

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ J 10 7 5 4		
♥ —		
♦ 10 7 6 4		
♣ A K J 9		
♠ 6 3 2		♠ A K Q
♥ Q 10 8 7 6 3		♥ K J 4 2
♦ 9 5		♦ A K J
♣ 4 2		♣ 8 5 3
		♠ 9 8
		♥ A 9 5
		♦ Q 8 3 2
		♣ Q 10 7 6

EW 4♥; EW 2N; NS 3♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; Par -300: NS 5♦×-2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 ♦ ²	Pass	2 N ³	Pass
3 ♦ ⁴	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

1. 8 playing tricks, unbalanced; or 21-22 balanced.
2. Relay.
3. 21-22, balanced.
4. Transfer showing 5+hearts.

Because of the prime trump support East might, at his third turn, bid 4 ♦ (advance cue bid, agreeing hearts) or 4 ♥.

On any lead but a diamond there are ten tricks with the declarer losing two clubs and the top heart. A diamond (unlikely) would allow East to discard one of dummy's club thereby bringing the trick total to eleven.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 2♥; EW 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +100: EW 3♣×-1

West	North	East	South
		1 N ¹	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2 ♦
Dbl ²	All pass		

1. 12-14.
2. Take out.

West's double shows the modern approach in that it is for takeout, not penalties. East has a good diamond holding so converts this to penalties by passing.

The defence should be able to organise six tricks - four trumps, ♣ A and ♥ K. That will convert to the magic 200 for a very good score.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ K 8 7 6
♣ 2

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 4
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 5

♠ Q J 7
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A J
♣ K J 7 4 3

♠ K 3
♥ A J 10 9 8
♦ 9 5 4 3
♣ A Q

NS 5♥; NS 3N; NS 4♦; NS 2♠; EW 2♣; Par +450

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	4♥
All pass			

1. Splinter raise, 10+hcps, 4+hearts.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

South has a bad holding opposite the splinter as ♣ Q is wasted. Further it would be better to have a few more small cards as they could easily make tricks by ruffing in the North hand. South duly signs off and as North has little extra he doesn't make another move.

South counts his loses - no spades, no hearts, up to three diamonds [if they break 3-2] and one club. The club loser is readily ruffed in dummy. It would be normal to play a diamond to the king (perhaps after ducking one round completely) but this will result in three diamond losers for +420, a normal result. The inspired/fortunate line in diamonds is to duck two rounds. The ace of diamonds beats the air and declarer loses just two tricks in the suit. A slightly far-fetched +450.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ 5 3
♦ A 9 8 6
♣ 7 4 2

♠ A 7 6 5
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 5
♣ A 10 3

♠ 2
♥ A J 7 6 4
♦ J 4 3
♣ K Q J 6

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 10
♦ K Q 10 7 2
♣ 9 8 5

EW 6♥; EW 4♣; EW 2N; Par -1430

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	3♠ ¹	Pass
4♣ ²	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠ ²	Pass	5♣ ³	Pass
6♥	All pass		

1. Splinter raise, a shortage in spades, 10+hcps and 4+hearts.
2. Ace-showing cue bid.
3. King-showing cue bid.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

In contrast to board 3 West has a very good holding opposite the advertised shortage in spades. ♠ A takes care of the expected loser in the suit and two, if not three, small cards can be ruffed in dummy. When East bids 4♥, West knows East doesn't hold ♦ A (no 4♦ bid) but he makes a further slam try by cue bidding 4♠. Now East is able to cue the king of clubs. West decides that the slam will have some play, the club honours fitting together well (reverse East's minor suit holdings and the contract is awful).

If North leads an "obvious" ♠ Q declarer will come to thirteen tricks - five trumps, ♠ A, three spade ruffs and four clubs (the diamond being thrown on dummy's fourth club). This hand is a good example of the need, when playing match points, of cashing an ace before the rats get at it. ♦ A at trick rescues *some* points for North South.

If you reached 6♥ with these cards, well done.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♣; NS 2N; NS 2♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +130

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

1. 12-14, may (as here) contain a 5card major.

North has a reasonably good spade suit so it would be all right to open 1 ♠ too. Here North chooses 1N but has another bite of the cherry and competes over East's intervention.

East leads ♦ K. North can count five losers outside the trump suit - two hearts, a diamond and two clubs. If he can play the trumps for no losers he'll make 2 ♠. If he plays the spades in normal fashion (low to ♠ K then finessing ♠ J on the way back) he'll succeed. With the spades breaking 3-3 that's +110 to North South.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 3♠; W 2N; N 2♥; EW 3♦; E 1N; S 1♥; NS 1♣; Par -140

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	All pass

East has an awkward rebid. With six diamonds it's quite feasible to rebid 2 ♦. As those diamonds aren't great (no ♦ J, say) another option is to raise the spades immediately. That works very well here and an eight card fit has been found. With the known fit and two aces West could make a try for game. Playing match points, however, a more conservative approach is in order and 2 ♠ becomes the final contract.

North could give South a diamond ruff but this is at the expense of a natural trump trick. West should come to at least nine tricks, one possibility being four spades, one heart, one diamond, ♣ A and two club ruffs.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ 10
♥ K Q 6 5 3
♦ A K J 8 6 3
♣ A

♠ A 9 5
♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ 10 9 4
♣ 9 5

♠ Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ A 4
♦ 7
♣ K 8 7 3

♠ K J 3
♥ 8
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q J 10 6 4 2

S 3N; NS 4♦; N 2N; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; Par +500:
EW 4♠x-2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠ ¹	3♥ ²	Pass	3N

All pass

- Putting on some pressure.
- Reversing values (so [16]17+).

There's something to be said for 3♥ promising 5hearts (and therefore 6diamonds as with 5/5 in the red suits North would have opened 1♥) - North could double 2♠ had he just 4hearts. That said, South has no fit for any heart contract and his choice is between 3N and 4/5♦.

3N always has eight tricks (six diamonds, ♣ A and a heart) and it might be difficult for the defence not to concede the game-going trick. If, for example, West starts with ♠ A that'll produce the ninth winner (and the tenth if the suit is continued).

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ 10 9 2
♣ K J 10

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ K 10 2
♦ 7 6
♣ 8 7 4 2

♠ A 10 8 6
♥ 3
♦ K Q J 5 4 3
♣ A Q

♠ 5
♥ A Q 8 7 6 4
♦ A 8
♣ 9 6 5 3

EW 4♠; EW 4♦; NS 2♥; EW 1N; EW 1♣; Par -420

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	4♥ ¹	Pass
4♠	All pass		

1. Splinter raise, extra values, 4+spades and a shortage in hearts.

East could show a good hand by blasting 4♠ but 4♥, pinpointing the shortage, is a more cooperative bid. West has already scraped up a response so has no interest beyond game.

Lead : ♥ 5 (low from three in partner's suit).

South will win the first trick and may continue hearts. Declarer wins (pitching ♣ Q, a potential loser) and takes, and repeats, a spade finesse. When the bad break comes to light he does best to set up the diamond suit. South wins and plays a third trump which declarer ruffs in dummy. He cashes ♠ A and plays winning diamonds. At some point the defence will ruff in with the master trump but declarer will have lost just three tricks - ♠ K, ♥ A and ♦ A.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ K 2
♥ A 10 5 3
♦ A K 3
♣ K J 4 3

♠ J 10 6 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ 10 8

♠ A 9 8 7
♥ 8 6
♦ Q 10 8 7 6
♣ 9 6

♠ Q 5 4
♥ K Q J 9
♦ 2
♣ A Q 7 5 2

NS 6N; NS 6♥; NS 6♣; NS 2♠; NS 2♦; Par +990

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 N ¹
Pass	5 ♥ ²	Pass	6 ♥

All pass

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
2. Two of the five "aces" without the queen of trumps.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

Some Souths will see the big club fit, a great hand and a shortage in diamonds and bid 3 ♦ (splinter raise of clubs) on the first round of bidding. This would be wrong as we should always show a major suit before agreeing a minor. Here South bids the hearts and is rewarded when North shows a big (18 hcp) hand with support and no shortage (failure to splinter)*.

South makes a reasonable assumption that North has a control (ace or king) in spades so uses Roman Key Card Blackwood and is quickly in slam. There is just one loser - ♠ A - and declarer can make twelve tricks in several ways - e.g. one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and five clubs; or ruffing a diamond but not making a spade.

In a sense South has forgotten to convert to 6N which will score very, very highly.

**with a 2N rebid showing 15-18, there is no use for 3N. This won't show a 19 count as we would have opened that 2N. So 3N is freed up. You could use this to show North's hand here - c. 18 hcps, four card major support and no shortage. In this way you save space for cue bidding and can also offer 3N as an alternative contract.*

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ 10 3
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ 10 9 7

♠ 9 7
♥ K Q J 9 7
♦ Q 6
♣ K 4 3 2

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ A J 4 2
♣ Q 8

♠ A K 4
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ A J 6 5

EW 2♥; EW 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♣; Par -110

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		

1. Cue bid showing 10+ and 3+card heart support. Borderline as ♣ Q is a dubious card.

East gives West a little nudge but the latter has no game interest and retreats quietly to his suit. The defence does best to lead a trump or to switch to one having taken a top spade. In this way declarer will only be able to ruff one club in dummy. Declarer should lose two spades, a diamond, and two clubs. This will translate to a reasonable +110 to East West.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5♠; EW 3N; NS 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1♥; Par -450

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl ¹
2♦ ²	3♦	4♠	All pass

1. Takeout, usually (as here) with 4hearts.
2. Cue bid agreeing spades (10+hcps, 3+trumps).

Lead : ♦ 4.

Declarer can win and draw trumps in two rounds. As they break 2-2 he can ruff both club losers and come to a painless eleven tricks - five trumps, ♦ A, three top clubs and two club ruffs.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♥; EW 2N; EW 3♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♣; Par +300: EW 4N×-2;
EW 5♦×-2

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	All pass	

The preempt should steal the contract with neither East nor West having the right hand type to come in. East has a difficult lead and does best to lead a minor (a spade allows declarer to run it to ♠ Q). On a minor suit lead declarer will lose three tricks - a spade, a heart and a diamond. 4♥ made.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2N; NS 3♦; NS 1♠; Par +620

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 N	Pass	2 N ¹
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. 17-18, invitational to game.

North has a maximum for his initial 1N so knows game will be reached once South shows extra. Note that, with North unable to bid a suit at the one level, that hand is marked with 4/5 clubs.

Lead : ♦ 2 (a pedestrian 4th best).

Declarer counts seven top tricks - one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and a club. He'll need two more to make game and shouldn't forget about making overtricks (it's match points, after all). The hearts may break 3-3 but we don't need to play that suit early. The club suit is where we should look to generate extra tricks. We can take a *double finesse* in the suit to make three tricks. This will work if the outstanding honours are split between the two hands or East has them both. So we win the opening lead in dummy and run ♣ J. It loses, a diamond comes back. We may duck that (general principle of seeking to cut the defence's communication) and win the third round. We play another club. ♣ Q pops up and we have our three club winners. When the hearts do break 3-3 we have ten tricks.

Can the defence do better? Yes, if West leads a spade. Now East West can come to four spades and a club. That lead is not obvious though there is something to be said for leading one of the majors. The opponents have shown no interest in them though the auction conceals any four card major South may hold.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

7thOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

W 6♣; EW 5N; E 5♣; EW 3♠; EW 2♥; EW 2♦; Par -920

West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	Pass
3 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 N	All pass

1. Splinter raise. Shortage in hearts, big club fit and 12+hcps.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

West's splinter coincides with the suit in which partner has a very good holding so East's 3N rebid is automatic. This may steer South away from (an unproductive) heart lead and he may start with ♦ 7 (2nd from a bad suit). That's a good(ish) start for the defence. Declarer can win in hand and run ♠ Q. North wins but cannot return a diamond. He may switch to a heart but that has the effect of building declarer's eleventh trick - two spades, one heart, two diamonds and six clubs.