

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5N; EW 5♠; W 2♥; EW 3♣; EW 2♦; E 1♥; Par -460			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
5 ♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5 ♠ <sup>4</sup>	All pass
1. Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB").			
2. 0 or 3 of the 5 "aces".			
3. Do you have ♠ Q?			
4. No.			

**[Follow-up on last week's workshop]**

When East bids 5 ♦ West knows his partner has three aces - three aces sum to 12 hcps and West has 14 hcps. Those two together equal 26 hcps which, if East were not to hold an ace, would give East 14 hcps as a maximum - insufficient for his leap to game (c. a balanced 18 count). Going through this logically can be very useful.

West knows the partnership is missing one of the five key cards but will still want to be in slam if partner can provide the queen of trump. On asking, he finds this is missing and signs off at the five level. The five level is uncomfortable but West has done all he can to investigate slam.

With four trumps outstanding, they will break 2-2 40% of the time. That would allow the slam to roll in but, here, the more normal 3-1 break (50% chance) scuppers the idea of a twelfth trick. (For completeness, four cards will break 4-0 the remaining 10% of the time.)

**Board 2**

East Deals  
N-S Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4♦; EW 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♣; Par -130			
West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
4 ♦	All pass		

Lead: ♠ A.

With dummy holding a singleton spade North can make a suit preference signal. He plays ♠ 4, a low card asking partner to switch to the lower remaining side suit, clubs. Declarer wins the club switch but can now make eleven tricks with careful play. ♥ K is led from dummy, North winning. North switches to a trump and declarer can now cross ruff to make eleven tricks - six diamonds, one heart, one club and three spade ruffs. It was fortunate that North didn't have a second club.

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

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs  
 ♠ Q 6  
 ♥ Q 8 6 4 2  
 ♦ A J 7 4  
 ♣ 7 3

♠ J 10 9 7  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ K 10 9 8 3 2  
 ♣ 9 8

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

♠ A K 4  
 ♥ A K 7 5 3  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ K Q J 5

NS 6♥; NS 5N; N 3♠; S 2♠; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +980

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

1. RKCB.
2. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".
3. Do you have the queen of trumps?
4. Yes, but no side suit king.

**[Follow-up on last week's workshop]**

Once North shows a limit raise of hearts South is interested in slam. He uses RKCB and knows partner holds one ace (as holding four is both inconsistent with the number of key cards in South's hand and with the 10-12 hcps shown by the limit raise). He knows slam is a good shot provided partner has the queen of trumps. Partner shows that card and the slam is reached. North's bid means there should be sufficient values or shape in that hand to ensure there are winners to cover ♠ 4 and ♣ 5, cards that are likely losers.

West leads ♠ J. Declarer wins, draws trumps and knocks out ♣ A. South may have used a top club to drive out ♣ A but the small club can be ruffed in dummy.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs  
 ♠ 5 4 2  
 ♥ K Q J 7 5  
 ♦ A 8  
 ♣ 9 8 3

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

♠ 9 7 6  
 ♥ 10 8 6 4  
 ♦ K 9 7 4  
 ♣ K 4

♠ A J 10  
 ♥ A 3 2  
 ♦ Q 6 3 2  
 ♣ A 10 5

NS 3N; NS 3♥; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +600

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

1. 15-16.

This represents a sequence to the top spot. If North tries to find a 5-3 heart fit (for example, by bidding a false suit [with a 2♣ bid] to check back for heart support, that fit will come to light but the major suit game is doomed. Even if the defence isn't ideal there are only nine tricks - five trumps, one spade, two diamonds and a club.

In 3N declarer has a chance but has to be careful. West gets off to the best lead of ♣ 6 (4th highest) which goes to ♣ K, ducked. East returns a club, ducked again, and South wins the third club. South knows West has two further clubs to cash if he gets in. West is therefore the danger hand and must be kept off lead. Declarer can either hope East started with both ♠ K and ♠ Q or with ♦ K. A quarter of the time East will hold both spade honours but will hold ♦ K half the time. This means we should favour the latter course. Declarer plays a diamond to the ace and a second diamond off the table. ♦ Q has been converted into a winner.

One spade, five hearts, two diamonds and a club - nine tricks and game for North South.

**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♠; NS 3N; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +500: EW 5♣×-3

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

1. 12-14.

2. Transfer showing 5+spades.

This is the standard bidding sequence if playing a change of suit by responder as forcing for one round. If playing this (3 ♦) as game forcing South doesn't have enough for 3 ♦ and would have to bid 2N, invitational, over 2 ♠. With a maximum North would raise to game and the same contract would be reached.

East has an awkward lead and may choose a top-of-a-doubleton ♥ 6. Declarer may play low in dummy. West wins but ♥ Q has been built as a trick for declarer. Trumps are drawn and the ace of clubs knocked out. Declarer has five trumps, two hearts and two clubs. The game-going trick comes from the diamond suit. With declarer having to lead towards the king knave combination it's a straight guess as to what you play (No, East, don't take the guess away by rising with the ace). Provided this is the contract throughout the room we would expect half the room to succeed and half to fail. We shall see.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 2♥; NS 3♣; E 1N; NS 2♦; Par +110

West	North	East	South
		1 N <sup>1</sup>	Dbl
Pass	2 ♣	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	Pass

3 ♥ All pass

1. 12-14.

South is borderline for his double but it will make for an interesting auction. North will take the double out but be willing to use his shape to compete to the 3level. That will give West a problem. If he bids to 3 ♥ (as above) he'll have to hope that, if it doesn't make, it won't be doubled; and, further, if it doesn't make, that 3 ♣ does (else he's done the wrong thing). Decisions.

With East holding king doubleton club North will make his contract. With the diamonds breaking 3-3 it doesn't matter whether he risks a finesse of ♥ Q. In 3 ♥, provided South doesn't start with a disastrous ♣ A, the defence will prevail. They'll take two hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

Expect a wide range of results on this hand.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

  

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

  

NS 4♥; EW 2♠; EW 2♣; EW 1♦; Par +500: EW 4♠×-2

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

1. Weak, 6hearts and c. 5-9 hcps.

The weak two opening is disruptive enough but when it is raised to game it really comes into its own. Forgive East if he made the wrong decision here. When North bids 4♥ it's two-way : it could have been made with few points but good trump support and distribution; or it could be, as here, a raise to game based on high expectation of it making. Here North has the latter reason for the raise. The times when East has done the right thing are when partner has a relatively balanced hand with values.

If East does bid 4♠ North will quickly show which hand type he had. 4♠ will fail by two tricks provided South receives his club ruff. That may seem disappointing to East but check the vulnerability. At worst East West concede 500 but 4♥ would have made for +620 to North South. East's bold intervention has worked.

What North shouldn't do is guess to bid on to 5♥. In these types of situation (whether to bid on) the more balanced the hand the better it is to defend. Moving to 5♥ will give North South very few match points as it fails.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

  

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

  

NS 6♠; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♥; EW 1♣; Par +980

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

1. Splinter raise of spades - 4+trumps, 0-1clubs and c. 10 hcps.
2. RKCB.
3. 2 of the 5 "aces" without ♠ Q.

**[Follow-up on last week's workshop]**

Our, old friend, the splinter bid, makes an appearance. Holding a shortage in clubs too, North will be a little surprised by this development. North doesn't have the greatest hand opposite the shortage (he would prefer a few small clubs, losers that could be easily ruffed) but the shape of his hand merits using 4N, RKCB. The bid is not without risk because if South has no aces the defence has three winners. All is well when partner shows two aces. As we know we are missing one ace (and are sure of the near solidity of the trump suit) we quickly jump to 6♠.

If the defence doesn't lead a heart declarer can make all the tricks by ruffing out the diamonds. This suit will provide four discards, allowing all the hearts to be thrown.

Sometimes you want a bit more stuffing but, here, if West doubles the 5♥ RKCB response, it would attract the heart lead and save some match points.

North Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ AKQ  
 ♥ AQ43  
 ♦ J1092  
 ♣ 32

♠ J1093  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ AKQJ8

♠ 65  
 ♥ KJ1097  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ 10965

♠ 8742  
 ♥ 62  
 ♦ AKQ43  
 ♣ 74

*West*      *North*      *East*      *South*

1. On an aggressive heart lead (♥ J) - 10 (three spades, two hearts and five diamonds)
2. On a passive club lead (♣ 10) - 8 (the defence cashes five tricks but then we have our winners)

Those who play in diamonds will make +130, losing two clubs and a heart when the finesse of ♥ Q fails.

East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ 10 7 5 4  
 ♥ A 3  
 ♦ J 9 7 3 2  
 ♣ A 4

♠ K Q 8  
 ♥ J 9 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 6 5  
 ♣ 10 8

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

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

West North East South

5 <sup>2</sup>      Pass      5       All pass

1. RKCB.
2. 0 or 3 of the 5 "aces".

*[Follow-up on last week's workshop]*

East is only interested in two cards, ♥ A and ♣ A. Here 5 ♦ reveals West's paucity of aces and the contract rests at the 5level. As said before, the 5level is an uncomfortable place but, on this deal, declarer can be very confident of making eleven tricks. There is indeed nothing to the play, a simple case of knocking out the ace of trumps, drawing the other one, and conceding a club to the ace.

A good example for looking on Blackwood (of whatever form) as a way of *staying out of slam*, not for getting there.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

♠ A 8 7 2  
 ♥ A K 7 5  
 ♦ 10 8 5  
 ♣ 9 4

♠ Q 9 6  
 ♥ J 9 8 6 4 3 2  
 ♦ A 9 6  
 ♣ —

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

EW 5♥; NS 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♠; Par -300: NS 6♣x-2			
West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Dbl	3 ♣	4 ♥	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	All pass

North, at his first turn, might bid 1 ♠ but bidding 3 ♣ (preemptive after a takeout double) takes up more bidding space and could make the auction more difficult for the opponents.

East has an easy blast to 4 ♥ but his decision is very difficult over South's clear bid of 5 ♣. He has a seventh heart (the jump to 4 ♥ will have shown at least six cards) and a void in clubs so 5 ♥ is tempting. Further if it fails it won't fail by much (and maybe 5 ♣ is making). Even if 5 ♥ is technically wrong it may get North South to bid on to 6 ♣ over which East West, having done enough, can double.

5 ♣ fails by one trick and it looks as if 5 ♥ will, in practice, fail by one trick too. In 5 ♥ it's just possible to organise the play so that either South can win two diamonds but then give an eleventh trick via a ruff and discard; or North is exhausted of diamonds and declarer can either build a third spade (look at the pips) or has to give a similar ruff and discard.

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

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

♠ J 7 6  
 ♥ K 9 3  
 ♦ Q 6 2  
 ♣ 7 5 3 2

♠ A Q 10 9 3  
 ♥ 10 4  
 ♦ A K 10 5  
 ♣ K Q

NS 5♥; NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +650			
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			
1. Weak - 6hearts and 5-9 hcps.			

South doesn't have the trump length that North had on board 7 but he has a similar raise to game based on values and knowing of the eight card fit.

With the diamond finesse working there should be eleven tricks with declarer losing only the two top trumps (four hearts, four diamonds and three clubs). Though ♣ 10 becomes a winner when ♣ J falls in three rounds, it's not needed.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

♠ 8 7  
♥ A 9 8 4  
♦ 9 8 7  
♣ 10 7 5 2

NS 5♥; NS 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; EW 1N; Par +500: EW 5♠×-2

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

1. Useful bid that allows East to know if there is a secondary fit.
2. Offering partner a choice of contracts.
3. Buoyed by partner's club bid (fitting ♣ K).

More fireworks sees both sides willing to bid to the five level because of the extra distribution that both sides hold (yes, East and South have two flat hands but North and West are the drivers of these auctions with their 7/4 and 6/5 shapes respectively).

The best that North South can do on defence is to take 5♠ two off. This can be achieved by cashing ♣ A and switching to a heart. North knows South has four hearts (for the raise to 3♥) so can switch to ♥ 2, using that as suit preference to emphasise that he wants a club ruff. This heart play is perfectly safe. Declarer is marked with a singleton heart (at most). If it's the ace so be it. So South wins and gives North the club ruff. That's +300 to North South.

North's thoughtful 5♦ would have been a successful contract provided declarer starts with a top heart from hand. Then a finesse can be taken against East's ♥ 10. It's possible to make 5♥ but the 4-1 break makes it very difficult.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

4thNovember2015 SupervisedPairs

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

♠ A Q 7 5  
♥ Q 10  
♦ 2  
♣ A K Q J 10 7

♠ K 9 8 3  
♥ 5 3  
♦ K 10 9 8 5 3  
♣ 9

♠ 2  
♥ A J 8 6 4  
♦ A J 7 4  
♣ 8 6 4

EW 3♠; NS 3♥; EW 3♣; EW 2♦; Par -100: NS 4♥×-1

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>
2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

1. Light (see text).

It's far from obvious that South will open. But if he does it makes the auction potentially more difficult for East West. As it is, West copes admirably. When he introduces the spade suit he is known to have extra values. It could be called an overcaller's reverse (if partner is to support overcaller's first suit, he's committed to doing so at the three level). As it is East can make a gentle raise and West will bid the game.

With North South bidding hearts it shouldn't be difficult for them to lead two rounds of the suit. After this start it's unfortunate for East West as the good game fails on the 4-1 trump break. If the North South don't take their hearts declarer may prevail as a heart can be ruffed in dummy.