

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

NS 4♠; N 2♥; EW 2♣; S 1♥; EW 1♦; Par +420

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♣	Dbl	All pass	

1. Extras, generally take out (short spades, as here).

Lead : ♠ 3.

4 ♠ will make for North South as the losers are restricted to a spade, a heart and a club (provided declarer takes a heart finesse when in dummy with ♣ A). East West will therefore get a reasonable score if the contract can generate at least nine tricks (thus going for at most minus 300).

South wins trick one and returns a trump. North wins and has one chance to come to plus 500 - leading a diamond for South to ruff. In such a way North South will take five tricks - ♠ A, ♥ AQ, ♣ A and that club ruff. If the club ruff doesn't materialise there will be nine tricks.

**Board 2**

East Deals  
N-S Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 6♦; EW 4♣; EW 1♥; Par -990

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

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood.

2. Zero aces (three impossible after a preemptive opening).

**[follow up to last week's talk]**

Lead: ♦ 2.

The lead is potentially dangerous for declarer. If declarer takes a spade finesse, it loses and North returns a diamond for South to ruff. One down on what should be a "cold" contract. Realising the danger declarer plays ace and another spade. Now there are twelve tricks. Declarer has given up on the overtrick (if South had a doubleton king of spades) but the satisfaction comes in guaranteeing the contract.

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

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 N <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 ♥

All pass

1. Transfer, showing 5+hearts.
2. Game invitational, 6+hearts (roughly 10-12).

Lead: ♠ Q.

An invitational sequence where South accepts, not least because that hand is a maximum and has primary trump support.

At first glance it appears that declarer may have four losers - one spade, one diamond and two clubs. But, on the lead, declarer can play West to hold ♠ J. That means that South can win the lead in hand, draw trumps and run ♠ 10. That holds and the losers are restricted to three tricks - one diamond and two clubs.

Had there not been a fortunate spade lead, declarer could have taken a double finesse in diamonds (playing for split honours or East holding both). That would have worked allowing a pitch of the spade loser.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

EW 4♥; N 3♠; S 2♠; N 3♣; S 2♣; NS 1♦; Par -200; N 4♠×-1

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Lead: ♠ A.

East's preempt looks quite heavy but as partner has passed East should not be worried about deceiving partner about the strength of the hand (it's a different matter if East is opening in front of West as West would now be unlimited and could have a slam-suitable hand).

Here East buys a good dummy and ten tricks are guaranteed - eight hearts and two clubs. If South cashes two spades and switches to a club that'll be bad for North South. East can take two club winners in hand, draw trumps ending in dummy and throw the diamond loser on ♣ A.

**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

EW 6N; EW 6♥; W 5♣; E 4♣; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -990

West	North	East	South
	2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	3 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 N <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5 ♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

1. Weak2 in spades (roughly 6-9, 6card suit).
2. Heavy (X or 4 ♥ are options) but this works well if partner is able to raise.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. 1 of the 5 aces.

**[follow up to last week's talk]**

Lead: ♠ 9.

Is is somewhat ironic that, if East takes it more slowly (and perhaps shows a less good hand by bidding 3 ♥ instead of 4 ♥), slam is easier to bid. The point being that if East blasts 4 ♥, West is likely to pass.

Once West raises to game East can use Roman Key Card Blackwood and now knows that slam depends mainly on partner having either the diamond or spade king (to cover ♦ 4 loser).

There's not much to the play but declarer should be aware of a small trap. Outside the trump suit there's a loser in ♣ A. The trumps must therefore be negotiated for no losers. This is trivial if trumps break 2-1. What if they are 3-0? Well if North holds all three they cannot be picked up so declarer should play for a possible three hearts in the South hand. Cash ♥ A and be rewarded by being able to pick up the queen of trumps.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

NS 3N; NS 5♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; W 1♣; Par +400

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 N <sup>1</sup>	Dbl	2 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	2 N <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. 12-14.
2. Natural, 5+hearts (if not playing transfers). More on this next week.
3. Natural, game invitational (good heart stop).

Lead: ♥ Q.

North raises to game on the basis of the good diamond suit (a five carder to boot).

Declarer can win the opening lead and run ♦ J. One way or another (depending on whether West covers this card) South can pick up the diamonds to make one spade, two hearts, five diamonds and one club. He lacks the entry to try the club finesse on top of setting up the diamond suit.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 3♣; EW 1N; EW 1♦; Par +140  
*West North East South*  
 1 N<sup>1</sup>

All pass  
 1. 12-14.

Lead: ♦ 3 (works well) or ♥ Q (top of interior sequence - sets up suit quickly but at cost of a trick).

Let's say West leads a diamond. Declarer ducks and East knows to put in ♦ 10 (will hold as West is marked with ♦ Q on the lead of a low card). East switches to ♥ 10 and the defence can cash six heart winners. West reverts to diamonds, knowing East has the king (else South would have taken the first trick). Now declarer can be just one off provided he gets the spades right (by cashing ♠ A followed by ♠ Q, thereby picking up East's ♠ J through a finesse). There's something to be said for this line - if West had a four card spade suit he may well have led one, so play East for the spade length.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

EW 3N; EW 3♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -400  
*West North East South*

1 N<sup>1</sup> Pass 2 ♣<sup>2</sup> Pass  
 2 ♦ Pass 3 N All pass  
 1. 12-14.  
 2. Stayman, asking for four card majors.

[follow up to last week's talk]

Lead: ♠ Q.

Declarer wins and needs to set up the diamond suit. If the diamonds are 3-3 he can play ♦ K after winning the first trick but he should give himself an extra chance when diamonds are 4-2 and South holds a doubleton including the ace. Cross to a top club and play a diamond to hand. ♦ K holds so cross to dummy again and repeat the process. ♦ A now beats the air and we have four diamonds, two spades, a heart and three clubs. That's ten tricks and an eleventh can be made if South carelessly discards a club (♣ 3 now becomes a winner).

**Board 9**

North Deals  
E-W Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

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

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2 N <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3 ♣ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4 ♦ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	4 ♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	5 ♦

All pass

1. Eight playing tricks or 21-22 balanced.
2. Relay.
3. 21-22 balanced.
4. Stayman.
5. No major.
6. Natural, slam try (5+diamonds).
7. Ace-showing cue bid.

Lead: ♥ 10.

There's something to be said for bidding on to 6♦ as 5♦ won't score very well against the multitude that rest in 3N. Yes, 3N after 3♦ in the auction would be a reasonable choice. If North South do reach 6♦ it can be made. It requires declarer to take a ruffing finesse (i.e. cashing ♥ A then attempting to run ♥ Q). In this way a club can be discarded on a second heart winner. Thereafter the clubs can be ruffed out and the fifth club becomes a winner. Declarer takes six diamonds, a spade and a spade ruff, two hearts and two clubs. A trifle scary.

**Board 10**

East Deals  
Both Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

EW 2N; NS 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -120

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
1 N	Pass	2 ♦	All pass

1. Insufficient values for 2 ♣.
2. Now 5+diamonds and 4+spades.

Lead: ♦ 3.

Yes, the underlead of an ace against a suit contract. But, of course, it's the underlead of a trump ace not the heinous play in a side suit. The lead clears up the play in the trump suit but it's no longer possible to ruff a spade in dummy and declarer will be held to nine tricks - five diamonds, two clubs and the major suit aces.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

[follow up to last week's talk]

Lead: ♥ Q.

Declarer identifies East as the danger hand - he doesn't want that hand to push a diamond through South's vulnerable holding. There could then be two diamond losers together with a loser each in hearts and spades.

To keep the lead with the safe hand South ducks ♥ Q. West can do no harm and probably continues with a second heart. After winning, South crosses to dummy with a club and runs ♠ 10. The finesse loses but the lead is still with West who may play a club. The outstanding trump is drawn and declarer can discard a diamond on the fourth club.

Had East overtaken the lead with ♥ K, South would have won and hoped (as here) that East cannot obtain the lead in hearts. If East were to get the lead, the contract would have depended on East holding ♦ A.

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

11th March 2015 Supervised Duplicate

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

E 4N; W 3N; EW 5♦; EW 2♥; E 3♣; W 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -430

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 N	All pass		
1. 17-18, balanced.			

Lead: ♠ 5.

Declarer is in a good position after this lead. East runs the lead to hand, winning with ♠ 10. Now dummy is entered with a diamond for a club play to ♣ K. That holds and a second club is led. North does best to duck this too. If North plays the ace, South's ♣ J falls on the third round of the suit and declarer makes eleven tricks - two spades, one heart, five diamonds and three clubs.

South's best lead was a dangerous-looking, but, in practice, innocuous diamond - a lead that gives nothing away.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 N <sup>1</sup>	All pass		
1. 17-18.			

Lead: ♦ J.

This lead is favourable for declarer who can now count two spade, two diamond and three club winners. One of the black suits may provide the eighth winner. Here we may try to combine our chances. One line is to cash three top clubs, hoping ♣ J falls. That doesn't work but we now cash ♠ K and finesse ♠ J. That doesn't work either but seems a reasonable approach (i.e. cash out in the suit where a secondary honour is more likely to fall and, if that fails, finesse in the other suit). If declarer mis-applies this technique and cashes out in spades first, then finesses against ♣ J, no fewer than nine tricks arise. A lack of virtue has been its own reward.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

11th March 2015 Supervised Practice

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

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>2</sup>

All pass

1. Too good for 2 ♠ (though difficult to assess the worth of the singleton ♣ K).
2. Shows extras by bidding on after partner's sign-off.

Lead: ♥ J or ♦ 3 (latter being 2nd from a bad holding).

South might bid 3 ♠ on the third round of bidding and that will have a more likely effect of propelling North South into game. Ten tricks are always there as declarer can take, and repeat, the spade finesse and the diamonds break 3-3 to provide four tricks there.

Declarer may try to ruff a club (it's fortunate that one finesse picks up ♠ K) but there's a chance that the defence can win ♣ A, a heart and East receives a heart ruff (♠ K beating any card with which North ruffs).