NT	X	P(alerted)	2S
P	P	P	

*N/S were playing 11-14 NT

When opponents WRIGGLE

The wriggle is an attempt to get out of trouble

when **your side's 1NT has been doubled.**

Here, N/S are clearly in serious trouble!

North alerted south's PASS.

West does not ask why and bids 2♠, which is (*thankfully for N/S*) passed out.

West makes 2♠ for **+110**

East's double of 1NT is for penalties and shows 15 -18 HCPs.

West has 11 HCPs. That is a total of at least 26. Enough for game and **+600**

But even though N/S find a club fit, 2♣X would go at least 3 off for **+800**

♠ 10643
 ♥ 9732
 ♦ J62
 ♣ 32

 ♠ Q95
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ A743
 ♣ KQ5

 ♠ A8
 ♥ A1054
 ♦ 98
 ♣ J10987

 ♠ KJ72
 ♥ 86
 ♦ KQ105
 ♣ A64

2♠

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	P	P
XX	P	2H	X
2S	?	-	?

When opponents WRIGGLE and we are strong

Game or penalties?

After west's double, north, with only 1 point, needs to wriggle!

North's alertable PASS is the start of the wriggle,

It requests south to re-double, (unless east bids.) East doesn't - so

south redoubles & after west's pass, north bids the lower of two 4 card suits.

This gives south an easy rebid of 2♠.

East with 9 pts., should double again. (Likely to go one down for +200)

Unfortunately, for E/W, west has 17 pts. and with east's 9, they can make 3NT or 4♥.

♠ AJ72
♥ 754
♦ 107
♣ 10743

♠ A102
♥ K92
♦ A53
♣ KQ96

♠ Q104
♥ K98
♦ AK865
♣ KQ

♠ K653
♥ A2
♦ J42
♣ AJ52

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	P	P
XX	?P	2C	?

FINDING A FIT.

North's pass requests a XX from opener.

North bids the lower of two 4 card suits.

A fit is found immediately.

OPENER'S 5 CARD SUIT

North's pass requests a XX from opener.

Opener breaks the request to XX and bids the FIVE card diamond suit.

♠ 82
♥ Q1076
♦ 874
♣ QJ76

♠ 963
♥ A95
♦ J6
♣ 105432

♠ KQJ105
♥ K32
♦ A32
♣ A8

♠ A74
♥ J84
♦ KQ1095
♣ K9

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	P	P
2D	?	P	?

AT THE 2ND ATTEMPT

♠ 32
♥ A765
♦ 532
♣ 9765

♠ J87
♥ 82
♦ KJ64
♣ QJ32

♠ A1054
♥ K103
♦ AQ9
♣ K104

♠ KQ96
♥ QJ94
♦ 1087
♣ A8

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	P	P
XX	P	2C	?X
2H	?X	P	?P

North's pass requests a XX from opener.

North bids the lower of two 4 card suits.

With only a doubleton, south must bid again and the heart fit is found.

SIMPLE TRANSFER

After 1NT is doubled, all bids by responder are Transfers.

♠ J10632
♥ Q96
♦ 109
♣ 743

♠ Q5
♥ 7432
♦ KJ86
♣ J106

♠ K94
♥ AKJ8
♦ Q753
♣ A8

♠ A87
♥ 105
♦ A42
♣ KQ952

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

SIMPLE TRANSFER

♠ 76
♥ 852
♦ K108
♣ J10953

♠ 1054
♥ K10764
♦ Q9
♣ K76

♠ KQJ2
♥ AQ9
♦ 6432
♣ A9

♠ A983
♥ J3
♦ AJ75
♣ Q42

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	XX	P
2C	?	P	?

After 1NT is doubled, all bids by responder are Transfers.

This one should make - and 4♥ would make for E/W

WHY NOT PASS?

After 1NT is doubled, all bids by responder are Transfers.

Sometimes you get lucky!

♠ 75
♥ 764
♦ AQ9643
♣ 102

♠ J983
♥ KJ5
♦ 87
♣ 7543

♠ AKQ10
♥ 932
♦ K2
♣ QJ96

♠ 642
♥ AQ108
♦ J105
♣ AK8

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

NO NEED TO TRANSFER

♠ 109
♥ KJ954
♦ 6532
♣ A2

♠ K865
♥ 76
♦ J74
♣ 9634

♠ AQ3
♥ AQ8
♦ 1098
♣ K875

♠ J742
♥ 1032
♦ AKQ
♣ QJ10

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	P	P
XX	P	P	?

Your side are NOT in trouble. North should see that 1NT XX is an easier way to make game than attempting 4♥.

North should PASS

OUTGUNNED!

After 1NT is doubled, all bids by responder are Transfers.

Although your wriggle works, opponents find their big fit and bid game.

♠ 74
♥ Q9843
♦ 73
♣ J1065

♠ KJ862
♥ 65
♦ 10965
♣ K9

♠ AQ109
♥ A72
♦ A2
♣ Q742

♠ 53
♥ KJ10
♦ KQJ84
♣ A83

S	W	N	E
1NT	X	2D	2S
P	4S	P	

Maybe it's just imagination, but computer dealt hands seem to be throwing up more and more wild distributions that defy our normal bidding understandings and require us to BID BOLDLY.

REWARDED WITH A LUCKY LEAD.

♠ KJ10652		♠ A
♥ KQ9		♥ AJ7
♦ 8		♦ QJ943
♣ 953		♣ Q1074
♠ Q87	6♦ by west	
♥ 105		
♦ AK10762		
♣ K8		
♠ 943		
♥ 86432		
♦ 5		
♣ AJ62		

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

Playing in 5 of a minor is rarely a good option. Although 6♦ is off on any lead except ♣A, it is perhaps worth a punt. On ♣A lead, it provides a typical play problem that requires you to see the TWO hands as a combined force. Picture east as the MASTER hand! *West simply plugs the gaps!*

- Spades.** You have only one and it's the ace. 0 losers
- Hearts.** Ace is OK. Two losers, but west can ruff one. 1 loser
- Diamonds.** No problem (Draw enemy trumps NOW!) 0 losers
- Clubs.** After ♣A, west has ♣K giving you a surplus winner! 1 lost

The losing heart can now be thrown on ♣Q.
Declarer must pause, look and SEE this - before playing to trick 1.

IF THEY HAVE A FIT - WE HAVE A FIT!

♠ 32		♠ K10954
♥ A109843		♥ J72
♦ 72		♦ 9863
♣ A85		♣ 6
♠ AQJ86	5♣ by south	
♥ KQ65		
♦ J10		
♣ K9		
♠ 7		
♥ -		
♦ AKQ54		
♣ QJ107432		

W	N	E	S
1S	2H	3S*	5C

*Bid to the level of the fit!

North *could* have doubled to show the other two suits but chose to PUNT 5♣ (and was relieved that it wasn't doubled). but then delighted, when dummy appeared.

When west chose, very reasonably, to lead ♥K 13 tricks rolled in! Not a top though as some E/Ws doubled 5♣ and 12 tricks is easy!

Optimum score is 6♠X by west giving away only -300

ONLY PUNT ONCE

♠ AKQ1083		♠ 62
♥ A		♥ KQJ108742
♦ A87		♦ K106
♣ 1042		♣ ---
♠ J94	5♥ by east	
♥ 53		
♦ QJ532		
♣ K 73		
♠ 75		
♥ 96		
♦ 94		
♣ AQJ9865		

N	E	S	W
1S	4H	5C	P
P	5H	P	P
X			

North could just about open a strong 2♠. (Benji, 2♣ -2♦ -2♠) One east overcalled 2♥ (*wimpish, even at this vulnerability*) One east overcalled 4♥ (*my choice*)

South now has a problem. No fit with opener but a good 7 card club suit and NV. South must consider whether 4♥ will make. for -620. If it does, 5♣ X -3 would only give away -500, or has partner got six spades and a desire to play in 4♠? There is no right or wrong answer, but these are the considerations

4♥ would go one down, but worth a try. After pre-empting it is UNWISE TO BID AGAIN! - AND the E/W vulnerability is wrong for east to bid again. -500!! AND it may have pushed N/S into a makeable slam.

BIDDING - A CRUCIAL 'LIMIT BID'

♠ Q10643		♠ AJ752
♥ A5		♥ K98
♦ 6		♦ A97
♣ AK872		♣ 105
♠ K98		
♥ Q10742	2D	
♦ K		
♣ 9643		
♠ -		
♥ J63		
♦ QJ1085432		
♣ QJ		

N	S
1♠	1NT
2♣	2♦
P	

Nothing complicated here. Just disciplined bidding. South's 1NT response to 1♠ is crucial. **It LIMITS the hand!!** North's 2♣ rebid shows five spades and four clubs. South would normally now give suit preference - either 2♠ or (*with two more clubs than spades*), Pass. However, south rejects both suits and tells north that their preference is to play in 2♦ even opposite a void.

Although north is tempted to show 5-5 by bidding clubs again, north trusts partner, and passes. Half of the N/S **pairs bid too high!**

BIDDING - STAYMAN WITH ONLY 1 POINT

♠ 10863		♠ AQJ5
♥ J752		♥ 84
♦ 9864		♦ J72
♣ 2		♣ KJ107
♠ K72		
♥ Q1093	2D	
♦ A53		
♣ A53		
♠ 94		
♥ AK6		
♦ KQ10		
♣ Q9864		

S	N
1NT	2♣
2♦	P

Although, under normal circumstances, you need 11 HCPs to use Stayman, 1NT is not the best contract here. Playing in a trump suit would play better.

REMEMBER

After a 1NT opening, responder is in complete charge! Responder has a singleton club, and after bidding 2♣ (Stayman) opener must reply. There is a 50/50 chance of finding a major suit fit but even when opener does *not* have a four card major, the 4/3 diamond fit is better than 1NT.

BIDDING - REJECTING BOTH OF PARTNER'S MINOR SUITS

♠ K632		♠ QJ10975
♥ Q1092		♥ 3
♦ 742		♦ K653
♣ K8		♣ 103
♠ 4		
♥ AJ75	2D	
♦ AJ98		
♣ A752		
♠ A8		
♥ K864		
♦ Q10		
♣ QJ964		

W	E	W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	1♦	P	1♠	2♣
2♣	2♠	P	P	2♠	P
		P	P		

IF south overcalled 2♣ west should pass. East still bids 2♠

West has shown 5 diamonds and 4 clubs (or 4-4) on this 4-4-4-1 West has also limited the hand!! 2♣ is non-forcing! East, when weak, would now normally give suit preference to one of partner's suits. (East would **sign off** in 2♦, or pass. PASS would show at least two more clubs than diamonds). Although 2♦ is a safe option, my choice would be 2♠. a SIX card suit! and NON-FORCING (*I rebid my suit at the level I can afford*).

Only 1 out of 13 pairs played in 2♠. They scored an outright TOP making 10 tricks.

BOARD 10 - Monday

♠ 63	♠ AJ8
♥ AKQJ53	♥ -
♦ J985	♦ A10632
♣ 2	♣ KQJ53
♠ KQ4	♠ AJ8
♥ 9872	♥ -
♦ KQ7	♦ A10632
♣ A84	♣ KQJ53
♠ 109752	
♥ 1064	
♦ 4	
♣ 10976	

East, at two tables, opened 1♣ and rebid 2♦
TIP with two FIVE card suits open the higher ranking suit 1st.

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

In truth PROVIDING that north passes smoothly throughout the auction, this is likely to be the final contract 3NT -2.

E	S	W	N
1D	P	1H	P
2C	P	3NT	X
4C	P	5D	

At one table, north doubled 3NT allowing E/W to play in 5♦ or 6♦!
TIP when opponents are in the wrong contract with a safe alternative, TAKE THEIR MONEY!
 Do not lead them to a better contract.

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

At another, north incorrectly bid 2♥ *alerted*
 East asked south for an explanation & was told that it was a cue bid showing a very strong hand with a singleton/void in hearts.

This was a fair guess - but the partnership had no such agreement about cue bids.

TIP - You SHOULD have an agreement!! and please -

NEVER say to opponents "I am unsure, but I am taking it to show -" This would be illegal information!

You either have an agreement or you don't. Apologise to opponents and tell them that you have no agreement, or even, that you have an agreement - but have forgotten it. To tell your partner, through answering the opponent's question, how you are going to interpret the bid is NOT allowed.

Opponents may at this point, appear to be being rude by shushing you, before you tell your partner.

If you give an explanation that is INCORRECT, according to your system, and opponents feel that they have been damaged they may ask for the director to give a ruling.

If you give an explanation that is CORRECT, according to your system, (but partner got the bid wrong) there is generally no penalty (unless you subsequently recognise partner's error, and ignore the mis-bid in an attempt to find a better contract). **TIP** - Although very few do - Complete and carry with you, a **Convention Card**.

E	S	W	N	
1D	P	1H	P	At another table north, instead of passing smoothly, showed clear difficulty as to what to do over east's bid of 1♥.
2C	P	2S?	P	The hystrionics were enough to indicate that, north was also sitting with lots of hearts. Again this illegal information would be enough to prohibit a heart lead if east became declarer.
3NT				TIP - Holding opponent's suit, pass, you have NOTHING to think about!

E	S	W	N	
1D	P	1H	P	Margaret bid the hand impeccably and honourably. Her partner, Jean, had no indication of north's holding in hearts and after a fairly standard spade lead, 3NT was made with two overtricks. TIP - Accept that Bridge is a Cruel game.
2C	P	3D?	P	
3NT	P	P	P(X)	IF north were to double in this position, it would be asking for a lead of the suit originally bid by RHO. <i>But, this risks the opponents running to diamonds!</i>

E	S	W	N	
1D	P	1H	P	At another table, east argued that the hand was a 5 loser and rebid 3♣ but LTC only apply after a fit has been found. Is east a 17 count? Maybe if north had responded 1♠, but with a void in partner's heart suit, it's not so good.
3C	P			TIP - Devalue your hand if you are seriously short in partner's suit.

FINAL QUESTION - Why did nobody make 13 tricks (assuming a non-heart lead?)

<p>1.</p> <p>♠ 874 ♥ KQ2 ♦ J84</p> <p>♠ QJ109 ♥ 93 ♦ 963 ♣ A853</p> <p>♣ KQJ4</p> <p>♠ K52 ♥ 75 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 109762</p> <p>♠ A63 ♥ AJ10864 ♦ A752 ♣ -</p>	<p>S W N E 1H P 2C P 2D P 3H P 4H</p> <p>Lead ♠Q</p>	<p>SEE 2 <i>fast</i> spade losers, and 2 <i>slow</i> diamond losers. PLAN Swapping a spade loser for a club loser will create extra winners. (on which to throw slow losers.)</p> <p>PLAY Win ♠A. Draw trumps ending in dummy. Play ♣K and throw a losing spade. (LOSER ON LOSER) Now, throw losing diamonds on established ♣QJ.</p> <p>Defence should only win ♣A, ♠Q, & ♦K</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>♠ AQJ10 ♥ KQ98 ♦ J6</p> <p>♠ 98 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ10432 ♣ AQ5</p> <p>♣ 987</p> <p>♠ K5432 ♥ 7 ♦ 9875 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ 76 ♥ AJ10653 ♦ A ♣ K432</p>	<p>S W N E 1H 2D 4H P P P</p> <p>Lead ♦K (promising ♦Q)</p>	<p>SEE 1 <i>slow</i> spade loser & 3 club losers (<i>if east gets in.</i>) PLAN Keep east off lead. PLAY Draw trumps. Lead ♦J throwing ♠6 (LOSER ON LOSER) This avoids east leading through the ♣K432. Now ♠A and a ruffing finesse of ♠Q to establish 2 spade winners. Throw a club if ♠K does not appear or ruff ♠K. Throw 2 clubs on spade winners.</p> <p>Defence should only win ♦Q and ♣AQ</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>♠ 653 ♥ 76 ♦ 87654</p> <p>♠ 108 ♥ QJ104 ♦ KJ93 ♣ J52</p> <p>♣ A74</p> <p>♠ J97 ♥ 932 ♦ Q102 ♣ Q1098</p> <p>♠ AKQ42 ♥ AK85 ♦ A ♣ K63</p>	<p>S W N E 2C P 2D P 2S P 4S P 4NT P 5D P 6S P P P</p> <p>Lead ♥Q</p>	<p>SEE 2 <i>slow</i> heart losers and 1 <i>slow</i> club loser If you could ruff 2 hearts in dummy, -*! but dummy's trumps are too small. PLAN Swap the 2nd heart ruff for a club ruff. PLAY Ruff only <i>one</i> heart, and throw a losing club on the last small heart. (LOSER ON LOSER)</p> <p>Defence take 1 heart trick.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>♠ AQ109 ♥ 84 ♦ AK1075</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AQ7532 ♦ 84 ♣ AKQ3</p> <p>♣ 82</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ J10 ♦ QJ3 ♣ J97654</p> <p>♠ KJ6543 ♥ K96 ♦ 962 ♣ 10</p>	<p>N E S W 1D P 1S X 3S P 4S P P P</p> <p>Lead ♣A</p>	<p>SEE 1 <i>fast</i> club loser, 1 <i>slow</i> diamond loser, and 2 heart losers (<i>if east gets in.</i>) PLAN Set up diamond winners. <i>Problem</i> East might win and lead a heart. PLAN Throw a diamond on the ♣K continuation. (LOSER ON LOSER.) Draw trumps then ruff the 3rd diamond. 2 losing hearts are thrown on diamonds</p> <p>Defence take ♣AK and ♥A</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>♠ 9864 ♥ Q2 ♦ A42</p> <p>♠ 72 ♥ AKJ1094 ♦ Q73 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♣ A732</p> <p>♠ 103 ♥ 85 ♦ J1095 ♣ J9865</p> <p>♠ AKQJ5 ♥ 763 ♦ K68 ♣ K4</p>	<p>S W N E 1S 2H 3S P 4S P P P</p> <p>Lead ♥A</p>	<p>SEE 2 <i>fast</i> heart losers & 1 <i>slow</i> diamond loser PLAN <i>Problem.</i> You can't afford to lose to a ruff. Don't ruff the 3rd heart as it would be over ruffed. <i>Solution.</i> Throw a losing diamond instead of ruffing (LOSER ON LOSER.)</p> <p>Defence take 3 heart tricks</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>♠ A10 ♥ KJ9 ♦ 872</p> <p>♠ KQJ3 ♥ 732 ♦ A964 ♣ 106</p> <p>♣ A9852</p> <p>♠ 986542 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ10 ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AQ10854 ♦ K53 ♣ K73</p>	<p>S W N E 1H P 2C P 3C P 4H P P P</p> <p>Lead ♠K</p>	<p>SEE 1 <i>slow</i> club loser & 3 diamonds and PLAN Stop east getting on lead. PLAY Duck the ♠K lead and win either the club switch or the spade continuation. Throw a losing club on ♠A. Set up the long club suit ruffing the third club high. Draw trumps ending in dummy and throw 2 losing diamonds on ♣52.</p> <p>Defence take ♠K ♦A</p>

All the conventions that we have introduced can be played by average club players and it is disappointing when they are not recognised at the table or you are playing with someone who has never heard of them. Here is a reminder!

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

BIDDING

Here is a freely dealt illustration of the ***UNASSUMING CUE BID**.
 West opens 1♦. South makes a simple overcall. (8 -15 pts)
 North is now a 7 LOSER (as well as 11 HCPs.)
 AND diamonds are working *assuming west has the ace*.
 North could bid 3♠ but if south's overcall was weak e.g.

♠ 7652
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ KQ84
 ♣ 98

♠ K10843
 ♥ K74
 ♦ 62
 ♣ Q65

♠ Q10
 ♥ 108
 ♦ AJ1097
 ♣ AK104

4S

♠ J
 ♥ J6532
 ♦ 532
 ♣ J732

This could be one level too high
 SO with an interest in game - -
 South should make an **unassuming cue bid** of 2♦!
 After which, south can jump directly to 4♠

♠ AK9843
 ♥ K74
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q65

PLAY ON ♣A LEAD & ♣K CONTINUATION

There is NO play on this hand 10 tricks are cold. (Losing ♣AK ♦A)
 IF any west led ♦A (*and didn't trust partner's ♦2 or have a signalling system*) then continued a diamond, declarer would make 11 tricks.

***UNASSUMING CUE BID.**

IF partner makes a simple overcall and you have an interest in game, you can ask partner "How good was your overcall?" by cue bidding the opponent's suit.

If the overcall was poor (8-10 points, or an 8 loser hand,) partner will simply rebid the suit as cheaply as possible (after which you can pass).

1. With a hand that is stronger 12+ with length and shape, partner can bid game in the 6 card suit.
2. With a hand that is stronger, 12+ with a stop in the opponent's suit, partner may bid NTs.
3. With a hand that is stronger, 12+, 7 loser, partner may bid a high card feature outside of the trump suit.
4. With a hand that is stronger 12+ with a void/singleton, partner may splinter e.g

	WEST		EAST						WEST might have been
1	♠ AK9843 ♥ K74 ♦ 6 ♣ Q65 THE HAND ABOVE		♠ 7652 ♥ AQ8 ♦ KQ74 ♣ 98	S 1D P	W 1S 4S	N P	E 2D		♠ KQJ98 ♥ 974 ♦ 986 ♣ Q
2	♠ KJ983 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ6 ♣ 965 WITH A STOP		♠ Q6 ♥ Q108 ♦ J74 ♣ AK105	S 1D P	W 1S 2NT	N P P	E 2D 3NT		♠ KJ983 ♥ 975 ♦ A6 ♣ 965
3	♠ AKJ98 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 62 ♣ 965 OUTSIDE FEATURE		♠ Q76 ♥ Q108 ♦ J74 ♣ AK105	S 1D P	W 1S 2H	N P P	E 2D 4S		♠ KJ983 ♥ K72 ♦ 62 ♣ 965
4	♠ KQJ98 ♥ A74 ♦ Q762 ♣ 9 SPLINTER		♠ A76 ♥ Q1083 ♦ AK7 ♣ 1053	S 1D P	W 1S 4C	N P P	E 2D		♠ KJ983 ♥ K74 ♦ 62 ♣ 987

1-5-4-3 SHAPE.

LEAD SK

NO option but to play in 5 of a minor.

♠ J73
♥ Q5
♦ AK6
♣ K10964

♠ A9542
♥ 107
♦ 10875
♣ J7

♠ KQ86
♥ KJ84
♦ 32
♣ 852

♠ 10
♥ A9632
♦ QJ94
♣ AQ3

S	W	N	E
1H	P	2C	P
2D	P	2S	P
3C	P	5C	

LEAD C5

2NT response to 4th suit forcing shows a stop in the 4th suit.

♠ J73
♥ Q5
♦ AK6
♣ K10964

♠ 109
♥ 107
♦ 8753
♣ AQ853

♠ K6542
♥ KJ84
♦ 102
♣ 72

♠ AQ8
♥ A9632
♦ QJ94
♣ J

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

AVOIDANCE

LEAD HJ

There is no danger to this contract as long as you finesse diamonds into the safe hand. (west!)

♠ AJ752
♥ 52
♦ KJ4
♣ AQ2

♠ 109
♥ AJ1098
♦ 83
♣ J1065

♠ KQ843
♥ 763
♦ Q76
♣ 83

♠ 6
♥ KQ4
♦ A10952
♣ K974

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

LEAD HQ

IF north punted 3NT, it would be set on a diamond lead. In 6S south ruffs a 3rd club high before drawing trumps.

♠ AQ3
♥ K9542
♦ J93
♣ A5

♠ 974
♥ QJ10
♦ Q874
♣ Q104

♠ 86
♥ A873
♦ K10652
♣ 72

♠ KJ1052
♥ 6
♦ A
♣ KJ9863

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

LEAD D7

Do not use the 4th suit force.

The hand is not strong enough. Give a simple suit preference limit bid.

♠ AJ752
♥ 96
♦ J96
♣ Q84

♠ K84
♥ Q43
♦ 1087
♣ A763

♠ Q1063
♥ 1052
♦ A543
♣ K5

♠ 9
♥ AKJ87
♦ KQ2
♣ J1092

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

LEAD DK

Do not use 4th suit force

Support partner and make a limit raise to 3H.

♠ AQ752
♥ 984
♦ 1087
♣ KQ

♠ 104
♥ 65
♦ KQJ95
♣ J832

♠ KJ98
♥ K32
♦ 432
♣ 1064

♠ 63
♥ AQJ107
♦ A6
♣ A975

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

LEAD H5/D8?

Do not use the 4th suit force.

Holding the 4th suit bid NT at the 2 level limit the hand to 11 or 12 HCP

♠ A1084
♥ 32
♦ AKJ9
♣ 1096

♠ Q93
♥ J9
♦ Q543
♣ A543

♠ J72
♥ A865
♦ 8762
♣ 72

♠ K65
♥ KQ1074
♦ 10
♣ KQJ8

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

LEAD C7/SK?

2NT response to 4th suit forcing shows a stop in the 4th suit.

♠ AJ1087
♥ K3
♦ 1094
♣ AQ9

♠ KQ9
♥ A654
♦ 852
♣ 1087

♠ 5432
♥ 82
♦ Q763
♣ J62

♠ 6
♥ QJ1097
♦ AKJ
♣ K543

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