

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 5♥; EW 2♠; NS 1N; EW 2♦; EW 1♣; Par +450

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	2 ♠	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	All pass	
1. 12-14.			

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

Pressure bidding. First South jumps to 4 ♥, justified by the length of the heart suit, and secondly West competes by bidding 4 ♠. This gives North a problem and the right answer may be Pass, Double or 5 ♥. Since he holds such undisclosed values and length in hearts he continues to 5 ♥. This contract appears to have three losers but watch what happens. West leads a spade and South ruffs the second round. Declarer continues with a heart to the ace. He ruffs the third spade and plays three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third back to hand. Now he plays two rounds of clubs and exits with a heart which East wins. Declarer has eliminated the side suits such that East, who has no clubs left, must give declarer the contract going trick through a spade or diamond ruff and discard. Declarer can throw ♣ 8 from hand and ruff in dummy.

5 ♥ made and a very good score to North South (plus 450). Doubling 4 ♠ could have got North South a score of plus 300 provided the diamond ruff were forthcoming (two clubs, two diamonds and that ruff).

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

1. A little light (would prefer ♠ J too) but buoyed by the club fit.
2. Ace-showing cue bid.
3. King-/singleton-showing cue bid.

West's 4 ♣ bid may be the subject of some ambiguity. It could be interpreted as being natural. But it shouldn't be. If West had a very good hand based on a very long club suit he would have jump to 3 ♣ over the opening bid. It should therefore be an advance cue bid agreeing partner's last bid suit. When West subsequently follows up with 5 ♥ he's subtly asking partner to bid the slam with excellent trumps.

With the spades breaking 3-2 there's little to the play. Draw trumps and claim. Six spades, two hearts and four clubs. Twelve tricks and plus 980 to East West.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 2♥; NS 1♣; Par +420

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

North may have had higher ambitions that 3N but the lack of aces and shortage in partner's opened suit suggest caution. After South's bidding, East is unlikely to lead a heart, a lead that would hold declarer to nine tricks (three hearts and a club for the defence). East will probably lead a second-from-a-bad-suit ♣ 8. If West wins and returns a club declarer will make twelve tricks by unblocking ♦ A and taking further diamond and the spade winners (one club, seven diamonds and four spades).

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	3 ♥ ¹	4 ♠	5 ♥
Dbl ²	All pass		

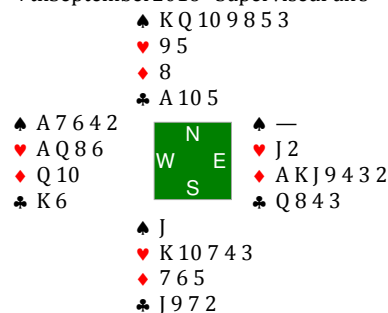
1. Weak, 7card suit at the vulnerability.
2. Extra values.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

It is far from obvious for South to bid on to 5♥. He would certainly prefer to be non-vulnerable but may justify the call by realising that partner will have a shortage in spades, given the opponents' bidding. Partner should always have a good suit when making a vulnerable weak jump overcall so he hopes North will make at least nine tricks (holding the loss to at most 500 points when East West double); and that East West will make their game. If the defence does not start with a trump declarer will be able to ruff two diamonds in dummy. That will give North South an excellent score as the loss is only minus 200 points (♥ K will be picked off via a finesse). Even a second undertrick will be good (minus 500) as East West will make 4♠ (plus 620 to them) and have a chance of making an overtrick too (when North South don't take their club ruff).

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs



EW 6♦; EW 4N; EW 3♥; EW 3♣; NS 1♠; Par -920

West	North	East	South
3 N	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
	Pass	5 ♦	All pass

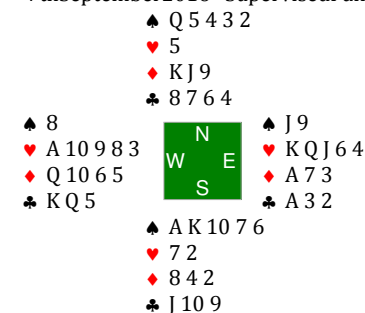
East's hand looks too distributional to pass 3N but that would have worked better than the blast to 5♦. 3N is likely to make at least ten tricks (seven diamonds, a spade, a club and at least one heart) so even making an overtrick in 5♦ (for plus 420 to East West) won't be fantastic. That said declarer should try to make as many as possible, since if he can make twelve tricks in 5♦ it will at least beat those who play the same contract but only make eleven. One line of play to twelve tricks is to ruff the opening spade lead in hand and play a club to ♣ K and North's ace. North returns a trump, won in hand. ♣ Q is cashed and a club ruffed. Now a spade is ruffed to hand (carefully with a high trump else South overruffs) and South's remaining trumps are drawn. Now declarer must risk a heart finesse. It works and the lowly club in the East hand can be thrown on dummy's ace of spades.

Anyone playing 6♦ in a similar fashion will get a top.

Does a trump lead beat 6♦? No. North wins the first club play but doesn't have another trump. Declarer is always able to ruff a club in dummy.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs



EW 4♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♣; Par -300; NS 4♠x-2

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

1. Good raise of hearts.
2. Extras (just). Pass would not be wrong.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

West takes something of a gamble when pressing on to 5♥. He's hoping that his partner will chalk up eleven tricks in a vulnerable game for a score of 650; and he hopes that score will be more than adequate compensation for defending 4♠ where East West can, at best, make five tricks (one heart, one diamond [when declarer finesses ♦ 9 on the first round] and three clubs. That would bring in just 300 points.

South cashes a top spade and now the defence has to be sharp. If, say, South switches to a trump, declarer can get home. He draws trumps, ruffs East's second spade, plays three rounds of clubs (ending in the East hand) and plays a diamond to ♦ 10. Shades of board 1. North will either have to lead away from his ♦ K (allowing declarer to run it to dummy's queen) or he'll give declarer a ruff and discards. Eleven tricks made.

No. At trick two South must switch to a diamond. North can help by playing ♠ Q on partner's ♠ A as an extreme suit preference card. High card asking for the higher ranking side suit ... diamonds. This has the effect of breaking up the end play and the defence will always take a second diamond.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♣; EW 3♦; EW 1N; NS 1♥; Par -1430

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

1. Sets up a forcing auction.
2. Ace-showing cue bid.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB").
4. 1 of the 5 "aces".
5. Queen of trumps?
6. No.

This is a delicately conducted auction where West gives up on a slam when he realises the partnership is missing both an ace and the queen of spades. The defence cashes a heart and declarer ruffs a second round of the suit. ♠ A is cashed and ♠ Q falls. That's the end of declarer's problem. Trumps are drawn and there are twelve tricks with West taking five spades, two diamonds and five clubs. A good advert for showing decent suits - West's hand meshed well with East's fine club suit.

Any pair bidding to 6 ♠ is to be congratulated on their enterprise.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♠; NS 3♥; NS 2N; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; Par +300; EW 5♦×-2

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

1. Weak jump overcall (see text).

Sometimes style has a big effect on the outcome of the auction. Here North's choice of 2 ♠ with a horrible 7222 shape would have much support (though more so if vulnerable). Unfortunately it has the effect of allowing East to bid 3 ♣. South will jump to 4 ♠ and that will set a bidding problem for West. If West bids on to 5 ♣, as above, he may regret it. The defence can take one spade, one heart, two diamonds and a diamond ruff to defeat the contract by three tricks (converting to minus 500). If the defence doesn't organise the diamond ruff, however, East West will have conceded just 300 points, more than adequate when 4 ♠ always makes for North South (seven spades, one heart and two diamonds).

Had North bid 3 ♠ directly over 1 ♣ East would surely not have support the clubs. Now North South would be guaranteed their plus 420 and wouldn't be considering any defence to a club contract.

West's opening bid is certainly light (given the useless singleton ♠ Q) and pass would be a popular choice. Now the auction would be left to North South and the only question they need to answer is whether game will be reached.

Board 9

North Deals
N-S Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 5♠; N 3N; NS 5♣; S 2N; E 2♦; EW 1♥; W 1♦; Par +650

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♥ ¹
Pass	5 ♠	All pass	

1. Slam try in spades.

A second light opening in a row where Pass by North would be popular (and doubtless recommended too). 1 ♠ will certainly have the effect of having South fall off his seat. South tries for a slam by cue bidding the opponents' suit at the five level but North, contrary to the start of the auction, will show some conservatism and sign off with 5 ♠ (sub-minimum opening and points in the opponents' suit call for circumspection).

Declarer will always lose a trump (yes) and it's just a question of only losing one club to ensure the contract's success. The best way to play the clubs is to attempt to take two finesses by running ♣ Q and running ♣ 8. As it is, West is likely to cover the queen and declarer will quickly have his eleven tricks.

Board 10

East Deals
Both Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

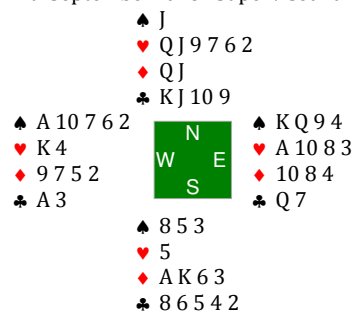
West	North	East	South
		Pass	2 N ¹
Pass	3 ♦ ²	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. 19-20, balanced.
2. Transfer, 5+hearts.

North's sequence suggests his actual pattern, namely 5hearts in an otherwise balanced hand (so 5332 shape). With South holding a doubleton heart, passing 3N is automatic. This contract will be touch and go and the only realistic way of making the contract is to drop West's doubleton ♣ Q. That would be against the odds but some may try that after they've cashed ♣ A and seen ♣ 10 fall. But what if West had played ♣ 10 from, say, ♣ 10 x in an attempt to put the declarer off the scent? Now, provided declarer can still get to dummy with a heart, it's still the correct play to finesse ♣ J. Expect quite a variation of results. Eight tricks, nine tricks, game bid, partscore level.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs



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

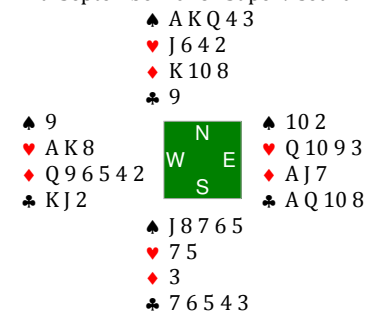
EW 4♠x-1

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♥ ¹	Pass
3 ♠	All pass		Pass
1. Good raise to 3 ♠.			

A disciplined auction. When one side lands in 3-of-a-major and makes exactly nine tricks, with both sides giving their best performances, that side should get a good 70% score (and the reciprocal 30% to the defending side). Here, however, North may lead an unfortunate ♥ Q (marking the North hand with ♥ J). Now declarer can make ten tricks by finessing ♥ 10. The club loser is discarded on the third heart winner and the fourth diamond can be ruffed in dummy. So if East West are at a table where par bridge is played they will lose out to those tables that make plus 170 (with the spade overtrick) and those who overbid to 4 ♠ and get the top heart lead from North.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs



EW 4♥; EW 5♦; NS 3♠; EW 2N; EW 3♣; Par -400

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♠	Dbl ¹	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass
1. For takeout, showing 4hearts.			

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

South uses his shape to put pressure on East West*. With West unable to show the length of the diamond suit (apart from 4+cards with the opening bid), East West are not likely to reach the making 5 ♦ (which loses a spade and a diamond). East will make a second double to show flattish values and 4 ♠x will become the final contract.

Declarer will do very well to get a good score and it will depend on what looks like a very uninspiring side suit in the South hand. Yes, declarer can organise the play to set up a fifth club as a winner. He'll make five spades, three (red suit) ruffs and one club. Bidding boldly and playing the cards well is a recipe for success. Here holding 4 ♠x to a loss of 200 may be very good though that is dependent on other East Wests bidding and making game.

There may be some tables where South only jumps to 3 ♠ (please, no timid 2 ♠ raises). If East West misjudge this and double they may regret it if declarer plays as above.

*admittedly that leap to 4 ♠ will be too much for many.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♦	Dbl ¹
2 ♦	Dbl ²	Pass	2 ♥

All pass

1. Promises 4+/4+ majors.
2. For takeout. Not ideal shape but has plenty of extras.

South's double is the conventional response with such a hand. He doesn't have the values to bid the hand twice (to show the hearts and then the spades) so double works well. It allows North to bid 2-of-a-major, over West's 2♦, whenever he has a major suit fit for one of South's suits. Here North has extra values but no 4card major. After his double, though, North South alight in their 8card fit.

South should make eight tricks. He can try to ruff spades in dummy. East will overruff but when declarer ruffs the fourth spade, East's overruff is at the cost of his natural trump trick. Declarer makes eight tricks with two spades, four trumps and two clubs.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

7thSeptember2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

East may rebid 3N but West should return to spades with his 5422 shape and dubious doubleton holdings. This hand is a question of whether the defence can lead a diamond. That should be quite possible as a lead by South of an unsupported ace (hearts) of from a tenace holding (clubs, i.e. holding ♣ AQ) is unattractive. Often we don't lead trumps since that helps declarer (who may have done that for himself) ... so we may lead a neutral-looking diamond. Bingo. That gets the diamond trick going before ♥ A has been knocked out (the diamond loser going on the third heart). With ♣ AQ sitting over ♣ K, declarer will lose four tricks (one heart, one diamond and two clubs).

Without the diamond lead declarer can play a club to the king*. Though that loses he can then play a club towards the knave. Success when South is found to hold the queen.

**though, just to demonstrate that bridge has few certainties, the correct technical play is a club to the nine. That does not work at all on the layout. Sometimes ignorance is bliss.*