

CARDIFF BRIDGE CLUB - XMAS BRIDGE QUIZ 2023 – THE ANSWERS

I hope you enjoyed the quiz.

The answers are below.

Another reminder that Wednesday afternoon supported play resumes on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 14:00hrs.

The next “Begin Bridge” taster session is on Wednesday 24th January at 14:00hrs.

The next “Begin Bridge” course starts on Wednesday 31st January at 14:00hrs.

The next “Continuing Bridge” course starts on Wednesday 31st January at 16:30hrs.

If you or anyone you know is interested in our bridge courses they should email teaching@cardiffbridgeclub.org for more information and joining instructions.

You and your partner are playing the ACOL system of bidding. Any carding agreements can be considered as standard.

You hold the NORTH cards in all the following 12 questions.

Q1.

Your partner SOUTH opens 1NT showing a balanced hand with 12-14hcp. WEST passes.

You NORTH hold:

♠: 5432

♥: 5432

♦: 76543

♣: void

What if anything, do you bid?

2♣ Stayman intending to pass any response by partner.

You need to do your best to find a better contract and try to disrupt your opponents.

Q2.

Your opponent WEST opens the bidding with 1D.

You NORTH hold:

♠: AKJ43

♥: 543

♦: 765

♣: 32

What if anything, do you bid? 1♠

A simple overcall promises 8-15hcp and should you be defending you want partner to lead spades. If partner has some spade support (3+card support) he will probably bid, making life more difficult for the opponents.

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Q3.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S. Your partner SOUTH doubles. WEST passes

You NORTH hold:

♠: 543

♥: 9543

♦: 765

♣: 432

What if anything, do you bid? 2♥

Partner is initially showing a three suited hand with a spade shortage.

You can expect an 8 card heart fit-so bid 2H.

Partner should expect a hand in the 0-8hcp range as you have been forced to bid.

Q4.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S.

Your partner SOUTH doubles. WEST passes

You NORTH hold:

♠: 54

♥: AK954

♦: QT5

♣: 432

What if anything, do you bid? 3♥

You are too good for 2♥. (Imagine you are responding to a 1♥ opening bid).

Q5. Your opponent WEST opens the bidding with 1NT.

All pass and you are on lead.

You NORTH hold:

♠: Q4

♥: 95

♦: QJT9

♣: AQ432

What do you lead? Q♦ (Top of a sequence).

4th best of your longest suit is a good rule to follow. But you need 7 tricks to beat this contract and you are fairly sure they are coming from ♦ & ♣. The Q♦ lead gives nothing away and will establish at least two ♦ tricks for the defence. An initial 3♣ lead might work, but it might give a trick away or worse, set up opponents ♣ tricks where partner holds a ♣ shortage..

Q6.

Your opponent WEST opens the bidding with 1H.

You NORTH hold:

♠: AQ9874

♥: 95

♦: 756

♣: 32

What if anything, do you bid? 2♠

This is a weak bid (like an opening 2♠ bid) designed to make opponents bidding more difficult.

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Q7.

Your opponent WEST opens the bidding with 1H.

You NORTH hold:

♠: AKQ987

♥: 95

♦: AKQ

♣: 32

What if anything, do you bid? **DOUBLE**

An overcall would show 8-15hcp so you are much too good for 1♠.

You have 4 losers so a bid of 4♠ may not be right .. you could go off or you could miss bidding a slam as partner will not expect this strong a hand.

DOUBLE and then bid ♠ to get this type of hand across to partner.

Q8.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1H. SOUTH passes. WEST raises to 2H.

You NORTH hold:

♠: A98

♥: K95

♦: K732

♣: Q32

What if anything, do you bid? **PASS**

You do have opening points but not enough to venture into the auction at this level.

Your partner has passed over 1♥ so a game contract your way is highly unlikely.

Q9.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S. SOUTH passes. WEST raises to 2S. All pass.

You NORTH hold:

♠: 87

♥: A952

♦: 987

♣: KJ32

What card do you lead? 8♦

Second highest from a bad suit of more than 2 cards.

Let's look at other options. A trump lead will usually help declarer find a missing trump honour if there is one. A lead of an unsupported Ace or an underlead of an Ace suggests that a ♥ lead is a bad idea. A ♣ lead away from KJ♣ is an attacking lead hoping that partner holds a ♣ honour. But it also risks giving away a trick. Your 8♦ lead will not always be a success but "safe" leads usually prevail in the long term.

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Q10.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S. SOUTH passes. WEST raises to 4S.

You NORTH hold:

♠: void

♥: AK952

♦: QJT9

♣: KQ32

What bid if any do you make? DOUBLE (partner I think this hand may belong to us).

You must make a move with this hand and a DOUBLE leaves all options open for your partner to make a decision on whether to bid or defend. Vulnerability may influence partners actions but not your DOUBLE.

Q11.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S. SOUTH passes. WEST passes.

You NORTH hold:

♠: 7

♥: A952

♦: K872

♣: Q432

What if anything do you bid? DOUBLE

You are in "PASS OUT" or "BALANCING SEAT" so you can be a trick lighter than an opening bid to make a bid. (You can assume that you partner has around 10-12hcp).

Q12.

Your opponent EAST opens the bidding with 1S. SOUTH passes. WEST passes.

You NORTH hold:

♠: KJ7

♥: K95

♦: QJT

♣: QT98

What if anything do you bid? 1NT (11-14)

A 1NT normally shows 15-17 hcp. But we are in "PASS OUT" or "BALANCING" seat, so we can be a trick lighter for our bid.