

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

<p>♠ 10 ♥ AK 10 9 5 3 ♦ 7 6 3 ♣ A Q 2</p>			
<p>♠ A Q J 9 8 7 4 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ A 9 ♣ 7</p>	<p>EW N S E</p>	<p>♠ K ♥ Q 7 6 2 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ K 9 5 4 3</p>	
<p>♠ 6 5 3 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q J 4 2 ♣ J 10 8 6</p>			

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

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

Lead: ♥ A.

The defence will have to be careful here. North cashes a top heart. With ♥ Q to length in dummy it's better for South to give count. Here South's play is forced but North won't be able to work out whether ♥ 8 is a singleton if West drops ♥ J on this (as playing ♥ 8 would also be the card to play from ♥ 8 4). Whichever card West plays, North doesn't want to set up the queen of hearts prematurely so switches to a diamond.

Declarer draws trumps in three rounds and plays a club up. North wins and exits with a safe diamond. South wins and puts declarer back in hand with a further round of the suit. There's no chance of declarer avoiding a second heart loser and the contract fails.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

♠ Q 7 4
♥ K 9 7 5 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ A J

♠ J
♥ J 10 8 4
♦ J 5 3
♣ K 10 9 7 6

♠ 10 6
♥ Q 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 4
♣ Q 5 4 3

♠ A K 9 8 5 3 2
♥ A
♦ A 8 6
♣ 8 2

NS 7♠; NS 6N; NS 4♥; NS 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +2210

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

All pass

1. Ace-showing cue bid.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB").
3. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".
4. Do you have the queen of trumps?
5. Yes and ♥ K.
6. Any other side suit kings?
7. Yes, one.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

Once South has jump bid in his own suit, after a two level response, the auction is forcing to game. North is able to show the king of hearts economically. Here South asks for further side suit kings - you should agree with your partner whether the response to this should count the already-shown king. South bids the grand slam, somewhat optimistically, hoping that North has, say, ♥ Q, or can set up a third winner in the heart suit (declarer can count twelve tricks on top - seven spades, two hearts, two minor suit aces and one minor suit king).

A club lead seems worst for declarer but he wins in dummy and plays a heart to hand. Spade to ♠ Q and a heart ruff. The other trump is drawn and dummy entered with ♦ K. Another heart is ruffed and dummy reached with ♠ 7. Declarer can cash ♥ A and that card, together with the established ♥ 9, provide discards for the two losing cards in declarer's hand (♦ 8 and ♣ 8).

"Bid boldly, play safe" was the title of a famous bridge book by Rixi Markus - this hand would merit inclusion in it.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 7N; NS 7♥; NS 7♣; NS 3♠; NS 4♦; Par +1520

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

1. 12-14.
2. Slam try, usually 6+suit.
3. Advance ace-showing cue bid.
4. RKCB.
5. 2 of the 5 "aces" without ♥ Q.
6. Asking for side suit kings.
7. One side suit king.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

If you play that the jump to the three level can be made in a suit with only five cards, you may have a problem on this hand. South would be loth to cuebid 4 ♦ if unsure of an eight card fit. Here there's a presumption that North holds at least six cards of very good quality. When North asks for side suit kings he finds partner with one but cannot be sure if it's in clubs or diamonds. That will probably be enough of a reason to stay at the six level (declarer may mutter something about the possibility of a bad trump break too).

As it is, South does have ♣ K and thirteen tricks roll in (two spades, six hearts, one diamond and four clubs).

Footnote for the seriously keen - the response to the 5N king ask can be made more sophisticated by asking partner to bid his cheapest side suit king. Here South would bid 6 ♣ and reaching 7 ♥/7N would be (relatively) easy. For completeness, after responder has shown such a king, a six-level bid of another side suit asks partner to bid the grand slam if holding the king of that suit.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 1N; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +90

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 N ¹
All pass			
			1. 12-14.

We return to more tranquil waters with a sedate auction that doesn't progress above the one level. Here South opens 1N but some may bid 1 ♠. 1 ♠ on this hand isn't too bad because the suit is of reasonable quality; 1N does, however, get over the general nature of the hand (balanced).

Those who play in 2 ♠ may do well as there are eight tricks, provided declarer ruffs a heart in dummy. Against 1N West may lead ♥ 3, 4th best from a broken suit. That simple play is a disaster for East West as it gives North South +120, a fine score.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 6♥; EW 6♦; EW 3N; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; Par -980

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

1. 4th suit forcing.
2. Usually a slam try (see text).
3. Ace-showing cue bid.
4. RKCB.
5. 2 of the 5 "aces" without the queen of diamonds.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

When we play match pointed pairs we're very conscious that playing in 5-of-a-minor rarely gets us a good score. That's because the scoring system is biased towards playing in no trumps where each trick is worth more points. Here East West face that very dilemma - whether to push to slam or to stay in 3N*. Here the effort is worthwhile and 6♦ is reached after a good auction in which East has bid out his shape to show 5/5 in the minors and West, after using fourth suit forcing, has been able to make a slam try by agreeing diamonds at the three level.

In the play declarer can make the West hand the master by setting up the heart suit. The twelve tricks will be two spades, four hearts, a heart ruff, four diamonds and a club.

*playing teams we may lose 1 or 2 imps when we investigate slam and settle in 5-of-a-minor but we don't mind that small loss when we add in the times we bid to slam and make.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 5♦; EW 2N; NS 2♥; NS 1♠; Par -500: NS 5♥x-3

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

1. Inventive - knows partner can't hold 4hearts (else a reverse into 2♥ as a rebid). East bids 3♥ to show a heart stop, looking for partner to bid 3N with a club stop.
2. No club stop.

After the previous hand we have a chance to look at a hand where East West are able to pinpoint the no trump flaw before going past 3 no trumps. Indeed East West skillfully managed to avoid the trap of playing in 3N where a normal club lead from North would scupper the contract (played by East, it would, admittedly, be more difficult for the leader to find the club lead).

The weakness in clubs should make it easy for North to lead the ace of clubs. After a second club declarer is held to the contract. If a club is not led declarer can make a twelfth trick as ♠ K can be ruffed out in two rounds. That promotes ♠ Q for a discard of one of the clubs.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

N 6N; N 6♣; S 5N; NS 5♥; S 5♣; NS 3♠; NS 2♦; Par +1440

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

1. 16+, either 6+hearts ("excellent quality" - see text); or 5+hearts and 4+club support.
2. Bidding out the shape (doesn't promise extra values).
3. Confirms single-suited nature of hand.
4. RKCB.
5. 1 of the 5 "aces".

For the jump to 2 ♥ North's hand would normally be of better quality (say, replace ♥ 2 with ♥ A or ♥ K) but it sometimes difficult to catch up with such hands after an initial 1 ♥ response. All goes well in the auction when South shows delayed support for hearts. North will be concerned that a slam would fail if partner doesn't have a top honour in hearts. Using RKCB checks on the "ace" situation and the slam is reached with declarer knowing that one of the top hearts is missing.

With the hand played by North the contract is protected from a dangerous diamond lead and declarer will come to twelve tricks without needing a diamond finesse - two spades, five hearts, ace of diamonds and four clubs (there's a surplus winner in the club suit).

Those partnership who play in 6N (hopefully by North) will outscore the six-hearters. Plus 1,440 compared to plus +1,430, just ten points but massive at match points.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 6♥; EW 4N; EW 4♦; EW 2♣; Par -980

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

1. Ace-showing cue bid.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

After East shows the ace of diamonds West could use RKCB but it would be superfluous. West knows that East doesn't hold ♣ A (else a 4 ♣ bid over 3 ♠) and he also knows that partner has at least four trumps (no jump raise with fewer). That means the queen of trumps isn't an important card. West's only concern will be whether there will be a spade loser.

North will lead a spade (♠ K) but declarer draws trumps and throws dummy's spade loser on the third top diamond. A spade can be ruffed in dummy. A club is then played and if South doesn't rise with ♣ A he'll lose it and East West will have a precious overtrick.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

1. Pre-emptive.

Well, that's one possible outcome. Another could see North doubling the 4 ♣ contract, a decision that he'll soon come to regret. With the diamond finesse working for East the only losers are the top clubs and a heart.

Another scenario could see North bidding 3N over 3 ♠. This could arise if North takes South's 3 ♦ too seriously. Normally we play a 3 ♦ response to 1 ♦ as showing roughly 10 to 12 high card points. When, however, as here, the auction is crowded (by the opponents bidding) it's better to give partner a little leeway. After all if we deem South's hand too weak for 3 ♦ we force him to pass when it could be right to compete.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 7N; NS 7♠; NS 6♥; NS 6♦; NS 6♣; Par +2220

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	6 N	Pass	2 N ¹

1. 17-18.

North has a good 17 (with the five card diamond suit) and knowing of the combined 34-35 high card points can confidently bid to 6N. The best lead for East is from one of the red suits - a lead that gives nothing away (on that basis a heart looks more attractive).

It looks normal to cash ♠ A and run ♠ 10. When that loses declarer realises he is not home as there are only eleven top tricks. He tests the diamonds as a 3-3 break is sufficient for the contract. No joy there so it would be reasonable to play for split queens - so play East to hold the queen of clubs. In fact East is squeezed in the minors so, on the assumption of that hand holding ♣ Q, *there's no need to take the club finesse*. Just run all the winners and wait to see if East discards the knave of diamonds. If that card doesn't appear play the clubs and the queen will pop up. This line will also work if West started with a doubleton/singleton club including that queen (or West misdefends by coming down to a doubleton with that card).

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

♠ J 6 3
 ♥ 9 4 2
 ♦ K 9 5
 ♣ 7 6 5 3

♠ 2
 ♥ Q J 6 5
 ♦ A Q 7 4 2
 ♣ J 4 2

♠ A K Q 9 8 5 4
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 8

♠ 10 7
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ J 10 8 3
 ♣ A K Q 10 9

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

1. RKCB.
2. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".
3. ♥ Q?
4. Yes, but no side suit king.

A small slam bid and made on minimal values - the power of distribution (along with a great side suit). There's nothing to the play. South will attempt to cash two clubs - ruff the second, draw trumps and claim.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

♠ K 9 8 4 3
 ♥ A 10 4 2
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ Q 8

♠ 10 6
 ♥ J 8 7
 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4
 ♣ A K 5

♠ Q
 ♥ K Q 9 6 5
 ♦ A K 3
 ♣ J 10 9 3

♠ A J 7 5 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 10 9
 ♣ 7 6 4 2

EW 4♥; NS 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; EW 2♣; Par -200: NS 4♠x-1

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥ ¹	4 ♠

All pass

1. It's close between this and a takeout double. The two good honours perhaps swing the decision in favour of the heart call. A problem with doubling is that it'll be impossible to reach a 5-3 heart fit.

This game should fail with the defence able to make two winners in each of the minor suits. If the defence mistakenly plays three rounds of diamonds (but why?) one of the club losers disappears. As a precaution against a 3-0 spade break declarer should cash ♠ K first catering for East holding ♠ Q (if West has three spades nothing can be done to prevent that hand making a trump).

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 3♠; NS 4♦; EW 3♣; NS 1♥; Par +130

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥ ¹	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	3 ♦	All pass	

1. Light but shapely.

On a club lead East wins and switches to a spade. This holds declarer to ten tricks. If the defence doesn't start this way it's possible to make as many as twelve tricks. Declarer can ruff the hearts good and discard all three spades. Two ruffs of clubs can be taken in dummy.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

18thNovember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 5N; EW 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460

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

- 21-22, balanced; or eight playing tricks in an unbalanced hand.
- Relay.
- 21-22, balanced.

A simple 3N with which to end. Declarer can play on clubs to build the eleventh trick. Plus 460 to East West (the diamond finesse, taken and repeated, assures declarer of four tricks in that suit).