

## Partnership checklist (Version 3: September 04)

Suggestions for improvement or requests for advice to Andrew Kambites:

e-mail [aj@kambohome.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:aj@kambohome.freeseve.co.uk)

Phone: 01453 762258

On the whole this aims to test natural auctions and your defences to common opposition conventions rather than your own conventions. I do some work with very common conventions, particularly where opponents disrupt them. If opponents bid, their bids are in brackets. If opponents pass throughout then their passes don't appear at all.

*General approach:* Each member of the partnership should separately consider whether the last bid is game forcing, forcing for one round or not forcing. What exactly does it show (suit holdings and values)? Sometimes I suggest principles: the idea is not to claim that is the best approach: merely to suggest a way forward if you are stuck.

*Potential Hazard:* How does an opponent's double influence your bid. It gives you more options rather than fewer. This should be considered in all conventions you play. Sequences where an opponent's double needs discussion are highlighted with \*

### UNCONTESTED AUCTIONS

#### [1] Sequences after Stayman

[a] 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 3♣

[b] 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 2♠.

[c] 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 3♥ (compare [2a] in the section on transfers)

[d] \* 1NT (P) 2♣ (Dbl) 2♦

[e] \* 1NT (P) 2♣ (Dbl) P

[f] \* 1NT (P) 2♣ (Dbl) Redbl

#### [2] Sequences after transfers

[a] 1NT 2♦-transfer 2♥ 2♠

[b] 1NT 2♥ 2♠ 4♣ Is this natural, a cue bid or a splinter?

[c] 1NT 2♦-transfer 3♥

[d] 1NT 2♦-transfer 2NT

[e] 1NT 2♦-transfer 3♣

[f] 1NT (P) 2♦ (Dbl) 2♥

Do you play transfers after a 1NT overcall?

Do you play transfers if 1NT is doubled?

[g] 2NT 3♦-transfer 3♠

[h] 2NT 3♦-transfer 3NT

### [3] Supporting Partner's Suit

If you play some conventional way of raising partner's 1-major to 3-major (eg Jacoby 2NT), what does 1♥ 3♥ mean? For example, Is it the upper range of a traditional Acol raise to 2♥, or is it purely pre-emptive?

[a] 1♠ 2♣ 4♣ (Forcing?)

A reverse is forcing so 1♦ 1♠ 2♥ is forcing.

[b] 1♦ 1♠ 3♥ Is this a splinter? If so game forcing or just for one round?

[c] 1♦ 1♠ 4♥ Is this a splinter? If so does it show a singleton or void?

[d] 1♦ (P) 1♠ (2♣) 3♥ Is this a splinter?

What are the implications of returning to partner's suit after seemingly agreeing another suit. Are the last bids in the next four sequences to play or cue bids? At what stage does the 'agreed' minor become set as trumps so you can make a cue bid in partner's major?

[e] 1♠ 2♣ 4♣ 4♠

[f] 1♠ 2♥ 4♥ 4♠

[g] 1♠ 2♣ 4♣ 4♦ 4♠ (One partner has made a cue bid: 4♦)

[h] 1♠ 2♣ 4♣ 4♦ 4♥ 4♠ (Both partner have made a cue bid: 4♦ and 4♥)

Do you play the next four 'mixed' sequences as forcing? If so, forcing for how long?

[i] 1♥ 1♠ 2♠ 3♥

[j] 1♥ 2♣ 3♣ 3♥

[k] 1♣ 1♥ 2♥ 3♣

[l] 1♣ 1♦ 2♦ 3♣

If you have clearly agreed a suit as trumps and you cue-bid partner's other suit will you be showing a high card or might your cue-bid show shortage?

Under what circumstances might you raise partner's (4-card) major with only 3-card support. Consider [m] and [n]

[m] 1♥ 2♥

[n] 1♦ 1♥ 2♥

After partner has raised your major to the two level does a trial bid guarantee 5-cards in your agreed suit? Eg [o] 1♥ 2♥ 3♣

#### [4] How forcing are reverses?

How far forcing is a reverse after a 1NT response?

[a] 1♦ 1NT 2♥

How far forcing is a reverse after a 2-level change of suit?

[b] 1♦ 2♣ 2♥

How far forcing is a reverse after a 1-level change of suit? Consider in particular when responder rebids his own suit, gives preference to opener's first suit or raises opener's second suit.

[c] 1♦ 1♠ 2♥

Is the fourth suit game forcing after a reverse?

[d] 1♣ 1♠ 2♦ 2♥

How far forcing is a responder's reverse at the 2-level?

[e] 1♣ 1♥ 2♣ 2♠

#### [5] How forcing is Fourth Suit Forcing?

Are either of the following two auctions natural (fourth suit at the 1-level)?

[a] 1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ or 2♠

[b] 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 1NT 2♣

In the next two auctions partner responds to Fourth Suit Forcing at the 2-level

[c] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 2♠

[d] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 2NT

In the next two auctions partner responds to Fourth Suit Forcing at the 3-level but without a jump

[e] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♣

[f] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♦

In the next two auctions partner responds to Fourth Suit Forcing at the 2-level but the Fourth suit bidder continues bidding without a jump

[g] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 2♠ 2NT

[h] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 2♠ 3♠

In the next auction Fourth Suit Forcing is at the 3-level.

[i] 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 3♣

In the next auction the Fourth Suit Forcing bidder repeats the fourth suit

[j] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♣ 3♥

In the next auction the Fourth Suit Forcing bidder continues with no-trumps. Why might he have bid 4<sup>th</sup> suit rather than an immediate no-trumps.

[k] 1♠ 2♦ 2♥ 3♣ 3♠ 3NT

In the next three auctions the partner of the Fourth Suit Forcing bidder raises the fourth suit

In auctions [l] and [m] it is still possible that a 4-4 fit exists in the fourth suit

[l] 1♥ 1♠ 2♣ 2♦ 3♦

[m] 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♥

In auction [n] it is not possible that a 4-4 fit exists in the fourth suit.

[n] 1♦ 1♥ 2♣ 2♠ 3♠

Are you happy with the general statement that the sixth bid in an auction in which the fourth suit has been used makes the auction game-forcing?

## [6] Miscellaneous Sequences

In which sequences when opener opens a suit and rebids a new suit might he have just 4 cards in the first suit?

In which circumstances might you open 1NT with a 5-card major?

[a] 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ Forcing?

[b] 1♠ 2♣ 2♦ Forcing?

[c] 1♥ 2♣ 3♥ Forcing?

[d] 1♦ 1♠ 4♦

[e] 1♥ 1NT 3♦ 3♥ Forcing?

[f] 1♥ 1NT 3♦ 4♥ Stronger or weaker than [e]?

[g] 1♥ 1♠ 1NT 3♥ Forcing?

[h] 1♦ 1♠ 1NT 3♦ Forcing?

[i] 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ Forcing?

[j] 1♦ 1♥ 2♦ 3♥ Forcing?

[k] 1♦ 1♠ 2♦ 2♥ Forcing?

What are your requirements for a jump shift by opener?

[l] 1♦ 1♥ 2♠

What are your requirements for a jump shift by responder?

[m] 1♥ 2♠

Is 2NT a balanced 15-16/17 or a waiting bid showing no extra values, giving the auction a chance to proceed economically?

[n] 1♥ 2♠ 2NT.

[o] 1♥ 2♦ 2NT 3♥ 3♠ Is opener showing 4 spades (in case responder has 4-3-5-1 shape) or is 3♠ a cue bid?

Do you play that taking out 3NT into 4-of-a-minor is forcing?

[p] 1♣ 1♠ 3NT 4♣

How about if 3NT has been doubled?

[q] 1♣ (P) 1♠ (P) 3NT (P) P (Dbl) 4♣

Sometimes an opening overcall can give you considerable rebid problems. In auction [r] opener might have 5-4 in the black suits and have been planning a 1♠ rebid over 1♥. Can he bid 2NT with a minimum or must he rebid a poor club suit at the 3-level. Is this 2NT forcing?

[r] 1♣ (1♠) 2♥ (P) 2NT

If your opponents open a suit is it possible for you to play in that suit? Consider the following auctions:

[s] (1♥) P (1♠) Dbl

[t] (1♥) P (1♠) 1NT (Natural, or distributional take-out?)

[u] (1♥) P (1♠) 2♥

[v] (1♥) P (1♠) 2♠

Does it make any difference if the opponents' suit might have fewer than three cards?

[w] (1♣) -can be 3-card or 2-card suit 2♣

[x] (1♣) -can be 3-card or 2-card suit P (1♥) P (1♠) 2♣

If you play weak-two bids or a multi do your responses alter if opponents double or bid? Eg:

[y] \* 2♥-weak (Dbl) 2NT

[z] \* 2♦-multi (Dbl) 2NT

### [7] Strong 2♣

Is 2♣ game forcing or only forcing till suit agreement?

[a] 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2NT 3♥

[b] 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2NT 3♦ 3♥

### [8] Ace Asking Bids and other slam investigative bids

What is the meaning of the last bids in these auctions?

[a] 1NT 4♣

[b] 2NT 4♣

If you play Gerber, can you give foolproof guidelines as to when 4♣ is Gerber?

[c] 1NT 4NT

[d] 2NT 4NT

[e] 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 4NT

[f] 1NT 2♦-transfer 2♥ 4NT

[g] 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ 3♦ 3NT 4♦ 4NT

Do you play that if no suit has been specifically bid by both players then a jump to 4NT is Blackwood agreeing the last suit bid (provided it is natural).

[h] 1♠ 2♣ 2♦ 4NT

How about a jump to 4NT after the fourth suit?

[i] 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♦ 4NT

Can you give foolproof guidelines as to when 4NT is Blackwood?

How do you cope if an opponent doubles your partner's 4NT, or bids over it? How do you use the pass/redouble options?

[j] 1♦ 1♠ 3NT 4♦ 4NT

[k] 1♠ 2♦ 3♠ 4♦ 4NT

[l] 2♣ 2♥ 5NT

5NT in competitive sequences needs discussion (see [q] and [r])

[m] (3♠) Dbl (5♠) 5NT

[n] (4♥) Dbl (P) 5NT

If no suit is agreed and you have a choice of 5NT [r] and a cue bid [s] what is the difference?

[o] (4♥) Dbl (P) 5♥

### *Possible Slam Sequences after a natural 2NT opening bid*

After a 2NT opening there can be a conflict between two possible requirements for responder:

- 1) He needs to show a 2-suiter: he might be interested in a slam if a fit in one of them materialises, otherwise he wants to stay in 4NT
  - 2) He immediately finds a fit in his first suit and wants to make a cue bid or RKCB
- Therefore this is about when responder bids a new suit at the four level or bids 4NT.

### *Sequences after Stayman*

#### *Sequences with no suit remotely suggested*

[p] 2NT 3♣ 3♦ 4♣

[q] 2NT 3♣ 3NT 4♣

#### *Sequences with a 'strong' response to 3♣ (ie. a suit strongly suggested by opener)*

[r] 2NT 3♣ 3♠ 4♣

[s] 2NT 3♣ 3♠ 5♣

#### *Sequences where the partners have tried to find a 4-4 major fit*

[t] 2NT 3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3NT 4♣

[u] 2NT 3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3NT 5♣

### *RKCB sequences*

[v] 2NT 3♣ 3♦ 4NT

[w] 2NT 3♣ 3♠ 4NT

### *Sequences after a transfer*

[x] 2NT 3♥-transfer 3♠ 4♣

[y] 2NT 3♥-transfer 3♠ 4NT

### *Sequences where a cue bid has been made by opener after responder has bid two suits*

[z] 2NT 3♥ (transfer) 3♠ 4♦ 4♥ 4NT

If this is Roman Key Card Blackwood, which suit is agreed?

What does a jump to 5-of-a-major or raise to 5-of-a-major show?

[a] 1♠ 3♠ 5♠ (no side suits have been bid or cue-bid)

[b] 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 3♥ 3♠ 4♣ 5♥ (2 of the 3 side suits have been cue bid)

## **[9] PRE-EMPTIVE AUCTIONS**

[a] What is your minimum suit for a 3-level pre-empt at love all:

i) First in hand?

ii) Second in hand?

iii) Third in hand?

iv) Fourth in hand?

[b] What is your minimum suit for a 3-level pre-empt at game all:

i) First in hand?

ii) Second in hand?

iii Third in hand?

iv) Fourth in hand?

[c] What is your minimum suit for a 3-level pre-empt at green vulnerability:

i) First in hand?

ii) Second in hand?

iii Third in hand?

iv) Fourth in hand?

[d] What is your minimum suit for a 3-level pre-empt at red vulnerability:

i) First in hand?

ii) Second in hand?

iii Third in hand?

iv) Fourth in hand?

*Note: If you play weak-two bids you should conduct the same exercise for them.*

In the following sequences you change suit after partner pre-empts. Is it natural or a cue bid?

[e] 3♥ 3♠

[f] 3♥ 4♣

[g] 3♥ 4♠

[h] 4♥ 4♠

[i] 4♥ 5♣

In the following sequences you change suit after partner overcalls a pre-empt. Is it natural or a cue bid?

[j] (3♦) 3♥ (P) 3♠

[k] (3♦) 3♥ (P) 4♣

[l] (3♦) 4♥ (P) 4♠

[m] (3♦) 4♥ (P) 5♣

[n] (4♥) 4♠ (P) 5♣

In the next sequence you bid the pre-emptor's suit after partner has overcalled a pre-empt. Is it a cue bid or does it show two places to play?

[o] 3♦ (3♥) (P) 4♦

What is the meaning of the double in these sequences when your partner has opened a weak bid (or a bid that is likely to be weak), opponents have overcalled and you have doubled?

[p] 3♦ (3♥) Dbl

[q] 2♥-Weak or Lucas (2♠) Dbl

(r) 2♦-multi (2♥) Dbl

## COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

### [10] Negative Doubles

[a] 1♣ (1♦) Dbl

[b] 1♣ (1♥) Dbl

[c] 1♣ (1♥) 1♠

[d] 1♣ (1♠) Dbl

[e] 1♦ (2♣) Dbl

Does either of these sequences promise extra values: the point is that you might play the double of 1♠ as guaranteeing 4 hearts but not guaranteeing 4 diamonds.

[f] 1♣ (1♠) Dbl (P) 2♥

[g] 1♣ (1♠) Dbl (P) 2♦

What does it mean if you make a negative double and then change suit?

[h] 1♦ (1♠) Dbl (P) 2♣ (P) 2♥

To what level do you play negative doubles. What would you expect partner to have for the double in these sequences?

[i] 1♥ (2♠) Dbl

[j] 1♥ (3♠) Dbl

[k] 1♥ (4♠) Dbl

[l] 1♥ (2♦) Dbl (P) 2NT Is this forcing?

[m] 1♥ (1♠) P (forcing?)

[m] 1♥ (2♣) P (forcing?)

[n] 1♥ (2♠) P (forcing?)

[o] 1♥ (3♣) P (forcing?)

[p] 1♥ (3♠) P (forcing?)

### [11] Take-out/Penalty doubles

If they have bid and raised a suit is double always for takeout?

[a] (1♥) Dbl (2♥) Dbl

[b] (1♥) Dbl (3♥) Dbl

[c] (1♥) Dbl (4♥) Dbl

[d] (1♥) 1NT (2♥) Dbl

[e] (1♠) Dbl (2♠) Dbl (Does this deny 4 hearts?)

[f] (1♠) Dbl (2♠) 3♥ (Game-try or to play?)

[g] (1♠) Dbl (2♠) Dbl (P) 3♣ (P) 3♥ (If the 4<sup>th</sup> hand's first Dbl denies 4 hearts what does this mean?)

What do you expect partner to have to double an enemy 4♥ or 4♠ opening? Under what conditions will partner take the double out?

### [12] Support Doubles/Redoubles??

[a] 1♥ (P) 1♠ (2♣) Dbl

[b] 1♥ (P) 1♠ (2♣) 2♠

[c] \* 1♥ (P) 1♠ (Dbl) Redbl.

[d] \* 1♥ (P) 1♠ (Dbl) 2♠

[e] \* 1♥ (P) 1♠ (Dbl) 2♥ (Does 2♥ deny 3 spades?)

Does it make any difference if second hand has doubled?

[f] 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠ (2♣) Dbl

[g] 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠ (2♣) 2♠

[h] \* 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠ (Dbl) Redbl.

[i] \* 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠ (Dbl) 2♠

Does it make any difference if second hand has overcalled?

[j] 1♦ (1♥) 1♠ (2♣) Dbl

[k] 1♦ (1♥) 1♠ (2♣) 2♠

[l] \* 1♦ (1♥) 1♠ (Dbl) Redbl.

[m] \* 1♦ (1♥) 1♠ (Dbl) 2♠

Does it make any difference if the response was in a minor suit?

[n] 1♥ (P) 2♣ (2♦) Dbl

### [13] Game Tries

What about auctions where partner raises your 1-major to 2, and you bid 3. Game try or to play?

[a] 1♠ 2♠ 3♠

[b] 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♦) 3♠

[c] 1♠ (2♣) 2♠ (3♦) 3♠

In auctions [d], [e], [f] and [g] there is space for a trial bid between the 3-level overcall and 3-of-the-trump suit

[d] 1♠ (P) 2♠ (3♣) Dbl

[e] 1♠ (P) 2♠ (3♦) Dbl

[f] 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♣) Dbl

[g] 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♦) Dbl

In auctions [h] and [i] there is no space for a trial bid between the 3-level overcall and 3-of-the-trump suit

[h] 1♠ (P) 2♠ (3♥) Dbl

[i] 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♥) Dbl

If there is space for only one trial bid between the 3-level overcall and 3-of-the-trump suit what does it mean?

[j] 1♠ (2♦) 2♠ (3♦) 3♥

Does the double here agree spades and make a game try, or does it show the minor suits?

[k] (1♥) 1♠ (3♥) Dbl.

**[14] Competitive bidding after we open 1NT**

[a] 1NT (P) P (2♥) P (P) 2♠

[b] 1NT (P) P (2♥) P (P) Dbl

[c] 1NT (P) P (2♥) P (P) 2NT .

**[15] Bidding after an overcall**

[a] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 1NT (Range?)

[b] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 2NT (Range?)

[c] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 2♦ (Forcing?)

[d] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 3♦

[e] (1♥) 2♠ (P) 3♦

In [f] and [g] overcaller's partner makes a UCB. In [f] opener bypasses 2-major. In [g] overcaller shows a minimum but partner bids on. Are these auctions forcing?

[f] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 2♥ (P) 3♠

[g] (1♥) 1♠ (P) 2♥ (P) 2♠ (P) 3♠

After a UCB do you play that any bid over the cheapest bid in the suit is game-forcing?

Do you play that a cheaper bid is game forcing? Eg.

[h] (1♦) 1♠ (P) 2♦ (P) 2♥

**[16] Bidding after a double**

[a] 1♥ (Dbl) (P) 2♥ How far forcing?

[b] (1♦) Dbl (1♥) 2♣ (P) 2♠ (A change of suit after a free bid. Forcing?)

[c] (1♦) Dbl (P) 2♣ (P) 3♠ Forcing?

Do you play that if your opponents have found a fit (bidding and raising a suit) then double is for takeout? Maybe it depends on the level of the auction. Consider the next three sequences. What would you expect opener to have?

[d] 1♥ (1♠) 2♣ (2♠) Dbl

[e] 1♥ (1♠) 2♣ (3♠) Dbl

[f] 1♥ (1♠) 2♣ (4♠) Dbl

Do you play that the double of a forcing natural bid is for take-out? Consider the next 3 sequences. Note that in [h] and [i] it is common for responder to psyche 1♠ if he has a weak hand with hearts so there is some merit in playing double in [h] to show 4 spades and 2♠ in [i] to show 5 spades.

[g] (1♥) 1♠ (2♣) Dbl

[h] (1♥) Dbl (1♠) Dbl

[i] (1♥) Dbl (1♠) 2♠

How good a suit do you need to bid a suit implied by a take-out doubler? See [j]

[j] 1♥ (Dbl) 1♠

[k] 1♥ (Dbl) 1NT (Strength?)

What strength do you need for a free bid? See [l]

[l] (1♣) Dbl (1♥) 1♠

### [17] Delayed Doubles when they haven't found a fit

Are these doubles penalty or take-out?

These are 'live' auctions in that responder may be very strong

[a] (1♥) P (1♠) P (2♦) Dbl

[b] (1♥) P (1♠) P (2♥) Dbl

In these auctions the Dbl is in pre-protective position because the opponents' bidding virtually guarantees they don't wish the auction to continue. Both opponents are limited.

[c] (1♥) P (1NT) P (2♥) Dbl

[d] (1♥) P (1NT) P (P) Dbl

In this auction both opponents are limited, though opener may have 17 and responder 9 so they may bid to game.

[e] (1♥) P (1NT) P (2♣) Dbl

In these auctions opener is probably strong but dummy very weak. Opponents are unlikely to bid to game

[f] 1♥ P (P) Dbl (2♥) Dbl

[g] 1♥ P (P) Dbl (2♦) Dbl

### [18] Sequences involving a redouble

After 1♥ (Dbl) how many points do you need to redouble?

After 1♥ (Dbl) do you ever redouble with:

i) 4-card support for partner?

ii) 3-card support for partner?

iii) A one-suited hand?

iv) A 2-suited hand?

In which of these sequences is the final pass forcing?

[a] 1♥ (Dbl) Redbl (1♠) P

[b] 1♥ (Dbl) Redbl (2♠) P

[c] 1♥ (Dbl) Redbl (3♠) P

[d] 1♥ (Dbl) Redbl (1♠) P (2♠) P

How many spades do you expect partner to have for the spade bids in [e] and [f], and what values?

[e] 1♥ (Dbl) (Redbl) 1♠ (1♠ is the cheapest possible bid)

[f] 1♣ (Dbl) (Redbl) 1♠ (1♠ consumes quite a lot of space)

[g] 1♥ (Dbl) (Redbl) 2♠

[h] 1♥ (Dbl) (Redbl) 3♠

When do you play SOS rescue redoubles? In auction [i] does it matter whether the double is penalties or take-out?

[i] 1♥ 1♠ (Dbl) Redbl

### [19] Scrambling 2NT?

These auctions feature a take-out double of 2-of-a-major and a 2NT bid by a passed hand.

[a] (1NT) P (2♥) P (2♠) Dbl (P) 2NT

[b] (1♠) Dbl (2♠) P (P) Dbl (P) 2NT

## [20] Protective Bidding Sequences

[a] (1♥) P (P) 2♥

[b] (1♥) P (P) 2♠

How do you deal with the various no-trump bids in the protective position? For example, if you play a protective 1NT as showing 11-14 HCP what do you do with a balanced 15-16, or 17-18 etc?

[c] (1♥) P (P) 1♠ (P) 1NT (Range?)

[d] (1♥) P (P) 1♠ (P) 2NT (Range?)

[e] (1♥) P (P) Dbl (P) 1NT (Range?)

[f] (1♥) P (P) Dbl (P) 2NT (Range?)

## YOUR TWO-SUITED OVERCALLS

### [21] Michaels Cue Bid

[a] (1♦) 2♦ (P) 3♥

If opponents double Michaels should a response in 2-major be preference or real support?

[b] \* (1♦) 2♦ (Dbl) 2♥

[c] \* (1♦) 2♦ (Dbl) 2♠

### [22] Unusual no-trump

[a] (1♥) 2NT (P) 4♦ Invitational or pre-empt?

[b] (1♣) 2NT (1♣ can be 3-card or 2-card)

### [23] Asptro defence to 1NT

If you have both majors do you anchor onto the stronger or the weaker?

[a] (1NT) 2♣ (P) 3♥ (Game try or pre-emptive?)

[b] \* (1NT) 2♣ (Dbl) 2♦ (Real diamonds, or are you ignoring the double?)

Suppose partner shows hearts and another and you want to bid spades.

[c] (1NT) 2♣ (P) 2♠ .

[d] (1NT) 2♣ (P) 2NT (P) 3♣/♦ (P) 3♠

[e] (1NT) 2♣ (P) 3♠

## DEFENCES TO OPPOSITION BIDS/CONVENTIONS

### [24] Lebensohl

[a] 1NT (2♠) 2NT [relay to 3♣] (P) 3♣ (P) 3♥

[b] 1NT (2♥) 2NT [relay to 3♣] (P) 3♣ (P) 3NT

[c] 1NT (2♥) 3NT

[d] 1NT (2♥) 3♥

[e] 1NT (2♥) 3♦

[f] 1NT (2♥) 2NT [relay to 3♣] (P) 3♣ (P) 3♦

[g] 1NT (2♥) Dbl

[h] 1NT (3♥) Dbl

Do you play Lebensohl if your partner has overcalled 1NT?

### [25] They make a conventional overcall of your 1NT

[a] 1NT (2♣ = ♥ + another) Dbl

[b] 1NT (2♣ = ♥ + another) 2♥

### [26] Lebensohl defence to Weak two bid

*In the next two sequences doubler has only two ways of bidding suit:*

[a] (2♥) Dbl (P) 3♦

[b] (2♥) Dbl (P) 2NT [relay to 3♣] (P) 3♦

*In the next three sequences doubler has three ways of bidding suit:*

[c] 2♥ (Dbl) (P) 2♠

[d] (2♥) Dbl (P) 2NT [relay to 3♣] (P) 3♠

[e] (2♥) Dbl (P) 3♠

What do these sequences mean?

[f] (2♥) 4♣

[g] (2♥) 4♦

[h] (2♥) 3♠

[i] (2♥) 3♥

[j] (2♦-weak) 3♦

**[27] Defence to Multi 2♦**

[a] (2♦) Dbl

[b] (2♦) 3♠

[c] (2♦) Dbl 2♥ (Dbl)

[d] (2♦) P (2♥) Dbl

**[28] Defence to 2NT opening showing minors**

[a] (2NT) Dbl

[b] (2NT) 3♣

[c] (2NT) 3♦

[d] (2NT) 4♣

[e] (2NT) 4♦

**[29] Defence to their 2-suited overcalls**

[a] 1♥ (2♥) Dbl

[b] 1♥ (2♥) 2♠

[c] 1♥ (2NT) 3♣

[d] 1♥ (2NT) 3♦

[e] 1♥ (2NT) 3♥

[f] 1♥ (2NT) 3♠

[g] 1♠ (2NT) 3♣

[h] 1♠ (2NT) 3♦

[i] 1♠ (2NT) 3♥

[j] 1♠ (2NT) 3♠

[k] 1♥ (2NT) Dbl

[l] 1♠ (2NT) Dbl

**[30] Defence to South African Texas (4♣ shows a good 4♥ pre-empt)**

[a] (4♣) Dbl

[b] (4♣) Dbl (4♥) P (P) Dbl

[c] (4♣) P (4♥) P (P) Dbl

[d] (4♣) 4♥

[e] (4♣) 4NT

[f] (4♣) P (4♥) P (P) 4NT

**[31] Defence to their Strong Club**

[a] (1♣) 1♥

[b] (1♣) P (1♦) P (1♥) Dbl

What is your principle of dealing with strong and weak hands if they open a strong, artificial 1♣? With a strong hand do you bid, or pass and bid on the next round?

**[32] Wriggling if 1NT is doubled**

If you play a wriggle:

[a] 1NT (Dbl) P (P) Redbl

Do you play your wriggle if partner's overcalled 1NT is doubled? If so, do you need 5-5 shape or might 4-4 shape be OK?

**[33] Principles of Bidding**

1) Generally *a new suit at 3-level in uncontested auction is game forcing*. Can you think of any exceptions? Consider sequences that start with a 1NT response or a raise to the two-level

What are the implications of these sequences?

[a] 1♠ 2♦ 2♠ 2NT 3♥

[b] 1♠ 2♦ 2♥ 2NT 3♠

[c] 1♥ 2♥ 2NT 3♣

2) Generally *a new suit at 4-level in uncontested auction is cue bid*. Can you think of any exceptions? Consider sequences after 2-level openings (particularly 2NT) and 3-level openings

What are the implications of these sequences?

[a] 1♠ 2♦ 3♠ 4♣

[b] 1♠ 2♦ 3♠ 4♦

3) Do you play that *after any penalty double (or penalty pass of TO double) all doubles are penalties?*

What are the implications of this sequence?

[a] (1NT) Dbl (2♥) Dbl

If you play the double of 2♥ in [a] as take-out, what is the double of 2♠ in [b]?

[b] (1NT) Dbl (2♥) Dbl (2♠) Dbl

4) Generally *a double of their conventional bid shows the conventional suit*. Can you think of any exceptions?

What are the implications of these sequences?

[a] (1NT) P (2♣-Stayman) Dbl

[b] (1NT) P (2♥-transfer) Dbl

5) It is often played that *if they pre-empt (eg weak 2) our bids are strong*. Eg (2♥) 3♠ is strong. Can you think of any exceptions?

Do you consider an opponents' multi to be weak in this context?

6) It is often played that *if their bid is strong then our bids (on first round) are weak*. Eg. many defences to a strong 1♣ involve passing on the first round with strong hands. Do you agree with this?

Can you think of any exceptions?

7) In a potential slam auction are you obliged to return partner's cue bid if you can?:

if it doesn't raise the level of the contract eg. [a] 1♥ 3♥ 4♣ 4♦

if it does raise the level of the contract eg. [b] 1♥ 3♥ 4♣ 4♠

8) If your opponents bid two suits is a cue bid stopper-showing or stopper asking?

[a] 1♣ (1♥) 2♣ (2♠) 3♥ Does 3♥ show or deny heart values?

9) Do you have an agreed principle if your opponents open an undisclosed artificial bid? In these sequences 2NT shows an undisclosed minor. 3♣ is pass-or-correct. A possible method is that Dbl followed by Dbl is penalties: Pass followed by double is takeout.

[a] (2NT) Dbl (3♣) Dbl

[b] (2NT) Dbl (3♣) P (P) Dbl

[c] (2NT) P (3♣) Dbl

[d] (2NT) P (3♣) P (P) Dbl

10) There are lot of competitive auctions where 4NT is ambiguous. A possible interpretation is that a jump to 4NT is Blackwood but a non-jump bid of 4NT suggests 2 places to play.

[a] (3♥) 4NT

[b] (4♥) 4NT

[c] (4♠) 4NT

[d] 1♥ (3♠) 4NT

[e] 1♥ (4♠) 4NT

[f] 1♠ (4♥) 4NT

[g] (3♠) 4♥ (P) 4NT

[h] 1♥ (4♠) 4NT (P) 5♦ (P) 5♥

11) How about sequences where you have a choice of playing a bid of the agreed suit as a game-try, or as a sign off? Which has priority? The sequences below do not allow game-try doubles because no suit is agreed until the final bid. Is the last bid inviting game?

[a] 1NT (P) 2♣ (Dbl) 2♠ (3♣) 3♠

[b] 1NT (2♠) 2NT (P) 3♣ (P) 3♥

12) Do you play the principle of fast arrival by which jumping to game in a game-forcing auction is the weakest option? Can you think of any exceptions?

[a] 1NT 2♦-transfer 2♥ 3♦ 3♥

[b] 1NT 2♦-transfer 2♥ 3♦ 4♥

[c] 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 4♠

[d] 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 3♦ 3NT 4♠

13) Lead directing doubles. Are these doubles lead directing? If so, what are they suggesting?

[a] [1NT] P [3NT] Dbl (They have bid no suit naturally)

[b] [1♥] P [1♠] P [1NT] P [3NT] Dbl (Declarer hand dummy have bid a suit)

[c] [1♣] 1♥ [1♠] P [1NT] P [3NT] Dbl (One of us has bid a suit)

[d] [1♣] 1♥ [1♠] 2♣ [2NT] P [3NT] Dbl (Both of us have bid a suit)

### [34] Forcing Pass

You have doubled them at a low level for penalties, or passed a take-out double for penalties. They then escape to another denomination. In which of these sequences is the last pass forcing?

[a] (1NT) Dbl (2♥) P

[b] 1♥ (1NT) Dbl (2♣) P

[c] 1♥ (1♠) P (P) Dbl (P) P (2♦) P

At a higher level it is generally accepted that *if you have bid a game with the expectation of making it then they should not play undoubled*. How about these sequences?

Auctions where one of us has pre-empted

[d] 3♥ (P) 4♥ (4♠) P

[e] 1♥ (P) 4♥ (4♠) P

Auctions where opponents have pre-empted and one of us may have strained to enter the auction

[f] (1♥) P (4♥) 4♠ (5♥) P

[g] 1♦ (3♠) 4♥ (4♠) P

Auctions where it is not clear who can make what

[h] (1♥) 1♠ (4♥) 4♠ (5♥) P

Auctions where we should have the majority of points but not necessarily game values

[i] 1♥ (P) 3♥ (4♠) P

[j] 1♥ (P) 2♣ (4♠) P

Auctions where we have bid game without needing to but where the game bidder may be bidding on shape only, or may be bidding on values.

[k] 1♥ (P) 2♥ (2♠) 4♥ (4♠) P

### **[35] Leads/Signals/Discards**

If you lead second-highest from a bad suit what is the next card you play if:

- i) You started with a 3-card suit?
- ii) You started with a 4-card suit?
- iii) You started with a 5-card suit?
- iv) You started with a 6-card suit?

If your first discard conveys suit preference overtones and subsequent discards show count, do you show original count (before first discard) or present count?

What is your signalling system if there is a trump suit and there turns out to be a singleton in dummy?

If you play Ace for Attitude, king for count at what levels of contract would the leader of an ace be expected to possess the king?