

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A

♥ A Q J 9 7

♦ J 6 5

♣ K J 4 2

♠ K 9 7 3

♥ 5 3 2

♦ Q 4

♣ 10 9 7 5

W N

E S

♠ J 10 5 2

♥ 10 8 4

♦ 10 9 2

♣ Q 8 3

♠ Q 8 6 4

♥ K 6

♦ A K 8 7 3

♣ A 6

NS 7N; NS 7♥; NS 7♦; NS 4♠; NS 5♣; Par +1520			
West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♦
	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
	4♦	Pass	4N ³
	5♥ ⁴	Pass	6N

- All pass
1. A high reverse - (16) 17+hcps. 5+hearts and 4+clubs.
 2. Fourth suit forcing (to game).
 3. Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB") for diamonds.
 4. Two of the five "aces" with no queen of trumps.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

South has a spade stop (of sorts) but doesn't bid 3N as that would probably close the auction. By bidding 3♥ he is able to temporise. When partner shows some diamond support he bids RKCB. This is a slight risk as he has no control of the spade suit (so the defence might just cash two top spades). As it is North has ♠ A. South decides the bid the higher scoring 6N.

Let's say West leads a club or a heart. Declarer has eight winners outside the diamond suit - one spade, five hearts and two clubs. His best shot for four diamond winners is to play ♦ A and a low one towards ♦ J. It's now possible to make four winners when West holds queen and three other diamonds. On this line of play declarer will make his contract.

Let's say West leads a spade. That's dangerous since if declarer gives up the lead in diamonds he'll lose a spade too. Now declarer, in a small measure of desperation, will play the diamonds from the top, i.e. cash ♦ A and ♦ K. He'll be rewarded when the queen falls. Now there are thirteen tricks which seems a little unfair to the defence. West got off to a good start but it resulted in declarer making an overtrick.

6♥ - a 5-2 fit - is another slam that will score well.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 5

♥ K 5

♦ Q 8 4 2

♣ Q J 9 3

♠ A J 4 3 2

♥ 9 7 3

♦ —

♣ A K 10 8 4

W N

E S

♠ 8

♥ Q J 10 2

♦ K 10 9 7 5

♣ 7 6 5

♠ K 10 7 6

♥ A 8 6 4

♦ A J 6 3

♣ 2

NS 2N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +100; EW 3♣x-1			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥ ¹
2♥ ²	DbI ³	2N ⁴	Pass
3♣	All pass		

1. Open the middle suit when holding a touching 3suiter.
2. Michael cue bid showing 5+spades and 5+minor.
3. Usually played as penalty-oriented.
4. Asking for partner's minor.

It's possible for this contract to be doubled. That requires either North to be able to make a second round double for penalties or for South to make a third round double for takeout.

Declarer is likely to make eight tricks. Let's say North leads a diamond. Declarer can ruff three diamonds in hand, cashing ♠ A and ruffing two spades in dummy along the way. The two top clubs brings the total to eight tricks.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 4
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ J 4
♣ J 9 8 7 5

♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ 9 5 3 2
♣ Q

W N
E S

♠ K J 10 5
♥ K 10 4
♦ K Q 10 6
♣ A 4

♠ A 7 2
♥ A 9
♦ A 8 7
♣ K 10 6 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Db1 ¹	1♠
Pass	2♣	Db1 ³	Rdb1 ²
2♠	3♣ ⁴	All pass	Pass

1. Showing the other two suits.
2. Good(ish) hand.
3. More takeout.
4. See text.

East's double gets the two unbid suits into the picture. Another option would be to bid 1N, 15-18, though the stops are not great and there would be no definition of the lengths of spades and diamonds.

After South has announced some extras with the redouble, North will compete to 3♣ (Buoyed by the fifth club too). Making 3♣ depends on how the club suit is played (there are three losers outside the trump suit, one in side suit). Declarer will have to be inspired in playing a club to the king. Now there's just one club loser. Of course East must play low when declarer plays a club from dummy. If he rises with ♣ A his partner may give him a look (not suggestive of a smile).

East West may bid on to 3♠ but will have to play it very well, or get some help from the defence, to make it.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 4 2
♥ A Q 9 5 3 2
♦ J 5
♣ A J 2

♠ K Q 8 5
♥ J
♦ A 8 4
♣ K Q 5 4 3

W N
E S

♠ J 9 6
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ 9
♣ 9 8 7 6

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ K
♦ K Q 10 7 6 3 2
♣ 10

NS 3N; NS 4♦; NS 2♥; EW 2♣; Par +500; EW 4♠x-2

West	North	East	South
1♠	1♥	Pass	2♦
Db1 ¹	2♥	Pass	3♦

All pass
1. Takeout (getting the spades in the picture).

South's 3♦ will make comfortably, losing at most a diamond and two spades. If South were more enterprising he might try a bid of 3♣ at his second turn. This would be a forward-going move and would work well as North would be able to bid 3N with his reasonable club holding.

3N is a very good contract and declarer will come to at least nine tricks. It's possible that declarer could make eleven tricks if the defence is somewhat pedestrian - one spade, three hearts, six diamonds and ♣ A. That, however, will be dependent on the defence allowing declarer to keep his communication open between the two hands.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 82	♠ K653									
♥ J62	♥ AQ7									
♦ A87653	♦ K									
♣ 43	♣ AK1087									
<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ 104	♠ K43									
♥ K43	♥ QJ104									
♦ QJ104	♦ QJ95									
♣ QJ95										

EW 2♥; EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -110

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

1. See text.

North's intervention represents a nuisance bid as East would otherwise have bid spades (had North passed, East would have either taken things slowly with a simple 1♠ bid or jumped to 2♣ as a reverse. In a sense East has a flawed nineteen count with the singleton king though, at least, it's in partner's bid suit). So, after 1♠ from North, East has to rethink. 2N feels about right - a slight underbid but a recognition that the spade stop isn't great.

This contract won't play well. Declarer may be able to force an entry to table by playing ♥Q. Now it's possible to see declarer coming to seven tricks - one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. But one trick short of the target.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 7N; EW 7♥; EW 7♦; EW 7♣; EW 4♠; Par -2220

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

1. An opener's reverse showing (16) 17+hcps, 5+clubs and 4+diamonds.
2. Fourth suit forcing (to game).
3. Ambiguous - see text.
4. Ace-showing cue bid (sometimes a void).

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

When East bids 3♥ West can play partner to hold his exact shape (=1345, in shorthand) or something very similar (=0346, say). West follows up with an ambiguous bid of 4♣. West is playing this as natural but East may think it is a cue bid agreeing hearts (though East's holding in his first suit may suggest to him that West's bid is natural). No matter, after East shows his first round spade control, West jumps to 6♣. That sort of jump is a good way of getting over a slightly murky auction as it will silence partner.

South may start with a 4th best (from a broken suit) ♠4. It's normal for declarer to want to ruff a diamond so declarer plays three rounds of the suit. ♦Q appears so declarer turns his attention to trumps. With the lie of the cards it doesn't matter whether declarer takes the finesse of ♣J or cashes ♣A and ♣K from the top.

Contract made with an overtrick. One spade, three hearts, three diamonds, a diamond ruff and five trumps.

East West will have done well to bid this. East has a little extra (18hcps) but West has just 12 hcps but appreciates that the hands fit together well.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 7 ♦; NS 5N; NS 3 ♥; NS 3 ♣; NS 1 ♠; Par +2000; EW 7 ♠ x-7

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

1. A responder's reverse. Game forcing (see text).
2. Slam try.
3. Ace-showing cue bid.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. Two of the five "aces" without the queen of trumps.

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

This is really a variation on the theme of last week's workshop in that it introduces the concept of a responder's reverse. Such reverses apply when the responder either bids a higher ranking suit at the two level or introduces a new suit at the three level. They are unconditionally forcing to game. You will also see that they fit our normal definition in that opener, in supporting responder's first bid suit, must bid at the three level.

The hands happen to fit together well and North South have squeezed a lot out of the bidding. Although North knows that the partnership holds all the key cards it would be pushing it too much to try for a grand slam - for example, take away one of South's diamonds and give him an extra (small) club. Now there would be an unavoidable club loser.

As it is, declarer can make all thirteen tricks. He has sufficient entries to ruff the club suit good. This required the suit to break 4-3 (the most common break) but, when that occurs, it allows declarer to throw the heart loser.

To summarise - thirteen tricks by way of two spades, one spade ruff, one heart, seven diamonds and two club.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

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

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

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

South will always bid 3 ♠ but he would prefer a longer or more robust suit. That's why we like to preempt - we force the opponents to take uncomfortable decisions. North has four trumps and sufficient shape to raise to game.

Even if declarer is able to lose just two trumps the contract will fail provided East switches to a club early enough. Two trumps, a heart and a club spells a one trick defeat. Without the club switch declarer can duck a heart. With the hearts breaking 3-3

♥ 10 becomes a winner on which the club loser disappears.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A	♥ 83	♦ K18762	♣ Q1098		♠ J9762	♥ J92	♦ Q	♣ A654

W 5♦; EW 4N; E 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 3♣; NS 1♦; Par -650			
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	Pass
N ¹	Pass	3♥ ²	Pass
3♠	Pass	3N	Pass
4♠	All pass		
1. 19-21, balanced (see text).			
2. Transfer showing 5+spades.			

North's opening conforms to the Rule of 20 (high cards points plus lengths of two longest suits summing to at least twenty - here 10+6+4). The bidding will go round to West who has a very simple jump to 2N if playing this as natural and big (covered in a recent workshop). If 2N is played as "unusual" West will have to start with a double and jump in no trumps to show 19-21 (a simple no trump bid would only show 16-18).

Here East transfers to spades and the spade game will be reached (known eight card fit) after East has given a choice by bidding 3N.

Even with the bad trump break declarer should come to ten or eleven tricks. There will be two trump losers but a third loser will certainly disappear if North leads a minor suit (except an unlikely ♦ K lead which squashes dummy singleton queen).

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4N, EW 4♦; EW 4♣, NS 1♥; Par -630				
West	North	East	South	
		1♦	Pass	
N	Dbl	Rdbl ¹	Pass ²	
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	
♣	All pass			
1. Good hand.				
2. See text.				

This is a little like Board 3 in that a player is able to redouble to show extra values. North's double is primarily to get the majors into the picture. South passes over the redouble to say he has equal length in the majors (else he would show immediate preference). Now North bids his lower 4card suit and South is happy. West uses East's known extras to compete with 3♣.

West has good club support in partner's hand and can make ten tricks, losing a spade and two hearts. That will require him to drop the doubleton queen of diamonds.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

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

- NS 5♠; NS 3N; NS 5♣; NS 3♥; NS 3♦; EW 1♦; Par +450
- | West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♦ | 1♣ |
| 3♦ | Pass | Pass | Dbt ¹ |
| Pass | 4♣ ³ | All pass | Dbt ² |
1. Takeout but might prefer 2♠, a reverse (usually made with shapely hands that include a shortage).
 2. More take out.
 3. Or risking 3♠. Choices, choices.

At his third turn South might have guessed to bid his good doubleton spade. With partner holding five spades that would have worked well. Back to 4♣. Though it is possible to make game, ten tricks is more likely. Declarer might come to ten tricks with two spade, two heart, one diamond and five club winners.

A difficult hand where playing in spades will score well even if game isn't reached.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

- EW 6N; EW 6♥; EW 6♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; Par -990
- | West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ ¹ | Pass | 4♦ ² | Pass |
| 4♥ ³ | Pass | 4N ⁴ | Pass |
| 5♦ ⁵ | Pass | 6♦ | All pass |
1. Opener's reverse. 5+♦diamonds and 4+♥hearts with (16)17hps.
 2. Slam try.
 3. Ace-showing cue bid.
 4. RKC/B.
 5. 3 of the 5 "aces".

[Follow up on last week's workshop]

Once West knows, via the 5♦ bid, that an "ace" is missing, he gives up on trying for the grand slam. He'll also know that partner's response has left the question of the queen of trumps unanswered. At least the reverse makes it more likely that partner hold this card.

Well, you might think that there's nothing to the play. North may cash ♠A and hold declarer to twelve tricks; or a may lead a non-spade and declarer will make all thirteen, able to discard one spade from the West hand and ruff the other two when dummy's two spades are thrown on the winning hearts.

When this hand was originally play Omar Sharif was North. He listened to the bidding and deduced that East would not have bid (some form of) Blackwood without a control in spades. How about putting declarer to a guess at trick one? He led a small spade! Now we know not to underlead an ace in a side suit so North "can't" have ♠A. Who can blame declarer for playing low in dummy. South played ♠Q. When that held, South, somewhat surprised, realised partner had ♠A.

The obvious spade return meant that an unbreakable contract had been broken.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 2N; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +140	
West North East South	
Pass 1 N ¹ All pass	
1. 12-14.	

Back to something mundane. South is likely to lead ♠Q and it's difficult to see declarer making many tricks. There are only three obvious tricks especially if North is able to knock out dummy's ♣A before a third diamond can be established. Some defences may leak a few tricks but making one trump seems a very long way off.

10thAugust2016 SupervisedPairs

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

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

NS 2N; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; Par +100; EW 3♦ × -1	
West North East South	
1♥ 2♣ 1♦ Db!	
2♦ 3♣ All pass	
1. Takeout. By inference, shows 4spades (2spades would show a better [reversing value] hand).	

South might have bid 1N at his first turn but his hand is minimum, unshapely and doesn't have a good diamond stop.

North might have bid 3♣ over 1♥ though that usually shows a better hand (usually 8-10[ish]). The length of the suit is good but the points in the red suits are near useless.

3♣ should fail by one trick with the defence able to take two spades, a heart and two diamonds. They'll have to be careful. If they prematurely cash two diamonds they'll set up a winning diamond on which a heart can be discarded.

East West may bid on to 3♦, a contract that should fail by one trick too (losing a spade, two hearts, a diamond and a club).