

6thMay2015 SupervisedPlay

Apart from the hands that make reference to last week's workshop, all the deals are taken from the recent Corn Cairdis match held at the club.

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

S 1N; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; W 1♦; Par -90

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²

3 ♣ All pass

1. 12-14.

2. Transfer, showing 5+hearts.

By bidding 3 ♣ at the first opportunity West shows a good hand (with the opponents using transfers it's sometimes possible to get another bite of the cherry; then passing on the first round but bidding on the second round shows a weaker hand). Dummy is a disappointment. Some Wests might be rescued by North overcompeting to 3 ♥ (North knows there's at least an eight card fit, albeit he has a very flat hand, more suited to defence). West should be one off for -50 as declarer is likely to lose one trick in each of the side suits and two trumps. The favourable positions of ♠ K and ♥ A save West from a worse fate.

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Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

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

West	North	East	South
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Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	1 ♠
All pass		Pass	4 ♠

1. Limit raise - 10-12, 4/5spades.

[Follow-up to last week's More Defence workshop]

The suit is not great but some may take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and open 2 ♥ with the East hand. South will overcall 2 ♠ and the same 4 ♠ contract will be reached.

Lead: ♥ J.

Declarer wins in dummy with ♥ K and plays a small spade. East must be awake and rise with ♠ A. To defeat the contract West must hold some good diamonds and East should play on this assumption. East plays ♦ 2 at trick three. This allows West to win ♦ AQ and to give East a diamond ruff. The contract has failed by one trick. Had East adopted a "second hand low"-whist-rule approach he would not have got the ruff and the defensive tricks would have been limited to the top trump and two diamonds.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 3♠; NS 4♦; NS 3♣; Par +430

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

1. 12-14.

Lead: ♠ 6.

As a general principle East should win the first trick with ♠ Q and return ♠ J at trick two. In this way he shows that he started with a doubleton spade. West cannot overtake the knave (without setting up dummy's ten) and East switches to a club at trick three.

Declarer counts his winners - one spade, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs. That's seven tricks so two more are needed to make the contract. Overtricks appear a distant idea. An eight trick can always be built in hearts so declarer wins trick three in hand and plays a small heart, finessing ♥ J. That holds and declarer can play on the red suits to try to make a ninth winner. Three rounds of diamond winners are played ending in hand. That suit doesn't break 3-3 so ♦ 7 does not become a winner. There's but one chance - that West was dealt a doubleton heart with the king. South play a heart and the king appears. We play ♥ 8 to the promoted ♥ Q and write down 400 in the plus column.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 2N; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; Par +620

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠ ¹
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

1. Limit raise - 10-12, 4/5spades.

[Follow-up to last week's More Defence workshop]

Lead: ♣ K (top of a sequence).

West encourages the continuation of clubs by playing ♣ 8 (if playing high likes; ♣ 2 if playing low to encourage). Declarer ruffs the third club and draws trumps. It appears that the contract depends on a successful heart finesse since declarer will always lose at least one diamond. Instead of settling for a 50:50 guess as to which way to take the finesse declarer can go on a fishing expedition. Ending in dummy after the second round of trumps North leads ♥ J. If West covers this the contract is there. If West plays a very smooth low heart declarer is back to the 50:50 dilemma. "Do I run this or do I overtake and finesse ♥ 10?". There's just no easy answer but defenders who cover too readily or go into telltale huddles give away far more than they realise.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 4N; N 3♥; NS 4♦; S 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; Par +630

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

1. Invitational with diamonds, another limit raise (10-12 points).

Lead: ♠ 7 (low from three to an honour, 4th best clearly not possible in spades).

Declarer ducks in dummy, as does West, and declarer wins with ♠ K. There are six top tricks (one spade, four diamonds and a club) and the extra tricks can come from hearts or clubs (yes, one of those three extra tricks could also be ♠ 10, which is favourably placed). If the clubs were 3-3 with ♣ K with East then playing on clubs would be the winning line. On the actual deal declarer does better to play on hearts. Declarer crosses to dummy and finesses ♥ J. That loses to the ace of hearts but when North cashes ♥ K, ♥ Q falls and there are three heart winners. This line is not at all obvious so making +600 will score well. If declarer plays on clubs East can win ♣ K and play a second spade. West ducks again to keep communication with East and it's no longer possible to set up a ninth trick before the defence has five.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 2♠; EW 1N; NS 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -300; NS 4♠x-2

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

1. Borderline between this and 2 ♥. East would like to bid 2.5 ♥, a call that has yet to be invented.

Lead: ♠ 10 (top of an interior sequence).

This is the sort of layout that shows how effective interior sequence leads can be. If South leads a fourth best ♠ 6, declarer would play low in dummy and North would be forced to play ♠ K. Now declarer can lead a spade back towards dummy and set up ♠ J for a potentially useful discard. On the lead of ♠ 10 North can play low - there's no point playing ♠ K as East will always make ♠ Q if holding that card (further, playing ♠ K blows a trick as it also sets up dummy's ♠ J).

4 ♥ is a pushy contract and those Easts who raise simply to 2 ♥ are in a better place. A heart contract will always lose one spade, a heart and at least one diamond. When North gets in with the ace of trumps, a small diamond could be a disaster for the defence as declarer can play low in dummy thereby limiting the diamond losses to one. Now it's possible (though somewhat against the odds) to ruff the clubs good. The winning line is to risk a club finesse, cash ♣ A and ruff a club. In this way declarer builds four club winners and on three of these, three diamonds can be discarded from hand. In this way there is just one diamond loser. Playing in a heart partscore would be more relaxing and making +170 in a similar way would be well rewarded.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 6♠; EW 5N; NS 3♦; S 1♥; EW 1♣; Par -1100: NS 7♦x-4

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

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Compulsory relay.
3. 5+spades, game force.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 1 of the 5 "aces".
6. Knows there's one missing ace and that, with a 7-3 spade fit, the queen of trumps "ought" to be irrelevant.

[Follow-up to last week's More Defence workshop]

The West hand is just too good to open 2♣ (i.e. a serious undervaluation to treat this as an eight playing trick hand). This hand demonstrates that it's not right to be too obsessed by using a point count methodology. Once the hand has been opened 2♦ there should be no stopping East West reaching slam. North leads a very inconvenient ♦ K. This removes dummy's sure entry before declarer has been able to test the trump suit. When West does cash a top spade the dreaded 3-0 break becomes apparent. Now the only way not to fail is to cross to dummy to finesse away ♠ Q. In an attempt to reaching dummy declarer plays ♣ K. If South takes this West can cross to the promoted ♣ Q and will succeed. So South snubs this Greek gift and the contract fails. Could it ever be right to take ♣ K? Yes, if West had been dealt that card as a singleton. In that case North would hold ♣ 10732 and, in giving an accurate count, would play ♣ 7 (second highest from four cards). When North follows with ♣ 2 South knows West didn't start with that singleton king. A logical review of the evidence - worth bushels of points.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

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

EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -90

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

1. Roughly 18-22. Either eight playing tricks in an unbalanced hand; or 21-22 balanced.
2. Relay.

This is a very awkward hand to bid and some may avoid the above sequence by opening an off-centre 2N (19-20). That contract should fail when South starts with three rounds of spades (North should encourage in spades - poor quality but holds length winners). In 3♦ declarer ought to fail too as there are two spade, two heart and one diamond losers.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

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♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ Q 10 6
♦ K 4 3
♣ J 9 4

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K J 4 3
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ K 6

♠ 10 3
♥ A 9 7 5 2
♦ A 6 5
♣ A Q 8

♠ A K J 6
♥ 8
♦ 10 8 7
♣ 10 7 5 3 2

EW 4♥; EW 2N; EW 3♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♣; Par -620

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

1. 10-12, 4/5hearts (limit raise).

[Follow-up to last week's More Defence workshop]

South cashes a top spade, North encourages (♠ 9 if high likes; ♠ 4 if low likes) and declarer ruffs the third round of the suit and cashes two trumps. With a sure heart winner the contract will only succeed if declarer avoids a diamond loser. Declarer can play ♦ Q from dummy and North must refrain from covering what is a touching honour. If North covers, East is in the fortunate position of being able to finesse against South's ♦ 10 and ten tricks emerge. So, against perfect defence, declarer will lose a diamond. Well, no, not necessarily.

Declarer can *always* make the contract and has to use some technique. After two rounds of trumps, play three rounds of clubs and follow with a third trump. North is said to be endplayed - a spade return allows declarer to pitch ♦ 5 from hand and ruff in dummy. Then a simple diamond finesse sees declarer home. North may also choose his poison by returning a diamond. This works no better as it compromises the power of ♦ 10. Either ♦ 9 wins and a finesse of ♦ Q gives the tenth trick; or South plays ♦ 10 and West has three equal cards (♦ QJ9) to take two winning finesses. Sweet.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

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♠ 7 5 4
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ 8 7
♣ 10 9 7 2

♠ 10
♥ J 4 2
♦ A K Q 10 6 5 2
♣ J 6

♠ K 8 6
♥ A 7 5 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K Q 5 3

♠ A Q J 9 3 2
♥ 9 8
♦ J 3
♣ A 8 4

E 3N; W 2N; E 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 1♠; W 1♥; Par -600

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

1. 12-14.
2. Have you got a spade stop, partner?
3. Yes.

Lead: ♠ Q.

South has a very respectable overcall but West realises that the diamond suit is a great source of tricks and won't be silenced. West's concern is whether partner has a spade stop. He can ask for this by cuebidding the opponent's suit. Holding the king of spades East has a clear 3N bid.

This contract cannot be defeated and the above lead makes life very easy for declarer. The scary lead is ♥ 9. That goes ♥ 2, ♥ 10, ducked by declarer. North switches to a spade but dummy's ♠ 10 proves very useful. Declarer can play low from hand and South wins ♠ J and returns a second heart. East takes this (the heart communication between the defenders has been severed) and plays a hopeful club. Luck is in as South has ♣ A and the danger hand (North) cannot regain the lead to push through a contract-busting second spade.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

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♠ J 5
♥ A 7
♦ J 4 3 2
♣ A Q 10 9 6

♠ 6
♥ K Q J 10 6 2
♦ K Q 10 6 5
♣ 8

♠ 9 8 4
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ A 7
♣ K 4 3 2

♠ A K Q 10 7 3 2
♥ 3
♦ 9 8
♣ J 7 5

NS 4♠; EW 4♥; NS 3N; NS 3♣; EW 2♦; Par +100: EW 5♥×-1

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

Lead: ♠ J (top of a doubleton and a lead of partner's bid suit).

Andrew Robson often uses the mantra "six-five come alive". In other words holding a hand with six cards in one suit and five in another you should always be ready to compete heavily. Under that doctrine, and supported by the quality of the two suits, West bids his second suit economically. By bidding the second suit, rather than lazily repeating the heart suit, West gives his partner better information as to whether to compete further. As it is, North South have seen enough and close proceedings with a double.

West has an unavoidable three losers but can be happy that a working fifteen count (♣ K is of no value) will gather in ten tricks.

How would 4♠ fare? It should make, provided South is careful. If West leads ♣ 8 declarer should hop up with the ace. Now after trumps are drawn South can concede a club and two diamonds. If declarer finesses the club at trick one the contract fails as West receives a club ruff. That would be careless though you would have to credit West if he's led that club, sneakily, from ♣ K8/♣ K83, etc.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

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♠ J 4
♥ K 10 7 2
♦ K 10 5 4
♣ Q 7 5

♠ K 7 3 2
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ —
♣ A J 6 4 2

♠ A 9 8 5
♥ Q 9
♦ A J 7
♣ K 10 8 3

♠ Q 10 6
♥ J 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 6 3 2
♣ 9

W 6♠; E 5♠; E 4N; W 3N; EW 5♣; EW 3♥; NS 1♦; Par -980

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

Lead: ♦ 6 (4th best from a broken suit).

West's hand is difficult to evaluate and the jump rebid in spades, putting emphasis on the value of the diamond void, may take the partnership to a making slam. That's because 3♠ shows roughly 15-17 but here, of course, some of those points have been counted as ruffing values rather than high cards.

There are some who denigrate the singleton leads. This hand would be held up as an example of the folly of such a lead. ♣ 9 lead picks up North's ♣ Q. Now with trumps breaking 3-2, there are twelve tricks - three trumps, one heart, one diamond, two diamond ruffs and five clubs (the heart loser disappears on the fifth club).

On the model lead of a low diamond declarer could make twelve tricks but would have to be inspired - shunning the general finessing rule of "eight ever, nine never", East would have to guess to cash ♣ A and run ♣ J/finesse ♣ 10.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

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

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

South bids out his shape and East lies lurking in the long grass. Taking the view that the auction is about to fizzle out in 2♥ he bids his reasonable five card suit. In these protective auctions the hand with the shape has to come in. East cannot hope that West will be able to do anything. West's dummy, in terms of high card points, should not come as a surprise though the sight of three card trump support is more than welcome.

Lead: ♥ 4 (4th best from a broken suit).

The lead, entirely normal, gives declarer a free finesse. East will make at least eight tricks - four trumps, three hearts and, with ♦ A well placed, the king of diamonds. An ninth trick might come in the club suit.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 3N; NS 4♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♣; Par +450

West	North	East	South
		3♠	4♥
All pass			

Lead: ♠ 10.

South has little choice but to overcall 4♥ and buys a good dummy. After winning trick one East switches to ♣ K. West overtakes and knows that South may overruff a club return. That said, if East were dealt singleton ♥ Q (or a less likely doubleton ♥ Q) a club return ruffed with said queen would promote West's ♥ J.

If West plays ♣ Q at trick three East will presume West is cashing a trick and won't ruff. To get East to ruff the club return West should lead the lower ♣ J and East will think South has ♣ Q. That wakes East up to ruff with ♥ 9. Alas the card isn't high enough to promote West's knave. South emerges with eleven tricks but the defence has done its best to limit declarer.