

# 3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

With the exception of the four hands highlighted as being a practice of last week's workshop, the deals have been selected from last Friday's Northamptonshire Inter-Club match between Stamford A and Stamford B.

## Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; N 3♥; NS 2♠; S 2♥; NS 3♣; Par +400

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3 ♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3 N <sup>5</sup>

All pass

1. With a touching 4441 hand, opens the middle suit.
2. Usually 5+diamonds and 4+clubs. With the awkward 4441 hand, this is the exception where the suit lengths are only 4/4.
3. Fourth suit forcing.
4. Natural, so North is 0454 or the actual 1444 shape.
5. ... but perhaps hoping there's no spade lead (5 ♦ may be playable).

Lead: ♥ 5.

It's often right to lead the fourth suit but that doesn't do declarer any harm here (with the spades breaking 4-4, even a spade lead cannot defeat the contract). East can do a Rule of Eleven calculation and soon realises that the lead is not logically consistent with a fourth best lead. Taking 5 from 11 gets us to 6 and dummy and East's hand, before considering declarer's hand, already contain 7 cards higher than ♥ 5. It looks as if West has led top of a doubleton. East's best shot is to win ♥ K and fire back a fourth best ♠ 2. With the diamond suit breaking 3-2 there are ten tricks. A spade lead would have held the contract to nine tricks as declarer would only have been able to knock out ♥ K when the defence had established three winners there.

# 3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

## Board 2

East Deals  
N-S Vul

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

NS 2♠; NS 3♦; NS 1N; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +110

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 N	Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>
1. 12-14.		All pass	

[Follow up to last week's workshop]


Lead: ♥ 7.

East stares intently at the lead and calculates, on a Rule of Eleven basis, that  $11 - 7 = 4$ . He counts dummy's ♥ Q8 and his own ♥ A10 as cards higher than the opening lead. With those cards totalling 4 there is no room for declarer to have a card higher than ♥ 7. On that basis East can play ♥ 10 *with impunity* knowing, for sure, that it will hold the trick (this, of course, is on the assumption that the lead *was* a standard fourth best one). With West holding a five card suit the defence quickly comes to five tricks to defeat the contract (East continues with the top-of-a-doubleton [and unblocking] ♥ A followed by ♥ 3). With ♠ A to come the contract will be limited to seven tricks.

If East wrongly wins trick one with ♥ A the contract is still defeated provided East continues the heart suit. It will, however, only result in a one trick defeat.

**Board 3**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; Par -120

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 N	All pass		

1. 10-12, 4+diamonds ("limit raise").

**[Follow up to last week's workshop]**

North leads a fourth best ♥ 6 and using the Rule of Eleven allows South to calculate that declarer has one card higher than the opening lead (11-6 = 5; dummy has 2 cards higher; South has 2). Declarer will always make two tricks unless North has underlead both ♥ K and ♥ J. The critical case is demonstrated in the actual layout where West has the king of hearts. With dummy's ♥ 10 being a promotable card it's important that South plays ♥ 9 on the first round (after declarer has called for ♥ 4). Now declarer is restricted to two hearts. If South wrongly plays ♥ Q declarer can make three hearts by finessing against North's ♥ J. That would be fatal as declarer can now make three spades (after taking a losing finesse), three hearts and three clubs.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

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

♠ Q 5  
♥ A 10 4  
♦ J 9 4 2  
♣ Q 9 7 2

♠ A J 10  
♥ J 9 7 6 2  
♦ K 7  
♣ K 6 3

EW 3N; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; Par -600

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	1 N	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	All pass

1. Shows "false preference" (i.e. has a shorter holding) for spades. Generally 5-2 fits are safer than 4-3 ones. The problem with the latter is the possibility of the defence leading a side suit, forcing declarer to ruff in the longer trump hand. Now an expected 4-2 trump break could cause a problem as declarer may lose control of the hand.

Lead: ♦ 6.

At the table dummy played low and South played ♦ K\*, taken by declarer with the ace. A diamond was fired back to establish ♦ J as a winner. North became too active switching to a club such that ♣ K was taken with the ace and dummy's ♣ Q established. West played on trumps and in the fullness of time could discard two hearts on the promoted ♦ J and ♣ Q (West was able to run ♣ 10 through North's ♣ J). With ♥ K falling under dummy's ace that was an improbable +170 to East West. Hopefully, East West, your defence was better (than mine).

\*notice that if South can read ♦ 6 as fourth best he can play ♦ 7! That's because, using the Rule of Eleven, declarer is marked with one card higher than ♦ 6. That card must be ♦ A because North would *not have underled a side-suit ace against a trump contract at trick one*. If West had foreseen this possibility he would have done better to play dummy's ♦ 9. That would force South to play the king and declarer could again lead towards dummy's ♦ J.

**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 6♥; W 5N; E 3N; EW 3♦; W 2♣; EW 1♠; E 1♣; Par -980

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass <sup>3</sup>	2N	Pass
3♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
4N <sup>6</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass
6♥ <sup>8</sup>	All pass		

1. Taking it slowly.
2. Fourth suit forcing.
3. Might double for the lead.
4. Game forcing after using fourth suit before agreeing a suit.
5. Ace-showing cue bid.
6. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
7. Two of the five "aces", no queen of trumps.
8. Might try for 7♥ by bidding 5N, asking for specific kings.

There will be many routes to this cold (i.e. unbeatable) small slam. With the trumps breaking 2-1 (expected 78% of the time) it's just a matter of taking three ruffs in one hand. Declarer can either ruff two diamonds and a spade in the West hand or ruff three clubs in the East had. That means the trump suit provides eight winners (five trumps and three ruffs opposite) to go with the four top winners in the side-suits - ♠ A, ♦ AK and ♣ A.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 7♥; EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; Par -2210

West	North	East	South
		1N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

1. 12-14.
2. Stayman.

West can safely use Stayman here. If East denies a major by bidding 2♦ he can jump to 3♥ to show five hearts and this type of hand. Alternatively West could go a transfer route : 1N - 2♦; 2♥ - 2♠ (natural and forcing); 3♥ - 4♥, all pass.

Declarer is unlikely to pick up the queen of trumps but might make twelve tricks if he guesses which way to take the two-way spade finesse. It's possible to ruff a club and the fourth spade in dummy.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

				♠ K 9 8								
				♥ J 8 7								
				♦ K 7 6								
				♣ A 9 7 6								
♠ Q J 7 6 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"><div>N</div><div>W   S   E</div><div>S</div></div>			♠ A 10 3 2								
♥ A Q 10				♥ 5 4 3								
♦ Q 4				♦ A 10 5 3 2								
♣ Q 3 2				♣ J								
				♠ 5								
				♥ K 9 6 2								
				♦ J 9 8								
				♣ K 10 8 5 4								
EW 4♠; EW 2N; EW 3♦; NS 2♣; N 1♥; Par -620												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass									
♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass									

Lead: ♥ 7.

This is a game that is difficult to reach but is possible, especially if East West are aficionados of the Losing Trick Count ("LTC"). It's not a particularly good game. One of the problems of the familiar 4-3-2-1 point count is that it devalues aces (and, to some extent, kings). In a modified form of the LTC a player takes into account the difference between the number of aces and queens held. For each difference of one, half a loser is deducted. Are you following this? Thus East has a raw LTC count of eight but as he has two aces and no queens he can deduct one more loser. So he has 7 losers and, with opener purporting to have at most 7 losers, that means East can contract for game. With the spade finesse holding, declarer can play on diamonds, leading ♦ 2 towards ♦ Q. Although this loses to ♦ K the 3-3 suit break means the suit can be set up. Declarer loses one heart, one diamond and one club.

Using a point count approach to bidding is less likely to get the partnership to game. 1 ♠ - 3 ♠; pass seems sensible. West holds four queens, the minor suit ones being unsupported. A yucky thirteen count.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

				♠ A 8 3								
				♥ A 3								
				♦ Q 9 7 2								
				♣ A 6 5 2								
♠ Q 10 2	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"><div>N</div><div>W   S   E</div><div>S</div></div>			♠ K J 9 7								
♥ K 8 5				♥ J 7 6 4 2								
♦ J 8 5				♦ 6 3								
♣ K J 10 3				♣ 9 7								
				♠ 6 5 4								
				♥ Q 10 9								
				♦ A K 10 4								
				♣ Q 8 4								
NS 2N; NS 3♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +120												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 N <sup>2</sup>									
Pass	3 N	All pass										
1. 12-14. 2. Invitational to 3N. No major suit interest.												

**[Follow up to last week's workshop]**

Lead: ♥ 4.

Declarer calls for dummy's ♥ 9 and West makes a Rule of Eleven calculation. 11-4 = 7 and all of West and South's cards are bigger than this. That leaves North with one higher card. Declarer will always make at least one heart and the critical position is when North holds ♥ A. Now West's playing of ♥ K would be a disaster as it allows North to win and finesse ♥ 10 to create three heart winners. West should appreciate that dummy's ♥ Q is promotable and play ♥ 5, effectively ducking! Declarer has two heart tricks but shouldn't make a third. When North plays a club towards ♣ Q he is not rewarded and there are just eight tricks.

**Board 9**  
North Deals  
E-W Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 4♦; NS 3♣; Par +200: EW 5♦×-1; EW 5♥×-1

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	2♠
4♥	4♠	All pass	

1. c. 6-10, 6hearts ( a "weak two").

A good hand on which to illustrate the lack of certainty in bridge. West leads ♦ A and he might crash partner's ♦ Q if he continues with a second top diamond. That's not fatal as long as he cashes ♥ A at trick three (he knows South has only one heart [putting partner with six] and that could be discarded on ♦ J). Declarer gets to draw trumps and plays on clubs. He leads ♣ Q and runs it. It holds but now he has a guess as to whether to continue with ♣ J (correct if East started with ♣ 102 as ♣ 10 is now pinned) or to play a low club, playing West to have started with ♣ K7 (the king now falling, promoting declarer's ♣ J). What if West covers the first club with ♣ K? Now declarer has a different dilemma - whether to cash ♣ J to cater for West having started with ♣ K10 doubleton or whether to play East to hold ♣ 10 and finesse ♣ 9. Decisions. Decisions.

But can declarer do better? Yes! Declarer can (hopefully) assume that East has six hearts. He'll also know, after drawing trumps, that East has three trumps and he can also be counted for two diamonds (ruffing a diamond back to hand will definitively reveal the 6-2 break). That means East started with a doubleton club and, given the above, the only way to play the hand is to assume that East started with ♣ 10.

Has everything been said? No! If 4♠ "always" makes then there's something to be said for East West bidding on to 5♥ though the vulnerability may preclude this. South will cash ♠ A and North will follow with a suit preference ♠ 3 (low card asking for a club switch). South dutifully plays ♣ Q and declarer will always be defeated - by one trick if he picks up ♥ Q, else two. If 5♥ isn't doubled it'll be cheap whatever happens.

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; EW 5♣; EW 3♦; NS 1N; Par -200: NS 5♥×-1;

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

Who needs points? With 6-6 distribution East will be quickly propelled to the five level. That's a good decision as 4♥ will make provided declarer plays West to hold ♥ Q (reasonable if East shows massive minor suit distribution). 5♣ can be made but seems a little far-fetched. It requires declarer to finesse ♦ J and to run ♣ 10. So it probably won't make but it isn't likely to be doubled either. With wild distribution those defensive tricks seem to melt away so North will be reluctant to reach for the red card.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

	♠ K 3	
	♥ K 10 8 4	
	♦ 8 7 5 2	
	♣ Q 9 3	
♠ Q 10 4		♠ 9 8 2
♥ Q 9 3		♥ A J 7 2
♦ Q 9 6		♦ J 10 4 3
♣ K 10 5 2		♣ 8 7
	♠ A J 7 6 5	
	♥ 6 5	
	♦ A K	
	♣ A J 6 4	
West	North	East
		South
		1 ♠
Pass	1 N	Pass
Pass	3 N	All pass

**[Follow up to last week's workshop]**

East leads a fourth best ♥ 2. On that assumption (of a 4th best lead), West knows declarer has a reasonable holding in the suit (a suit of the four cards he's known to hold from a 11-2 = 9 calculation). Dummy has no promotable card so West plays ♥ Q and declarer wins to play ♠ K and a finesse of ♠ J. That loses and West pushes back a (now) top-of-a-doubleton ♥ 9, covered with ♥ 10 and won by East's ♥ J. East exits with a neutral diamond and declarer cashes dummy's three spade winners, throwing diamonds, and plays ♣ A and another club. West rises with ♣ K and is able to play ♥ 3. North's ♥ 84 are trapped in the jaws of East's ♥ A7. One down and well defended.

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

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	♠ K Q 10 7 6	
	♥ A 3 2	
	♦ 4	
	♣ K Q J 8	
♠ A 5 2		♠ J 4
♥ 8 4		♥ 6
♦ A Q 10 5 3		♦ K J 8 7 6 2
♣ 9 5 2		♣ A 10 7 3
	♠ 9 8 3	
	♥ K Q J 10 9 7 5	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 6 4	
NS 4♥; NS 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par +300: EW 5♦ ×-2		
West	North	East
		South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
5 ♦	Dbl	All pass

When South leaps to game like this it's best to play him to have this sort of hand - preemptive in terms of values but with lots of playing potential because the suit is of quality. That might be the clue as to what North does over West's bounce to 5 ♦. If South has the hand type as shown then it would be good to play for that hand being aceless. As such North knows that 5 ♥ won't make because of those cashing bullets. The winning decision is to double and take the money (difficult to do when the upside of a making 5 ♥ would be +650). Yes, +300 is the limit for North South. East loses one spade, one heart and two clubs.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 2♣; EW 1♦; Par +630

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

North might open 1N in which case the contract is likely to be 3N, South eschewing the use of Stayman with such a flat hand. Here North sensibly raises the spade suit with good three card support and a worthless doubleton. South is able to return to hearts lest partner's raise was made with a trebleton.

West leads ♦ 5, in response to the overcall, and declarer wins to draw three rounds of trumps ending in the dummy. A finesse of the ♠ J is not successful and the defence plays two more rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing the second. North tests the spades for a 3-3 break but that doesn't happen. There may still be two club losers so declarer generally is hoping that West has ♣ K, in which case ♣ Q is promoted. He carefully cashes ♣ A (just in case ♣ K was singleton) and leads a club from dummy. The luck is in and North South have their +620.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

3rdJune2015 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 6♦; EW 5♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; NS 3♣; Par -800; NS 7♣x-4

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	2 N <sup>1</sup>	Dbl <sup>2</sup>	3 ♣ <sup>3</sup>
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♣
Dbl	All pass		

1. Unusual two no trumps - showing 5+/5+ in the unbid suits (so clubs and hearts).
2. Extra values.
3. Bidding time (interested in sacrificing but only if the opponents reach game).

It would be a little churlish to say that East West have missed the boat in that 6♦ is always making, with the spade suit providing a discard of East's heart loser. They might compete to 5♠ in the auction and that will be successful and give them +450/+480 (the former the result if North leads a heart as South now gets a ruff after North is in with the top trump). South's bidding here is canny in that he's prepared to sacrifice in 5♣ (i.e. play in a non-making contract when he expects the penalty to be less than allowing the opponents to play in their contract). He doesn't make that decision until East West get to the game level. There is a counter-argument suggesting that South blasts 5♣ on the second round of bidding as that takes away much of the opponents' bidding space and may make reaching slam more difficult. Bridge, eh? More decisions.

5♣ plays well for the sacrificers and should only lose four tricks (-300), those tricks being a heart, two diamonds and a club.