

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 4♦; EW 2♥; EW 3♣; Par -450

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♣ ²	Pass
2 ♦ ³	Pass	2 N	Pass
3 N	All pass		
	1. 15-18.		
	2. Stayman.		
	3. No 4card major.		

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

East seeks a 4-4spade game (not forthcoming) and shows invitational values. West is in the maximum range so raise 2N to game. Declarer will always make nine, if not ten tricks. If North leads his singleton heart and South, perhaps wrongly, cashes the three top hearts, there are now nine tricks (two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs). Declarer may now seek a tenth trick by taking the spade finesse into the safe hand, i.e. the North hand which is now exhausted of hearts. North holds ♠ Q so no overtrick is forthcoming.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 7N; NS 7♦; NS 7♣; NS 5♠; NS 3♥; Par +2220

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥ ¹
Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 N ³
Pass	5 ♠ ⁴	Pass	7 ♣
All pass			

1. Heart splinter (singleton or void), good 16+hcps and at least 4card club support.
2. Ace-showing cue bid.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. 2 of the 5 "aces" with ♣ Q.

The 3 ♥ bid is key to North showing ♠ A as he knows the partnership now has control of all the side suits. 3 ♠ in turn is important in that it allows South to use RKCB, very useful when that hand has the long side suit that will provide a great source of tricks. Once all six (i.e. five "aces" plus the queen of trumps) are known to be held, South leaps to the grand slam.

North can make dummy the master hand. His intention is to draw trumps, discard one diamond on the third spade winner and ruff the other two "small" diamonds in the North hand. As it is, the diamonds break 3-3 and all the diamonds are winners without any needing to be ruffed (that power of a long suit again).

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 5♣; EW 2♥; EW 2♦; Par -1440

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

1. 16+, excellent 6+spade suit.
2. Bidding out the shape (doesn't promise extra values).

It used to be the case that single jumps in new suits showed either an excellent 6+card suit (as above) or a very good+ 5card suit with 4+trump suit (in both cases, with 16+hcps). Now, with the use of Jacoby 2N, the second option has tended to disappear. Here East does jump to show this great 7card suit. West suggests playing in 3N but East is likely to remove this to the major suit game.

Some may become over-excited and could reach what can only be described as a very poor small slam. Does that mean it will fail? No, not today. The spades are 5-1 but the king is singleton so the trumps play for no losers. The other critical suit is clubs. One club can be thrown on ♥ K but that still leaves declarer with a guess as to whether to play ♣ K (if South has ♣ A) or ♣ J (if North has ♣ A). Here South has both the ace and queen of clubs and any guess is successful. Making 6 ♠ would be a wonderful result ... but hardly deserved.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +140

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

1. For takeout of spades (see text).
2. Borderline but see text.

Double in this situation used to be played as showing a big, balanced hand - a penalty-oriented double working in a similar way to a direct double of an opening 1N bid. Nowadays it's common to use this as a takeout of the opened suit (with auctions becoming hyperactive it's important to get in early). West shows his sixth spade and this allows East to compete to 3 ♠, knowing of the nine card fit.

3 ♠ is booked to lose five tricks on perfect defence but that may need North to lead an unlikely diamond (now West loses one spade [*presuming the queen is "crushed"*], one heart, a diamond and two clubs). 3 ♠ may, of course, roll in if declarer is able to throw the diamond loser on the third round of hearts.

Provided East West make 3 ♠ or are defeated by one trick but escape a double*, they will have done well as 3 ♥ makes for North South. North will lose two hearts, a diamond and a club.

**the double, when the defence justifies it, converts plus 100 to the Kiss of Death plus 200.*

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

All pass

1. Not without risk (see text).
2. Preemptive
3. For takeout.

It's a brave bidder who opens the North hand with a simple 1 ♣ when holding 23 high card points (admittedly ♠ Q is not very useful). But that can be a popular choice as three suited hands (or near three suited 5431 hands, as here) are very difficult to develop; and starting the bidding at the two level just makes that process even more fraught).

When we open such hands at a low level we hope the opponents will enter the auction thereby giving us a second chance. This happens here and we arrive in a very playable 4 ♥.

Declarer can win the opening spade lead and play three rounds of hearts. It doesn't matter whether East takes the third round or not. The clubs are solid and ten tricks will be made.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 7♦; NS 3♠; NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 1♥; Par +1440

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥ ¹	2 ♦	3 ♦ ²	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

1. Light but has a good suit and very happy for partner to lead a heart.
2. Maximum values for initial pass with heart support.

North has a flat hand (5332 shape) but an excellent diamond suit so 2 ♦ is pretty automatic. It catches South with a very shapely hand with support. South jumps to 5 ♦ to apply maximum pressure and East will often double, believing North South have taken a sacrifice (they hope the penalty from 5 ♦× is less than East West's making heart game). It turns out better than that for North South.

If declarer goes hell-for-leather it's possible to make all thirteen tricks. That needs declarer to ruff all three heart losers. Then when clubs break 3-3 there are additionally five diamonds, a spade and four clubs. Often in a doubled contract it's not so important to be so bullish. Declarer may settle for twelve tricks (ruffing just two hearts in dummy). That will still be a very good score.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

S 5N; NS 5♥; N 4N; S 4♠; NS 5♣; N 3♠; S 2♦; N 1♦; Par +660

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♣ ²
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			
1. 15-18.			
2. Stayman.			

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

South has 10 hcps opposite a known minimum of 15 so will insist on game. Stayman works well and the heart fit is found. East may lead ♦ 3 (third from three cards in partner's suit) and West should put in ♦ 10 (play ♦ K and declarer has three diamonds, on the third of which dummy's spade loser can be thrown).

Declarer can play three rounds of trumps ending in the South hand to lead a club to the king. It holds and a second round of the suit is played to ♣ 9 and ♣ A. That will allow declarer to make twelve tricks (one spade, four trumps, two diamonds, a diamond ruff and four clubs). Only a spade lead will hold declarer to eleven tricks (though declarer can "underperform" by playing a second club to ♣ Q rather than ♣ 9 - now there are only three club winners).

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

E 2N; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; W 1N; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -120

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	1 N ¹	All pass
1. 15-18.			

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

East is full whack for his overcall but West won't be tempted to seek higher things. It's often wrong to lead a singleton in partner's suit when defending no trumps. South may start with ♠ K but that doesn't work too well either. That lead would mark South with ♠ Q and declarer can count North to have all the other values for his 1 ♥ call.

Declarer now has two entries in dummy which he's likely to use to play on the heart suit. He'll have to give up on taking a club finesse but should come to two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 3N; EW 3♦; Par +420

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Dbl	4 ♦ ¹

Pass 4 ♠ All pass

1. Splitter bid - values for game with spade support and a shortage in diamonds.

Once an opponent makes a takeout double, as here, the chance of a slam is diminished. South can still leap to 4 ♦ to show a splinter (just as if East were silent) as a mild slam try. North's holding in diamonds is so poor that he signs off quickly in game (he's minimum too).

East leads ♣ A. In these situations, with dummy holding the queen of clubs to length, West does best to give partner the count. This helps East know how many rounds of the suit are going to stand up. When West plays ♣ 3 East knows that is the lowest card West holds (East is looking at ♣ 2). That means West has an odd number of clubs, either one or three. Dummy's hearts could be threatening but on the actual layout East does best to play West to hold three clubs. Now East will switch, probably to a heart.

Declarer is in a position to run this to ♥ 10 but that won't happen. Declarer can play a trump, likely to win with ♠ K, ruff a diamond, ruff a club and ruff another diamond. Now a second trump is led from dummy. West wins and gets off play (in any of three suits). Declarer wins, draws the last trump (if necessary) and plays a heart to dummy. The 4-1 heart break would seem to rule out eleven tricks for declarer ... but not so. Declarer ruffs a club to hand and cashes his winners. East is squeezed - if he throws a heart, declarer makes four hearts; and if he keeps his heart length he'll have to throw ♣ K thereby promoting dummy's queen.

Can declarer be held to ten tricks? Yes, on the unlikely lead of a heart. West can win ♠ A, put partner in with a club and receive the heart ruff.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5N; EW 5♠; EW 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 3♦; Par -660

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass

2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
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2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
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4 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 ♦ ¹	Pass
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4 N ²	Pass	5 ♥ ³	Pass
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6 ♠	All pass		
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1. Ace-showing cue bid.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
3. 2 of the 5 "aces" without the queen of trumps.

This is a very cruel deal. East West conduct a very fine auction to a very good slam. When West bids 2 ♣ then follows up with 2 ♠ he is said to have made a responder's reverse. This is game forcing and allows East to raise gently to 3 ♠ (confirming 4card support) knowing that partner won't pass. There follows an exchange of cue bids at a relatively low level and RKCB can follow. With only one key card missing West bids the slam.

North leads ♣ Q and West calls for ♠ 3 (wouldn't you?). South overruffs and returns a trump. There is no recovery for declarer who will emerge with ten or eleven tricks. The 6-0 club break (a 1% chance) has scuppered the contract. Diamonds don't break kindly either so there's little declarer can do, barring a defensive error.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A 10 2
♥ A J 10 9
♦ K J 8 6
♣ J 4

♠ K Q 7
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A Q 5
♣ K 8 3 2

♠ 6
♥ K 5 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A Q 10 9 7 6 5

♠ J 9 8 5 4 3
♥ Q 8 6
♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ —

W 4N; NS 4♠; E 3N; EW 4♣; N 2♥; NS 3♦; S 1♥; Par -100:
NS 5♠x-1

West	North	East	South
1 N ¹	Pass	3 N ²	Pass
1. 12-14.			All pass
2. Hopes the club suit will run and the opponents can't take five+ quick winners.			

Some Easts may open a very heavy 3♣, some may go for a cute 1♣ and others will pass initially (as above). East appreciates the power of his club suit and raises 1N to game.

North leads ♥ J. That's scary for declarer who does best to duck. When North follows with ♥ 10 he has another unenviable choice but may well play the king. That may work if South had been dealt a doubleton heart (including the king). Here it works as North was dealt the ace of hearts. Now declarer has nine tricks. He'll cash all the winning clubs but won't try for a tenth trick (that could come about only because of a defensive indiscretion).

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A J 5 3
♥ 8
♦ 6 3
♣ A J 7 6 5 3

♠ 8 6
♥ J 7 4 3
♦ A 10 8 7 2
♣ 8 4

♠ K Q 10 9 7 4 2
♥ —
♦ K J 9 4
♣ K Q

♠ —
♥ A K Q 10 9 6 5 2
♦ Q 5
♣ 10 9 2

EW 5♠; NS 3♥; EW 4♦; NS 3♣; Par -450

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

After South blasts 4♥ the bidding is back with East. He may feel uncomfortable about his choice of bid but it seems too conservative not to try 4♠. That decision does appear wrong when North doubles (in pre-bidding box days, that would have been "with a voice of thunder").

East need not fear as there are generally always ten tricks. He can ruff the opening heart lead and, not wishing to broach the diamond suit, may start with a top spade. He will lose a second spade together with a club. He won't lose a diamond provided he doesn't play South to have started with a singleton in the suit. (With that notion, declarer would cross to dummy and finesse ♦ J. Disaster.)

It is possible to make eleven tricks but it would be risky (see board 6 for a similar comment about playing a doubled contract). Declarer ruffs the opening lead and finesses ♦ 10! This creates a second entry to dummy and allows declarer to pick up the trump suit for one loser (with diamonds 2-2 declarer can cross to ♦ A for a further trump play).

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 5♦; NS 3♠; NS 2N; EW 2♥; NS 1♣; Par +600

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

All pass

1. 12-14.

2. For takeout - odd shape but 3 ♦ is, for most, forcing. Will convert partner's bid to diamonds if needs.

West might just bid 3 ♥ though the vulnerability will not have improved his boldness. Here South's double is off-shape as he does not hold spade length. It works well as 3 ♦ will, in practice, make ten tricks (declarer is unlikely to spurn the losing spade finesse of the queen). Sometimes it could backfire, particularly if the auction became more competitive. Were West to compete with 3 ♥, North might try 3 ♠ believing there to be a fit (though, looking optimistically, declarer could play that well and emerge with plus 140 when nine tricks are taken).

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

10thFebruary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 6♠; NS 4N; S 2♦; S 1♥; N 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +980

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

1. 15-18.

2. Preemptive.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

Context is everything. North might not be thinking of being in game ... until South shows a balanced hand with extra values. East leads ♣ 2 (or switches to that card after cashing ♥ A). After West's preempt, ♣ 2 looks like a singleton. That puts ♣ Q in the West hand so East probably holds all the other values. Declarer can play East to hold the minor trumps so could start by running ♠ 10 (it does East no good to cover). That picks up the 3-0 spade break for no losers.

At some point East will have taken ♥ A. When declarer runs all the trumps East is unable to keep three diamonds and ♥ K. In a way similar to what happens to East on board 9. East has been squeezed, forced to reduce to two diamonds to keep the top heart; or to keep three diamonds but at the cost of promoting dummy's ♥ Q when ♥ K is discarded.