

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 1N; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +100: EW 3♠×-1
West North East South
3♥ 3♠ All pass

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

East has a good six card suit so is worth his 3 ♠ overcall. West does not have enough to bid game (when the hand is close to 7 hcps, pass is the long-term winning option).

3 ♠ may make if North South don't get the clubs going. Assuming that the defence is accurate, though, North South will take two hearts, one diamond and two clubs to defeat the contract by one trick.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +100: EW 3♠×-1
West North East South
1 N Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ All pass

Over the 1N response it's normal for the opener to rebid a six card suit (so it's even more automatic when dealt a seven-bagger). It's just possible that South will want to compete over 2 ♠ and could make a delayed (second round) take out double. That would get North South to a makeable 3 ♥ contract.

Back in 2 ♠. This contract should be held to eight tricks with declarer making his seven trumps and the ace of diamonds. If the defence is faulty declarer may be able to ruff a heart in dummy. Similarly, for the ninth trick, the defence may play on hearts and that will set up a heart winner.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 1♣; Par +420

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

1. 4th suit forcing (to game, as bid at the 3level).

North will insist on game but it's a question of which denomination. North can use fourth suit forcing, one purpose being to discover if partner has a stop in clubs. South denies this so North jumps to game in spades, prepared to play in what is a 5-2 fit (the auction is highly suggestive of South holding a doubleton spade. With three spades, and a bit of shape, South may have raised 1 ♠ to 2 ♠ immediately.)

This is not an easy to hand to play. A line that works is to win the opening club lead, ruff a club small and cash ♠ K. Now cash ♦ A and ruff a diamond low. Cash ♥ K and ♥ A and play a third diamond throwing away the club loser. West plays a club, ruffed with ♠ 9. At this point declarer has eight tricks and will always make ♠ J to go with ♠ A. Yes, it may be necessary to play West to have started with the queen of trumps. Tricky. Other lines of play may work too.

Well done if you made the spade game.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♣; NS 2♥; NS 1♦; Par -620

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

1. 12-14.

2. Transfer showing 5+spades.

East follows a simple transfer sequence to what is a normal-looking contract. West will be disappointed as there are ten tricks (with the aid of the winning finesse in spades). Game is a good contract because East West have a double fit, with the side club suit providing four tricks. The only losers are two diamonds and a heart.

Board 5North Deals
N-S Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♦; E 1♣; Par +120

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

North is full-whack for his 1N call, a bid that also denies 4 ♠. South has a fifteen count so knows that the magic 25 hcps for a no trump game are not there. South should pass and that is something that should apply even if South were to hold 16 hcps (a raise to 2N, invitational, shows 17-18 hcps).

East is on a guess as to what to lead. A club works well and, after that start, declarer should be held to eight tricks. The defence will take three clubs, a diamond and a heart.

Board 6East Deals
E-W Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 6♠; NS 6♥; NS 6♣; NS 5N; N 1♦; Par +980

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

1. Asking partner to pick the major.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
3. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

North wants to ensure the partnership plays in the right major suit fit so uses a cue bid of the opponents' suit (4 ♦) to ask South to bid his longer/better major. Once the 4-4 heart fit comes to light North is strong enough to use Roman Key Card Blackwood (he also has control of all the side suits and great trumps). After the 5 ♣ response North knows that all the key cards (four aces, king of trumps and queen of trumps) are present and *could* make a try for the grand slam. South's king response would quickly see North reverting to the small slam.

West will lead ♦ 7. After drawing two rounds of trumps declarer plays ace and another club. With ♣ K appearing it's a simple matter of drawing West's two remaining trumps and claiming - four spades, four hearts, a diamond and three clubs.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

A nicely competitive auction where South will not sell out to 3 ♥, being "powered on" to 3 ♠ on the back of his seven card spade suit.

West will cash two hearts and switch to a minor. With the trumps breaking 2-2, but the club finesse failing, South will make his contract. Plus 140 via six spades, two diamonds and a club.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 6♠; NS 6♦; NS 5N; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +980

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

1. Weak2 in hearts (5-9, 6card suit).
2. 15-18, at least one heart stop.
3. Transfer, 5+spades.

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

East's best lead is a top-of-a-sequence ♣ K after which the defence is likely to come to three tricks. Declarer should take a finesse of ♠ Q though a sight of the layout shows that this card could have been dropped doubleton. That finesse fails and West can cash ♥ A to hold declarer to his contract.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 3♥; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +140

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

1. 5-9, (3)4card diamond suit.

South's 2 ♥ intervention is light but shows the lengths to which it's worth going, especially when playing match-pointed pairs (a game for jostling bidders). East West have announced a fit (after the 2 ♦ raise) so there is a strong likelihood of North South having a fit too. It's even better for North South as North holds four card support and can compete to 3 ♥.

3 ♥ will make. The defence can take four tricks - two spades, a diamond and a club. Put another way, declarer makes nine tricks by way of one spade, five trumps, two clubs and a club ruff.

Board 10

East Deals
Both Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

1. 19-20, may have 5card major.

2. Stayman.

4333 is such a barren shape that some Easts won't use Stayman. That said, it's possible that West has opened with a five card major and that possibility makes its use more attractive (unusual not to play in a major when there's a 5-4 fit there).

4 ♠ should fail as the defence can take two clubs, a diamond and a heart. If, however, they don't attack clubs, declarer might be able to throw one of the club losers on the third heart. That shouldn't happen as South has an obvious switch to a club when winning ♥ A.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

EW 7N; W 7♥; E 6♥; EW 6♦; EW 6♣; EW 4♠; Par -1520

West	North	East	South
			3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

[Follow up to last week's workshop]

Ouch! South has a perfectly respectable 3 ♠ opening bid. West passes in tempo and East is there with a takeout double. West passes with glee. A good example of a takeout double being converted to penalties.

It's possible for declarer to be held to three tricks (yes, East West "make game" in spades, taking ten tricks) and that will convert to a penalty of 1,400. That can only be beaten (as a score) if East West reach an unlikely 7 ♥, a contract that needs ♥ K onside. That makes the grand slam a poor proposition (but it is successful).

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

EW 7N; EW 7♠; EW 7♥; EW 3♣; EW 1♦; Par -1520

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

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Relay.
3. Ace/void-showing cue bid.
4. King-showing cue bid.

West has a big hand and, though holding just 19 hcps, may open 2 ♦ to set up a game force. The auction works well as East is able to show spade support at the three level. West can cue bid his club void (East knows it's a void because he holds the other type of 1st round control, namely ♣ A). East has too much to sign off in 4 ♠ so bids 5 ♣ to keep things moving. Now West's 5 ♦ is key as it allows East to show his king of hearts* (with 5 ♥ bid). That's enough for West to bid the grand slam.

There's little to the play. Declarer wins the opening lead, draws trumps and plays on hearts. They behave well and that's a quick plus 1,510 to East West (well done anyone playing in the higher-scoring 7N).

**yes, sometimes this bid shows a singleton heart and that holding would make the play more tricky. Hey ho. Nothing ventured ...*

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

<p>♠ Q J 8 7 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 6 ♦ 3 ♣ 7 5</p>			
<p>♠ A 6 ♥ K J 10 8 7 ♦ A J ♣ A J 6 3</p>	<p>N W S E ♠ 5 ♥ — ♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ K Q 9 8 2</p>		
<p>♠ K 10 9 4 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ 10 4</p>			
<p>EW 7♣; EW 6♦; EW 2N; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par -1700: NS 7♠x-6</p>			
West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	2♠
Dbl ¹	3♠	4♣	Pass
6♣	All pass		
1. Takeout.			

North opens his light 6-4 distribution hand but it may not stop East West reaching slam. East's 2 ♦ is also light on high cards in the suit but he does have a 7card suit and plenty of distribution. When West introduces a takeout double to get both hearts and clubs into the picture, East can bid on to 4 ♣. West has such great cards in all suits that it's difficult to see that hand settling for game.

With South holding ♦ K declarer will make all thirteen tricks. Trumps are drawn, a diamond finesse taken. East returns to hand and ruffs out the king of diamonds. He claims plus 1,390. Well bid.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

23rdMarch2016 SupervisedPairs

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

We end on a gentle note with the auction failing to get above the one level.

The contract will probably fail. South leads a club (the unbid suit). East wins and plays on diamonds. North can clear the clubs and the defence should come to three clubs, two diamonds and two hearts. That's one off and plus 50 to North South. Cat and mouse with North South just ahead of the game to take their seven tricks before East West take theirs.