

Answers to Checkback Stayman quiz (page 3)

1. You have a balanced 16HCP. Don't bid 1♠!
Show your hand with 1NT and leave Checkback Stayman to partner if she wishes.
2. You don't have 4 spades to show partner but you do have 3 hearts; support her by bidding 2♥.
3. Your partner has used Checkback Stayman and you dutifully bid 2♠. But she doesn't seem interested in that so why did she bid Checkback Stayman? It must be because she had 5 hearts. So now bid 4♥.
4. You have a good hand and want to be in game opposite partner's announced 15-16HCP. Should you be in hearts or in no-trumps? Find out by bidding a Checkback Stayman 2♣.

Postscript

Always remember that you are unique:- just like everybody else.

What's the difference between chopped beef and pea soup?

Everyone can chop beef, but not everyone can pea soup!

What do you call a midget with ESP who has escaped from prison?

A small medium at large.

N e w s l e t t e r

Taieri Bridge Club

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A point tournament

Our A point tournament on 12 June attracted a field of 17 tables. It was won by our own Donna Ruwhiu playing with Patricia Haden. This was a tremendous result for Donna and we all offer her our congratulations. Special mention for John Mosley (4th) and also Frank Gradon and Judy Robertson who topped the afternoon section.

The success of the tournament is due to the commitment and industry of very many people and we must recognise that it doesn't "just happen". Last month I played in an A point tournament at the Christchurch bridge club. As ever the bridge was enjoyable but the organisation and catering were poor compared to what we have become used to at Taieri. Information was inconsistent and misleading and the local newsletter lamented that 39 (!) members had not renewed their subscription this year. No wonder, given what I witnessed. Give me Taieri any time.

Checkback Stayman

Most of us play Stayman: bidding 2♣ to ask for a 4 card major after partner has opened 1NT.

Checkback Stayman extends this principle to where opener has *rebid* 1NT. For example, consider

1♦ - P - 1♥ - P
1NT - P - 2♣

In normal Acol 2♣ shows clubs (and it's usually a weak bid). But why would you bid like this? 1NT will usually be a perfectly playable spot.

So, experts use 2♣ in this situation with a different meaning. It asks:

1. Do you have 4 spades? And, if not,
2. Do you have 3 hearts?

Since the bid drives you to the two level you must have at least 8-9 points (in case you need to stop in 2NT). If opener has 4 spades she bids 2♠. If she hasn't got 4 spades but has 3 card heart support she bids 2♥. Otherwise she bids 2♦.

Are you wondering how on earth opener can have 4 spades when she didn't bid them on her rebid?

That's one of the advantages of Checkback Stayman. Opener can bypass spades to show a balanced 15-16 HCP (which is very descriptive) knowing that responder can uncover a 4 card spade fit if necessary. Checkback Stayman applies also if hearts and spades are switched round, and also when the opening bid is 1♣. See the quiz on page 3.

Blasting

There are many styles of bidding. At one extreme there are players who love complex bidding systems that enable their partnership to explore every nuance of the hand. In slam auctions they can find the answer to subtle questions such as whether their partner has third round control in a particular suit. This style is fine for regular partnerships who are prepared to invest *hundreds* of hours of discussion. But it obviously does not suit all and it suffers from the disadvantage that the defenders get a "road map" of declarer's hand which may well help them find the killing defence. The other extreme is called "blasting". It is simply the technique of making the final bid as soon as you can even if you haven't checked on all the things you might. Suppose you hold this lowly hand:

♠ T 9 8 7; ♥ A Q 6; ♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4; ♣ void

Things begin to look up when your partner bids an Acol style 2♣. You respond negatively with 2♦ and your partner bids 3♦ (natural). What now?

There is much to be said for a simple 6♦! Yes, you might find your partner with 2 losing spades *and* the opponents might lead that suit. But they will be completely in the dark after your jump. Conduct a delicate auction and you may find that the spade weakness is broadcast to the world.

A page from Dora the Director's Diary

What an exhausting night! I was up and down like a yo-yo. Being a playing director is no easy task. Mostly, insufficient bids (no you can't just make it sufficient, your opponent has the right to accept your first bid; only if they choose not to can you make it sufficient) and a case of declarer touching a card in dummy and then playing another one. Fortunately, this time, the defenders decided not to force declarer to play the first card. I reminded declarer that it's in their best interest to tell dummy what card to play; not only does it keep dummy awake but it means they never get into strife with their opponents. Then of course there was also the case of the hidden trump in dummy which got caught behind the club suit. Dummy's revoke said the defenders! After much looking up in the rule book, it turns out that dummy can't revoke! It's everyone's responsibility at the table to make sure dummy has 13 cards. Only if dummy's trump had won a trick (which it didn't) would the score be adjusted and then only to what it should have been without that trick. Sitting down was just as exhausting. The complaints about a certain someone's unseemly attire kept coming. I'm quite fond of her Aunt Frieda but somehow I'll have to have a quiet word about the distractions her clothing or lack of it caused.

The Arts Page

Donna Nobis Pacem

With skill she's achieved greatest honour
Let the plaudits be heaped high upon her
A momentous event
The A tournament
Has been won by our very own Donna

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsh.

Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.

Checkback Stayman quiz

1. Holding ♠ A T 8 6; ♥ Q J 3; ♦ A 9; ♣ K Q 6 4 you open 1♣, and partner rebids 1♥. Your rebid?
2. Holding ♠ A T 8; ♥ Q J 3; ♦ A 9 8; ♣ K Q 6 4 you open 1♣, partner bids 1♥, you bid 1NT, and partner bids 2♣. Your next bid?
3. Holding ♠ J T 8 6; ♥ Q J 3; ♦ A Q; ♣ A Q 6 4 What, if anything, do you do after this uncontested auction?
1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ - 3NT?
4. Holding ♠ T 8 6; ♥ K Q J 9 3; ♦ A 2; ♣ J 6 4 partner bids 1♣, you bid 1♥, and she bids 1NT. What do you bid now?

Answers on page 8.

Voluptua's confusion: part 2

It was the last board of the night and Voluptua and Frieda were once more facing Randy and Gordon. Preparing for the fray Voluptua casually undid one more button from an already revealing blouse; she was determined to attract Randy's attention. An uninspired auction led to Randy (East) declaring 3NT with Voluptua (South) on lead. "All's fair in love and war" thought Voluptua and so, in the pretence of fingering her cards deciding what to lead, she "accidentally" dropped one of them into her capacious cleavage. Randy went scarlet as Voluptua with much wiggling retrieved the card which everyone saw was the K♣. The director ruled that this was an exposed card (among other things exposed) and it had to be led. When Voluptua saw that dummy was

♠ 8 5 4; ♥ T 9 8; ♦ 4 3; ♣ A Q 4 3 2

she felt she might have given the contract away. Randy, completely deceived by the entire charade, saw an opportunity to be a gentleman and he therefore played low in dummy. Surely, he thought, Voluptua would reward him for not taking advantage of her error. He played the hand in an anticipatory daze. Winning the diamond switch he cashed all his top winners, found that clubs divided and came to 9 tricks. The score sheet revealed that all other

♠ T 7 6 3
♥ 8 5
♦ Q T 8 2
♣ J T 5

♠ 8 5 4
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 4 3
♣ A Q 4 3 2

♠ Q J 2
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ K 9 7
♣ K 7 6

♠ A K 9
♥ A K T 9
♦ A J 6 5
♣ 9 8

declarers had failed and so he had earned a top. "Not grabbing that A♣ was a very fine play" observed Gordon "you found the only way to play the suit for 4 tricks".

Voluptua was rather peeved though. In retrospect she had realised that her K♣ lead was actually quite brilliant in tempting declarer to win the Ace (in which case the club suit would have provided 2 tricks only). "How on earth did you find that line, Randy?" she asked. Randy had mixed feelings since the end result was not quite what he had intended and he lapsed into a confused but gracious response. "You found a wonderful lead, Voluptua" said he "and I was fortunate to make the contract despite your breast endeavours".