

## Article 22a Bidding Quiz

This Quiz and answers have been adapted from a 2015 EBU Bridge Magazine and are based on hands from major competitions.

Best if you bid one hand and your partner bids another without either looking at the other hand. Nevertheless the hands give interesting features for bidding practice

Check your scores against the Experts' views.

### Hands 1

| N/S Game    |  | Dealer: North |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| <u>West</u> |  | <u>East</u>   |
| ♠ KQJ105    |  | ♠ A32         |
| ♥ 3         |  | ♥ AJ10        |
| ♦ 84        |  | ♦ 932         |
| ♣ AKQJ5     |  | ♣ 8732        |

### Bidding

| N  | E | S | W  |
|----|---|---|----|
| 3♥ | p | p | 4♠ |

Optimum bidding against a pre-emptive opener is one of the most difficult areas of bidding

What would you bid as West after North's Vulnerable 3♥ pre-empt?

A strong Polish pairs were playing EW and West bid 4♠. Yes this seems a bit ambitious, but is it really? Typically one "hopes" or assumes that partner will have typically about 7/8hcps. Over 3♠, even with ♠A one cannot be sure that E will bid an almost certain game. On this occasion East would have bid game and the declarer make 11 tricks. On balance 4♠ is probably a good bid as essentially W is looking for only 1 trick in East.

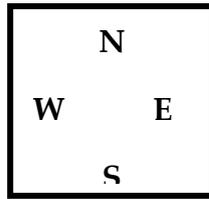
At the other table West considered the hand too good for 3♠ and instead bid a T/O double. East happily doubled and the contract went back 1, winning 2♠, 2♥ and 1♣ for 200pts, but the Polish team were +6imps because of making game.

Some players use Leaping Michaels, 4♣, in this situation showing ♣ and ♠ suits (with at least 9 cards in the two suits (4+ in each)). 4♣ can make provided there are only 3 losers in the red suits but there is a chance that partner may choose 5♣.

**Expert Awards:** 10pts (4♠); 9pts (5♣); 7pts (3NT); 5pts (3♥X); 4pts (6♣ and 3♠)

**Hand 2****Game All****Dealer: West**

♠ A7  
 ♥ AJ8  
 ♦ A32  
 ♣ K9543



♠ K8642  
 ♥ Q65  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A762

What is your bidding sequence and final contract?

This hand was played by an Indonesia (EW) team against China, bidding

| W   | E  |
|-----|--|
| 1♣  | 1♥ (Actually transfer to ♠)                    |
| 1NT | 2♦ (Game forcing checking if partner has 3 ♠s) |
| 3♣  | 5♣   |

In Acol type bidding East would have bid 1♠ and check-back would have been 2♣ but the interesting feature here is that the Indonesian pair were not only using check-back for the majors but opener by bidding 3♣ showed a 5-card ♣ suit allowing the partnership to find the best game.

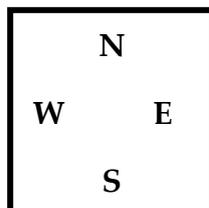
Although clubs broke 3-1 because the heart finesse was correct the pair made 12 tricks as declarer managed to set-up the thirteenth ♠ trick to discard the last ♥.

At another table by failing to use the check-back sequence finished in 3NT which went one down because the clubs failed to break 2-2

Expert Awards: 10pts (6♣); 8pts (5♣); 5pts (3NT); 4pts (7♣)

**Hand 3****Love All****Dealer: West**

♠ 98642  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ AQ973  
 ♣ A9



♠ *Void*  
 ♥ AKQ84  
 ♦ KJ642  
 ♣ K82

What is your bidding sequence and final contract?

Ron Klinger held the West hand. Do you consider West an opening hand. Ron certainly did. Interestingly this complies with Andrew Robson's "rule of 15" guidance given a few articles ago that provided hcp + the length of the spade suit is 15 it is worth an opening bid. The sequence went:

| W  | E  |
|----|----|
| 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♦ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 5♣ | 6♦ |

2♥ was not game forcing but Ron was forced to rebid this poor ♠ suit to show a minimum hand. After diamonds were agreed the 4♥ and 5♣ were cue-bids showing first round controls. A cue-bid shows controls and usually extra values, but Klinger has a weak hand so is it sensible to cue-bid here. The guidance is that provided the cue-bid does not take the contract above the worst contract level then show the control. This allowed E to bid 6♦.

In fact due to the void ♠ in East the pair made 13 tricks.

At the other table EW only played in 5♦ as West did not like the idea of a 5♣ cue-bid with only 10 hcp and consequently Klinger's team won +12 IMPS on the board.

**Expert Awards:** 10pts (7♦); 6pts (6♦) 3pts (game)

### Bidding Tips

- Consider downgrading 4-3-3-3 shape hands. Playing in NT contracts middle cards such as 10's and 9's are valuable and you should upgrade or downgrade depending on your holding of such middle cards.
- Consider extending check-back bids to 5-card minors when you have nothing extra to show in the majors.
- Always consider cue-bidding an Ace provided it does not lift the level of the contract