

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 2♠; EW 3♣; NS 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♥; Par -100: NS 3♦ x-1

West	North	East	South
	1 N <sup>1</sup>	2 ♠	3 ♦

All pass  
1. 12-14.

South may be a little concerned that, if partner is maximum and has a decent spade stop, game may be missed. The problem is that he has an all or nothing decision - play a part score and hope there's no game on; or be optimistic in driving to game. Here the cautious approach works better though 3 ♦ should fail.

West leads his singleton spade. East wins and returns ♠ 10. This is an attempt to show that his potential entry is in clubs (he would play ♠ J if he wanted a heart return). When we make such suit preference signals we want to make them as clear as possible - here, unfortunately, East cannot comfortably play ♠ 3 in case South had been dealt a doubleton spade including ♠ 9 (it gives declarer a second spade trick). After ruffing the second spade, let's say West divines the position and switches to a club. Declarer may hop up with ♣ A and play ace and another diamond. He can cross to dummy to take a heart finesse. It loses and the contract fails by one trick. The defence takes one spade, a spade ruff, a heart, a diamond and a club.

**Board 2**

East Deals  
N-S Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5♥; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; N 1♠; Par -450

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	All pass	2 ♥	Pass


East is reasonably safe in bidding 2 ♥ as he is a passed hand. It catches partner with a good hand (aces and kings) and West may well bid game (raise gently to 3 ♥ and East isn't likely to bid on).

South dutifully leads a spade (♠ K - top of a doubleton). North wins and switches to his singleton club (as good as anything). Declarer wins and plays a trump to hand. He ruffs a spade and plays a second trump. Good news as hearts break 2-2. It's now possibly to take a second spade ruff easily. The fourth spade is thrown on ♦ A. Declarer will always lose a club trick\* unless North started with ♣ QJ doubleton so he might as well cash the other top club. When North shows out he concedes a club but has set up the fourth club as a winner. That's plus 450 to East West - two spade ruffs, five trumps, a diamond and three clubs.

*\*there is an alternative, but risky, line that sees declarer pitching a club on the master diamond and ruffing three spades in dummy and three diamonds to hand. When declarer plays North to have started with a singleton club there will be twelve tricks for a very fine score.*

**Board 3**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

<p>♠ — ♥ 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ 10 7 6 3 2 ♣ Q 9 8</p>			
<p>♠ Q 10 3 2 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ A J ♣ A 10 7 2</p>		<p>♠ K J 7 6 5 4 ♥ J 3 ♦ K Q ♣ K J 3</p>	
<p>♠ A 9 8 ♥ A K Q ♦ 9 8 5 4 ♣ 6 5 4</p>			
<p>EW 4♠; EW 3N; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -620</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	2♠	1N <sup>1</sup>
4♠	All pass		Pass
<p>1. 12-14. 2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.</p>			

**[Follow up to last week's workshop.]**


South cashes two top hearts and plays the third round. East ruffs and plays on trumps, with South taking ♠ A at some point. South is now known to hold nine hcps in hearts and four in spades. That sums to thirteen and means that South cannot hold ♣ Q too (that would give the hand too many points for a weak no trump opening).

East confidently finesses against North's queen of clubs and makes the game. The only losers are the two hearts and the top trump.

[South might try to mask the position by, say, cashing ♥ A and ♥ K before switching to a diamond. That would make it difficult for declarer to know whether South held ♥ Q or ♣ Q. East can counter this by ruffing a heart to hand. Now ♥ Q pops up and the play is as above.]

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

<p>♠ A K 7 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ Q J 5 3</p>			
<p>♠ 8 6 5 4 3 ♥ A J 9 4 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K 2</p>		<p>♠ J 9 2 ♥ Q 10 8 7 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ 8 7 4</p>	
<p>♠ Q 10 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ K Q 6 3 ♣ A 10 9 6</p>			
<p>S 3N; S 5♦; S 5♣; N 4♦; N 4♣; N 2N; S 1♠; NS 1♥; Par +600</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3N
<p>All pass 1. 12-14.</p>			

East leads a 4th best ♥ 7. West is familiar with the Rule of Eleven and - presuming partner has made a 4th best lead - knows that declarer cannot hold a card higher than East's led card [taking seven from eleven gives four and West has ♥ A J 9 and dummy provides ♥ K]. Declarer is likely to play low on the opening lead (else defeat may come quickly) and West allows ♥ 7 to hold! This very simple play, based on clear thinking, allows the defence to take four quick heart tricks. With the club finesse failing declarer is limited to eight tricks (three spades, four diamonds and a club).

**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

	NS 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♥; Par -110	
West	North	East
	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass
All pass		

Opening a slightly off-centre 1N could be the choice of some. South's diamond suit is all right but some may prefer not to be in a position of having to rebid that five card suit. That would work well as North would transfer to and South would play in 2 ♠. On the auction above North might remove to 2 ♠ but that could misfire if partner has poorer spades when 2 ♦ is making (of course, we sometimes remove to the major as those contracts are higher scoring).

Let's say West gets off to the best start of ♣ A. East encourages, perhaps playing ♣ K, a play only made with a singleton or to confirm possession of ♣ Q. East wins and switches to ♥ J. South throws the rule book away by going up with ♥ K (contradicting the usual "second hand low" approach). This is a very clever play as it appears normal for West to win and play back a second heart. But that play doesn't work. *West must duck ♥ K!* Now East can win the first or second trump and play the second heart. He receives a heart ruff and the contract is held to eight tricks. The defence takes one heart, one heart ruff, a top trump and two clubs.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

	NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 1♦; Par +420	
West	North	East
		Pass
Pass	2 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Dbl
Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer showing 5+spades.
3. Promises at least 3spades (Pass would show a doubleton).

**[Follow up to last week's workshop.]**

East is able to make a lead-directing double and the defence takes the first three tricks (West leading a low-from-three-in-partner's-suit ♥ 5). Declarer is pleased to see the trumps behaving and he can process some very useful information. East has passed as declarer but shown up with ♥ AKQ and ♠ Q. That's 11 hcps and surely if he held ♣ Q he would have opened the bidding. South is entitled to play West to hold that card. He cashes ♣ A (just in case East has passed holding a devalued singleton queen of clubs) and finesses ♣ J. Ten tricks and game made.

**Board 7**

South Deals  
Both Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Dbl	Pass
1. 12-14.			All pass

Playing exit transfers (where a five card suit is promised) means that South has no escape mechanism on this hand. Other approaches could allow South to wriggle out of trouble and 2♦ is the best partscore for North South (it will still be doubled). Back in 1N, East may lead a top-of-a-sequence ♣ Q. This, in a sense, costs a trick but it does get the suit set up for the defence. The defence should come to nine tricks - three spades, one heart, one diamond and four clubs - and that will give North South a hefty minus of 800.

**Board 8**

West Deals  
None Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 6♣; NS 4♠; EW 2♥; NS 1♦; Par -300; NS 6♠x-2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
4N <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All pass	
1. 12-14.			
2. Transfer, showing 5+spades.			
3. Shows a second suit, usually 6/5 or, less commonly, 6/4 distribution.			

This is a wild deal where West does well to appreciate the power of his distribution. East may raise to 4♣ (over North's 3♠) but might be fearful of pushing the opponents into a game they may not have reached. Here that wouldn't apply as South will raise to game once partner has freely bid spades at the 3level when pass would have been an option. For East it's a case of "have no fear" as West hasn't finished yet. He bids 4N, an intelligent bid that gets a second suit (hearts or diamonds) in the picture. East, though, reverts to clubs.

North may feel piqued (done out of his spade contract?) and double but there is no defence. When contracts are doubled it's best to play safe. Declarer can play to set up the diamonds by ruffing three rounds in dummy. In this way he'll lose a diamond and a trump. Were declarer to play for hearts to break 3-3 (not a good idea, given what's been said) he'd be rewarded as there will be twelve tricks when a finesse in the trump suit picks up the suit for no losers.

**Board 9**  
North Deals  
E-W Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

E 4N; EW 4♥; W 2N; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; NS 2♣; Par -500:  
NS 5♣×-3; NS 5♠×-3

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 N <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5 ♥	All pass		

1. Splitter raise - 0-1spades, 4+hearts and values for game.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
3. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".

It's very difficult for West not to make one more try for slam (with the use of RKCB). Declarer could have a very minimum hand with ♥ AKxxx and ♣ A where slam is cold (i.e. unbeatable). After RKCB, West signs off at the five level but the contract is doomed when South shows up with the protected ♥ K. That quickly puts East out of his misery and there's nothing to be done. Had North followed to a trump play from dummy, declarer would have an unenviable guess to make : to play for the drop or to finesse against the king.

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 2N; E 2♥; NS 1♠; W 1♥; Par -130

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

**[Follow up to last week's workshop.]**

East's raise to 2N is invitational, showing 17-18hcps. As West has raised to game South can put that hand with 8-9hcps. North's opening lead promises ♠ J so South can account for 31 hcps between partner (3+), dummy (17) and his own (11) hand. That means that West holds ♥ A, ♠ K (partner's opening lead has denied this) and ♣ Q.

When declarer seeks to set up the diamond suit South wins and it's a simple matter of playing a second spade. Although simple, it's worth going through this counting routine as there will be other layouts when it's right to switch to a heart to maximise the defense's tricks (if that were the logical continuation, South would be playing partner to hold ♥ A and playing for the defence to take four hearts and two diamonds). Not here though.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

♠ 9 7  
 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 5 2  
 ♦ K 9 4 3  
 ♣ —

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

West	North	East	South
			3♥

All pass

North has a little support for partner but insufficient values or shape to drive to game. 3♥ will probably fail as the defence should take two spades, two trumps and a diamond. The contract makes if declarer runs ♥ 10 from hand, picking off ♥ J, but who's going to do that? It could also make if West leads a club. Now declarer has a free ruffing finesse against East's ♣ A\* such that a club can be built quickly and a spade thrown on it.

*\*putting in ♣ 10 works very well as both spades can be pitched from the South hand but that would be risky. If East held ♣ J declarer wouldn't have the two entries to dummy to set up and enjoy the quick club winner.*

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

♠ A 9 8 5  
 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 9 5  
 ♣ J 9 7 3

EW 5♠; EW 5♦; S 3♥; N 2♥; EW 3♣; Par -450

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Dbl	Pass
4♠	All pass		

West has limited high cards but great distribution. It helps that the ♣ K is pulling its full weight, supporting the ace. West will have hoped that partner had four spades. Though the actual holding is a little disappointing, East provides a good dummy.

North leads a top heart. Declarer ruffs and play a trump to ♠ K and South's ♠ A. South plays a second heart, ruffed again by West. West can a second round of trumps and gets the bad news of the 4-1 break. There's a danger of losing trump control so West shouldn't draw another round (South still has a heart and could get in to play one when West has no trumps left). Declarer can play on the minor suits and that forces South to ruff in at some point (or declarer continues cashing minor suit winners). In this way declarer keeps control of the hand.

It's possible to make eleven tricks but that requires a very specific sequence of plays to succeed. Ten tricks should make for a good score.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A K Q 8 7 6 5 3 2				
♥ —				
♦ 5 2				
♣ 8 6				
♠ 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"><div>N</div><div>W   E</div><div>S</div></div>	♠ J		
♥ A K 8 7 6		♥ Q 9		
♦ Q 10 9 8 4		♦ A 7 3		
♣ A Q		♣ J 10 9 7 5 4 2		
♠ 10 9				
♥ J 10 5 4 3 2				
♦ K J 6				
♣ K 3				
W 6♣; NS 4♠; E 5♣; EW 3♥; EW 4♦; Par -500: NS 6♠x-2				
West	North	East	South	
	4 ♠	All pass		

**[Follow up to last week's workshop.]**

East leads ♣ J and the defence takes the first two tricks. At trick three West lays down ♥ A but declarer ruffs. The declarer doesn't want to help the defence count the hands so he plays a diamond at trick three. Declarer knows he's on a guess and plays the diamond early to try to "hustle" the defence into making a mistake. That mistake would be East going up with ♦ A, a play that takes away declarer's guess. East should reason that North is know to have two clubs and (at least) one diamond. With North holding a void in hearts it would only be wrong for East to play a low diamond if declarer had been dealt ten spades (giving him 10-0-1-2 shape). That's most unlikely so East should play North to hold eight/nine spades meaning that he'll have two/three diamonds.

East plays low smoothly and declarer may guess wrong by putting in ♦ J. No guarantees though and some declarers may emerge with ten tricks.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

9thMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ K Q 10 8				
♥ 2				
♦ K 9 6 5 4				
♣ A Q 2				
♠ 9 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"><div>N</div><div>W   E</div><div>S</div></div>	♠ A J 7 6 5		
♥ Q J 10 9 5 3		♥ 7 6		
♦ Q 3		♦ J 10 7		
♣ K 3		♣ 9 7 5		
♠ 2				
♥ A K 8 4				
♦ A 8 2				
♣ J 10 8 6 4				

NS 6♣; NS 5N; NS 5♦; NS 3♠; NS 2♥; Par +920

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♣
2 ♥ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl <sup>2</sup>	All pass	

1. Weak jump overcall (6cards, about 5-9hcps).  
2. For takeout.

North has considerably more values for his takeout double than might have been the case. That means that whilst South is likely to convert this to penalties by passing, he does so a little nervously (perhaps a 2N bid instead is an option).

North leads ♠ K. Declarer can win in dummy but has no line of play that will stop him going down by three tricks. The defence can come to one spade, one spade ruff, two top hearts, two top diamonds and two clubs. Eight tricks for North South and plus 500 for them. That's satisfying as the vulnerability is such that, unless the partnership reaches 6 ♣, they'll be restricted, at best, to making plus 460 (3N with two overtricks).