

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ 7
♦ K Q J 8 7
♣ A 10

♠ 10 4
♥ K J 10 8 2
♦ 10 4 2
♣ J 6 4

♠ 7 6
♥ A 5 4
♦ 9 5
♣ Q 8 7 5 3 2

♠ J 9 8 5
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ A 6 3
♣ K 9

W N
S E

NS 6♠; NS 6♦; S 4N; N 2N; NS 1♥; Par +980

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

1. Unbalanced, with eight playing tricks; or 21-22, balanced.
2. Relay.
3. Ace-showing cue bid agreeing hearts.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB").
5. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".

[Follow-up to last week's workshop]

After North has shown his spade suit, a raise to 3♠ by South would be invitational to game (and not forcing). South shows slam interest instead by cue bidding the ace of diamonds with the jump to 4♦. Thereafter North uses RKCB and the small slam is reached (the response lets North know that an ace is missing).

East may begin with ♥A after which West will encourage with ♥J (or with ♥2 if playing reverse signals). A second heart, unsurprisingly, is ruffed by North who draws trumps and claims - five spades, five diamonds and two top clubs. +980 to North South.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A J 10 4
♥ K 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K 10 5 4

♠ 7 5 3
♥ A J 6
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ Q 8 6

♠ K Q 6 2
♥ 7 5
♦ A K 7 4
♣ 9 3 2

♠ 9 8
♥ Q 10 9 8 3 2
♦ 9 3 2
♣ J 7

W N
S E

NS 2♥; W 1N; W 2♦; NS 2♣; W 1♠; E 1♦; Par +100: W 2♠×-1;
W 2N×-1; W 3♦×-1

West	North	East	South
		1N ¹	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥
All pass			

1. 12-14.

North makes a penalty-oriented double but South has little defence so removes to his six card heart suit. A good defence (not obvious) sees West lead a spade after which East West can play three rounds of diamonds. That forces declarer to ruff in dummy and ensures that West makes ♥J. With such a start declarer will be held to eight tricks with the defence taking one spade, two hearts and two diamonds. Contract made though.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A K Q J 6			
♥ A 9 5			
♦ 6 5			
♣ 9 7 6			
♠ —	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ S ♣ E</div>		♠ 8 5 4 3 2
♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 2			♥ 4
♦ K Q J 9			♦ 10 3
♣ Q 2			♣ A J 10 5 3
♠ 10 9 7			
♥ K 3			
♦ A 8 7 4 2			
♣ K 8 4			
NS 3N; NS 3♠; EW 2♥; NS 2♦; NS 1♣; Par +400			
West	North	East	South
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
All pass			

West will be conscious that partner has few values (East didn't bid over 1 ♠) but some will try 3 ♥ over 2 ♠. 3 ♥ will make unless North receives a diamond ruff as West will otherwise lose just two trumps, ♦ A and a club to the king. In spades North will be held to nine tricks as it's not possible to draw all the opposing trumps and be able to ruff a heart in the South hand.

In the auction shown South might bid 2 ♥ instead of 2 ♠ to show a good raise of spades (10+hcps). What may swing the decision in favour of 2 ♠ is South thinking that ♥ K is not a good card. Obviously, with partner holding the ace of hearts, it IS full value.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

20th April 2016 Supervised Pairs

♠ 6					
♥ A K 7 5 4					
♦ A 10 9 8 4 2					
♣ 7					
♠ A 8 4 2	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ S ♣ E</div>		♠ K Q 3		
♥ 10 8 3 2			♥ Q 9 6		
♦ 5			♦ J 7 6 3		
♣ A 10 9 5			♣ K 3 2		
♠ J 10 9 7 5					
♥ J					
♦ K Q					
♣ Q J 8 6 4					
NS 2♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +90					
West	North	East	South		
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠		
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥ ¹		
All pass					
1. Might try 2N which could get the partnership to a reasonable 3♦.					

North doesn't have sufficient values to start with his longer diamond suit (needing a good 16+ hcps) so may treat the hand as 5/5 in the red suits. After his 2 ♦ rebid South is not well placed and gives false preference to 2 ♥ as partner has shown 5+hearts and just 4+diamonds. Playing in the longer trump suit is generally safer. The auction is likely to rest there .

East may start with a spade and this will shorten North's trumps such that it won't be possible for declarer to enjoy the long diamond suit (it's salient, too, that diamonds break badly). In time declarer is unlikely to make more than seven tricks. He may just about make four trumps (helped when two rounds of spades get ruffed), a diamond and one in each black suit (for example). The actual play can be quite complex with many variations.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ 7 4
♥ AK 9 8 7
♦ K 10 9 7
♣ A 3

♠ 9 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ 5 2
♣ K Q J 10 9 2

♠ AK Q J 10 8 5
♥ Q
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ 4

W N E S

♠ 6 2
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ J 6 3
♣ 8 7 6 5

EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 4♣; EW 2♦; Par -450

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

East has a very powerful hand and he may start with a takeout double. This is an exception to our usual SOS [shortage, opening values and support] rules and the doubler clarifies his hand on the second round. Here 3♣ shows the type of hand East holds - roughly 18+hcps and single-suited. West will expect partner to hold at least six spades so the raise to the spade game is normal (an eight card fit is as good as assured).

South will lead his partner's suit and the defence will come to just one heart and one club. If North switches to a diamond at trick two East should put in ♦ Q. With North holding the king of diamonds there is no further loser. Declarer can play on clubs and is in a position to draw two rounds of trumps ending in dummy with ♠ 9. Now declarer can discard his diamond losers on the set up clubs.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

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

♠ Q 9 4	♠ J 3 2	♠ 10 7 2	♠ 8 6 5 4
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EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 6♦; EW 4♥; EW 4♣; Par -1440			
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
4 ♦ ¹	Pass	2 N	Pass
4 N ³	Pass	4 ♥ ²	Pass
6 ♦	All pass	5 ♠ ⁴	Pass

1. Slam try.
2. Ace-showing cue bid.
3. RKCB.
4. 2 of the 5 "aces" with the queen of trumps.

[Follow-up to last week's workshop]

When East shows a balanced 17-18 hcps, West has sufficient values to try for slam. He does this by jumping to 4♦, a bid that you wouldn't make merely to invite game. When East shows the ace of hearts, West can use RKCB. He'll find that no key cards are missing but won't try for the grand slam as the partnership is limited to 30/31 hcps.

When dummy goes down declarer will see that the play of the hand is not entirely straightforward. The simple line is to hope that the spades behave. Here they are 3-3 so it's possible to ruff them good. Declarer can make twelve tricks with three spades, a spade ruff, a heart, four diamonds and three clubs. The luck is with East West.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A 9

♥ A 9 7 6 2

♦ 2

♣ K Q J 6 3

♠ Q 8 4 2

♥ Q J

♦ K Q 10 5

♣ A 7 2

N

W

E

S

♠ J 10

♥ K 10 5 4 3

♦ 9 6 3

♣ 10 9 8

♠ K 7 6 5 3

♥ 8

♦ A J 8 7 4

♣ 5 4

S 3♠; NS 2N; N 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +140

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		
1. 12-14.			
2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.			

North has a shapely hand but will not be too keen on bidding 2♥ as the suit does not have great texture (it fails the suit quality test where we like our overcalls to contain a number of cards plus honours being at least equal to the level of the contract being bid). Passing by North will work well as East is likely to transfer into that same suit and North South will find that defending works out well. The defence should be able to hold declarer to five/six tricks by taking two spades, two/three trumps*, a diamond and two clubs. Plus 200/300 will be good for them as it beats any partscore they may otherwise have played in (notice that neither side has an eight card fit).

[*depending on whether North receives two diamond ruffs.]

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ 9 8

♥ A Q 9 8 3

♦ 9 7 5

♣ J 3 2

♠ A

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 4 3

♣ Q 9 8 7 6 4

N

W

E

S

♠ K Q J 10 7 6 4 2

♥ —

♦ A K Q J

♣ A

♠ 5 3

♥ K J 10 5 2

♦ 10 6 2

♣ K 10 5

EW 7♠; EW 7♦; EW 2N; EW 3♣; Par -1510

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4 N ¹	Pass
5 ♠ ²	Pass	7 ♠	All pass
1. Asking for specific aces.			
2. ♠ A.			

[Follow-up to last week's workshop]

East has been dealt a marvelous hand and has a very high expectation of making at least twelve tricks. Is there one card that will convert this into all thirteen? Yes, ♠ A. The correct opening bid - which we looked at *some time ago* on a Wednesday morning - is 4N. This bid asks partner to show specific aces - 5♣ shows none, bids of 5♦/♥/♠ show one ace (in the suit bid), 5N shows two aces and 6♣ shows one ace, in clubs.

Once West has shown ♠ A East can confidently bid 7♠. This convention, necessarily rare as East's hand type is hardly common, is very useful as the key to this hand is the identification of West's ace. Had West bid 5♥, to show the ace of hearts, East would have signed off in 6♠. A form of Blackwood that merely tells East that West holds one ace does not work (unless the luck is with those bidders who guess how to continue in such situations).

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A Q J 3
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ J 4 2
♣ 10 9

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 7
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ K J 8 5 2

N
W
E
S

♠ K 9
♥ J 8 3
♦ K Q 7
♣ A Q 7 4 3

♠ 10 7 6 5 2
♥ A 10 6 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ 6

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

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

1. 12-14.

2. Close - pass is certainly possible.

3. Exit transfer showing 5+spades.

4. Both minors, please choose partner.

West is able to get both of his minors into the auction by bidding 2N as an "unusual" bid. It would also be possible for West to bid 3 ♣ instead and that will work well on the layout. North knows of the nine card spade fit so is likely to compete to 3 ♠, a bid made easier because of the non-vulnerability of North South. West may double that "on the way out" as he knows his side has about 24 hcps. This outcome can work well for North South as 3 ♠ fails by one trick (losing to ♠ K, three diamonds and a club) but East West can make 4 ♣. That contract loses two hearts and, with ♠ K well placed, one spade.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ K Q 5 4
♥ A J 4 2
♦ 9 5
♣ J 10 2

♠ J 8
♥ K 6
♦ J 6 4 3
♣ Q 8 6 4 3

N
W
E
S

♠ 9 7 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ Q 8 7
♣ K 9

♠ A 10 6
♥ Q 7 3
♦ A K 10 2
♣ A 7 5

NS 5N; NS 5♠; NS 5♥; NS 4♦; NS 3♣; Par +660

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

A good natural auction to the best game. South's 1N rebid does not deny four spades (since a 1 ♠ bid would promise an unbalanced hand) so North bids the suit as there may be a 4-4spade fit. Well, there isn't but South cooperates by showing his 3card heart support, lest North holds five hearts. Again there is no eight card major suit fit so 3N is the resting spot.

Declarer should make at least ten tricks. He can carefully cash ♠ A and ♠ K. With ♠ J falling there are four spade tricks. After taking a successful finesse of ♥ J, cashing the ace of hearts brings down the king so there are three hearts. To these seven tricks can be added two top diamonds and a club. If West were to lead a 4th best club, declarer could make a second club trick. ♠ J will be covered by East's king. South wins and plays a second to set up dummy's ♣ 10 (declarer might play on clubs himself but it would be risky when he's not sure of the honour location. West's lead of a small club is helpful as it strongly suggests holding ♣ Q).

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ K 5 3
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A K 9 7 3
♣ A 9

♠ 6 4
♥ K 10 4
♦ Q 10 6 4
♣ J 4 3 2

N
W
S
E

♠ 10 2
♥ J 9 6 5
♦ J 2
♣ Q 10 7 6 5

♠ A Q J 9 8 7
♥ A Q 3
♦ 8 5
♣ K 8

NS 6N; NS 6♠; S 5♦; NS 3♥; N 4♦; NS 1♣; Par +990

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

1. Ace-showing cue bid.
2. RKCB.
3. 2 of the 5 "aces" plus the queen of trumps.

[Follow-up to last week's workshop]

When North introduces a new suit at the 4level, as above, it's best to play this as an advance cue bid agreeing partner's last bid suit (rather than as a natural bid). When South, in turn, cue bids in hearts, North can now use RKCB as his flawed heart holding (no control in the suit) is covered by partner. Now North will find that all the key cards are held and is likely to settle for the small slam though may think of trying to go higher.

The slam makes if declarer establishes dummy's diamonds. Two rounds of trumps can be drawn with ♠ K being kept in dummy. Declarer plays ♦ A, ♦ K and ruffs a diamond. Dummy is reached with the top club and a fourth diamond ruffed. The fifth diamond is now set up. Dummy is reached with the king of spades and declarer can throw a heart on ♦ 9. He now takes a heart finesse of ♥ Q. It loses but the contract has been made - six spades, one heart, three diamonds and two clubs.

[Yes, if West leads a club, declarer should win in hand, preserving ♣ A as a later entry to dummy.]

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ J 9 5 4
♥ 10 9
♦ K Q J 3
♣ Q J 4

♠ K Q 10 3 2
♥ A K Q J 8
♦ 7 2
♣ 10

N
W
S
E

♠ 8 7 6
♥ 3 2
♦ A 9 6 5 4
♣ 8 6 3

♠ A
♥ 7 6 5 4
♦ 10 8
♣ A K 9 7 5 2

EW 3♠; NS 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1N; EW 1♦; Par +100: EW 4♠×-1

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

West has very good (5/5) distribution so is worth the 2♥ bid even though partner is marked with very little. When the auction fizzles out in 3♣ West gives it one more try by rebidding his heart suit. East will convert to the known 8card spade fit and the contract should make provided declarer, when playing trumps, leads a low spade from dummy (having crossed there with ♦ A). ♠ A now beats the air and the defence won't make more than two trumps to go with one winner for them in each of the minor suits.

It may not be easy for North South to compete further but 4♣ can make - six clubs, three diamonds and the ace of spades (♠ Q has to be preserved as a late entry to the diamonds else East can hold up ♦ A until the second round of the suit to kill dummy's third and fourth diamond winners).

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 7 4 3

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

♠ Q J 6
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ A Q 3
♣ A 10 5

EW 4♥; EW 2N; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -620

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	1N	Dbl
2♠	All pass		

When South makes the second round double it is for takeout. It's either a hand with short spades (so shape-suitable) or one that has extra values. South has the latter hand-type, a balanced seventeen count. West will rebid his spades and East will have nowhere to go. The contract will be touch-and-go with declarer quite possibly failing - losing two spades, a heart, two diamonds and a club. If West, at some point, leads ♥ K the defence can deny a heart entry to dummy when South ducks his ♥ A. That said, declarer can always force an entry to dummy by playing a club to the knave. In this way West can play a diamond towards his king.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

20thApril2016 SupervisedPairs

♠ A 4 3
♥ 10 8 4 3 2
♦ A 6 3 2
♣ 2

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

♠ 9 8 5
♥ Q 9 5
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ 9 8 3

EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 5♣; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -450

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

West is maximum for his jump rebid of clubs and East has sufficient values opposite a known 15-18 hcp hand to raise to game. South's best lead is a diamond and that might hold declarer to nine tricks as the defence could come to three diamonds and a spade (if East decides to play on spades). After this start declarer might make ten tricks but only if he takes the second diamond and finesses against South's ♥ Q. Now there'll be three heart, a diamond and six club winners. That line is far from obvious.

If South doesn't lead a diamond declarer could make at least eleven tricks if the defence restrict their winners to one or both of North's aces. Yes, it's a race against time and East *could* gather in four spades, two hearts and six clubs.