

# HAND 1 Dealer North : All Non Vulnerable

North		
♠ Q J 9 8 7 2		
♥ Q J 4		
♦ A		
♣ 10 3 2		
West		East
♠ A K 10 5		♠ 3
♥ 9		♥ K 7 6 5
♦ K Q 6 5 2		♦ J 10
♣ A K 9		♣ Q J 8 7 6 4
South		
♠ 6 4		
♥ A 10 8 3 2		
♦ 9 8 7 4 3		
♣ 5		

West	North	East	South
	2♠	P	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
3♦	P	3NT	End

2♠ is weak. 2NT is NOT the unusual no-trump (UNT). It is natural, 16-19 points. You might not especially like it with a singleton heart but what else is there? In a competitive auction when bidding no-trumps you need to concentrate on guarding the suit they have bid. It is normal to play the same system opposite a natural 2NT overcall as opposite a 2NT opening so 3♣ is Stayman. It is pointless for West to show his 4 spades so 3♦ denies 4 hearts.

North will lead the ♠Q, taken by West's ♠A. Declarer will try a low diamond at trick 2, taken by North's ♦A. What does North now know? South failed to make a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ so he won't have spades as good as ♠K x x. Declarer has not played clubs so it looks as if he has 6 club tricks already set up. The only chance is hearts. A switch to the ♥Q leads to two down.

5♣ can be beaten with a diamond lead, heart back and a diamond ruff.

## HAND 2: Dealer East, N/S vulnerable

		North	
		♠ 9 7 5	
		♥ 7 4	
		♦ K 10 8 5 4	
		♣ Q 9 6	
West		East	
♠ J 8 6 4		♠ A K Q 10	
♥ A K Q 10 3		♥ J 6 5	
♦ 6		♦ A Q	
♣ K J 2		♣ A 10 7 5	
		South	
		♠ 3 2	
		♥ 9 8 2	
		♦ J 9 7 3 2	
		♣ 8 4 3	

West	North	East	South
		2NT	P
3♦	P	3♥	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
4NT	P	5♦	P
5♥	P	6♠	P
7♠	End		

West's transfer of 3♦ followed by 3♠ shows at least 5 hearts and at least 4 spades. East's 4♠ agrees the 4-4 fit. Now we see how effective Roman Key Card Blackwood can be. 5♦ shows 1 or 4 key cards (the trump king is a key card). 5♥ (the cheapest non-trump bid) asks about the trump queen. 6♠ shows the trump queen but denies any side suit king. Now West can virtually count 13 tricks: 5 spades, 5 hearts, the ♦A and ♠A K. At the very worst (eg. a bad heart break) he can fall back on the club finesse for his 13<sup>th</sup> trick.

Note that in 7♥ declarer cannot make 5 spade tricks. He should combine chances in the minors: cash the ♠A K and fall back on the diamond finesse.

# HAND 3: Dealer South, E/W vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 5 4

♥ A K Q 6 4 3

♦ 3

♣ A K Q J

WEST

♠ J 10 9 7

♥ 5

♦ 9 8 2

♣ 8 7 4 3 2

EAST

♠ A 8 3 2

♥ J 10 9 7

♦ K 6 5

♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q 6

♥ 8 2

♦ A Q J 10 7 4

♣ 10 5

West	North	East	South
			1♦
P	1♥	P	2♦
P	3♣	P	3NT
P	6NT	End	

North is very strong but shouldn't jump to 2♥ over 1♦ because it will make it hard to show his clubs. 3♣ is a new suit at the three-level: game forcing.

West will lead the ♠J, taken by East's ♠A. Suppose East returns a spade. Declarer can now make 6NT. He cashes the ♠K Q, throwing a heart. Now he cashes his 4 club tricks and starts on hearts. The 4-1 break kills 6♥, but declarer can still make 6NT if East has the ♦K. Having cashed the ♥A K Q North has left: ♥6 4 and ♦3. South has: ♦A Q J. And poor East has been squeezed. He has had to keep the ♥J so only has two diamonds left: the ♦K 6. Declarer finesses his ♦Q, cashes the ♦A and the ♦J makes trick 13.

East must switch to a diamond at trick 2 to destroy the entry for the squeeze.

**HAND 4 : Dealer West, all Vulnerable**

**NORTH**

♠ K 7 6 3

♥ K 5

♦ K Q 10 7 5

♣ 9 5

**WEST**

♠ Q 9 5

♥ 8 7 6 2

♦ J 9 6 2

♣ 7 6

**EAST**

♠ -

♥ A J 10 4 3

♦ A 4 3

♣ A Q J 10 8

**SOUTH**

♠ A J 10 8 4 2

♥ Q 9

♦ 8

♣ K 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
P	1♦	2NT	3♠
P	4♠	End	

A typical wild competitive hand with North/South having a 10-card spade fit and East/West having a 9-card heart fit. East's 2NT is the UNT showing the lowest two unbid suits (note that unlike hand 1 it is a jump to 2NT). It is a strong hand and East intends to bid again. However by the time the bidding returns to him the bidding is rather high.

Note that North/South can make 4♠ because the club finesse works for them. (After East's 2NT South should get the spades right, starting by cashing the ♠A). East/West are probably one off in 4♥ (on a diamond lead) because the club finesse doesn't work for them. Suppose North had the ♠K. Now North/South would be one off in 4♠ while I would expect East/West to make 4♥. In either case one side can make 10 tricks in its chosen trump suit, while the other side can make 9 tricks. We say there are 19 total tricks, just as the law of total tricks would suggest when there are 19 total trumps.