

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 3N; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; NS 3♦; NS 1♠; Par +400

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

1. 12-14.

2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.

It's difficult, in practice, seeing declarer make more than eight tricks. East may start with a top-of-a-sequence, and neutral, ♠ 10. That's a good start for the defence. Declarer wins in dummy and could duck a club all round. A spade comes back, perhaps ducked. When declarer does take the lead with a spade he crosses to ♣ A and plays a diamond. This is a good time for West to follow the whist dictum of "second hand plays low". When West does play low declarer will probably put in ♦ 8 (playing West for ♦ 10). That loses to East's lowly ten of diamonds but, in time, declarer should be able to build a second diamond trick - two spades, one heart, two diamonds and, when they break 3-3, three club tricks. Eight tricks for declarer.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

E 4♠×-1

West	North	East	South
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		Pass	1 ♦
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1 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
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3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♣
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Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
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Dbl	All pass		
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This is a good spirited auction that demonstrates that distribution is important in bidding up to high levels where the lack of high card points alone wouldn't justify such bidding. Without the defensive club holding West would be reluctant to double the final contract. After cashing a top spade West does best to switch to a trump. This kills declarer's ability to ruff clubs in dummy. Now declarer is held to ten tricks. He makes seven diamonds and three clubs. Had East held one club fewer (but with ♣ J) the trump switch (or lead at trick one) would have been vital in defeating the contract.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 4♠; NS 2♥; EW 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +420			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♥ ¹
4 ♣	All pass		

1. (9)10+hcps, 5+hearts (contrast with West's heart-showing double on Board 5).

West raises preemptively to 4 ♣ and North may feel reluctant to bid 4 ♥ with his poor 3card support and minimum opening bid. That's OK as 4 ♥ does not make*. Provided the defence takes its two spade tricks 4 ♣ should fail by one trick - two spades, one heart and one diamond. East's two additional diamond losers can be ruffed in dummy (one can, instead, be thrown on ♥ Q).

*4 ♠ can make but it will take some inspiration. As a minimum declarer will need to play a diamond to the queen and duck on the way back. Now ♦ A beats the air and the king is promoted.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

1. 12-14.

With 12 high card points East is quite heavy for his 3 ♣ bid. That said, he has no spade stop. Were he to ask for such a stop (with a bid of 3 ♠) partner would be forced to bid at the 4level as a denial. Somewhat fortunately for East that bid would have been 4 ♣. But 3 ♣ is safer and that's where the auction rests.

From East's point of view he has four losers - two spades, one heart, one diamond and no clubs. The heart loser can be ruffed in dummy so East will make ten tricks for a score of plus 130. Any East West pair punting 3N (but why?) ought to get its just desserts (were North to pass over 1N that might be a bidding coup). North has an obvious spade lead and North South will take five spades (no ♠ 3, "4th best", lead please) and ♦ A for a score of plus 200. That would be a top for North South.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

West	North	East	South
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	Pass	1♦	1♠
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Db1 ¹	2♠	3♥	3♠
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All pass

1. Promising 4hearts (or a moderate hand with 5+hearts).

East's 3♥ bid is a bit of a stretch but, in competitive auctions, West should realise that partner may not be full value for the bid. With a little extra East would bid 4♥ to take the pressure of West having to make an awkward decision. Note that East can freely bid hearts because West's earlier takeout double promises hearts (think of the double as saying "I would have bid 1♥ had South passed").

West does well not to bid 4♥. 3♠ is a normal competitive action with six spades. North South are known to have a nine card fit (after North's raise) so South follow the competitive path of bidding to a level consistent with number of trumps held. 3♠ will fail by one trick with East West taking three clubs, one heart and one spade.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 2♠; EW 3♦; S 3♣; N 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -100; S 4♣×-1

West	North	East	South
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		Pass	Pass
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4♠	All pass		
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4♠ is the practical bid with the West hand. After partner has passed initially, slam is unlikely and the strength of the hand gives 4♠ some play. It would be quite normal for North to lay down ♦A. That doesn't work well here as it builds two diamond winners for declarer very quickly. In fact after that start North has to be sharp to defeat the contract. A spade switch is required. Now declarer is unable both to ruff a club and discard the other club on the ace of hearts. With the trump switch West is left with two club losers (to go with ♠A and ♦A) and ♥A is left stranded and uncashable in dummy.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

E 4N; EW 4♦; W 2N; EW 2♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par -630

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 N ¹	Pass	3 N	All pass

1. 15-16.

A simple auction to the normal spot. North may not know it but he has a critical lead to make. Get this right and the contract will fail. He'll probably rule out a spade lead (suit bid by dummy) and a diamond (a singleton lead being highly speculative). That leaves the choice between a heart and a club. The heart is the aggressive lead but works poorly. Declarer wins (♥ J or ♥ Q) and can play winning diamonds. He will also have the luxury of trying to make a spade trick. There will be at least nine tricks - one spade, two hearts, five diamonds and a club.

No, the winning lead is a passive club. The club works because of the quality of South's suit combined with West holding a doubleton. North South always have communication in the suit.

A good advert for passive leads.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

S 6N; NS 6♦; N 5N; NS 5♥; N 3♠; NS 4♣; S 2♠; Par +990


West	North	East	South
Pass	2 N ¹	Pass	3 N

All pass
1. 19-20, balanced.

South's diamond suit will be a great source of tricks so declarer can make twelve tricks. It's important not to think about what happens if some tables reach slam as it's never possible to score as well as those tables. That said, declarer should try to beat all other declarers who play in 3N by seeking to take the maximum number of tricks. To some extent that's dependent on the lead. A little like the previous hand, East does best to start with a passive club lead. Declarer will play low (hoping East has underled ♣ K) and now the defence will take two tricks since one diamond must be conceded to set up the five winners. On any other lead declarer can, again, set up the diamonds and take winning heart finesses to make twelve tricks (e.g. two spades, four hearts, five diamonds and a club).

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul


5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

<p> ♠ A 9 8 4 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ J ♣ K Q J 10 2 </p>			
<p> ♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ 3 </p>		<p> ♠ K 5 ♥ 10 6 3 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ A 9 8 5 4 </p>	
<p> ♠ 10 6 3 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ K Q 10 8 2 ♣ 7 6 </p>			
<p>NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +120</p>			
West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 N
Pass	2 N	All pass	

With the singleton in partner's suit it would have been wiser for North to pass 1N and not issue an invitation to the no trump game. Declarer will struggle to make eight tricks because the defence can keep declarer away from the diamond winners. Once ♦ A is taken the defence should never play a diamond again. Declarer may try to force an entry to the diamonds by playing ♥ Q from dummy but West should see through this ruse and duck (i.e. not take ♥ K). With clubs breaking 5-1 declarer might superficially be held to six tricks - one spade, two hearts and three clubs - but, at certain points, the defence may have to concede a trick or two, being somewhat endplayed. Very tricky.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

<p> ♠ 10 8 ♥ K 10 8 5 3 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ A Q 3 </p>			
<p> ♠ A 9 7 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ K 10 7 4 </p>		<p> ♠ K J 5 4 ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ A K Q 3 ♣ 6 5 </p>	
<p> ♠ Q 6 3 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ J 9 8 2 </p>			
<p>EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 4♦; EW 2♥; EW 3♣; Par -650</p>			
West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 N	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

It helps East West to have North on lead because he cannot lead a heart or a club without cost. He'll probably settle on a neutral diamond (♦ 7 as second from rubbish; or ♦ 7 as a middle-up-down lead from three cards ... they're the same here). Declarer wins with ♦ J and plays ♠ A and finesses ♠ J, the best line not to lose a spade*. Unfortunately the trump finesse loses and South can switch to a club. It's far from obvious for West to duck this by not playing the king but that's the way to ten tricks. He can, in time, ruff out North's ♣ A and promote ♣ K. He'll make three spades, a heart (♥ 2 is pitched on the fourth diamond), four diamonds, the king of clubs and a club ruff.

**Although it was against the odds declarer could have avoided a spade loser by cashing ♠ K and intending to run ♠ J. If South doesn't cover, ♠ J wins the trick; and if ♠ J is covered, North's ♠ 10 is pinned and West's ♠ 9 is promoted. Tough game.*

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

<p> ♠ Q 9 ♥ A Q 10 8 7 ♦ A J 9 8 ♣ A J </p>			
<p> ♠ K 7 4 2 ♥ K J 6 4 2 ♦ K 5 4 3 ♣ — </p>	<p> N W S E S </p>	<p> ♠ 10 8 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ Q 10 8 6 4 3 </p>	
<p> ♠ A J 6 5 ♥ 9 5 ♦ Q 2 ♣ K 9 7 5 2 </p>			
<p>NS 5N; NS 4♥; NS 3♠; S 4♦; NS 4♣; N 3♦; Par +460</p>			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 N	Pass	3 N
All pass			

Whenever the auction is about to fizzle out (here at 2 ♥) declarer can show extra values by continuing to bid. Such bidding tends to show 17/18+hcps (usually better to be conservative with 16). Here South is pleased bid game. He had a little in reserve for the 2 ♥ bid but not quite enough to bid 2N (11/12). Now he can catch up.

Declarer has some options here but should come to at least nine tricks. He can, say, win the heart lead cheaply, play ♦ Q (covered and won in dummy), run ♠ Q. West wins and probably exits with a diamond, won by East's ten. Now declarer will come to two spades, three hearts (later finesse taken), three diamonds and two clubs. That's ten tricks.

The hand plays well for declarer because the defence is unable to attack any suit profitably.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

<p> ♠ Q ♥ K Q 9 7 2 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ K J 5 3 </p>			
<p> ♠ A 10 ♥ 10 5 ♦ K 10 9 6 3 ♣ A 6 4 2 </p>	<p> N W S E S </p>	<p> ♠ K 9 8 6 5 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ 10 7 </p>	
<p> ♠ J 7 4 3 ♥ A 8 6 4 ♦ Q J ♣ Q 9 8 </p>			
<p>EW 3♠; NS 3♥; EW 2N; EW 3♦; NS 1♣; Par -140</p>			
West	North	East	South
1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass
2 ♠	Dbl ³	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	All pass
<p>1. 12-14 (see text). 2. Transfer showing 5+spades. 3. Takeout.</p>			

The auction could easily rest in 2 ♠ but North is made of sterner stuff (perhaps foolish at the vulnerability?). He make a second round double and that gets his side to a making 3 ♥. East, with his six spades, is likely to bid one more time so 3 ♠ becomes the final contract. North's entry to the auction was not without risk (note the vulnerability too) but it could work in two ways - it could allow North South to reach a making contract (as it did) or it could force the opposition to compete to a higher level than they would have wanted/expected.

As it is North has tried his best but his intervention will have been in a lost cause. With the diamonds positioned as they are (South holding ♦ QJ doubleton) the defence will have to play a club early to hold declarer to nine tricks. Otherwise West will make five trumps, four diamonds and a club for an overtrick.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 N ¹	Pass
2 ♣ ²	Dbl ³	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	All pass		
1. 12-14.			
2. Stayman.			
3. Keen for a club lead.			

The club lead (♣ 5) is a good start for the defence. If declarer ducks ♣ 10 North can switch to a diamond and the contract is quickly defeated when North receives a ruff on the third round of the suit. Let's say declarer wins the opening club lead and guesses to play North for the queen of spades. Now there will be no spade loser but, try as he might, there will be no route to ten tricks. If declarer doesn't draw three rounds of trumps the defence can always organise the diamond ruff. If declarer does take out three rounds of spades he'll be a trick short as he will be left with a side suit loser that cannot be ruffed (either a heart from the West hand or a club/diamond from the East hand). Unlucky.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

5thOctober2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 4♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +130

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹
Pass	2 N ²	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣ ³	Pass	5 ♣
Dbl	All pass		
1. Michaels cue bid showing 5+hearts and 5+minor.			
2. Asking for the minor.			
3. Inviting game.			

Well bid by North South but, unfortunately, they do not take the prize. With the trumps breaking 3-0 the contract cannot make. Played by South it's difficult to see West leading anything but his partner's suit. The worst lead for declarer would have been a diamond. Now declarer will win ♦ A, unblock ♥ A, cash ♠ A and ruff a spade. Now two diamonds are thrown on the heart winners. A diamond can be ruffed in the North hand. Declarer, too hopefully, plays a club but, alas, East shows out. All that preparatory work but no reward.