

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 7N; NS 7♥; NS 6♣; N 5♦; S 4♦; N 2♠; S 1♠; Par +1520

West	North	East	South
	2 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 ♦ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4 N <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5 ♣ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	5 ♦ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6 ♣ <sup>8</sup>
Pass	6 ♦ <sup>9</sup>	Pass	6 ♥ <sup>10</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 19-20, balanced.
2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.
3. Advance cue bid showing excellent trump support and ♣ A.
4. Cue bid showing ♦ A.
5. North knows from partner's last bid that there cannot be two immediate losers in diamonds and can use Roman Key Card Blackwood.
6. One of the five "aces".
7. Do you have the queen of trumps?
8. Yes, and the king of clubs.
9. North is interested in a grand slam. Bidding 6 ♦ asks whether partner has ♦ K.
10. No king of diamonds.

There are only two potential losers - ♣ 6 and ♦ 9. Declarer can draw trumps and ruff the club loser in the dummy. A successful finesse of ♦ Q allows declarer to chalk up thirteen tricks. The grand slam, 50:50 on the diamond finesse, is not a good proposition but a gambling mentality will pay off here.

**Board 2**

East Deals  
N-S Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; Par +600

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

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer showing 5+spades.
3. As instructed.

North has a useful hand but no easy way into the auction. His participation would be dependent on a frisky, and not recommended, 2 ♦ overcall by South. West would compete with 2 ♠ and North can bid 2N as a natural invitation to game. South won't be tempted.

The dynamic lead of ♦ A works well against 2 ♠. South follows with ♦ 2, a suit preference signal showing a top card in clubs (note that without this guidance a heart would be quite plausible given dummy's lack of strength there). ♣ A and another club allows South to play third diamond for North to obtain a second ruff. North still has the trump ace to come and the defence will make a slow heart winner. Two off.

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

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 3N; EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 1♣; Par -600

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

- 21-22, balanced; or 8 playing tricks in an unbalanced hand.
- Compulsory relay.
- 5+spades, unbalanced.
- Waiting bid hoping to improve the contract by finding a fit elsewhere.
- 6+spades, single-suited.
- "I wish I'd done this on the previous round".

North will probably lead a neutral heart or club. Let's say it's a club. West will try to reach dummy to take a spade finesse of ♠ J because the best chance of fulfilling the contract is to hope that South has Q x x in spades. West plays a heart to the queen but as South holds the ace dummy cannot be reached.

Now West has no choice but to cash the two top spades and is rewarded when the queen and ten fall. Now there are nine tricks - six trumps, one heart and two clubs. Contract made.

Is there a winning defence? Yes. *South allows the queen of hearts to hold!* This Greek gift allows declarer to take a losing trump finesse. With a further four red suit winners for the defence that's one off. Not easy.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 2♥; EW 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -110

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1N <sup>1</sup>	All pass

1. 15-16, balanced.

1N is the practical rebid with East's hand. The hand is not good enough to "reverse" into 2♦ (i.e. going above the barrier of 2♣ and showing a good 16/17+) and 2♣ is an underbid. 1N should go one off provided the defence attacks spades early enough. A "safe" diamond lead (♦ 7 - second from bad suits) will see declarer home.

As an alternative West may decide to bid 2♣ over 1N. This is more likely to see North entering the auction with 2♥. North may reason that West will be minimum for the 2♣ bid (the lower end of 5-9) otherwise he would be very happy for partner to play 1N. This means that the points between NS and EW are very close to 20:20 and that the hand could belong to either side. With the spades lying well 2♥ makes eight tricks - five trumps, ♦ A and two spades.

**Board 5**

South Deals  
N-S Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

E 5♠; W 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 2N; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -450

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

1. 17-18, balanced. Denies 4hearts but doesn't deny 4spades. Bidding 1 ♠ instead would show an unbalanced hand with 5+clubs and 4+spades; or a 4441-shaped hand with a singleton heart.

If West is to open 2 ♣ with an eighteen count, the hand must have eight playing tricks and be unbalanced. The hand fails both tests so 1 ♣ is the correct opening bid. East shows both suits and the eight card major suit game is reached.

South is likely to lead a trump or a club. East makes an assessment of potential losers. There are unlikely to be any spade losers (certainly none on a usual 3-2 spade break); two losers in hearts; one in diamonds and none in clubs (where ♣ 3 is "covered" by ♣ A in dummy). Dummy has one surplus club winner (i.e. it's not needed to cover a club loser in declarer's hand) and the diamond loser can be thrown on ♣ K. Alternatively, East can throw two of dummy's diamonds on the long hearts and ruff ♦ 10 in dummy (East will rise with ♦ A if North switches to a diamond). Eleven tricks, one way or another.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 3N; NS 3♠; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -100; NS 4♠x-1

West	North	East	South
1 N <sup>1</sup>	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
	1. 12-14, balanced.	All pass	

North has an obvious entry into the auction with the overcall showing about 11-15 high card points and usually a six card suit (five is possible with a good suit if the hand has some shape; overcalling with 5332 pattern is not recommended). With or without the intervention East has no easy bid to make and passes. Make one of East's minor suit cards a heart and a light take out double would be possible.

2 ♠ will make in comfort with an overtrick being standard. Declarer should lose a spade, two diamonds and a club. The third diamond can be ruffed in dummy.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 6♥; EW 4♠; EW 3N; W 4♣; E 3♣; EW 1♦; Par -1430

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

- 21-22, balanced; or an unbalanced hand with 8 playing tricks.
- Compulsory relay.
- 21-22, balanced.
- Transfer showing 5+hearts.
- An advance cue showing ♣ A and great trump support.
- Cue bid showing ♠ A.
- No minor suit to cue. East has no shortage (singleton or void) to show in clubs; nor has he ♦ K.

4441 hands are notoriously difficult to describe and West's approach - treating the hand as balanced - would be the practical, modern choice. Such improvisations which simplify later bidding are becoming the norm. After West's second bid East has a pretty good idea of the shape and values of partner's hand.

West, with such great controls (aces and kings) is worth the extra push with the cue bid in spades. He may even jump to the small slam after East's 4 ♥ bid. This is a difficult hand because West has no real idea that East has any values at all. The cue bidding approach tries to find appropriate values in the opposite hand but East cannot cooperate here.

One of the reasons we play transfers is to maximise the chance of the stronger hand becoming declarer. Here West's advance cue bid of 4 ♣ has put paid to that idea. Oddly enough that work's well here as East's queen of spades is protected from the opening leader's attack. If South leads a spade, ♠ Q is always set up as a winner allowing declarer to discard a losing diamond. If South doesn't lead a spade East can run ♣ J guaranteeing three club tricks, on the third of which the spade loser is discarded. With trumps breaking 2-2 declarer can ruff two diamonds for twelve tricks.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 5♠; EW 5♥; EW 4♦; EW 2N; EW 1♣; Par -450

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

A good natural auction. West's 2 ♠ shows a minimum hand in the context of having bid at the two level on the first round - necessarily minimum here because of the initial pass.

The three suits in which declarer is interested all break benignly for declarer. If South doesn't lead a club (of course ♣ A as no one underleads aces against suit contracts, do they?) declarer makes all thirteen tricks - the hearts break 3-3 so there are four tricks there; the diamonds are 3-3 too so can be ruffed out to provide East with two club discards and, to those eight tricks, we add the trump suit's five winners.

This is sometimes known as a "five or seven" hand because if you are going to bid slam it might as well be the grand slam as declarer cannot, without a club lead, be limited to twelve tricks ... but he might well fail!

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

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 6♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; EW 1N; Par -800: NS 6♠x-4;  
NS 7♦x-4

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

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Compulsory relay.
3. 5+hearts, unbalanced and forcing to game.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 0 or 3 of the five "aces", clearly the former.

East might open 2♣ instead but if, before you've heard anything from partner, you credit him with just one heart then a normal 3-2 allows East to count six heart winners plus four outside winners. That's a "guaranteed" ten tricks and game in East's hand.

The 5♦ response is disappointing but East takes a chance on the small slam. After all, there cannot be more than two losers.

Dummy does not have ♠K that would have guaranteed the contract but the four clubs headed by the knave means that there are four club winners. The spade loser can be discarded on the long club.

Declarer has to play the hand carefully. The 3-0 trump break is a nuisance. Trumps cannot be drawn until the club suit has been unblocked - otherwise declarer cannot get to dummy to take the spade discard. Draw two round of trumps then cash the three club winners. Luckily South, still holding the outstanding trump, has to follow to all three rounds. Now cross to ♥Q and throw ♠9 on ♣J. Twelve tricks.

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +630

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

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Compulsory relay.
3. 23-24, balanced.
4. Transfer showing 5+hearts.
5. Accepting the transfer, the usual response (but see hands 1&7).
6. Giving partner a choice of contracts.

Again (see board 7) South makes a practical decision and treats his hand as balanced (it's semi-balanced already). With South holding just a doubleton heart it's automatic to pass responder's 3N bid. When responder makes this bid South should mentally place him with a balanced hand with five hearts - usually 5332 shape, sometimes, as here, 5422.

Declarer should make nine or ten tricks. If West leads a diamond, declarer can hop up with ♦10 and play a second diamond. There'll be four diamond winners now. Two spades can be developed by knocking out the ace. There are three top heart tricks provided declarer can reach dummy. The way to overcome the blockage in the heart suit is to unblock that suit and play ♣5 to ♣J (or ♣Q to ♣K). If East ducks that's the entry; if East wins South can later overtake ♣Q with the king (or ♣5 with ♣J). If, instead, declarer plays ♣Q from hand and runs it a clever East will duck. Now the contract is held to nine tricks as there will be a second loser in spades to go with the one club and one heart losers.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 6♠; EW 6♣; NS 4♥; N 2♦; S 1♦; Par -500: NS 7♥x-3

West	North	East	South
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			2♥ <sup>1</sup>
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Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Dbl <sup>3</sup>	Pass
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4♠	All pass		
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1. 6-10, 6hearts (a weak two).
2. Not expecting to make but putting pressure on East. The comfort for North comes from the good diamond side suit and the known ten-card fit (would prefer a shortage in one of the black suits).
3. For takeout. Not the ideal shape (the hand is loaded towards the club suit) but East doesn't want to take a possible spade contract out of the picture.

South might prefer a better suit if vulnerable but not vulnerable the weak two opening is pretty automatic.

West should make twelve tricks, thirteen if North leads ♥ A. After that start, declarer ruffs the opening lead and draws trumps. That's six tricks from the spades suit and ♥ K and six club winners bring declarer to the full complement.

**Board 12**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 7N; NS 7♦; NS 6♥; NS 6♣; NS 3♠; Par +1520

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

1. (16)17-21, showing 5+diamonds and 4+hearts. A bid going above the barrier of 2♦ and therefore showing extra values.
2. Fourth suit forcing - game forcing as it's bid at the three level (and opener has shown additional values). East knows slam is close and elicits more information. Once partner bids 3N to show values in the unbid suit the secondary club fit is a great bonus.
3. Sets diamonds as trumps and looking for partner to co-operate by cue bidding.
4. Ace showing cue bids.
5. Showing ♠ K and, as the heart suit has been bypassed, denying ♥ K.

South's hand is not appropriate for a 2♣ opening as the hand is lacking in eight playing tricks. Playing tricks are dependent on quality suits that guarantee winners. Here South's diamonds don't fit that description. Further, semi-three-suited hands (5431 types) are better developed after a one level start.

A complex auction that gets NS to a very good spot (6N is good too, especially at match points where the higher scoring contract will gather a better percentage score). An auction involving Roman Key Card Blackwood would also work well but would be quite involved (after 4N and a 5♣ responses [one ace], South asks for the queen of trumps with 5♥, a bid above game. North replies 5♠ to show ♠ K and ♦ Q. A further ask of 6♥ looks for partner to bid 7♦ with ♥ K. Without that king North would be required to sign off in 6N. Subtle. A winning heart finesse translates to thirteen tricks.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

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

1. 21-22, balanced; or 8 playing tricks in an unbalanced hand.
2. Shows some values (else pass). Best played as game forcing (or, if the opponents play a contract, that contract is doubled).
3. Ideally South would have 5+hearts but he wants to keep low. After all, partner may have something useful in spades/clubs and 3N may be a viable spot.

Optimist/pessimist? That's what will determine whether North pushes to slam. Here North decides to play in his solid first suit though bidding 6 ♣ (or passing partner's 5 ♣) is also feasible.

Let's look at the play in 6 ♦. There is a sure spade loser and declarer's concern is the club suit. Declarer has a two-way finesse in that he can guess whether to finesse ♣ 10 (playing East for ♣ Q) or ♣ J (playing West for the queen). Before committing ourselves let's do some detective work. East probably has six spades - not only is he vulnerable but with only five that would put West with five too and he would be more likely to bid 3 ♠ then. We draw two rounds of trumps which break 2-2. Now we play three rounds of hearts ruffing out the queen. It now appears that East has six spades, three hearts and two diamonds. That puts him with two clubs and, counting that suit, West has three clubs. With West holding one extra club, compared to East, West is favourite to holding any particular club (so ♣ Q for us).

We play a club to the king, pitch a club on ♥ J (ditching a loser if the clubs *were* to break 4-1) and finesse West for the queen. Slam made.

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

20thAugust2014 SupervisedPractice

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

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

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

Support with support is an excellent bridge mantra and West follows that through with the 2 ♦ bid. A pass with that hand, looking for partner to re-open with a double which West then passes, would be speculative at best given West's lack of high card points.

West is known to be limited (5-9 for the raise) so East's 3 ♣ shows extra values, looking to West going towards game (5 ♦, perhaps 3N) with a maximum for the initial response. Here West has nothing further to say and shuts up shop with 3 ♦.

East has five potential losers - ♠ 4, ♥ 10&3 and ♣ 5&2. Nothing can be done about the spade and one of the hearts. It's just possible that the other three losers can be ruffed in dummy. One way to stop that is for South to lead a trump. Declarer plays a spade to generate communications between the two hands but a second trump play from the defence scuppers this chance.

In practice it's difficult to see South leading anything other than ♠ A. Now a trump switch works well and declarer should be held to +130.