

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3N; S 2♠; EW 2♦; N 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +300:
EW 4♦ x-2

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

[Follow-up on last week's workshop]

West begins the defence brightly by leading ♠ A. East contributes perforce ♠ 2 which may be discouraging (low card) but West continues with his plan by leading a second spade. He leads ♠ 3, a suit preference signal. By playing this low card West is asking for the return of the lower ranking side suit, clubs. East ruffs the second spade and returns a club. West cashes both ♣ Q and ♣ A before returning a third spade for partner to ruff. East has spotted West's sequence of club plays and returns a club. West ruffs and this very reasonable game contract fails by three tricks. +150 to East West.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 2♥; NS 1♠; EW 1♣; Par -110
West North East South

2 N¹ All pass
1. 19-20, balanced.

2N is one of the worst contracts in which to play, a no man's land where making precisely eight tricks is rare - make nine and you'd rather be in game; make seven and 1N would be preferred. This deal is no exception and declarer will be lucky to make seven tricks. North leads a 4th best ♠ 5 and the defence takes the first five spade tricks. On the 4th and 5th spades West may discard a heart and a diamond. If the defence can read the position North will now switch to a red card and it'll be possible to build a seventh defensive trick (provided South ducks ♥ K if a heart is played - difficult but not impossible as West is marked with the ace). In practice, because dummy has no entry, South may discourage a switch to hearts and diamonds. Now North will exit with a neutral club. This will allow West to play ♦ K thereby building ♦ Q as the seventh trick.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹

All pass
1. 12-14.

West will start with ♥ Q (top of a sequence) and the defence will take the first six tricks. South will be in a similar position to West on the last hand in that, here, cashing hearts forces him into making a number of uncomfortable discards (possibly throwing a spade, two diamonds and a club; with East throwing a diamond and two clubs). West may shift to a club, ducked by declarer who wins the next club. South plays ♠ A and a spade towards ♠ J. East wins ♠ K and plays ace and another diamond. Declarer has the rest but is three off. He has taken four tricks - two spades, a diamond and a club. That should mean that the defence has nine tricks - yes, one spade, six hearts, one diamond and a club.

Can North South feel good about this result? Well, only in the sense that 4♥ can make for the opponents. Declarer will always lose two spades and a club but won't lose a second club if he guesses the location of the knave. ... but no one will be able to bid it.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 3♣; EW 2♦; Par +140

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

1. With 3card support to an honour and a ruffing value in the doubleton club holding, this is better than 1N.

♦ 5 looks like a reasonable lead for North but this will work badly if declarer divines the diamond position (wins ♦ J with the king and later finesses against North's queen). On any other lead West will be restricted to eight tricks - five spades and three diamonds.

Board 5North Deals
N-S Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl ¹	Pass	2♥	3♦

All pass

1. Takeout.

A jostling auction where East West are able to push North South up a level. West is able to make a simple overcall and then a takeout double to show roughly his shape - short diamonds and "support" for both majors. With East holding a five card heart suit, the eight card fit is found. Over this South, with a good hand, is able to compete further. West leads a top club and East may encourage a continuation by playing ♣ 9 (♣ 3 if playing reverse, "low likes", signals). West will play a third club and will select ♣ J, a high card indicating interest in the higher side suit, spades. East does best to ruff this with ♦ J. If South overruffs this he may go off. He does better to throw a spade. East switches to a spade which declarer wins. He draws two rounds of trumps and crosses to dummy with a third round to take a winning heart finesse. South is able to ruff ♥ 7 and will make the contract - one spade, two hearts, one heart ruff and five diamond winners. If East refuses to ruff the third club, South has a club winner in the bag and can pitch a spade. Declarer may lose a trump but will only lose one spade and two clubs on top of this.

Board 6East Deals
E-W Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

[Follow-up on last week's workshop]

Lead: ♣ K.

This lead is pretty automatic but South must be careful. North will play a discouraging ♣ 2 (or high-for-hate ♠ 8 if playing reverse methods). This attitude signal should be sufficient to prevent South continuing with a second club. If South does play another club the game will make - five spades, a heart, two diamonds and two clubs. Any other play at trick two will spell the contract's defeat (in practice, South is likely to switch to a heart). Declarer had no chance of a tenth trick apart from exploiting a defensive error.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ Q
♥ A K Q 10 9
♦ J 8
♣ K J 10 9 5

♠ K J 8 7 2
♥ J 2
♦ K Q 10 3 2
♣ 7

♠ 5
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 5 4
♣ A 8 6 4 3 2

♠ A 10 9 6 4 3
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 9 7 6
♣ Q

NS 3♥; EW 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♣; Par +140

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			
1. See final paragraph below.			

West makes a takeout double on the second round willing to compete at the three level or being happy to see partner make a penalty pass of 2 ♥. The double with a singleton club looks strange but, with diamonds being a higher ranking suit than clubs, West is able to correct the contract easily to 3 ♦. East will get the message. That could see the end of the auction but some intrepid Souths may continue to 3 ♥ (the vulnerability is not great for this bid). North sees that he has struck gold. A spade is led and won in dummy. Trumps are drawn and, with the club suit showing such quality, knocking out the ace is enough to build four immediate tricks - one spade, five hearts and four clubs for ten tricks.

Can the defence do better? East can start with ace and another club. This allows West to overruff the dummy. East will have led a suit preference ♣ 2 at trick two so gains the lead with ♦ A at trick three. Another club comes back but now West cannot overruff a second time. This defence holds North to nine tricks then.

South may, of course, open a weak 2 ♠ and would probably play there (uncomfortably). The defence could come to four spades, three diamonds and a club. That's eight tricks with North South registering minus 300.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ 6 3
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A K Q 7 4
♣ 9 8 3

♠ K Q 7
♥ K 6
♦ J 8 3
♣ K Q 10 4 2

♠ A J 10 8 5
♥ J 10 8
♦ 10 9 2
♣ A J

♠ 9 4 2
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ 6 5
♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 N	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		
1. 12-14.			
2. Transfer showing 5+spades.			

[Follow-up on last week's workshop]

Lead: ♦ A.

After this start North cashes two more diamonds but what now? On the third diamond South has cooperated well by throwing an encouraging ♥ 9 (♥ 2 for reverse signallers). North is able to switch to a heart with confidence and ♥ A becomes the setting trick. If North doesn't make this switch declarer will be able to discard all of dummy's hearts on the clubs and chalk up the game.

Notice that the position of the defensive hands make this defence relatively straightforward. Let's say, for whatever reason, East were playing the hand in 4 ♠. Now it would be difficult for South to find the diamond lead. Leading ♥ A (unlikely) would also work provided South switches at trick two to a diamond.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 5♥; NS 5♣; EW 3♦; EW 1N; EW 1♠; Par +450

West	North	East	South
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	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥ ¹
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Pass	4 ♥	All pass	
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1. 10-12, 4+hearts, limit raise.

North may only have a ten count but the great distribution and suit quality of the second suit make this a good Rule of 20 opening. North will raise partner's limit raise to game, particularly if he's an adherent of the Losing Trick Count - North has 6 losers; South 8. Take the sum of those numbers (14) from 24 to get 10, the expected number of tricks the board will make in hearts. East may lead the singleton club but declarer counters by playing ace and another hearts. With the trumps breaking 2-2, declarer loses just one trump and ♠ A. Eleven tricks and +450 for North South.

Board 10

East Deals
Both Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

Lead: ♣ 5 (4th best; some might try ♠ 3 as East West have shown no major suit interest).

Declarer plays low from dummy and North wins with ♣ A. With little future in the suit North may switch to a heart. East is grateful for having been dealt ♥ 10 as that card prevents the defence running the suit. South will take ♥ 10 with the ace. He could return another heart. It's now going swimmingly for declarer who can cross to dummy with the marked finesse of ♣ J. He finesesses ♦ J and can return to a spade to take a second diamond finesse. There are now two spade, one heart, five diamond and two club tricks - ten tricks and +180 will score very well for East West.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

<p> ♠ K 3 ♥ A J 7 5 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ K 5 4 3 </p>			
<p> ♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ Q J 6 2 </p>	<p> ♠ 10 9 6 4 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ A 8 </p>	<p> ♠ Q J 8 ♥ Q 8 6 2 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ 10 9 7 </p>	
<p>EW 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; NS 1♥; Par -140</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All pass

With West holding the dreaded 4441 pattern he doesn't have enough to open the bidding. Once, however, the opponents find their heart fit, a takeout double is in order. 2♠ is quite likely to buy the auction and it will score very well. Declarer will lose two spades, a heart and a diamond. A double diamond finesse can be played to make three tricks there; and no club is lost because the finesse of ♣Q is successful.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

<p> ♠ J 10 6 2 ♥ A K 4 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ 7 5 4 </p>			
<p> ♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q 9 6 3 2 </p>	<p> ♠ 9 3 ♥ Q 9 5 3 ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ A K 10 </p>	<p> ♠ A Q 5 ♥ J 10 8 7 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ J 8 </p>	
<p>NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♣; Par +110</p>			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1N ¹	All pass	
<p>1. 12-14.</p>			

More practice of no trump contracts. It's often a good idea to look at dummy, not least to receive a useful signal from partner. Here East leads ♣A on which West plays an encouraging ♣9 (♣2 for reverse signallers). East will continue clubs and, on the fourth and fifth rounds of the suit, throw ♠3 (discouraging) and ♥9 (encouraging). Declarer will switch to a heart which declarer wins (he will have thrown a heart and a diamond). North takes a losing finesse of ♠J and West returns his remaining heart. North wins and will have the rest of the tricks provided he uses dummy's spade entry to risk a diamond finesse (such plays are often necessary at match points to ensure good scores). Declarer will make three spades, two hearts and two diamonds.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ K J 8 4 2
 ♥ Q 8 3
 ♦ Q J 9
 ♣ Q J

♠ 3
 ♥ J 9 6 5 4
 ♦ A 10 7 3 2
 ♣ A 8

♠ A 10 7
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ 10 7 6 5 4 2

♠ Q 9 6 5
 ♥ A K 7 2
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K 9 3

NS 4N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; EW 1♣; Par +630

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	Pass	2 ♣ ²
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			
1. 12-14.			
2. Stayman.			

[Follow-up on last week's workshop]

East leads his singleton heart which declarer wins in hand. He plays a spade but East is alert. Not adhering robotically to the old whist rule of "second hand low" he flies in with ♠ A and switches to a minor (it doesn't matter which though East will think he's guessing). West wins and returns a heart at trick four. From partner winning the trick three with an ace, East knows declarer has the queen in that same suit. He'll have to switch to the other minor and hope West has that ace too. Bingo and a second heart ruff comes. East was in luck with +200 being very good for East West.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

21stOctober2015 SupervisedPairs

♠ Q 10 9 5 3
 ♥ A J 9 8 5
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ 9

♠ J 8 7 6 4
 ♥ K Q 10
 ♦ A Q J 6
 ♣ 5

♠ A 2
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ A J 10 6 4 2

♠ K
 ♥ 7 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 8 3
 ♣ K Q 8 7 3

EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -120

West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥ ¹	Pass
3 N	All pass		
1. 4th suit forcing.			

We often say it's right for the defence to lead the fourth suit in these sort of auctions. Here leading ♥ 8 doesn't work too well as it gives declarer a second heart trick. Declarer can now count one spade, two heart, four diamond and one club winners. That translates to eight top tricks and declarer's more likely source of tricks is the black suit that has better quality. He plays ace and a small club (playing for 3-3 or 4-2 with at least one honour in the doubleton). When North shows out the contract is doomed. The correct contract but no luck this time.