

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 3  
 ♥ 543  
 ♦ K10976  
 ♣ 9742

♠ A98765  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ A543  
 ♣ 65

N  
 W E  
 S

♠ KQJ2  
 ♥ AKQJ109  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AK

♠ 104  
 ♥ 876  
 ♦ QJ2  
 ♣ QJ1083

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass
3 $\spadesuit$	Pass	4 N <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5 $\heartsuit$ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7 N	All pass

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Relay.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. 2 of the 5 "aces" without the queen of trumps.

Once East knows of the spade fit he can use RNCB. He's looking for aces to cover the two potential losers in his hand - ♠ 2 and ♦ 8. When West obliges by showing the aces of spades and diamonds, he can count thirteen tricks [from his own hand] (four spades, six hearts, one diamond and two clubs). He bids 7N in the knowledge that it will outscore those who stay in the spade grand slam.

East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ A Q 10  
 ♥ A K 7 6 5 3  
 ♦ J 6  
 ♣ J 5

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

N  
 W E  
 S

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

♠ K J 9 8 6 4 2  
 ♥ 8 2  
 ♦ A 9 7  
 ♣ 6

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

1. Weak jump overcall.
2. Unassuming cue bid, agreeing spades and suggesting a slam.
3. Ace-showing cue bid (or, just possibly, a void).
4. Second-round control.

Some may venture 3 ♠ with the South hand though, at the vulnerability, that's a bit of a stretch. It will be difficult to reach the small slam unless North visualises partner holding controls in both minors (where at least one of those is a first round control). North hopes for a solid 6+ tricks in spades and that the hearts can be set up too. North can suggest a slam by bidding 4 ♣, the opponents' suit. This tells partner that North is committed to playing in game but also issues a slam invitation. When South cue bids

♦ A the partnership is well on the way.

A club is led. Declarer ruffs the second round, draws trumps and plays three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third to hand. The heart suit has been set up and declarer will make the slam - seven spades and five hearts (♦ A is superfluous).

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

24thFebruary2016 SupervisedPractice

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

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

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

1. Some may open a light 1♣.

East has an eight count but there is some value in the club short too. When West bids 2♦ he confirms holding at least five hearts and now East's hand has become better since that hand's diamond holding suggests a double fit. He jumps to 3♥ (10-12, including ruffing values, with 3card heart support). West has extras so raises to game.

North is likely to lead a club. Declarer wins and ruffs a club before playing a trump. The trumps break in such a way that there will be two losers. After trumps are drawn declarer can play spades since a 3-3 break allows two diamonds to be thrown from hand. When they break 4-2 declarer needs to get the two-way diamond finesse right for the overtrick. If we play the clubs to be 5-5 and because we know South has two hearts and four spades, we can play South to hold a doubleton diamond (simply adding up the cards to thirteen). In other words, North has three diamonds and so is more likely to hold any specific diamond. On that basis we play North for the queen of diamonds. We finesse ♦J. Unlucky. We've played the hand well but will emerge with just ten tricks.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

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

NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 2N; EW 2♠; EW 1♣; Par +600

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

- 21-22, balanced; or eight playing tricks in an unbalanced hand.
- Relay.

**[Follow up on last week's workshop]**

North's 2N acts as a waiting bid and is an attempt to reach a better spot. If South rebids the hearts we will have done the wrong thing in that we could have passed 2♥. But continuing to bid works well here as we find the diamond fit. The shortage in partner's first suit is no asset but the shape of the hand justifies the leap to game.

The defence will have to be sharp to hold declarer to his contract. East West need to take a club and ♠A quickly. If no spade is played declarer can throw all of dummy's spades on master hearts. With so many trumps between the hands South's two losing spades can be ruffed in partner's hand. So expect plus 600 or plus 620 to North South.

3N fails provide the defence cashes the club winners and ♠A.

**Board 5**North Deals  
N-S Vul

24thFebruary2016 SupervisedPractice

♠ A J 10 7 5  
♥ 8  
♦ A K Q J  
♣ K 8 6

♠ K Q  
♥ A K 7 6 4 3 2  
♦ 7  
♣ 9 4 2

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

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

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

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

West makes life difficult for North by making a full-bloodied leap to 4 ♥. Doubles at high levels are still for takeout (they won't be hands holding a stack of the opponents' suit) but they may be less pure (in terms of shape) than at lower levels. Here North is quite classical - extra values, short in hearts and support for the other two suits. South has an easy 4 ♠ call. The only question is whether East ploughs on to 5 ♥. Certainly the vulnerability is in East West's favour. The other point is that with a good hand West may have doubled 4 ♠. That would have suggested that the leap to 4 ♥ was more constructive than preemptive. Here, with West being silent, East might try 5 ♥ believing there to be little defence to 4 ♠.

In 4 ♠ declarer will make ten tricks. The trumps are such that it's not even necessary to cross to dummy to take a spade finesse (that would limit the spade losers to one when West has KQx, Kx or Qx). There's a heart loser and there should be a club loser unless West wrongly tries to cash a second heart.

5 ♥ will be doubled but will generally make eight tricks (minus 500 booking a good score for East West).

**Board 6**East Deals  
E-W Vul

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♠ Q 10 4  
♥ 8 7 6 4  
♦ 10  
♣ 10 8 7 3 2

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

♠ J 9  
♥ A K J 9 2  
♦ K J 6 5 4  
♣ 5

♠ K 8 7  
♥ 3  
♦ A Q 9 8 7 3 2  
♣ A 4

EW 5♥; EW 3♠; EW 2N; EW 2♣; Par -650

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

1. See text.

East has a very awkward bid on the second round. A bid in no trumps would suggest some extra values and a balanced hand; 3 ♥ suggests a single suited hand with at least 6 hearts (certainly a 5 ♥ 332, 12-14 hand can be ruled out provided that hand type is opened 1N). In practice rebidding the hearts works all right and West can raise to game.

South does best to lead a trump but declarer should come to ten/eleven tricks - perhaps one spade, five trumps, one/two diamond ruff(s) and three winning clubs.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

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

NS 6♠; NS 3N; NS 4♣; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +1430

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

All pass

1. 23-24, balanced; or any game force.
2. Relay.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. 1 of the 5 "aces".

**[Follow up on last week's workshop]**

Once South bids a suit on the second round North can make a gentle raise to 3♠ as that bid will never be passed. Bidding in this fashion preserves space and allows for efficient cue bidding. Here South is only concerned about cover for three losing cards - ♠ 7, ♦ 3 and ♣ 6. He knows that he cannot lose more than two tricks off the top and can use RKCB (were North to hold no ace, South would hope for a fitting card to underwrite 5♠ [e.g. ♣ Q]). When North shows one ace, South jumps to slam, expecting it to have reasonable play.

West leads a top-of-a-sequence ♦ K. South wins and plays on trumps. After they are drawn three rounds of hearts are cashed on which two of dummy's clubs are thrown. It's now possible for declarer to ruff the club loser - five spades, three hearts, one diamond, two clubs and a club ruff. Twelve tricks and a good plus 1,430 to North South.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

24thFebruary2016 SupervisedPractice

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

NS 3♥; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; W 1♦; Par +140

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1N	All pass	

10 counts can be problematic as they fall between the 6-9 1N bids and the invitational 2N which tends to show 11-12 (or a good 10). Here North's holding isn't particularly good with the diamond suit being of such poor quality that it may not be a source of tricks (it isn't).

West may eschew a lead of South's first bid suit and could start with a 4th best small heart (♥ 6). That doesn't work too well. Declarer wins cheaply with ♥ 9, unblocks ♣ K and plays a heart to the queen. South will be able to take a finesse of ♥ 10 and make eight tricks - one spade, three hearts, a diamond and three clubs.

West's best lead (which is exceedingly difficult to find) is ♦ K. That removes declarer's entry to the two club winners in the South hand. Provided the defence is sensible declarer will not even make seven tricks.

**Board 9**

North Deals  
E-W Vul

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

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

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

All pass

1. Light but holds two of the top three honours and ♥ K seems well placed.

North South will miss the better spot of playing in a heart part score. If East doesn't overcall there may be a similar dilemma : after 1♥ - 1♠; 1N, it's far from obvious that South will revert to hearts. After all North may have only 4hearts.

Warned by South's no trump bid, East may make a surprise attack, perhaps selecting ♣ 7 (a neutral, 2nd from a bad suit lead). That works well for the defence and declarer won't be able to come to more than seven tricks. Declarer takes the first trick and plays on spades. He'll make three spades, two diamonds and two clubs. There'll be no time to develop any heart winners because the defence will continue playing clubs. The defence will take one spade, two hearts and three clubs. Plus 90 won't score too well for North South.

If North South do play in 2♥ they will do particularly well if they make nine or ten tricks.

[Analysis if playing in hearts].

**Board 10**

East Deals  
Both Vul

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

EW 6♥; EW 3♣; EW 1N; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -1400: NS 6♠x-5

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

1. 5-9, 6spades (a weak two).

South is top whack for his call 2♠ but that provides some security when vulnerable. Further it gives West a bidding problem. Passing seems feeble but bidding a suit at the three level usually promises at least six cards. Here bidding 3♥ happens to work well as East has support and sufficient values to raise to game.

Let's say North starts with ♠ A on which South plays ♠ 9. This is a high card and acts as suit preference telling partner that South has values in the higher of the two other side suits, diamonds. South duly switches to diamonds. West wins and draws two rounds of trumps. It's tempting for declarer to play three top clubs. When the suit breaks 5-2, however, it's not possible to make any more clubs. That restricts declarer to eleven tricks - two spade ruffs, five trumps, one diamond and three clubs. If declarer is to make twelve tricks it's necessary to take a first round finesse of ♣ 10. Now there are three surplus club winners on which the spade loser and the two diamond losers can be discarded.

[What is the right line for four club tricks?]

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

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

EW 2♠; EW 3♣; W 1N; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -110

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦

All pass

1. For takeout.

After South has passed over the 1♥ overall it's not necessary for North to bid anything other than a quiet 2♦. This, opposite a partner with very little, already shows a good hand (else pass). The auction may become spirited. East doesn't have any extra values but may use his non-vulnerability to stir partner into action. The double shows the other two suits, though (as here) that support might be a trebleton in one of the suits.

With the spades and ♥ A well placed (not surprising after the auction) 3♣ should make. Declarer can take five trumps, one+hearts, two spades and a diamond ruff.

With 3♣ making North South will do well to compete, as above, to 3♦. That may well fail by two tricks as declarer is likely to lose a spade, two hearts, a diamond and two clubs. Minus 100 may not be bad for North South when compared to a number of minus 110s (from 3♣ making for East West). It's difficult to see East West doubling 3♦ though that'll work well if it nets them plus 300.

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

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

EW 3N; EW 2♠; E 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; W 1♥; Par -400

West	North	East	South
1 N <sup>1</sup>	All pass		
1. 12-14 (see text).			

With the reasonable five card club suit and the major suit honours fitting together well this could be the time for West to upgrade his hand and treat it as having 15 hcps. Now the auction will reach game (1♣ - 1♦; 1N - 3N).

Will West make nine tricks, irrespective of the level at which the hand is played? Yes, if declarer plays it well and with some luck. Declarer may make two spades (thanks to South holding ♠ Q), two hearts, a club and four diamonds ... possibly. That ninth trick arrives when declarer divines the diamond position, cashing ♦ K then finessing ♦ 9. That works very well but what if South has dropped ♦ J from a holding of ♦ J 10 x? Now that finesse looks silly and West will have converted five diamonds tricks into four.

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

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

EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 6♦; EW 4♥; EW 5♣; Par -1440

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 N	All pass		
1. 19-20.			
2. Stayman.			

East is in the 19-20 band of no trump-type hands so, playing Benjaminised Acol, 2N is the correct opening bid. West has a 4card major and will try Stayman. East shows his hearts and West, without hearts, converts to 3N. West's sequence always promises 4spades, else Stayman would not have been invoked. East would convert to 4 ♠ if holding 4/4 in the majors. That doesn't apply here.

North may lead a second-from-a-bad suit ♦ 7. If declarer reads the lead as such he will play South to hold ♦ Q and play the diamonds from the top\*. When the queen drops on the second round declarer can finesse ♦ 9 and will make twelve tricks - three spades (perhaps playing ace and another, overtaking the knave to drive out ♠ K), three hearts, the four diamonds and, with a successful finesse, two clubs. Good card reading.

*\*this card-placing assumption won't look so good had North led from ♦ Q 10 7.*

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

24thFebruary2016 SupervisedPractice

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

EW 5N; EW 5♠; EW 5♥; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460

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

- 21-22, balanced; or eight playing tricks, unbalanced hand.
- Relay.
- 21-22, balanced.
- Stayman.
- Showing 5spades (and 4hearts).
- Ace-showing (advance) cue bid, agreeing spades.
- No slam interest.

**[Follow up on last week's talk]**

Responder can show a hand with 5/4 in the majors that wants to go to game by using Stayman. If a major suit fit doesn't become apparent after the 3 ♣ enquiry responder follows up by bidding the five card suit at the three level (note that with 5spades and 4hearts it's not sensible to use transfers as the auction would go ... 2N - 3 ♥; 3 ♠ - 4 ♥; and now the auction is at the four level with opener possibly holding 2spades and 3hearts [no 8card fit])\*.

West had no interest in looking for a slam so signs off in game. There is little to the play. Declarer draws trumps and plays on diamonds. In this way eleven tricks are assured.

*\*yes, with 5hearts and 4spades it's possible to use transfers - ... 2N - 3 ♦; 3 ♥ - 3 ♠; since opener can bid 3N with 2hearts and 3spades. Stayman is better because if the major suit fit is found immediately less is disclosed about the responder's hand.*