

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

S 6♣; N 5♣; NS 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 2♦; Par +800; EW 6♠x-4

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

All pass

1. Really too extreme a shape for a weak 2♥ but some might try it. Points outside the suit don't constitute a bonus.

North has a powerful hand - not in terms of high card points but distribution. It's generally better to pass on the first round with such hands as partner will never play you to have such shape. Once South shows extra with the 2N rebid nothing will stop North bidding out his shape (the sequence with the repeating of the second suit gets over the 5/5 shape if not that the hand has a sixth heart).

Declarer can play to set up the heart suit. With that suit breaking 3-3 there should be eleven tricks, if not twelve (three hearts, two heart ruffs, two diamonds and five trumps). The most problematic lead is a spade which forces the long trump hand. Declarer plays a heart at trick two but West wins and plays ♠A! This promotes South's king of spades but, more importantly, promotes one of East's small trumps (East having more trumps than North). Now eleven tricks is the limit. A trump lead may also hold the contract to eleven tricks.

This is a rare hand for which it's right to play in a minor rather than no trumps. A spade lead by East could see West win and play ace and another heart. East is back in to cash two winning hearts before being able to smother South's ♠K.

**Board 2**

East Deals  
N-S Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

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

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

South has more than enough for a takeout double, one which obeys the SOS principles perfectly. We've been looking recently at the responder to a takeout double keeping things flexible by also being able to double. But that deals with flattish hands so here North bids his five card suit and jumps a round to get over his values (3♥ showing about 8-10 hcp). With his extras South accepts the game invitation.

It isn't always right to lead an unsupported ace just because partner has bid the suit but it works all right here. East can encourage by playing ♦K to show the solidity of the suit but declarer can ruff the continuation. A further diamond ruff can be taken and North will arrive at eleven tricks - three spades, five hearts, two diamond ruffs and a top club. Twelve tricks can be made if West carelessly discards a spade - shouldn't happen as a defender should keep the same suit length as a threatening side suit.

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

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

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

Some may find South's 2 ♣ bid a little light but it is more descriptive than choosing to double (that would be correct with one club fewer, one diamond more). Without a spade stop 1N is not an option and 2 ♣ also works because South is a passed hand. North will consider that when determining how far to compete on the hand.

Here the opponents have bid two suits so West's takeout double shows the one unbid suit and tolerance for partner's overcall suit. West would be happy if East rebid 2 ♠ to show 6+cards but his 3 ♦ is equally welcome. This three level bid does not promise extras as it is merely raising partner's known suit in a minimal way.

Declarer may well get the trumps wrong so will settle for +110, losing a trick in each suit. If North South compete to 3 ♥ East West will have to double that to get a good score and hope to defeat it by two tricks : plus 300 will outscore plus 110 (but plus 100 obviously won't).

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

<p>♠ K J 9 5 4 ♥ Q J 8 5 ♦ A K ♣ 10 4</p>			
<p>♠ 10 8 6 2 ♥ A K ♦ Q J 5 4 2 ♣ J 2</p>	<p>W N E S</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 10 4 3 2 ♦ 10 9 8 6 3 ♣ A Q 7 5</p>	
<p>♠ A Q 7 3 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ 7 ♣ K 9 8 6 3</p>			
<p>NS 3♠; EW 4♦; NS 2N; NS 1♥; Par -130</p>			
West	North	East	South
1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	1 ♠	2 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	4 ♠
All pass			
<p>1. Rule of 20 opening bid. 2. Good raise or better of diamonds.</p>			

East's cue bid raise is a little bullish but he puts great weight on the power of the spade void. South's raise to game is equally optimistic and he may try more conservative routes that may miss game (bidding 3 ♠ which looks like a desire to compete; bidding 3 ♣ then 3 ♠ as an invitation, etc).

The stunningly simple defence for East West to defeat game is for East to find a far-from-obvious heart lead. West wins and cashes the second heart (we normally play lower of touching honours first when defending but a little tip, here, is to play ♥ A first. When ♥ K is cashed this reverse order of plays works as a wake up call to partner to say that the heart holding is a doubleton). Now West plays a club and East wins to give West the heart ruff. Doing simple things well.

**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

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

EW 5♥; NS 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -450			
West	North	East	South
	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3 ♦
Dbl <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3 ♥	All pass

1. 12-14.
2. A hand with a long minor (wants to play there).
3. Forced by partner (who will pass or bid 3 ♦).
4. For takeout.

South could take a risk on playing 1N but the heart singleton could be problematic - it is. Further, how do we practice these bids if we don't bring them from our armoury? West can bide his time and, once the diamond suit is revealed, make a takeout double. This works well as it puts East West into a ten card fit though reaching game isn't easy (unless West is of a punting mentality).

There are just two spades to lose. With hearts breaking 2-1 declarer didn't need a 3-3 club break to make eleven tricks.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 6♠; NS 2N; W 2♦; E 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +980			
West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
2 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	4 ♠	All pass	
1. Sporting.			

North has a somewhat awkward decision because partner may have some useful cards to fill in the holes such that a slam is there for the taking. Sadly for the 4 ♠ bidders that's the case here. South's singleton diamond, trump support and ♥ Q are just right for the six level. An ace is often a powerful and useful card but here South's ♣ A is waste paper, no asset whatsoever.

Expect to see a lot of plus 480s to North South. If North South don't bid the slam they have one other way of improving their score of playing in 4 ♠ - that's when the opponents overstretch and bid to 5 ♦. That can be doubled and will always net at least 500 to North South. The dynamic defence of leading ♣ A works very well as North can receive two club ruffs and the penalty will be increased to 1,100.

**Board 7**

South Deals  
Both Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♥; Par -130

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

1. 12-14.

2. For takeout.

We have some more practice of bidding over 1N. West uses Stayman as he'd be happy if partner shows a spade suit. That doesn't happen so West now introduces his long minor suit, to play\*. That could be the end of the auction but South may decide to get busy and make a (very delayed) takeout double, though it might be a bit rich for most. It works well and North South reach a very playable 3 ♦. If declarer is allowed to make both ♥ K and ♥ Q, it will make. It will also make if the defence doesn't switch to trumps as declarer can ruff two hearts in dummy (one spade, one heart, two heart ruffs and five diamonds).

East West can make 4 ♣ losing just one trick in each suit (barring clubs) but it won't be easy to bid on (note the power of a jostling auction - East West were very happy playing in a quiet 3 ♣ but then ... ).

*\*not all bids are perfect. Here if East had 4/4 in the majors West wouldn't find the 4-4 spade fit at the 2level. When he bids 3 ♣ East knows West has spades so might convert 3 ♣ to 3 ♠.*

**Board 8**

West Deals  
None Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 5♦; NS 5♣; NS 3♥; EW 2♠; Par -100; NS 6♣x-1

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

1. At least 5/5 shape in the unbid suits.

2. Splinter raise of diamonds.

Auctions can develop in so many ways so, especially with competitive hands, the auctions shown are not necessarily model auctions but merely an illustration of one particular outcome. Here who knows what will make? Each side will know that even if they fail the price won't be too much. As it is, bidding on to 6 ♣ with such wild shape is the winning action as 5 ♦ makes and 6 ♣ fails by just one trick.

In the auction we see 2N used, as it often is, to show a two suited hand where it's implicit that the lengths of the suits are at least 5/5. West is able to make a splinter raise of diamonds, something that would have been possible even without North South intervening.

Some Wests might open 1 ♦ and bid spades twice to show 6diamonds and 5diamonds. The disparity of suit quality means that in the above auction West treats the hand more as a limited 5/5 hand.

**Board 9**North Deals  
E-W Vul

27th January 2016 Supervised Pairs

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

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

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

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

South makes a takeout double which always promises 4 hearts (sometimes 5 hearts in a weak hand). North cannot support hearts but bids naturally to show 5/4, or better, in the minors. South has a limited hand and signs off in the diamond part score, knowing of the eight card fit. Some Wests might have bid 2♥ over the double but South's known length in the suit may well put them off (that may depend on West interpreting the nature of South's call).

Declarer might be able to discard a spade loser on ♥K (it's difficult for East to underlead ♠A) such that North comes to ten tricks. He can take winning finesses in clubs and diamonds. After cashing a second trump he can play on clubs so as only to lose one trick to West's master trump - a third club from dummy means that trump beats the air. If West discards, the fourth club is ruffed in dummy. West may overruff but declarer now makes five trumps in hand.

**Board 10**East Deals  
Both Vul

27th January 2016 Supervised Pairs

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

EW 1N; EW 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -90

West	North	East	South
		1N <sup>1</sup>	All pass

1. 12-14.

There's a modern tendency to lead passively against no trump contracts, especially at the one level. That translates to shunning 4th best leads unless the suit has at least five cards. Here ♠9 would be a neutral lead. ♣3 (not from the better 4 card holding) works better as it starts the process of making a second club. After that start North South should come to two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs, holding declarer to the contract. Expect the trick-taking on this hand to vary from six to eight.

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 4♠; NS 4♦; NS 3♣; Par -100; NS 5♦×-1			
West	North	East	South
			1 N <sup>1</sup>
Pass	Pass <sup>2</sup>	2 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	4 N <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5 ♦
Dbl	All pass		

1. 12-14.
2. See text.
3. Landy, showing both majors.
4. Both minors, at least 5/5 shape.

North has no bid to show a limited minor two suiter (mind you, such things do exist in some bidding systems) so passes, somewhat nervously. East follows the recommended aggressive course of competing when the auction is about to fizzle out after two passes. Normally with 6/4 in the majors it's better to bid the 6card suit unless that suit is poor. That's true here so East is treating the hand as if it were 5/4 in the majors. West's raise to 3 ♠ is invitational and that might be enough to see some Easts raising to game.

We saw an unusual no trump bid on board 9. Here we have its big brother, the unusual 4N bid, showing (here) both minors [wouldn't be hearts because East has shown the suit]. That gets North South to their nine card diamond fit. The contract plays well but fails by one trick. Declarer loses three hearts but can ruff the fourth round of clubs to set up the fifth card as a winner.

East West will double this (and not bid on) as they've already done enough in the auction. North South will have done well as 4 ♠ makes - West loses two diamonds and a club. The fourth heart can be ruffed in hand.

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

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 3N; EW 3♠; EW 2♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -400			
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♣	Dbl	Pass
2 ♠	All pass		

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

East can double to get the other two suits into the picture. That's the general idea of the double but we also say that when a major has been bid the double always promises 4cards in the other major\*, the length of the unbid minor therefore being less clear-cut. Here West is one-suited and rebids his suit. He can be quite confident partner has 2/3spades because these double usually show balanced/semi-balanced hands.

Some Norths, as is their wont, will continue with 3 ♣ (though they've already shown their hand) and that will be expensive for them as it merits minus 200 even without a double. With ♦ A well placed, 2 ♠ plays well for nine tricks. Declarer can take a winning heart finesse but will lose one heart, one diamond and two clubs.

\*the exception being 1minor (1 ♥) X, where X denies 4spades [1 ♠ instead shows 4+spades].

**Board 13**  
North Deals  
Both Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

EW 3N; EW 3♠; EW 3♣; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -600

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 N <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3 N	All pass		

1. 15-16, 2/3spades.

If South leads anything other than a heart declarer should come to nine tricks. He can play ♠ A, ♠ K and another spade\* and that will build a third spade trick which becomes the ninth winner.

On a heart lead it is much more problematic and some declarers will duck a couple of rounds of the suit and hope that the defender winning the spade trick has no more hearts (or the hearts were 4-4). That doesn't work here. Another approach is to play off the winning clubs (often the right approach as it may force the defence into making the wrong discards) and hope something happens. It does ... but the ending is complex - North is squeezed in three suits. He cannot throw a spade (declarer can now pick them up) nor a heart (now declarer can play on spades knowing he'll lose just one spade and one heart on top of the two hearts already lost). He's forced to throw three diamonds. Now declarer can cash a top diamond and that sets up a second diamond winner.

Elegant.

*\*a reasonable line though there are other options.*

**Board 14**  
East Deals  
None Vul

27thJanuary2016 SupervisedPairs

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

NS 7N; NS 7♥; NS 7♣; NS 2♠; EW 1♦; Par +1520

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

All pass

1. 5-9, 6spades ("weak").
2. Setting up a game force.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. 1 or 4 of the 5 "aces".

It will be very, very difficult to reach a grand slam after East's pesky weak opening but well done if you reached the small slam. The problem with this type of natural auction is that South can't be sure what values North has when he bids 3 ♣ (yes, there are ways round this problem). South can at least force to game, as above, then a check on aces reveals that the defence doesn't have a trick off the top.

Could the grand slam be reached if East doesn't open 2 ♠? Possibly. How about:

- 2 ♣ (21-22, balanced or 8 playing tricks) - 2 ♦ (Relay);
- 2N (21-22, balanced) - 3 ♣ (Stayman);
- 3 ♥ - 4 ♣ (cue bid);
- 4 ♦ (cue bid) - 4N (RKCB, taking a reasonable risk that partner has good spades);
- 5 ♣ (4 "aces") - 5 ♦ (queen of trumps?);
- 5 ♠ (yes, and ♠ K) - 7 ♥.