

Article 23a Bidding Quiz Answers

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

Best if you split hands such that you don't see both (cover over each before bidding). Or split the hands with your partner and each bid as a partnership.

Nevertheless the hands give interesting features for bidding practice

Answers with points will be given in two days and a further three questions later. Check your scores against the Experts' scores at the time.

Hand 4

N/S Game

Dealer: East

♠ 532 ♥ Q53 ♦ KJ5 ♣ A874	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><p style="margin: 0;">N</p><p style="margin: 0;">W E</p><p style="margin: 0;">S</p></div>	♠ AK84 ♥ A72 ♦ AQ2 ♣ KQ3
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The Monaco team was probably the strongest teams 5 or 6 years ago, having drawn some of the strongest players in Europe through sponsorship. In the quarterfinal of a major competition in New Orleans they lost a 40imp lead in the last set of 15 boards by 70-16 and crashed out of the championship. This is one of the boards that started the disaster.

Their bidding sequence was:

W	E
	2NT (21-22hcp balanced)
3♣	3♦ (Puppet Stayman)
4NT	6NT

3♣ (Claudio Nunes) is probably the bid most would make but partner's response showing no 5-card major but an unspecified major together with such a fairly discouraging 10hcp and 4-3-3-3 with a lack of 9',10's and J's)should surely have encouraged him to bid 3NT. Nevertheless Nunes bid 4NT a slam invitation if partner, Flavio Fantoni, with a maximum bid 6NT. unfortunately, although he had a maximum he too was the dreaded 4-3-3-3 shape and lacked 9's. 10' and J's.

Although the clubs split 3-3 the contract still went one down with the ♥K in South.

At the other table the bidding went 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT - 4NT Scoring +460 to win that hand by +11imps

What would be your bidding sequence and final contract?

Experts Awards: 10pts (3NT); 8pts (4NT); 6pts (5NT) 2pts (6NT)

Hand 5

Game All

Dealer: East

♠ 2	N W E S	♠ AKQ1073
♥ A764		♥ Q85
♦ K83		♦ AQ74
♣ K10765		♣ <i>Void</i>

This was also from the same New Orleans competition and the USA pair sitting EW were playing a strong NT, 5-card major system (2 over 1). Their bidding sequence was:

W	E
	1♠
1NT ⁽¹⁾	3♦
4♦	6♦

(1) While Acol players would bid 2♣, the system conventional bid they were playing was a forcing 1NT (only forcing for 1 round). 2♣ would have been a game forcing bid but while OK on this hand, at this stage West does not know how strong East's opening bid is.

East now wants to be in game but what should he bid? He decides to force to game by bidding 3♦ as partner already knows he has 5+ spades. The problem now is that West doesn't know whether this is a 4 or 5-card ♦ suit. When West decided to bid 4♦, East leapt to 6♦. Their side was well behind in the match and were looking for gains. Unfortunately this went 1-down and the opposition on the other table bid 3NT which made 10 tricks.

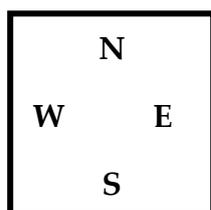
Some hands cause problems with all bidding systems

What would be your bidding sequence and final contract?

Expert Awards: 10pts (4♠ and 3NT); 7pts (5♦); 6pts (4♥); 4pts (6♠ and 6♦)

Hand 6**Game All****Dealer: West**

♠ 103
 ♥ KQJ743
 ♦ KQ2
 ♣ QJ



♠ Q964
 ♥ A2
 ♦ A103
 ♣ 10654

This was from the final of the New Orleans competition with Zia Mahmood sitting West and Giorgio Duboin in East. The bidding sequence went:

W	N	E	S
			P
1♥	1♠	1NT	p
2♥	p	2♠	p
3NT			

What would you have bid with East's hand after an overcall of 1♠? At the other table E chose to pass. On BBO the commentators observed that 3NT was a good spot whereas 4♥ was not, after North's overcall. We don't know whether this may have been in Duboin's mind when he chose to bid 1NT. (At this stage he does not know his partner has a 6-card suit). He did like his 2 Aces and a potential double ♠ stop. After Zia's 2♥ Duboin was now interested in game. But what game? He chose to bid a 2♠ force to keep his partner's options open to bid a 2 levels and potentially ♥ and NY as well. Surely with ♥A2, Duboin must have been wary of 4♥? Zia with ♣QJ felt they were useful for a 3NT contract which he bid. Dubois made 10 tricks after S under-led the AK832 of clubs.

What would be your bidding sequence and final contract?

Expert Awards: 10pts (3NT); 6pts (part-scores in ♥ and NT); 3pts (4♥)

What did you score on the 6 boards over the two Quizzes? Remember if you were bidding both hands then you had a significant advantage on what are difficult hands.

The Experts playing in these major competitions scored 40pts from 60pts total.