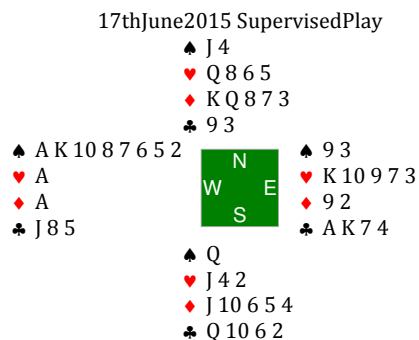


Board 1

North Deals
None Vul



EW 7N; EW 7♠; E 3♥; EW 4♣; W 2♥; NS 1♦; Par -1520

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣ ³	Pass
4 N ⁴	Pass	5 ♣ ⁵	Pass
5 N ⁶	Pass	6 ♣ ⁷	Pass
6 ♦ ⁸	Pass	6 ♥ ⁹	Pass
7 N	All pass		

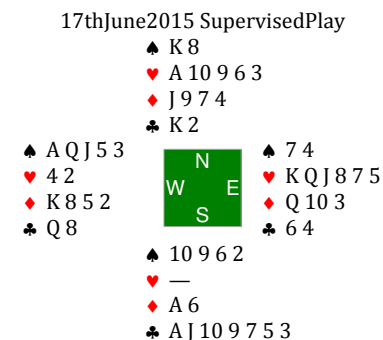
1. 8 playing tricks; or 21-22 balanced.
2. Relay.
3. Ace-showing cue, indicating slam interest.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 1 of the 5 "aces".
6. Asking for lowest side-suit king (see text).
7. ♣ K.
8. Asks partner to bid the grand slam with ♦ K.
9. Don't have that card but do have ♥ K.

A sky's-the-limit "first" board for East West. The key bid is East's 4 ♣, a cue bid agreeing the spade suit. When we start with the 2 ♦ relay responder knows he has some catching up to do to convey the strength of his hand. 4 ♣ not only shows the ace of clubs, it tells West that East has a doubleton spade (would have raised earlier with three+ cards; would not show "support" with fewer cards when opener has only show six cards). Now West will ask partner a series of questions. Since West knows that the partnership has a ten card fit he doesn't bother asking for ♠ Q (with a 5 ♦ bid) but launches straight in to 5N, king asking. The auction shows a slightly modern twist in that it asks partner to bid his lowest side-suit king. Thereafter any other side-suit bid asks partner to bid the grand slam holding the king of that suit (or to cooperate further - hence the 6 ♥ call).

West can count thirteen tricks - eight spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs and can seek to scoop all the match points by converting to 7N. Splendid stuff. [granted, ♣ Q would be just as useful as ♥ K but there would be no easy way of finding that card].

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul



N 4N; S 3N; NS 4♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; S 1♦; Par +630

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

1. 5-9, or a slightly more conservative 6-10, with 6 hearts (a weak two).

Some Souths might double ("to get the spades in the picture") but would be left with a problem were North to bid diamonds (the doubler needs to be prepared for any response hence the SOS criteria we use over takeout doubles [see board 6]). Better to show the good-textured seven card minor. North has a fitting club honour and what might be described as an adequate heart stop. He bids the no trump game.

East will lead a top-of-a-sequence ♥ K. North wins and cashes two top clubs, ending in dummy. With that suit breaking well there are always nine tricks and declarer can play a spade towards hand to make a tenth trick.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

♠ Q 7 3
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ A 8 7 6 4

♠ K 10 9 5 2
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ J 10 5 2

♠ J 4
 ♥ J 9 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 7 6 4
 ♣ K 9

♠ A 8 6
 ♥ K 8 5 4
 ♦ J 8 3 2
 ♣ Q 3

NS 1N; S 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; N 1♣; Par +90

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	1 N ¹	Pass	3 N

All pass

1. Not ideal with just Q x x in spades but gets over the general nature of the hand.

West's overcall will have served one of the purposes of such a bid, namely getting partner off to the right lead. East leads ♠ J and, from such a lead, West knows that East has either a singleton or a doubleton. West does best to duck, allowing North to take the first trick. North will play a club towards dummy but East flies in with ♣ K and returns a second spade. The spade suit can now be cleared and 3N is doomed as the defence will make at least three spades, a heart and a club. Declarer also has some problems unraveling his minor suit winners and it's likely that the contract will drift at least two off (a further club must be lost to set up a third winner there). Perhaps North now wishes he had downgraded his hand (not rebidding 1N). Had North passed perhaps South would have bid a slightly heavy 1N and there the matter would have rested.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

♠ Q 10 9 8
 ♥ A 4 3 2
 ♦ A Q 2
 ♣ 9 6

♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 10 6
 ♦ K 6 4 3
 ♣ A K Q 2

♠ A 3 2
 ♥ Q 7 5
 ♦ J 7 5
 ♣ J 8 5 3

♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ K 9 8
 ♦ 10 9 8
 ♣ 10 7 4

NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 1N; EW 2♣; EW 1♦; Par +110

West	North	East	South
1 N ¹	All pass		

1. 12-14.

As simple an auction as we're likely to find. East has the flattest, boringly moderate collection and a pass card will be forthcoming. North will probably lead ♠ 10 (top of an interior sequence - not without risk as declarer could make a cheap ♠ J). The defence should always come to seven tricks, defeating the contract by one - three spades, two hearts and two diamonds.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♦; EW 5N; E 5♣; W 4♣; EW 1♥; Par -980

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass
4 ♣ ³	Pass	4 ♦ ³	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 N ⁴	Pass
5 ♥ ⁵	Pass	5 N ⁶	Pass
6 ♠ ⁷	All pass		

1. 4th suit forcing.
2. Showing both extra values and a sixth spade.
3. Ace-showing cue bid.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 2 of the 5 "aces" without the queen of trumps.
6. Asking for side-suit kings.
7. None.

We now see an auction where fourth suit forcing plays a role, an important one in that it allows East to show a big 6-4 hand quite economically. Again (see board 1) the responder is able to make an advance cue bid (i.e. a cue bid that agrees the last bid suit *by inference*, i.e. not after an explicit raise of the suit). East's in a bullish - perhaps too bullish - mood and tries for seven. He soon gives up. South leads an aggressive heart and declarer sees that the slam is not cold (i.e. he can't guarantee to make twelve tricks, irrespective of the defence's quality). Well, after all the effort in the bidding, it would be a pity if the slam fails. East's luck is in as one of the two minor suit finesses against the kings works. +980 to East West and deserved as the chance of success is roughly 75% (losing only when both minor suit kings are badly placed).

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 3♠; E 2N; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; Par +140

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

All pass

1. Not obvious with such a flat hand but takes space away from the opponents. Often 1 ♠ will show 5+spades so North can trade on both this and the favourable vulnerability.

A nicely competitive auction where West's takeout double observes our *SOS* criteria - *support* for all three unbid suits; *opening* values (just) and a *shortage* in the opponents' bid suit (truly).

3 ♠ should make but North will need to reach dummy to take (and repeat) a winning spade finesse. He can play a heart towards the queen and is rewarded when West has the king. When the spades don't break 2-2, it's a bit of a blow as he cannot now ruff the fourth heart (a potential loser). No matter, the hearts break 3-3 and declarer has six spades and three hearts for +140.

If all of that's a bit sedate, try this. East West compete to 4 ♦ and South gets off to the worst lead of ♠ A. He switches to a club. East wins, plays a diamond to dummy's ace and, on seeing South's ♦ J, finesses ♦ 10 on the way back. He cashes the third trump, pitches a heart on ♠ K and plays a heart to dummy's king (playing the opening hand to have ♥ A). Now there's only one heart, one spade and one club loser. +130 for East West, a score that realistically couldn't get much better for them.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

17thJune2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 2N; EW 3♣; NS 1♦; Par -140			
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠	1 ♥
			All pass

West's overcall is by no means automatic but he may trade on the 5-5 shape and a spade suit that fits the suit quality test. A bid for the brave or foolish. Here it works well as 3 ♠ cannot be defeated - one loser in each of the red suits to go with the two club losers. If West passes, the question is whether 3 ♥ will make. Playing with the odds the answer is "No" as the percentage line is to take a finesse against the king of hearts. Some will bash down the ace of trumps and be unfairly rewarded (losing two spades and two diamonds).

In the above auction another scenario could see North getting caught up in the rhythm ("anything you can do, I can do better") and to bid 4 ♥ after two passes. That sort of approach deserves a double and whether declarer drops the king of trumps, or not, the resulting +200/+500 will be very good for East West.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

17thJune2015 SupervisedPlay

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

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

All pass

1. 12-14.
2. (5)6+diamonds, usually a slam try.
3. No great fit, usually a doubleton diamond.
4. Confirms the slam try.
5. Ace-showing bid.
6. For the lead of a heart.
7. Settles for 6 ♦ (because of East's double of 4 ♥). Might still try for the higher-scoring 6N.

Any South of a pessimistic disposition may forget about slam and raise 1N to 3N. That doesn't get the job done. Here South makes a gentle slam try (3 ♦) and follows it up with a second, stronger attempt. Now North is alert and makes (another) advance cue bid, implicitly agreeing the diamonds. The only drawback of making this co-operative bid is to allow East a pain-free double for the lead. This may put South off bidding 6N but getting to 6 ♦ ought to be reasonable. There are always twelve tricks but a heart lead will discourage some declarers from taking a club finesse for thirteen tricks (that finesse is *two-way* too).

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

17thJune2015 SupervisedPlay

♠ A 10 7
 ♥ J 10 7 5 4
 ♦ 10 6 2
 ♣ 6 4

♠ 2
 ♥ A K 3 2
 ♦ A K Q J
 ♣ K 7 5 2

♠ K 9 8 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 9 8 7 4 3
 ♣ J 10 3

♠ Q J 6 5 4
 ♥ Q 9 6
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A Q 9 8

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

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

1. 4spades; or 3 decent spades and a ruffing value.

West has a perfect hand for a takeout double (classical 4441 shape). With considerable extra values the hand certainly conforms to the requirements of **Support Opening Values and Shortage**. When North peskily raises to 2♠ the bidding comes back to West who can double again. This is just "More Takeout", in other words a hand with extra high card strength. It would be easy for West to get carried away with his hand but 3♦ ought to be the resting spot. Partner is marked with very little and, importantly, knows that West is strong. Let's say East had a little extra (perhaps because North has raised on a near-Yarborough, cheekily taking advantage of the vulnerability). Then East would know he's in a position to bid something other than a quiet 3♦.

The contract should make ten tricks for +130 to East West (losing a spade and two clubs) but I suppose there might be a rogue East West chalking up +600 on 3N.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

17thJune2015 SupervisedPlay

♠ A 10 9 4
 ♥ A Q 7 5
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ Q 9 3

♠ Q J 8
 ♥ K 3 2
 ♦ K Q 10 8 7 5
 ♣ 8

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

♠ 7 3 2
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ A K 6 4 2

EW 1N; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par -90

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

Here we see North holding one of the flatter takeout double hands; but one that still obeys our take out doubling rules. When East replies with 1♥ (essentially ignoring the double) that bid does not "cancel" the double. It's always "there" but it does mean that South does not have to bid. So when South *does* bid, it should be upper range for not having made a jump (so about 5-7, perhaps an 8 count if holding only a 4card suit). West will repeat his good diamond suit and that will leave South with an awkward decision. Partner probably only has 3clubs (else he may have competed to 3♣ himself). So South has a choice between bidding 3♣ and passing. It really is very tight and there's no correct answer. Perhaps the flatness of the hand will suggest caution.

As it is, bidding 3♣ is the wrong decision as that contract ought not make. There should be two spade, two diamond and one trump losers (and that's assuming declarer gets to ruff his diamond loser). So 3♣ is -100/-200. But it's worse than that! That's because good defence holds 2♦ to -90, a better score for North South. North leads a club and South switches to a heart. Now North South take a spade, two hearts, a heart ruff and a club, holding the contract to eight tricks.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

♠ A K J 8 7 2
 ♥ K
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A J 10 9

♠ 6
 ♥ A 4 3 2
 ♦ Q 10 6 2
 ♣ K 6 5 3

♠ 9 5 3
 ♥ Q 10 9 5
 ♦ J 8 5 4
 ♣ 8 4

♠ Q 10 4
 ♥ J 8 7 6
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ Q 7 2

NS 6♠; NS 5N; NS 5♣; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +980

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹
Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♦ ³
Pass	4 N ⁴	Pass	5 ♣ ⁵
Pass	5 ♦ ⁶	Pass	6 ♦ ⁷
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

1. 12-14.
2. (5)6+spades, slam try.
3. Ace-showing cue bid, agreeing spades.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 1 of the 5 "aces".
6. Asking for the queen of trumps.
7. Yes, ♠ Q and ♦ K.

Another slam, this time for North South and one that isn't obvious. Perhaps North South are already having a good morning if they bid this one. Again we see a player making an advance cue bid where South is implying the spade support without having to bid that suit. Notice that the 4 ♦ is both informative and space-saving. Because North now knows that the partnership has control of all the suits he is able to launch into (Roman Key Card) Blackwood. Had South merely raised 3 ♠ to 4 ♠ he shouldn't really use 4N because of the potential problem of the opponents cashing the two top diamonds.

There's little to the play. Declarer draws trumps and places ♣ Q on the table. He runs it, inwardly praying. It holds and he can repeat the process a couple of times. +980 for a "top" (no gloating). Had the 50:50 club finesse failed North South would have booked themselves a "bottom" (sullen faces). The luck is in today.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

♠ 10 7 4
 ♥ Q J 10 9 6 5
 ♦ 10 4 3
 ♣ 4

♠ K Q 5
 ♥ K 4 3
 ♦ K J
 ♣ Q 10 9 7 3

♠ A 3
 ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ Q 8 5 2
 ♣ A K J 8

♠ J 9 8 6 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ A 9 7 6
 ♣ 6 5 2

EW 5N; EW 5♣; EW 2♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -460

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

1. 12-14.

After board 4, another simple auction, as simple as is possible with two players bidding. North leads a top of a sequence ♥ Q, always establishing a winner for declarer but attacking his weakness too. He's OK and can count nine top tricks - three spades, a heart (on this lead) and five clubs. When South takes ♥ A, West awaits the heart return but forthcoming it is not. That's good as it means declarer can effortlessly play on diamonds to bring his trick total to eleven. Had a heart come back, West may well have ducked and taken the third round. If the hearts were then known to be 5-2 he may not have played on diamonds for fear of the ace of diamonds being with the long heart hand. Then the contract would have been defeated (four hearts and a diamond).

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

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

♠ K 7 6
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ A K 5 4 3
 ♣ K 8

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

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

Another classical takeout double that obeys our helpful SOS rules. Again West has *some* extras (see board 9) and can make a second takeout double. Here East's 2♠ really should be respected (by partner) and the bidding may end there. With the spades breaking 3-2 and the hearts 3-3 there should be eight tricks with the declarer losing two spades, a heart, a diamond and a club.

North South may push on to 3♦ and that should fail by one trick with declarer losing a spade, two hearts and two clubs. It's by no means easy for West to double that (converting +100 to +200, the latter being North South's Kiss of Death score, a near-zero on the board) but that's what West has to do to protect his score from making 2♠. What makes this decision (to double) even more difficult is West not being sure that 2♠ is making. Match point decisions.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

17th June 2015 Supervised Play

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

♠ A K 10 5 4
 ♥ J 9 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ A 6 3

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

West	North	East	South
		1N ¹	2♠
Dbl	3♠	All pass	
	1. 12-14.		

3♠ is the sort of fearless bid that match-pointers like making, forever keeping their opponents on tenterhooks. West has already put his side in a good position by making a takeout double (what we learnt last week will have applications in other areas, as here). The winning position for East West is to bid to 4♥ but not many will do that. That contract only loses three tricks - one spade, one diamond and a top club. East will be loath to bid 4♥ over 3♠ (aceless hand, possibly dubious doubleton club, defensive spade holding) and West may not want to hang partner by making another try (a further double for takeout).

If all of that's the case then 3♠ may drift two off though there's something to be said for playing East to hold the queen of spades : first East has shown more of the points with the 1N bid and, secondly, West's takeout double puts him with the shorter spade holding.

One other variation - South might not like the 5332 balanced shape of the hand and pass over 1N. West will (should) deem the hand not strong enough for an invite+ strength use of Stayman and go quietly too. An unlikely diamond lead could see North South taking the first seven tricks (♦ K, five spades and ♣ A). Now East West really will feel that they've missed the boat!