

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

		♠ —						
		♥ AQJ983						
		♦ AK84						
		♣ 1087						
♠ KQ42	<table><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♠ AJ1075		
N	E							
W	S							
♥ 5		♥ 1062						
♦ J53		♦ 2						
♣ KQ542		♣ A963						
		♠ 9863						
		♥ K74						
		♦ Q10976						
		♣ J						

NS 6♦; NS 5♥; EW 4♠; W 3♣; E 2♣; Par +300: EW 6♠×-2

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

1. Club side suit with spade support.

This hand (along with all others not stated as relating to last week's workshop) is taken from a recent match between Stamford A and Kettering A. West's 4♣ is a key bid as it allows the partnership to find the double fit in the black suits. Stamford A, as North South, were able to counter this by introducing and raising their second suit. Double fits for both sides always produce lots of tricks. West bid 6♠, not necessarily expecting it to make, as insurance in case 6♥ was making. That was a good decision as 6♥ does make unless East leads a diamond - North has to play a club to set up a club ruff in dummy but West can win and play a second diamond.

6♦ always makes and 6♠ was one off. 6♠ can be defeated by two tricks if North South get their club ruff in but North South took just one trick in each red suit.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

		♠ K 3						
		♥ A K						
		♦ J 10 9 2						
		♣ K J 10 9 3						
♠ A 9 6 5 4 2	<table><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q		
N	E							
W	S							
♥ Q J 9 7 4		♥ 10 8 5 2						
♦ 7		♦ K Q 8 6 5 3						
♣ 5		♣ A 2						
		♠ J 10 8 7						
		♥ 6 3						
		♦ A 4						
		♣ Q 8 7 6 4						

EW 4♥; NS 2N; NS 3♣; E 2♦; EW 1♠; W 1♦; Par -420

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

1. 15-18, something in the opponents' suits.

North announced some strength with the sandwich position 1N bid (i.e. a bid made between two opposing positive bids) but East West brushed this aside, bidding the game on minimal values but lots of distribution.

North cashed the top trumps and switched to a club. Declarer was able to cross ruff diamonds and spades and, in the process, set up the diamond suit. +420 to East West.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

♠ A J 9 6 3
♥ J 10 7 6
♦ J 6 5
♣ Q

♠ K 7 2
♥ A 8
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ A K 5 3

♠ Q 4
♥ K Q 9 5 3
♦ A K 3
♣ 8 6 2

♠ 10 8 5
♥ 4 2
♦ Q 9 7
♣ J 10 9 7 4

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

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

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.
3. Choice of games. Generally showing, as here, a hand with 5hearts and 332 distribution in the other suits.

[Follow up on DeclarerPlayInNoTrumps workshop]

Lead: ♠ 6.

If declarer lazily plays a small spade at trick one the contract is doomed. The defence will be able to cash four tricks, when they get the lead, to go with a heart winner. Declarer should play ♠ Q at trick one and, with North holding the fourth heart, ♠ K becomes a second stop. North may not continue spades but declarer has one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs - nine tricks.

If South has the fourth heart nothing can be done and a spade through West's vulnerable holding would sink the contract - importantly, though, declarer has played it to best advantage.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

♠ K Q J 5
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 7 4

♠ 9 3
♥ 7 6 2
♦ J 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 8 5

♠ 10 8 6 4
♥ 8 5 4
♦ A K 4
♣ 10 9 3

♠ A 7 2
♥ A J 9 3
♦ 9
♣ A K J 6 2

NS 6♠; NS 6♥; NS 6♣; N 5N; S 4N; NS 1♦; Par +1430

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 N ¹	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	6 ♣

All pass
1. 15-17, balanced.

This is a very good natural auction to the top spot, sadly a contract not reached by either Stamford pair - one stopping in 4N and the other reaching the no play 6N (an easy double for East).

Once South adopts the practice of showing a minor and then a major, North should realise that South has some slam ambition. If South were only interested in game he would probably simply raise 2N to 3N (he knows there is no 4-4heart fit as partner would have opened 1 ♥ with both majors). Here North's show of three card support for clubs is enough to take the partnership to the small slam. South's possession of three aces and a king makes the hand much more powerful than a run-of-the-mill seventeen count (if such hands can be described as such).

There is nothing to the play though an overtrick will arise if West doesn't lead a diamond.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 5♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; Par +630

West	North	East	South
	2 N ¹	Pass	3 N

All pass
1. 19-20, balanced.

[Follow up on DeclarerPlayInNoTrumps workshop]

An easy hand to bid but there's no certainty of nine tricks. The lead of a small spade - a fourth best ♠ 5 - is the obvious start and this takes out North South's one and only stop in the suit. On any other lead it would be a simple matter of winning and forcing out ♦ A to claim at least nine tricks (after a late spade switch declarer is likely to run for home).

The diabolical spade start gives declarer only one option. With four tricks in the majors, five club tricks are needed. The lead cannot be given up so declarer needs the club finesse to be right and that suit to break 2-2.

There is a small trap - North must ensure that the club winners do not become blocked and must play ♣ 9 or ♣ 8 on the first or second round of clubs.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 2N; EW 2♥; NS 2♦; EW 1♠; Par -100; NS 3♦ ×-1

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


Lead: ♦ Q.

The lead is pretty normal but doesn't defeat the contract. With the ace of spades well placed declarer can make two spades, four hearts, a diamond, a diamond ruff and one club (nine tricks).

The lead to break 3 ♥ is the dangerous singleton ♣ 9. South wins and returns ♣ J, a high card indicating an entry in the higher side suit, spades. North takes the club ruff and obediently plays ♠ 3 (4th best) to ♠ A. A second ruff now comes and North South have gathered in two aces and two ruffs. It may take a little time but declarer cannot avoid a diamond loser. 3 ♥ has been set by one trick.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

<p> ♠ A Q 9 8 4 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ 9 ♣ Q J 7 3 </p>			
<p> ♠ J 6 5 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ Q 7 5 4 2 ♣ 9 4 </p>		<p> ♠ K 3 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ A K 10 6 3 ♣ A 10 8 </p>	
<p> ♠ 10 7 2 ♥ A 9 4 3 ♦ J 8 ♣ K 6 5 2 </p>			
<p>NS 2♠; NS 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 3♣; EW 1N; Par -110</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♦	3 ♠	All pass	2 ♠


2 ♦ is not an automatic bid here (1N is a reasonable option) but it works well as partner is able to support, thereby putting pressure on North South. 3 ♠ is not automatic either but 5431 is a good shape on which to compete further.

Lead: ♦ A.

East continues with a second diamond at trick two, which North ruffs and makes an assessment. There are unavoidably three losers - one heart, one diamond and one club. It would be better to have just the one club loser so declarer may assume that the suit breaks 3-2. If that's the case declarer can hope to lose just one trump, preferably again looking at a suit that breaks 3-2. Declarer has only one clear entry to dummy so may use ♥ A to run ♠ 10. When that loses to ♠ K he's close to making the contract. He wins the heart switch in hand and cashes a top spade. When that suit is now seen to break 3-2 nine tricks emerge.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

<p> ♠ K 10 2 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ A 10 5 3 ♣ K 10 4 </p>			
<p> ♠ A 9 6 ♥ 6 ♦ K 9 8 6 ♣ A J 9 7 3 </p>		<p> ♠ Q J 8 7 5 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ Q 5 </p>	
<p> ♠ 4 ♥ K Q J 10 9 5 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 8 6 2 </p>			
<p>NS 4N; NS 4♥; EW 2♠; W 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +430</p>			
West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	3 ♥ ¹
Pass	3 N	All pass	
1. Weak.			

Playing teams (though not this morning!) puts more emphasis on constructive bidding and if North were not able to play South for a good heart suit, it wouldn't be automatic to bid 3N (or 4 ♥). 3N was a good choice - protecting both black suit kings from immediate attack and appreciating the lack of any ruffing value in the North hand.

With both black suit aces well placed it's possible to make ten tricks, a number that should also be possible in 4 ♥. Those making 3N + 1 will get lots of match points, outscoring those in the major suit game.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 3N; N 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 2♣; S 1♠; Par -300:
NS 4♣×-2; N 4♠×-2

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

East's 3 ♦ was described as a constructive preempt (now you know what one looks like) and 3 ♥ had the effect of propelling East to the nine trick game (despite no clear knowledge of stoppers in the black suits).

South led an intelligent ♠ 6 (after such auctions declarer is prepared for a lead of the opened suit ... well, perhaps this was an exception) but four spade tricks were as far as the defence got. Declarer needed ♦ K onside and when that occurred there were nine tricks - seven diamonds and two black aces. That's 3N on a combined twenty one count (twenty two were needed on the previous board). You'll also note that the only high card points needed in the play were fifteen - ♠ A, ♣ A and ♦ AQJ. The power of a long suit.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 5N; EW 4♥; EW 5♦; EW 4♣; EW 2♠; Par -660

West	North	East	South
3 N	All pass	1 N ¹	Pass
1. 12-14.			

[Follow up on DeclarerPlayInNoTrumps workshop]

The obvious lead is ♠ Q and North must ensure that the suit is not blocked by playing ♠ K on the first or second round of the suit. East must duck the first two rounds of the suit, playing for North now to be exhausted of spades (which is the position with the spades breaking 5-3; if they were 4-4 the defence would only take three spades).

We must not lose the lead to South so we cash ♦ A and play ♦ 9 when South plays ♦ 8. There are now nine tricks (one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and three clubs). We've recognised South as the danger hand and kept him off lead by refusing the normal diamond play of finessing against the queen.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

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

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

1. Some may choose 1 ♦.

Lead: ♥ A.

East switches to a club at trick two and declarer makes an assessment of his losers. There are none in spades (a 4-0 break may be unpleasant but we can pick up all the trumps by cashing ♠ A/Q first), three in hearts, two in diamonds and none in clubs, with the last suit having a surplus winner. Two of the hearts can be ruffed in the South hand and one diamond loser can be pitched on ♣ K (there's only ever one diamond loser if the suit breaks 3-2). That means that we should lose, at most, two tricks - one the heart at trick one and the second a diamond when we take a diamond finesse the wrong way.

The way we play the hand outside the diamond suit ensures that we get the diamond finesse right. We win trick two, cross to a trump and ruff a heart. Now we return to North with a top diamond, ruff a second heart, cash a second round of trumps, pitch a diamond on a top club and ruff a club to hand. After drawing a third trump we finesse ♦ J (or run ♦ 10). When that's successful we can chalk up twelve tricks.

Anyone bidding and making 6 ♠ will get a very good score.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 4♦; W 1♠; Par -420

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

1. 15-17, balanced.
2. 3card heart support, forcing.

[Follow up on DeclarerPlayInNoTrumps workshop]

Lead: ♠ 3.

After this start by the defence the contract is delicate. When ♠ Q is covered we should win immediately thereby allowing us the possibility of making ♠ 10. We can place South as the danger hand as we don't want a spade pushed through this card. We play a club to the ace and finesse ♣ 10 on the way back. That loses but North cannot play a spade from his side without giving the ninth trick. In fact we say that North is endplayed because he is exhausted of a safe exit in clubs and a red suit return also gives away a trick - a heart sees him playing into the jaws of ♥ AJ and a diamond switch gives a free finesse.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 5♠; NS 4N; NS 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +650

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

1. Takeout - usually 4hearts but sometime with 3card spade support (we don't want to fix spades as trumps until we know partner has at least five of them).
2. 15-17, 6+spades (this is about as good as it gets before thinking of opening 2 ♣).

Lead: ♦ A.

West will follow with a second top diamond and then ♦ 2 at trick three. He wouldn't play a third top diamond as he knows that easily sets up declarer's ♦ J. Further, this lowest diamond acts as suit preference for a club switch, should East successfully ruff trick three. Declarer foils that by ruffing high in dummy. Trumps can be drawn in three rounds and the losing diamond disappears on dummy's surplus (third) heart winner.

Eleven tricks and +650 to North South.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

8th April 2015 Supervised Play

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

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

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

1. 12-14.
2. Good 15+ (generally balanced, as here).
3. Use of exit transfer showing 5+clubs.

West may decide to gamble on 1N making, in which case the dark blue card would be replaced with the green one. North would surely take out to 2 ♠ after that start though.

If East starts with ♣ K and the defence plays three rounds of the suit, East does best not to ruff the third round. If he ruffs, declarer has no choice but to play ♠ AK and the favourable spade position gives him five spades, two hearts and a club ruff. If the defence allows ♣ J to win declarer does best by playing ♦ 8 and going up with ♦ K. That loses and North now knows that he needs all five trumps to make the contract. He can eventually force some entries to hand by ruffing diamonds, preparing to take a deep finesse of ♠ 10. East starts to thwart this by playing a spade honour but North's hand can be reached again to repeat the process. That should give North South a somewhat-complicatedly-reached +110.

If East West reach 3 ♣ that'll fail and the worth of -50/-100 will depend on how many make 2 ♠ for North South. Such is the game of match points.