

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

170914SupervisedPairs												
♠ K Q												
♥ A K Q J 2												
♦ K 7 6 4												
♣ J 5												
♠ J 8 4	<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		♠ 6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 7 4		♥ 10 6 5										
♦ Q 10 9		♦ J 8 5 2										
♣ A Q 10 9 7		♣ K 6 4 3 2										
♠ A 10 9 7 5 3 2												
♥ 9 8 3												
♦ A 3												
♣ 8												
NS 6♠; NS 6♥; NS 2N; NS 2♦; EW 1♣; Par +980												
West	North	East	South									
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠									
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥									
Pass	4 ♥	All pass										

This is difficult. At South's second turn the choice is between supporting the hearts (as above) or rebidding the spades, probably with a bid of 3 ♠, invitational to game. South knows there is an eight card heart fit so supports that suit. North has a good hand but no minor suit ace to cue bid so settles for the game.

Twelve/thirteen tricks can be made in either major. Let's count our losers from North's perspective. There are none in spades (the ace covering ♠ Q), none in hearts (barring a 5-0 break), two in diamonds and two in clubs. That adds up to four losers but provided spades break no worse than 3-1 (about a 90% chance) the suit will provide five surplus winners on which minor suit losers can be thrown. If the defence begins with a club we can still throw three minor suit losers away but, otherwise, we'll make thirteen tricks.

We must be careful on a diamond lead (say ♦ 2). We win the diamond in hand with the king, draw trumps, unblock the spades and cross to the carefully preserved ♦ A. We can now enjoy the spades. If we carelessly win trick one with ♦ A we'll have to hope that the knave of spades falls in one or two rounds because we'll have to overtake the second spade to reach and enjoy dummy's winners.

### Board 2

East Deals  
N-S Vul

170914SupervisedPairs												
♠ A 9 2												
♥ A 10 8 7												
♦ 6 5												
♣ Q 10 7 6												
♠ Q 7 6 3	<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		♠ 10 4	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 6 4 2		♥ K J 5										
♦ A J 9		♦ Q 8 4 3 2										
♣ 9 8 5		♣ A K 3										
♠ K J 8 5												
♥ Q 9 3												
♦ K 10 7												
♣ J 4 2												
EW 2N; EW 2♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par -120												
West	North	East	South									
		1 N <sup>1</sup>	All pass									
1. 12-14.												

There's a sound argument for opening 1N with *all* 12-14 hands containing a five card suit and that's as good as normal if the suit is a minor. Here, were East to open 1 ♦, West would bid 1 ♠ and East would have to rebid 2 ♦ (ugh!) on such a bad suit. A rebid of 1N is ruled out because it shows 15-16 balanced.

There are many variations in the play here but declarer should come to seven or eight tricks, the best start for the defence being the lead of a club which gives away nothing. If East starts on diamonds by taking the deep finesse of the nine, five diamonds tricks will be made as declarer will have picked up both ♦ K and ♦ 10 in South's hand.

**Board 3**

South Deals  
E-W Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4N; NS 4♥; N 5♣; S 4♣; EW 2♠; NS 2♦; Par +430

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

1. A negative double, for takeout and, here, showing both minors.

If East bids on to 4 ♠ South should remember to double and the resulting minus 500 for East/West will be a bad score as it outscores North/South's positive return of 420 from making 4 ♥ [if, in 4 ♠, South manages to play ♠ A on the first round *crashing partner's king*, East will escape with -200 for a potentially very good score.]

In 4 ♥ North wins the spade lead in hand and cashes the trump ace. Bad news on the break but declarer can continue with a heart to ♥ K and a finesse of ♥ 10. ♥ Q draws West's fourth trump and playing ace and another club sets up that suit. North can win the spade return but keeps control of the hand by playing winning clubs. If West doesn't ruff in then there are already four trump winners, four club winners and two top spades.

**Board 4**

West Deals  
Both Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♠; NS 4♦; EW 2♥; NS 1N; NS 1♣; Par +140

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

North's bidding indicates that he has at least five spades and at least four diamonds. South has no game aspirations and makes a simple return to 2 ♠. South is happy to play in a known 5-2 fit rather than what might be a 4-3 diamond fit (5-2 fits are safer because it takes longer for the defence to shorten the longer trump hand - declarer has better trump control. Further, as majors score better than minors, playing 2 ♠ is preferred).

If North were to continue with 3 ♦ this would show the 5/5 nature of the hand but would also show extra values. In a sense North has these but the ♥ Q is of doubtful value and with a flawed sixteen count opposite a maximum of nine (for the 1N bid) caution should prevail.

As it is North will make ten tricks unless East leads a club. On a non-club lead declarer can draw three rounds of trumps and advance ♥ Q. West wins but it is too late to make a club as North discards a small club on the promoted king of hearts. It's a simple play for declarer to knock out the ace of diamonds and claim four spades, one heart, four diamonds and a club for the ten tricks.

If West risks a 2 ♣ overcall (possible as matchpointed pairs features much busy bidding), that will pay off as East will lead ♣ Q and nine tricks will be the limit.

### Board 5

North Deals  
N-S Vul

170914SupervisedPairs									
♠ A Q 9 5 4 3									
♥ 10									
♦ Q 8 6 4									
♣ 4 2									
♠ J 7 6	<table><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	♠ K 10 8	
N		E							
W		S							
♥ A J 7 5		♥ Q 9 6 4							
♦ 5		♦ K J 7 2							
♣ J 10 9 6 5		♣ K 3							
♠ 2									
♥ K 8 3 2									
♦ A 10 9 3									
♣ A Q 8 7									
NS 4♦; NS 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 1N; Par +130									
West	North	East	South						
	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	All pass							
1. 6-10, 6spades ("weak").									

South has no thoughts of game opposite the weak opening so the slogan is "stop digging". Pass is the automatic response when there is no fit.

Let's say East leads a heart, ♥ 4 being the fourth best lead from a *broken* suit. North "knows" East is sensible so won't have committed the heinous crime of underleading an ace against a suit contract. There is no point in playing the king as that card will be covered. Dummy is asked to play ♥ 2. Now the spotlight's on West who has seen the lead of a low card and mentally places the queen with partner (yes, if you treat the ten as an honour here you may run into problems). It's now reasonable to put in ♥ J which holds and hasn't set up dummy's king.

West is likely to switch to a trump because nothing else looks attractive. Declarer's best play is to finesse ♠ Q but this loses and a second heart comes back (♥ Q being best). North can ruff and is delighted the trumps break. North should make nine tricks, as the club finesse is right, provided the diamonds are played correctly. The best way is to finesse against both ♦ K and ♦ J so run ♦ 8 first (unless it's covered) then play ♦ Q. This contrasts with a similar situation on board 3 where the declaring side's clubs are missing the king and the jack - here the play was different because the bidding made it very likely that East held ♣ K (plus some entry problems of reaching dummy/chances of the suit breaking 2-2).

### Board 6

East Deals  
E-W Vul

170914SupervisedPairs												
♠ 10 8 6 5												
♥ K 7 3												
♦ A 3 2												
♣ A 8 3												
♠ 7	<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		♠ A K Q J 9 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ Q J 5 4		♥ 8 6										
♦ 10 8 7		♦ K 9 5										
♣ K Q J 10 6		♣ 9 5										
♠ 4 3												
♥ A 10 9 2												
♦ Q J 6 4												
♣ 7 4 2												
West	North	East	South									
		1 ♠	Pass									
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	All pass									

The quality of West's club suit (and the queen/knave of hearts working together) should swing the decision towards bidding 2 ♣ rather than a heavy 6-9 1N response.

With a minimum "two-over-one" response and East bidding the opened suit at a minimum level (usually 11-14) West has no thought of further bidding.

South leads ♦ Q and East makes a loser assessment from his own hand. There are no trump losers if spades are no worse than 4-2, two heart losers, two in diamonds after the lead (provided ♦ Q is not singleton and the king gets ruffed out) and one loser in clubs. That adds up to five losers so the contract is assured.

There is no reason to postponing the drawing of trumps (no losers to ruff, no side suits to set up by ruffing) so, after winning the trick two diamond return, we draw four rounds of trumps and play ♣ 9 from hand *and overtake in dummy*. If North takes the ace and the defence don't get round to switching to hearts, declarer can make dummy's club winners and will emerge with ten/eleven tricks. That might seem fanciful but exploiting possible defensive frailty is all part of achieving good scores.

Should North take the first club? No! When East overtook ♣ 9 he was trying to look as if he had started with a singleton club. He was laying a trap suggesting that North wouldn't make a club if it weren't taken immediately. But North has seen South play ♣ 2, a count signal indicating a trebleton club suit. North knows East has a doubleton club and ducks the first club and wins the second one. Now there should be no defensive foul-up.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

EW 2N; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; Par -120			
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 N	All pass

1. Takeout. Perfect shape but the bid is not dependent on extra values (that's a bonus here).

It's quite feasible for East to respond 1N on the first round of bidding but the above auction allows East to pass with what would have been a minimum 1N response. The delayed response, as above, shows a 6-7 point hand that doesn't want to defend 1 ♥X (that would have worked because of West's extra values). Playing this way East would bid 1N immediately to show, in a competitive auction, 8-10. That makes for better judgment in tight situations, as here, where West decides to "go conservative" and not make a try for game.

South will want to keep partner happy so will lead a heart. It would be too far-sighted to expect North to duck ♥ J (keeping declarer in hand or forcing him to overtake with ♥ A) so declarer will win in dummy. The best source of tricks would appear to be the diamond suit so declarer will call for ♦ 2 and play a top diamond from hand. With the bad diamond break there'll only be two tricks but all returns from North aid declarer (e.g. on a heart return West can put in dummy's ♥ 9 knowing it will hold as South cannot have more than one heart [North's overcall reveals the five card holding there]).

Anything from seven to nine tricks will ensue.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 4♣; EW 2♦; NS 1♥; Par -450			
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. Temporising bid.

East's jump to game on the second round is known as a delayed game raise and shows trump support and generally, as here, about 13-15 points. West may have fleeting thoughts of a slam but is soon reaching for the green pass card. Sensible here.

North may well lead a heart and that quickly builds a trick there (after ♥ Q has drawn South's ace). On this winner a diamond can be discarded and declarer will make ten or eleven tricks depending on the direction in which the club finesse is taken. West will have seen ♥ 5 lead and if North play ♥ 3 at any point declarer will place him with five hearts (presumed fourth best lead followed by the play of a card lower than that one). With trumps breaking 3-1 and North holding the trebleton, we can place North with eight major suit cards. That means he holds five minor suit cards compared to South's eight cards. That makes South favourite to hold any minor suit card we care to specify.

We play South for ♣ Q and finesse ♣ J. The suit doesn't split equally but we can ruff ♣ 6 in dummy. Eleven tricks.

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

170914SupervisedPairs

♠ J 6 5 3

♥ 7

♦ K 9 8

♣ J 10 7 4 2

♠ 10 2

♥ K J 6 5 4

♦ A J 6 3

♣ K 6

♠ A K

♥ A Q 10 9 3

♦ 10 7 2

♣ A 9 5

♠ Q 9 8 7 4

♥ 8 2

♦ Q 5 4

♣ Q 8 3

N

W

S

E

NS 2N; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; N 2♦; NS 1♠; S 1♦; Par +120

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

Once in a blue moon the auction starts with a quiet one level bid and the next hand to call has a big hand with great length in the opened suit. The best long-term approach is to pass and await developments (1N is possible but wouldn't suggest the heart length). Here South waits until the third round before wielding the axe. This double is pure penalties as South had a chance on the first round to double for take out. There's no need to have direct and delayed doubles to show the same sort of hands.

East will not enjoy the play and may well emerge with just four/five tricks. South's best defence is to cash the two spades and exit in a minor suit. If that's a diamond North does best not to play ♦ K and the defense should then make a diamond.

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

♠ 10

♥ K Q 10 7 5 2

♦ J 6 3

♣ J 9 7

♠ 9 5 4 3

♥ 8

♦ Q 8 7 5

♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ A J 7 6 2

♥ 6

♦ K 10 9 4

♣ K 10 5

♠ K Q 8

♥ A J 9 4 3

♦ A 2

♣ A 4 3

N

W

S

E

Par 0: NSEW Pass

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
1N <sup>1</sup>	2♥	All pass	
1. 15-17(18).			

Well we've had one massive bad break auction and, lo and behold, ...

You can see from the above analysis that the par result is zero meaning that no side can make a contract, even at the lowly one level. That doesn't mean that the auction will see "silence", a folding of the cards and a move on to the next round.

South's opening bid is as good as automatic these days. If you feel such an opening is marginal then apply the "Rule of Twenty". Here we add our high card points (11) to the lengths of our two longest suits (9) and if that sums to 20 or more we can open at the one level. Further our judgment allows us to look at possible negative factors but there are none. We don't have wasted values in the singleton and, in fact, our two secondary suits have some intermediate cards - ♦ 10&9, ♣ 10 - to bolster our honours.

West could overcall 2♥ but that looks ugly when we have a flat hand and extra values that could be better expressed with a one no trump overcall (the opened suit is doubly stopped). Some partnerships play a 1N overcall as 15-18 so this fits the bill. If you're playing 15-17 then 1N is still reasonable as you are merely a point heavy.

North's bidding tends to show a good (five)six card suit with about 6-9 points. With more it's usual to start with a penalty-oriented double. West might be able to double 2♥ if a penalty double is available but, these days, that's often played as takeout so there may be some gritting of teeth from West.

There will be lots of different results here (difficult to predict) and we might even see some Wests playing in 2♥ doubled if the auction goes 1♠ (2♥) P (P); X[takeout] all pass.

So 2♥ could be played by both polarities and success will be elusive for all!

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

170914SupervisedPairs				
<div><div><div>♠ 10 4</div><div>♥ K 6 5 3</div><div>♦ K 8 7 6 4</div><div>♣ 10 3</div></div><div><div>♠ A Q 5 3</div><div>♥ A Q 8 7 2</div><div>♦ Q J 9</div><div>♣ 2</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠ J 8 7 6 2</div><div>♥ 9 4</div><div>♦ A 2</div><div>♣ A 8 7 5</div></div><div><div>♠ K 9</div><div>♥ J 10</div><div>♦ 10 5 3</div><div>♣ K Q J 9 6 4</div></div></div>				
EW 5♠; EW 4♥; EW 1N; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -450				
West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♣	
2 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
1. 5+cards, would prefer a better quality suit.				

Well it's not a morning for London buses as we return to some semblance of normality.

Some Souths might open 1 ♣ (see comments for board 10) with such a good suit (a small factor against opening is the lack of an ace in the hand). Now West may overcall 1 ♠. This is not textbook when applying a suit quality test but is tactically good as it takes away both red suit one level calls from North. It should also propel the partnership to game which might be difficult to reach otherwise.

The best way to play the hand is to win the opening club lead (North obediently leading ♣ 10) and finesse ♠ Q, which loses. South plays a second club, ruffed in dummy. ♠ A draws the second trump and the diamond finesse is taken. This loses but sets up a second diamond winner on which a club can be discarded. The other club loser can be ruffed in dummy. With the heart finesse working there should be eleven tricks - four spades, two hearts, two diamonds, one club and two club ruffs.

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

170914SupervisedPairs

♠ K J

♥ Q J 9

♦ K 9 8 2

♣ J 7 6 2

♠ A 10 8 7 5 3

♥ 5

♦ Q J 7

♣ A 10 4

♠ Q 6 2

♥ K 10 8 7 3

♦ 10

♣ Q 9 8 5

♠ 9 4

♥ A 6 4 2

♦ A 6 5 4 3

♣ K 3

N

W

S

E

EW 3♠; NS 3♦; W 1N; NS 1♥; E 1♣; Par -140

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

West could bid 1N (6-9) but 2 ♠, with the shortage in diamonds and three spades to an honour, is appealing.

South is a little stuck for a lead and may lead a trump, not wishing to bang down an unsupported ace or a lead a dangerous ♣ K. That will clear up the suit for one loser. There's a heart loser (♥ 5), two possible diamond losers (♦ J7) and a further two in clubs (♣ 10&4). That means we need to do something to make out contract. If South has ♥ A we can set up the ♥ K for a discard and we can try to ruff at least one diamond in dummy. When we get to dummy we want to play the clubs to best effect by taking two finesses. If everything does to plan we'll restrict our losers to one in each suit.

At trick two we play a heart. South rises with ♥ A and plays a second trump. We're happy that they break 2-2 and we play a diamond from dummy. South wins and makes the awkward return of another diamond. We ruff this and discard the third diamond on the winning ♥ K. We cannot take two club finesses now as we don't have a second entry to dummy so we change tack and call for ♣ Q. If this is covered we'll lose just one club (to ♣ J). It's not covered, loses to ♣ K and the knave of clubs doesn't fall under the ace so we lose two clubs.

One spade, one heart, one diamond and two club losers. Slightly disappointing but contract made.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4N; S 3♠; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; N 2♠; NS 1♥; Par +630

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

1. Fearless folk may venture 2♥, weak (a fair description).
2. 15-16 with 1+stopper in hearts.

If West does jump to 2♥ North can make a take out double and South will rebid 2N (15-17). North has an easy raise to the same nine trick game.

With the club finesse working and that suit breaking 3-3 there are always four clubs, four diamonds and one heart to win. Note that the defence cannot play spades without eventually setting up ♠ 10.

If West leads a heart that'll be a tenth trick. A tenth trick can be made legitimately but it's a little complex - South cashes the nine winners and exits with ♠ Q. Now the defence will have to yield a trick either to ♥ Q or ♠ 10. Neat.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

170914SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

1. 15-17, doesn't deny 4spades.

West bids naturally and, particularly, shows his second suit as there might be a fit there. It would be a little pushy, but possible, for West to try for a diamond slam by following up with 4♦ over 3N. Unless the partnership can play in 4N after this development (if East isn't interested) West might as well bid the slam as making 5♦/5♦+1 is often outscored by those in no trumps. Here ♦ Q fails to fall in one or two rounds and the minor suit slam fails.

South could kick off with ♣ 2 (leading the unbid suit). This creates a matchpoint problem because the objective, in a standard contract, is to make as many tricks as possible. West can see that if the diamonds break 2-2 (or ♦ Q is singleton) there should be twelve tricks - five hearts (assuming hearts no worse than 4-3), six diamonds and a club. This means winning the first trick but declarer will be quickly disillusioned. Declarer can "get out" for eight tricks now but may try to make the contract by playing a spade, hoping clubs are 4-4 (♣ 2 tempts one to think that). We're doomed. Two off.

The winning line is to duck two rounds of clubs, win the third and clear the diamonds. Now if South fails to cash ♠ A there'll be ten tricks, else nine. It's a moot point as to whether this is the matchpoint line but it's certainly the correct approach at rubber bridge or playing teams where fulfilment of the contract is the overriding principle.