

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -420

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♣
Dbl	All pass		

The East hand is light but Losing Trick Counters would always open the hand; and those with a flexible approach to the Rule of 20 would bid 1 ♠ too (it's a more aggressive Rule of 19 opener with the high card points (9) and lengths of the two longest suits (10) summing to that number).

One of our exceptions to the SOS (shortage in the opponents' suit; opening values; support for the unbid suits) rules arises if the overcaller has a very strong hand. Usually this sort of hand has 19+hcps but South's 16 count is good enough because of the seventh club. West is able to raise preemptively (a 2N response after a double is used to show a good raise of spades) and East can put added pressure on South by bidding game. South now has a choice between doubling (under our rules that's for penalties but a case could be made for it being takeout ... bridge never seems to have any easy answers) and bidding 5 ♣. It seems perverse not to mention a 7card suit so 5 ♣ it is. West is looking at a certain diamond trick and, playing the opening bidder for at least two defensive tricks (very reasonable after a 1level opening bid) is happy to double.

In a sense South has done the wrong thing but that is dependent on the defence being accurate. East needs to win the opening spade lead and switch to a diamond. Now the defence will take a spade, a heart, two diamonds and a diamond ruff for minus 500 to North South. If the diamond ruff is not forthcoming North South will lose just 300 points (at most) and that score will be better than conceding 4 ♠ to East West. Yes, the spade game makes with declarer able to set up the diamond suit by finessing ♦ Q and ruffing the third round. East will lose a trump, a heart and a club. Well done if East West bid to and make ten tricks in spades.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

North is awkwardly placed on the second round. 3 ♣ would be fourth suit forcing and, as it's bid at the 3level, is usually played as forcing to game (a little rich as North has a ten count and the hands do not fit well). South bids 3 ♠, a bid that confirms a sixth spade. North, with a void, corrects to 3N and will be very pleased that South had extra values (the two hands have twenty six points between them).

Communication between the North and South hands is not good but declarer can win the expected club lead (a 4th best ♣ 4) in the South hand, unblock ♦ A, cash ♠ A (not completely necessary) and play a heart to ♥ A. Now when ♦ 10 falls on the second round declarer has nine tricks - one spade, one heart, five diamonds and two clubs. There is scope to make more tricks.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 4♠; EW 5♣; EW 1N; EW 1♥; E 1♦; Par -620

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹

2 ♠ All pass
1. 12-14.

East may venture a natural 2N bid (about 11-12 hcps) over 2 ♠ but the singleton in partner's suit suggests a more cautious approach. 2 ♠ may be the final contract.

North can lead anything but the lead will have no bearing on the outcome. With the spade suit having good texture and the club fit on the side, declarer will make ten tricks losing two trumps and a diamond. Of course, declarer will take a finesse of ♦ Q but it will lose to South's king so there won't be an overtrick.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 4N; EW 4♥; EW 5♣; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; Par -500: NS 5♦x-2

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

It's not automatic for South to bid 3 ♦, a preemptive jump overcall. Some will not like to do so holding a decent 4card major on the side. When 3 ♦ is bid West is able to bring both his major suits into the picture by making a takeout double. Though North may bravely raise partner's suit East can support one of the majors and will bid the heart game.

The 4-1 heart break will cause a problem. In such circumstances it's good to set up the side suit before all the trumps are drawn. Here, let's say South leads a diamond. North wins and switches to a small spade. Declarer can play two top hearts winning in dummy. Now it's necessary to play and run ♣ Q (or ♣ 8), playing North to have started with both ♣ K and ♣ 10. When ♣ Q is covered declarer wins in hand and enters dummy by ruffing the winning ♦ K. Declarer can now play ♣ 8 not worrying whether North covers or not. It will always be possible to enter dummy to draw both of North's trumps by finessing against ♥ J.

Expect quite a few to fail in 4 ♥ and those in a heart partscore not to make more than nine tricks.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 6N; NS 6♦; NS 4♥; NS 3♠; NS 2♣; Par +1440

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	Pass	3 N

All pass
1. 12-14.

This is a good example of opening the North hand with 1N with a 5card major (some partnerships will always open 1N with a hand in range with 5major332 shape; others will make a judgment based on the quality of the major). The heart suit just isn't good enough to open and rebid 2♥.

South blasts 3N. There's no point bidding 3♦, a strong bid, because the hands won't have sufficient values to warrant a slam venture (yes, slam can be made but it's very fortunate and not recommended on the known combined values).

East could lead from any suit. He may try to hit some major suit length in partner's suit by starting there (the opponents failure to use Stayman may suggest a relative lack of major suit cards for them). He could also try a neutral club lead or a 4th best lead of ♦ 2. Let's say he starts with ♦ 2. That gives nothing away and declarer can play in simple fashion by finessing ♣ J and ♠ Q to arrive at eleven tricks - two spades, one heart, six diamonds and two clubs. He can also cash ♥ A and, when in hand, play ♥ Q to set up ♥ J as a twelfth winner.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

N 4N; S 3N; N 5♣; S 4♣; NS 2♥; N 1♠; N 1♦; Par +430

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	3 N	1 ♦	2 ♣

All pass

[Follow-up on last week's workshop - penalty doubles]

If West is able to make a jump to show a preemptive response then he may choose 3♠ as above (some may play that as a splinter raise of diamonds - big hand with a spade shortage and good diamonds - just as they would do had South not made an overcall). 3♠ will cause North a problem. It would be usual to use a double as takeout, a bid that would imply 4hearts (or 5 moderate ones) with some support for clubs and, because we're committing the partnership to the 4level, a good hand. With North unable to make a penalty double the winning bid is 3N. That contract will take nine tricks with declarer finessing ♥ Q for the ninth trick (East is as good as marked with ♥ Q and ♦ A for the opening bid so a diamond to the king would not be successful).

If West is very aggressive he may choose to bid 4♠ over 2♣. Now North has an easy double. Since the opponents have bid game this is incontrovertibly for penalties. Declarer will be lucky to get out for less than 800. It's important to pay attention to the vulnerability. Here bidding 4♠ is just wrong. Adverse vulnerability, no fit for partner, even the lack of ♠ 10, etc.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; NS 1N; Par -200: NS 5♣×-1;
NS 5♦×-1

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	3 ♣ ¹	3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♥	5 ♣	Dbl	All pass

1. Right in terms of Losing Trick Count but will mislead partner on high card strength criterion.

South will not want to bid 3N with just the bare ♥ A but has enough to bid on to 4 ♣. With his distribution North will bid on to 5 ♣ as a two-way shot. It may make or it may be a good sacrifice. If it doesn't make it shouldn't be too expensive. Of course South will have high hopes of the contract making following partner's limit raise to 3 ♣. He might even redouble. He'll get a nasty surprise but even the one redoubled undertrick, costing 400 points, won't be as expensive as conceding 620 to 4 ♥ making. Yes, 5 ♣ is one off - two spade and one diamond losers. 4 ♥ has just three losers - a heart, a diamond and a club (no spade loser with ♠ Q well placed).

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 6♣; EW 5♥; EW 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; Par -500: NS 6♦×-3

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

1. Michaels cue bid showing 5+spades and 5+cards in one of the minors.

[Follow-up on last week's workshop - penalty doubles]

When West, in showing a good hand, bids 3 ♣ South can guess that partner's minor is in diamonds (yes, these guesses sometimes don't work). He's prepared to allow the opponents to play in 3 ♥ but once they reach game bids 4 ♠ as a sacrifice. He does this because of the element of a double fit - known 8card spade fit and a hoped-for 9card diamond fit. Yes, when dummy's exposed, partner has the "right" hand.

West can double 4 ♠ for penalties (extra values and opponents bidding at the game level). The contract may fail by one/two tricks with declarer losing one/two spades*, a heart and two clubs. It's a worthwhile sacrifice (costing 100/300 points) because declarer will make 4 ♥ for 420, losing a heart, a diamond and a spade. Yes, declarer can avoid a heart loser by taking a deep finesse of ♥ 8 but he's unlikely to take it. Not impossible though with North advertising at least ten cards in hearts.

**an unlikely diamond lead ensures West receives a ruff in suit.*

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

N 4♠; S 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; NS 2♣; W 1♥; Par +420

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

[Follow-up on last week's workshop - penalty doubles]

The East hand ought not overcall 2 ♥ with such a poor suit (suit quality test?) but the shape of the hand is appropriate for a takeout double (a rare exception where we don't overcall with the 5card major suit). South has quite good values for 2 ♠ (a bid that promises very little) but the lack of a fourth trump means that a bid of 3 ♠ should be dismissed (after the double a 2N bid is used to show a good raise to 3 ♠ with 4+trumps).

With North expecting very little defence to a diamond contract he jumps to game as an advance sacrifice. The vulnerability (favourable) is right for this. West is likely to double this (penalties as the opponents have bid game; further, East West can be deemed to have found a fit - so penalty dopubles can apply - since East's double has promised diamond length).

4 ♠ may well make and probably will if East leads ♣ K. Now declarer can make three club tricks by the later finesse of ♣ 9. Ten tricks by way of five spades, two hearts and three clubs. Declarer will cash ♠ A but find that his attempt to ruff hearts is thwarted by West's spade holding. In fact declarer may do better not to cash ♠ A. Now West won't be able to overruff dummy on the play of hearts *and* cash ♠ K.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par -140

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

1. The diamond suit is so poor that East decides to open the robust major instead.

North is awkwardly placed after the 2 ♥ raise and the lack of spades precludes the use of a takeout double. The hand is just not good enough to overcall in clubs at the 3level. Had West responded 1 ♠ North could have doubled to show the minors.

Declarer will always make nine tricks (three spades, a spade ruff and five trumps) but could make a tenth if the defence don't cash their two club winners. Mind you, declarer will have to have second sight. Trumps are drawn and two rounds of spades are cashed. Now declarer finesses ♠ 10. On ♠ Q a club can be discarded allowing a club ruff in dummy. A tad far-fetched.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 2N; EW 2♥; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -100; NS 3♣x-1			
West	North	East	South
			3 ♣
Dbl	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Dbl	All pass	

[Follow-up on last week's workshop - penalty doubles]

The brave may try a 4 ♣ opening bid. After all the hand has eight clubs BUT the vulnerability cautions against this. East's 3 ♥ could have been made with a zero count but West does have an eighteen count and will probably raise to game. North will announce his presence with a swift double. This double is well-judged with his major suit holdings sitting over the strong hand.

Declarer may be held to just seven tricks if he plays North for diamond values. Now he may lose two spades, two trumps and two diamonds. That translates to minus 500. This is seemingly unfair as West action in bidding 4 ♥ was very reasonable.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 3♥; EW 1N; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -140			
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 N ¹	Pass	4 ♥	All pass
1. 15-16 (worth it because of the 10s and a working 9 - secondary honours working together).			

West may open 1N but judgment suggests the above approach (against that, the small doubleton club is no asset). If West does open 1N East will transfer to hearts and West will become the declarer in 4 ♥. That makes it easier for the defence to lead a spade (♠ K). The defence should come to one spade, one diamond and two clubs.

With East playing 4 ♥ South will have to find the lead of a spade (♠ 8 - second from rubbish - being the standard card). Without that lead the spade loser can be discarded on a diamond winner. If the defence never touch clubs declarer could also throw two clubs. That would bring East an unlikely overtrick.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

S 5♥; S 4N; N 4♥; S 5♦; N 4♦; N 2N; EW 1♣; Par +650

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

All pass

1. Showing (some) extra values.
2. Forcing, looking for more information (see text).
3. Do you have a spade stop?

After North's strength-showing double South has no clear course of action. To keep things flexible he cue bids the opponents suit. This says "we're going somewhere but I'm not quite sure of the destination". North has no support for partner's suit and has a balanced hand but with no spade stop. 3N will be a resting place if South has a spade stop. North can ask for this by bidding the opponents' suit again. South has ♠ K so can bid 3N.

The best lead for West is a spade (♠ Q - top of an interior sequence). This appears to hold declarer to nine tricks - one spade, one heart, five diamonds and two clubs. But declarer can run the minor suits which will put pressure on West. In order to keep his ♥ K guarded he'll have to throw one spade winner. Now, if South reads the position extremely well he can throw West in with a spade. The enforced heart return will give declarer a second heart trick. And a tenth trick overall.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

21stSeptember2016 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 5♣; EW 2N; N 2♠; S 1♠; N 1♥; Par -400

West	North	East	South
		1♣	2♣ ¹
Dbl ²	2♠	3♣	3♠
4♣	Pass	5♣	All pass

1. Michaels cue bid promising at least 5/5 distribution in the majors.
2. Value showing.

South has few values but takes advantage of the vulnerability to make a cheeky intervention. That makes life difficult for East West. West's 4♣ is certainly pushy but East has shown a good hand when bidding at the 3level (though some of that decision may have been influenced by West's value-showing double). East is likely to raise to game, a spot that is fair but not cast-iron. With the heart finesse right it should be a simple matter of ruffing a spade in dummy and making the contract when there's a decent trump break. Alas clubs are 4-0. The game will fail unless declarer runs ♣ J from dummy. That play is against the odds but would be reasonable had North greedily doubled 5♣. Now declarer is in a better position to play that hand for all four trumps.