

Answers to Jacoby 2NT quiz

- (i) 4♠. Your hand is minimal. In a game-forcing auction use "fast arrival".
- (ii) 3♠. You have a great hand. Wait to see now whether your partner cue bids or asks for aces.
- (iii) 3♦. You have a reasonable hand with a singleton diamond.
- (iv) 3NT. An intermediate hand without a singleton.
- (v) Your partner has made his strongest reply and slam is certain. The only question is whether you want to be in 6 or in 7. I would bid 3♠ showing a spade first round control. In due course, I'd like to find out whether he has the missing two aces and the king of spades, and I'm hoping for a continuation 4♦, 4♥, 4♠, 4NT, 5♥, 7♥.
- (vi) Your partner is showing 14-15HCP with no singleton. You could bid 6♥ directly or, if you are more cautious, ask for aces first.
- (vii) Your partner is minimum. Settle for game only.
- (viii) Your partner has shown a singleton in the only suit you don't have well under control. I would ask for aces and bid 6♥ if partner showed up with one ace.

The Newsletter

Would any club member like to contribute an occasional or regular article? Let me know!

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Taieri Bridge Club

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Bridge Lessons

This year's bridge classes for new (and some returning) players are now underway. We have quite a large number attending and Tamsin would be interested to hear from you if you would like to come along occasionally on Tuesday evening to help her out.

Also this year we have, for the first time, some lessons for players who wish to learn the Precision bidding system. Stephen Darnold is running these; see him if you are interested.

Programmes from past years

Frank is trying to collect a set of programmes for each of the year's that the club has been in existence. Amazingly, he has almost a full set and his only missing year is 1989. If any member happens to have a copy of the 1989 programme Frank would like to hear from you.

When disaster strikes

I was playing in a team match last month when, with both sides vulnerable, the opponents bid to 4♠. During the auction my partner had used the unusual no-trump and found that I preferred clubs over diamonds. Consequently he sacrificed in 5♣ and I found myself (West) as declarer in 5♣ doubled on the lead of a spade.

♠ 8 7 4	♠ void
♥ 8 6 5 4 2	♥ K Q T
♦ 7 5	♦ A J 6 4 3
♣ A 9 2	♣ Q J T 4 3

When I saw dummy it was clear that my partner had sacrificed injudiciously. The opponents could surely have scored 620 playing in 4♠ whereas I was going to be down 4, 5 or 6 (losing 1100, 1400, or 1700).

What did I do? Sadly, the magnitude of the disaster affected my play and I went down 6.

What should I have done? I should have kept my cool and played it as well as possible, in which case I would be down 4 "only" losing, it would seem, 1100-620=480. Because, in fact, that would not have been a disaster at all as at the other table the opposition had also played in 5♣ doubled - it would have been a flat board. Instead I lost 1700-1100=600. The moral of the story is this:

Never give up, never surrender

the two hands and something about the shape of his partner's hand.

The same principles apply when the opening bid is 1♥ but the Jacoby 2NT is used *only* over a major suit opening. Try this quiz.

Suppose you have opened 1♠ and your partner bids 2NT. What do you respond with the following hands?

- (i) ♠ K T 9 8 7; ♥ A 2; ♦ 9 8 6 3; ♣ K Q
- (ii) ♠ K T 9 8 7; ♥ A 2; ♦ A K 6 3; ♣ K J
- (iii) ♠ K T 9 8 7; ♥ A Q 9 2; ♦ 9; ♣ K Q 2
- (iv) ♠ K T 9 8 7; ♥ A Q; ♦ Q T 2; ♣ K Q 2

Now suppose your partner has opened 1♥ and you hold

♠ A Q J 6 4; ♥ K Q J 6; ♦ T 7 2; ♣ A

You bid 2NT. What is your next bid after the following responses made by your partner?

- (v) 3♥
- (vi) 3NT
- (vii) 4♥
- (viii) 3♦

A Platinum Occasion

One of our members, Sheila Orbell, has recently celebrated 70 years of marriage. Congratulations, Sheila - and all with one husband!

Jacoby 2NT

Imagine you hold a good hand for once. Say

♠ A Q J 7; ♥ K J 6 4; ♦ J T 7 2; ♣ A

Just as you working out what to open your partner surprises you by opening himself with 1♠. Well, your luck seems to be. Game in spades is certain and maybe you have slam. How should you explore? You are too strong for a delayed game raise (bidding 2♣ first then bidding 4♠) because you cannot expect your partner to bid on. Should you directly ask for aces? The trouble with that is that you may get too high; your partner might only have, for example,

♠ K T 9 8 7; ♥ A 2; ♦ 9 8 6 3; ♣ K Q

Nor can you splinter since you have no singleton. This type of problem is solved by a convention called the *Jacoby 2NT*. If you respond 2NT to opener's 1♠ it tells your partner that you have good trump support, 16+ HCP, and want to know more about her hand. The opener responds as follows:

1. With a balanced minimum she bids 4♠ ("fast arrival" and a sign-off)
2. With a singleton or void she bids that suit at the three level
3. With a balanced 14-15HCP she bids 3NT
4. With a balanced 16+HCP she bids 3♠

Responder now knows what the combined assets of

Contributed humour

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill.

Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and sombre.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, very risky but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the brain yourselves."

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain, and \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked. A man eventually blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've actually been used."

Voluptua and the splinter

Hoping to improve her card play Voluptua had arranged to partner Gordon at one of the club pairs events. Things had been going reasonably well with Gordon managing to play most of the difficult contracts. On the last board they found themselves pitted against the Weasel and Ferret. In an attempt to fluster Voluptua, the Ferret sniggered audibly as she fanned her cards; meanwhile the Weasel peered over to see Voluptua's hand. "Director!" called Gordon. The director arrived and Gordon, who had misinterpreted the Weasel's head movement, announced with indignation: "Director, this man is trying to look down my partner's blouse". By the time denials had been issued, both Gordon and Voluptua were feeling rather unsettled, and Voluptua was pink with embarrassment. She was South and was the dealer (see facing page). Unfortunately, in the confusion, she had missorted her hand and thought that two of her diamonds were hearts. Naturally she opened 1♥. Gordon, equally flustered, made the expert bid of 3♠ (a splinter bid, promising good heart support and singleton or void in spades). But he had forgotten that Voluptua didn't know about splinter bids. Now it was Voluptua's turn. From her point of view, she had excellent spade support for

♠ void
♥ Q 7 5 4 3
♦ A Q J 6 2
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A K T 8 4
♥ T 9
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 2

♠ Q J 2
♥ 8 6
♦ T 3
♣ A T 8 7 6 5

♠ 9 7 6 5 3
♥ A K J 2
♦ K 8 7 4
♣ void

Gordon and so she leapt to 6♠.

At this point Gordon had no option but to bid 7♥ and Voluptua, somewhat puzzled, passed.

The Weasel led the K♣ and Voluptua was left to play her grand slam missing two Aces. But she now correctly sorted her hand and all was well. She ruffed the lead, entered dummy with a spade ruff and ruffed a second club. Now she went to dummy with the A♦ and ruffed the last club with K♥.

Finally she unblocked the A♥, returned to dummy with another spade ruff, drew the outstanding trumps with Q♥ and ran her diamonds.

The Weasel and Ferret were livid. But Voluptua, suppressing her elation, primly buttoned up her blouse and set off for the bar.