

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

[Follow-up of last week's workshop]

Having passed on the first round of bidding North might make a second round takeout double. That will see his side reach a touch-and-go 3 ♣. The success of this contract depends on declarer dropping West's doubleton ♦ J holding (mind, the defence has to cash two spades else one of those losers is discarded on a top heart). Not obvious.

Back to 2 ♠ played by West. North leads two top hearts and switches to ♥ 2. This deliberate play of a low card is a suit preference signal indicating that North would like partner to return the lower side suit, clubs. South ruffs and duly switches to a club. North is able to give South a second ruff and eventually the defence will come to six tricks to defeat the contract (two hearts, two heart ruffs, a diamond and the ace of clubs). Plus 50 to North South.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer showing 5+spades.

North is awkwardly placed over West's 3 ♠ call. He'd like to double to get the hearts into the picture but will, again, be awkwardly placed if (which translates to "when") partner bids diamonds. The winning decision, which isn't obvious, is to repeat the clubs. 4 ♣ should produce ten tricks - one spade, three hearts and six clubs.

Against 3 ♠ North may begin with his singleton diamond. If declarer takes the diamond finesse (by putting in ♦ Q) he'll suffer a ruff. That said, the trick comes back because, in time, declarer will be able to throw a heart loser on the ace of diamonds. 3 ♠ should fail by one trick with the defence prevailing through one of two means : a spade, two hearts, a diamond and a club or via a spade, one heart, a diamond, a diamond ruff and a club.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 6♣; NS 5N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♦; Par +920

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

1. 15-18.

That's probably the normal auction but a bullish North may bid 3 ♣ over 2N as a slam try showing 6+clubs (once opener rebids no trumps the partnership is committed to game). Here that works very well as 6 ♣ is makeable. With the fortunate lie of the club suit declarer will only lose one trick, a diamond (North is the master hand and the only other potential loser, a heart, can be ruffed).

Against 3N West's normal lead is ♠ Q (take away ♠ 9 and there's a case for it being a small spade). Clubs behave very well and declarer has a clear eleven tricks (two in each major, one diamond and six clubs). A twelfth trick is not obvious but this sort of hand calls for the playing off of the long suit. If the defence discards poorly there could be an extra overtrick.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

[Follow-up of last week's workshop]

North South may rue not playing in 3N, a contract that cannot be beaten (but who plays in no trumps with such a ten card major suit fit?). Some folk eschew leads of singletons and doubletons believing them to be too dangerous. They may misfire - and may lose the defence a trick - but can be very effective. Here West starts with a top-of-a-doubleton ♥ 9. East cashes the two top hearts and knows he can give partner a ruff. West wins ♠ 7 and can exit with ♦ K. In time declarer has to give West a diamond for the contract-setting trick.

No other lead defeats 4 ♠.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 5N; NS 5♥; NS 5♣; NS 3♦; E 1♠; Par +660

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
4 ♠	Dbl ¹	All pass	

1. Penalties.

In a recent workshop ("Takeout Doubles Part Two") we suggested that in such auctions above, North's double over anything West bids up to *and including* 4♥ is for takeout. With West venturing 4♠ North is therefore on very firm ground when he doubles 4♠ for penalties. With that agreement there should be no misunderstanding of the nature of this call.

Only a small trump lead by North holds West to six tricks*. That's what North South need to do to gather a penalty of plus 800, a score that is superior to their vulnerable game. That said, perhaps a score of plus 500 for North South won't be too bad. Some Souths may be charmed by the extreme distribution and bid too high.

**if North leads a non-trump, the cards are positioned such that declarer will either be given an entry to enjoy one of the red suit kings; or he'll be able to ruff a club.*

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

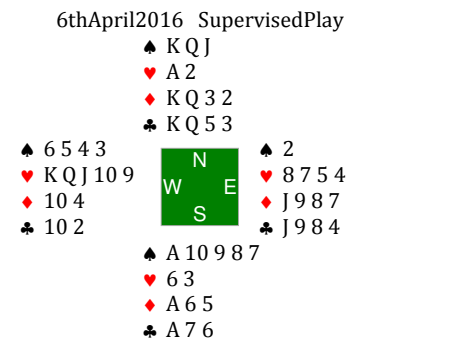
NS 2♠; NS 1N; NS 2♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +110

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

North has a fifteen count but it is a poor one (no club intermediates, short in partner's suit) so 2♣ is a better rebid than 3♣.

2♣ can be made but it's possible that declarer may lose two spades, two hearts, a diamond and a trump. The key, for declarer, is not to play spades. This is an example of a *frozen suit* ... one that neither side can play to advantage.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul



West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 N ¹	Pass	5 ♦ ²
Pass	7 ♠	All pass	

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
2. 0 or 3 of the 5 "aces" - must be 3 here for South to have an opening bid.

[Follow-up of last week's workshop]

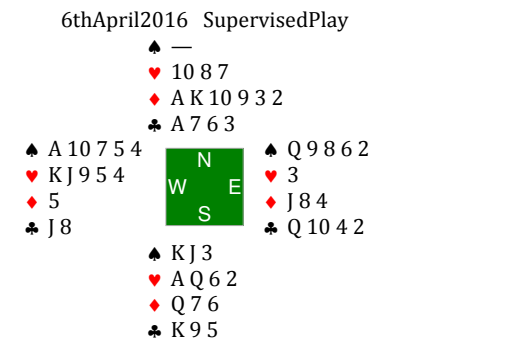
When North knows the partnership has all the key cards (the "five" aces and the queen of trumps) he takes a reasoned leap to the grand slam. He knows that the minor suit KQ combinations are very powerful opposite known aces.

Perhaps North has been a little too optimistic as there are only twelve top tricks. If either minor suit breaks 3-3 then the thirteenth trick will materialise. Declarer wins the opening ♥ K lead and draws four rounds of trumps, pitching dummy's remaining heart. The hand is really about what East does. It's an important principle to keep the same length in a side suit as the declarer. Here East needs to keep his minor suit lengths so should throw away his three hearts on the second to fourth trumps.

If East manages to do that the contract should fail. Declarer will now test one of the minors. It doesn't break so when he plays off the last trump East can discard a minor suit card *in the same suit as the discard from dummy* chosen by declarer.

Bidding but not making a grand slam is unlucky for North South but East has a material part to play in the contract's demise.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul



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

An opening 1 ♠ bid by West would be "fruity" but not impossible. That would quickly propel East West to game and South would be faced with a similar decision - whether to double for penalties or go on to 5 ♦. In practice 5 ♦ is likely to fail.

West knows that he mustn't fail by more than two tricks since a minus 500 score is worse than conceding a non-vulnerable game to the opposition. If West cashes ♠ A that will result in a penalty of at least 500 (losing two spades now, one heart, one diamond and two clubs).

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

N 4♠; S 3♠; NS 2♥; NS 1N; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +420

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

1. 15-18, 1+spade stop.

With a very good trebleton spade, some values and a side suit shortage, South does the right thing in supporting partner. 2 ♠ will be the final contract as West has too little to enter the fray.

2 ♠ can play very well. East has a difficult lead and may select ♣ K. How about this line to ten tricks? Take the club, play a heart to ♥ A, ruff a club, diamond to ♦ A, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, ruff a diamond, ruff a club and play the master ♦ Q. East is powerless to stop declarer making ♠ Q. North has already made eight tricks so ♠ Q and ♠ A will bring the total to ten. Breezy.

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

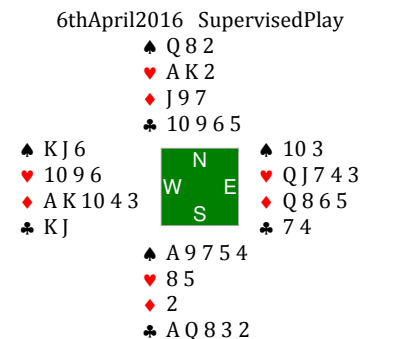
1. 12-14.

[Follow-up of last week's workshop]

South can cash his four heart winners but what next? Luckily North South have decided the defensive signals are a good idea, not least when discarding. North throws ♠ 9, a high card encouraging a spade switch (play ♠ 2 if you are playing reverse methods for similar encouragement).

South switches to a spade and the ace of spades is the setting trick. If South plays a minor suit card at trick five instead declarer gets home.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul



NS 4♠; NS 4♣; EW 2♥; EW 2♦; Par +420

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

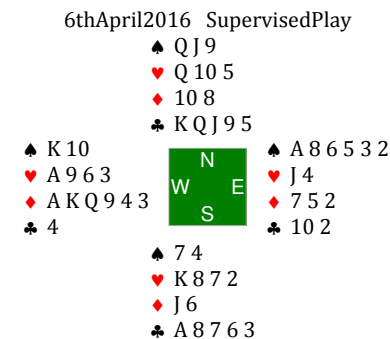
All pass

- 15-18, 1+spade stop.
- Penalty-oriented, (9)10+hcps.
- Exit transfer showing 5+hearts.

We've seen exit transfers when our partner has opened 1N but they can also be used when we overcall in no trumps. East makes a transfer to hearts when he bids 2 ♦. He's usually finished by this stage but he might compete further and get the diamonds in the picture. That works well until South bids 3 ♠. Now a 4 ♦ bid from West runs the risk of the contract being doubled so West goes quietly.

West starts with two top diamonds, the second being ruffed by declarer. South plays ace and another spade. He'll win the continuation and, once trumps are drawn, play on clubs. West is as good as marked with ♣ K so declarer plays a club to the ace. The sight of ♣ J is welcome and declarer can knock out the king of clubs and claim ten tricks (four spades, two hearts and four clubs.)

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul



EW 6♦; EW 4♠; EW 2N; NS 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -920

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

1. A reverse showing a good 16+hcps.

After West's reverse East's rebid of his own suit at the two level is not forcing. West cannot guarantee that partner has six spades but it would be reasonable to assume this. He might make a try for game by bidding 3 ♠ but 4 ♠ looks better with the good doubleton trump, side ace and a near-solid diamond suit.

The contract is likely to make unless South leads a threatening heart. There's now a danger of losing one trump, one heart and two clubs though a very deep reading of the cards will see declarer home. He ducks the heart lead, won by North who switches, say, to a trump. Declarer draws two rounds and advances ♥ J. South is forced to cover. Now declarer can ruff a heart to hand and, most importantly, this draws North's ♥ 10. A diamond to dummy allows declarer to play the master heart (♥ 9) to throw a club. It doesn't matter if North ruffs in.

If you made this on a non-heart lead, well done. If you made it on such a diabolical lead your international call up will soon be with you.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 3♦; EW 1N; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; Par -110

West	North	East	South
	2♥ ¹	3♦	All pass

1. 5-9, 6hearts ("weak two").

When there are misfits and insufficient points for game it's best to get out of the auction as quickly as possible. Here both South and West have some values but any action on their part would be unwise.

3♦ should make with declarer losing two hearts and two trumps.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

6thApril2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

1. Open the middle of the three suits when holding a touching 4441 hand.
2. 4th suit forcing.
3. Bidding out the pattern.

We have our general rules for opening 4441 hands (see above). 1♥ is forced upon South because over a space-saving 1♦ opening bid he is fixed if partner, as here, bids 2♣. Bidding 2♥ after 1♦ - 2♣ would be bad (showing extras and 5+diamonds to boot) and bidding 2N would show 15-18. The problem in the actual, reasonable auction is that North will assume South has 5hearts, something that will be true most of the time. 3N would be a better spot and might be reached if South jumps to this game over 2♠.

A sight of all four hands shows that the hand could be played quite effortlessly. Declarer could play a heart to the ace and run ♥ 9. With the suit breaking well and ♣ QJ conveniently falling there will be twelve tricks. Good in theory but, with no view of the East West hands, declarer is likely to spend time seeking to make the hand more difficult than is the case.