

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 6♦; EW 6♣; EW 5N; EW 4♥; EW 3♠; Par -920

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

1. About 15-17, with 4card trump support.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. 1 of the 5 "aces".
4. ... hopefully.

Lead: ♠ 10 (top of an interior sequence).

The contract depends on the trump distribution. Declarer wins in hand and leads a diamond. When ♦ K pops up he can win and cash the queen of trumps. Now lead a heart to hand and ruff a heart. Only now do we play a trump from dummy. South can take the knave of diamonds but we have two spades, two hearts, a heart ruff, three diamonds and four clubs for twelve tricks. Contract fulfilled and +920 to East West.

[nb: Using some form of Blackwood when the minors are involved is always problematic. Here West cannot ask for ♦ Q without committing to the 6level].

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 5♠; NS 5♥; NS 2N; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +650

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

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.
3. 4card suit simultaneously showing 5hearts (change of suit).

No lead can break the contract and declarer should emerge with eleven tricks. The trumps break well and ♥ A is well-placed. The heart suit breaks 3-3 too. Declarer makes four spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	3 ♣ ¹	Pass	3 N
All pass			
1. 10-12, 4+clubs (limit raise).			

[Follow up of last week's workshop]

West leads a 4th best ♦ 5 and East wins with the ace and returns the queen. After this start declarer has six clear tricks (three spades, two hearts and the diamond). He needs a further three tricks and they can be developed in clubs. Some care should be taken. If the diamonds break 4-4 there's no problem as the losers will be confined to three diamonds and the ace of clubs. But what if the suit breaks worse than this? Declarer can cater for the shorter diamond hand holding ♣ A by ducking the diamond return. On winning ♦ A a club is played, East winning but unable to play another diamond. There are now ten tricks.

Can the defence do better? Yes, East can play ♦ Q at trick one, an exception to third hand playing high. Because declarer cannot be sure who has ♦ A he will be reluctant not to take this trick (since ducking could see him making no diamonds at all). After this start declarer may hope diamonds break 4-4 but will be soon be disillusioned. Yes, the winning play is to duck ♦ Q but that's not easy to find.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 7♦; NS 6N; NS 6♥; NS 5♠; NS 1♣; Par +2140

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

1. Ace-showing cue bid.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
3. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces" (see text).

It's difficult to reach an alternative suit fit when one hand has a seven card suit but the above auction shows it's possible - North adopts a slowly, slowly approach and this gives South enough room to introduce the diamonds at the 3level. If North thinks partner may have only one "ace" for his bidding he could sign off in 5 ♦. South would raise to 6 ♦ to confirm holding four "aces" and North would now bid the grand slam.

Declarer wins any lead, draws trumps and plays three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third round to set up the suit. Very satisfying. Those who reach 7 ♥ will be a little unlucky to find the suit breaking 3-1. 6 ♥ could still score well here.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 3N; NS 4♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +500: EW 4♠×-3

West	North	East	South
	1 N ¹	Pass	3 N ²

All pass

1. 12-14.

2. Banking on the quality of the club suit.

[Follow up of last week's workshop]

South, if anything, has a hand with which he wants to invite 3N based on a reasonable club suit. That's not easy to show so he takes the aggressive route, hoping for six club winners. When the spade is led declarer can count two spade, one diamond and two club top winners. Declarer could duck a club lest clubs are 3-1. That guarantees five club tricks but a red suit winner would be needed to bring the total to nine. That's a little fanciful so it might be better to play for clubs to break 2-2. In that case we always have the necessary four extra tricks. We do have to be careful and play both ♣ 10 and ♣ 9 from our hand. If we fail to do that we'll eventually realise we've blocked the suit. We'll have failed to plan our entries properly.

Board 6

East Deals
Both Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 7N; EW 7♠; E 7♥; W 6♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♦; Par -2220

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	5 ♦ ¹

7 ♠ All pass

1. "Sock it to 'em".

It may seem a little rash to blast the grand slam but let's think about partner's points. When South preempts heavily to the five level he's marked with a good suit. Let's say that means holding 6hcps as a minimum (as here). On that basis partner is marked with most of the rest of the outstanding cards. Bidding 7 ♠ has become a reasonable punt. There is nothing to the play. Declarer doesn't need to develop any suit - all East's losing cards are covered by winners in the dummy.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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



EW 4N; E 4♦; EW 2♠; W 3♦; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; Par -630

West	North	East	South
			3 ♥
Dbl	Pass	3 N	All pass

[Follow up of last week's workshop]

West's takeout double has become routine - he makes the call over the preempt just as he would had South opened at the one level. East doesn't hold four spades or a long minor so hopes his values fit well with partner for the nine trick game.

South leads a top-of-a-sequence ♥ Q. Declarer can count five top tricks so shall have to develop four more - that means playing on both diamonds and clubs as neither of those suits can furnish the necessary extras alone. Let's say we play a club first and North wins. A heart comes back and we'll have to hope the diamond finesse is right, else South will win and cash five hearts. No it's better to change the order of play. We'll take a diamond finesse into the danger hand first. South can win and clear the hearts. The difference is that when North wins ♣ A he has no more hearts left. We are safe for the contract.

Of course, if South had opened a heavy 3 ♥ with both ♣ A and ♦ K we would have had no play for the contract.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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



NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 3♦; NS 1♥; Par +420

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♠

All pass

1. Limit raise showing 4card support with 10-12 points (11hcps plus a point for the doubleton club).

The bad spade break is a little annoying but declarer should come to ten tricks by knocking out the ace of hearts, provided a club is ruffed in dummy. If some declarers forget to do this, 3N could score a few points more than would be expected when the nine tricks are made.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

- 10hcps but considerable playing strength (7 playing tricks).
- Ace-showing advance cue bid.
- Roman Key Card Blackwood.
- 2 of the 5 "aces" plus the queen of trumps.

If West had a great diamond suit and have slam interest he could have bid an immediate 3 ♦ over 1 ♠. 4 ♦ should therefore be interpreted as an advance cue bid agreeing the spade suit. Once West checks on the requisite number of key cards the slam can be bid with some conviction (a good rule, as here, is to bid to slam if only one of the six [i.e. including the queen of trumps] is missing. As a corollary the 6level should be avoided if at least two of these keycards are missing).

South does best to lead a heart but declarer can win ♥ A and ditch ♥ 8 on the second top diamond before drawing trumps. The contract cannot be defeated, declarer merely having to unblock dummy's club winners before returning to hand with a red suit ruff to enjoy ♣ A.

Board 10

East Deals
Both Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; Par +130

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

1. Pre-emptive - with the known nine card fit, gets to the 3level quickly taking valuable bidding spade away from the opposition.
2. See text.

It's just possible that West will compete further by doubling 3 ♣ for takeout. The vulnerability will put some off and if the resulting 3 ♥ or 3 ♠ contract were doubled, North South would pick up the magic 200 for a shared top on the board.

In 3 ♣ the play will go very smoothly. Declarer can ruff both diamond losers in dummy and, with ♠ A well placed, will come to ten tricks (five clubs, two diamonds, two diamond ruffs and a spade).

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 4N; EW 5♣; NS 3♠; NS 4♦; N 1♥; Par -100: NS 5♦×-1

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

1. 5-9, 6hearts, a weak two.
2. Some will bid 3♣ though the hand is short of high cards.
3. 15-18, balanced with one stopper+ in hearts.
4. Takes a chance on the clubs being useful.

Though ten tricks are possible (with North holding ♦ A and not being able to play a second heart) most Easts will settle for nine tricks. Those who reach 5♣ may be unlucky - a heart lead, in particular, will put some strain on the making of this game.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

NS 6♣; NS 4♥; NS 2N; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par +1100: EW 6♦×-5;
EW 6♠×-5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠ ¹	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦ ³
Pass	4♥ ³	Pass	6♣

All pass

1. Light - trading on the vulnerability to make things awkward for the opponents.
2. Natural and showing extra values.
3. Ace-showing cue bid.

This slam is a tad touch-and-go. If West starts by playing two top spades it will become easier as that series of plays (showing 7 hcps) will mark East with all the remaining cards. Declarer will be able to run ♥ J with impunity. With a third heart "in the bag" declarer is able to discard a diamond from dummy. Declarer can ruff ♦ J and the fourth heart in the dummy - three hearts, one heart ruff, one diamond, a diamond ruff and six clubs ... translating to +1,370 to North South.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

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

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

[Follow up of last week's workshop]

Lead: ♠ 10 (top of an interior sequence).

On the opening lead declarer can count as sure winners the following - one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. That's seven winners so two further tricks are needed. The heart suit is where we'll develop these extra winners. What happens if we win the first spade and run ♥ J? South wins and fires back a spade through our suspect spade holding. On the lie of the cards the second spade honour in West's hand is trapped and North will cash four spades to bring about the contract's demise.

We have allowed the danger hand to get in too early. We should allow ♠ J to hold! Now South plays a second spade which North may take (it doesn't matter). The difference is South now being exhausted of spades (see board 7 too). Had South held a third spade it wouldn't have mattered for our contract's fulfillment - we could afford to lose three spades and a heart.

[Those who play in 4♥ will have to play well to make it.]

Board 14
East Deals
E-W Vul

23rdSeptember2015 SupervisedPlay

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

EW 6♦; EW 3♠; EW 2♥; EW 1N; Par -1370

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

1. Very light but lots of playing strength.
2. Extra values. After a 2level response, a good 15+hcps.
3. Applying the breaks - letting partner know there's nothing to spare (how very true).

Six hcps but a 2level change-of-suit response to an opening bid? Well, it's the playing strength of the hand that makes this bid reasonable (if you wanted you could bid 1N, certainly conforming to the bucket, as opposed to balanced, hand type). When West jumps to 5♦ he confirms his hand type and East should respect this.

As it is West can make twelve tricks. One spade loser can be ditched on a top heart and the other can be covered by taking a winning finesse. The only loser is ♦ A.

[With the exception of the hands that allude to last week's session, all the hands were played in the first round of this year's club Anglia teams - yes, a selection of some of that night's boards but a fiery one at that].