

29thJune2016 - SupervisedPairs

Apart from the hands marked as relating to last week's workshop on protective bidding, the deals formed Stanza 4 of this year's Corn Cairdis (the friendly match between Eire and England, played in Limerick last month).

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 1N; EW 2♣; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -420

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

[Follow up to last week's talk]

East did not have enough to open the bidding but can make a protective seat overcall (8-11hcps, short in the opened suit and support for the other three suits). Opposite a protective seat double West jumps to 2♠ to show 10(11)-13hcps. East has enough to try for game. As West is maximum for his jump that game is reached.

Declarer can come to ten tricks in various ways, one being to lose a top trump and two hearts.

29thJune2016 - SupervisedPairs

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q 6
 ♥ A J 10 7 4
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ K 10 2

♠ 10 9 7 5
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ Q 9 8
 ♣ J 9 6 4

♠ J 3 2
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ K J 10 6 3
 ♣ A 7 5

♠ A K 8 4
 ♥ 8 6 5 2
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ Q 8 3

N
 W E
 S

NS 5N; NS 5♥; NS 5♦; N 2♠; NS 3♣; S 1♠; Par +660

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

1. 12-14.

2. Transfer showing 5+hearts.

3. Giving a choice of games between 3N and 4 ♥. It's clear for South to pass when holding a doubleton heart.

This is a transfer and choice-of-game auction. When North bids in this way South should place partner with game values (obviously) and 5hearts332 shape. He might not be *quite* that shape but he is here.

Let's say West leads ♠ 10. East West may now clear the spades (by cashing ♠ AK and playing a third round). When declarer plays on hearts the ♥ Q quickly appears and declarer has ten tricks - one spade, five hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. If he decides that, as West has the relative shortage in hearts, that hand may have the relative length in diamonds, he'll take the diamond finesse through West and arrive at an eleventh trick. Yes, it's a *two way finesse* and if it's taken through East (or is not attempted) declarer will be held to ten tricks.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

W 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; E 2♠; EW 3♣; Par -140			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 N	Pass
2 N	All pass		

West shows an invitational, balanced hand with 17-18hcps. East is minimum for the 1N bid and passes. Had East a maximum (8-9hcps) his correct technical bid would have been 3♥, forcing to game and showing 5 hearts. That would allow the partnership to reach 4♥ if West had been dealt a trebleton heart.

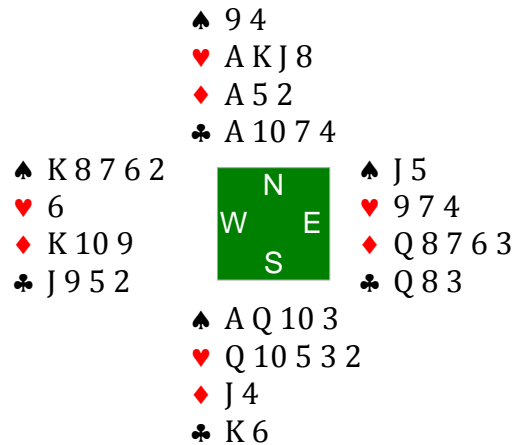
Anyway, back to 2N. After this tentative auction South will be looking for a passive lead. A heart or a diamond fits the bill. With no entry to the East hand outside hearts, declarer will have to cash ♥K and overtake ♥Q. Now with hearts breaking 3-3 there are five heart winners (that would also work if one defending hand had ♥109 doubleton). With the aces in the minors there are seven winners in total. The eighth trick may come from a successful guess in the spade suit (playing a spade to the king) or a second club trick if the defence gets too busy and opens up the suit.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul



NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 3♠; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +650

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

South has quite a good hand over 3 ♥ but no minor suit ace to cue bid. He may take the partnership past game by cue bidding the ace of spades. Now a use of Roman Key Card Blackwood would propel the partnership into slam as all the key cards (plus the queen of trumps) are held.

The slam is only a fair proposition and is most likely to fail. In practice declarer would finesse ♠ Q and when that lost would have to concede one down as there is also a diamond loser.

Is there a route to twelve tricks? Yes but it requires declarer to play and run ♠ 9 with East failing to cover with ♠ J. Now when a second spade is played from dummy the knave appears and declarer has three spade tricks. On the second and third winners, two small diamonds are thrown from dummy. Now South's diamond loser can be ruffed for the slam going trick.

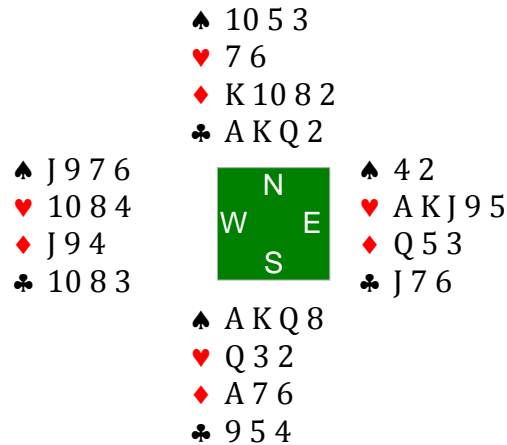
Back in the real world most will play in 4 ♥ and take that simple spade finesse of the queen. Now two spades can be ruffed in dummy and there will be eleven tricks - one spade, two spade ruffs, five hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

29thJune2016 - SupervisedPairs

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul



NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; Par +630

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 N ¹	Pass	3 N ²

All pass

1. 12-14.
2. With a barren 4333 distribution doesn't bother with Stayman (see text).

With 4333 shape it's the modern practice not to use Stayman with the South hand. The lack of a clear ruffing value is a drawback (though it might be possible to take a ruff in partner's hand when he has 4spades and 4432 shape); and Stayman does give away a lot of information when it doesn't provide the "right" answer.

East will surely lead ♥ A and North will feel comfortable that ♥ Q will be a trick even if East switches at trick two. The best that East can do is in fact to clear the hearts. Now declarer can do nothing but cash his top cards. If he guesses to cash the clubs (instead of the spades) West might carelessly throw a spade. That would allow declarer to make a fourth spade. That ought not happen as West should keep the same spade length as dummy.

Ten tricks will be common - three spades, a heart, two diamonds and four clubs.


29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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



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

NS 4♠; NS 1N; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♦

All pass

[Follow up to last week's talk]

This is really the anti-protective bidding hand. When the bidding comes round to East he does best to pass as none of the alternatives are attractive - 1N is warped given the unbalanced shape; 1♥ and 2♣ would suggest better suits). There is another reason why bidding in the fourth seat here doesn't work. It will allow North South to find their superior spade fit and, to boot, game in spades is makeable.

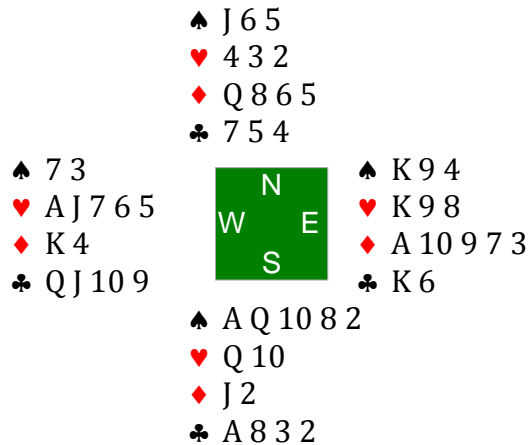
With the East West distribution as it is declarer will struggle to make more than seven tricks. Conceding 70 points is vastly better than conceding 420.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul



E 5♥; W 4♥; E 4♦; E 2N; W 3♦; E 3♣; W 1N; W 2♣; EW 1♠;
Par -650

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

1. Transfer, showing 5+hearts.

[Follow up to last week's talk]

In the fourth seat the 1N bid shows 12-14, i.e. it is the same range as an opening 1N (OK, it's possible to do this with 11hcps sometimes too). The auction above would be appropriate if East West are playing 3 ♣ as forcing for one round. That explains East's jump to game - 3/4hearts and a maximum. Were 3 ♣ game forcing, West would bid 2N, invitational but the heart game would still be reached.

Declarer will make game with five hearts, two diamonds and three clubs (losing two spades and ♣ A). When, as here, the contract is played by East it's just possible to make an eleventh trick. This needs some dexterity in the order of play but sees the fifth diamond set up for a spade discard. Unlikely.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

EW 4N; E 3♠; EW 4♣; W 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 3♦; Par -300; NS 5♦×-2

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

1. 10-12 hcps and 4+clubs ("limit raise").

West knows that partner doesn't have 4spades (failure to bid 1♠) but he bids the suit as a prelude to the possibility of reaching 3N. East is able to fill in the red suits (particularly the diamonds) and 3N is duly bid. That contract will make at least nine tricks (seven clubs and two aces) and there are chances for a tenth trick (a diamond or a heart).

It isn't obvious but South's winning action over 3N is to bid 4♦, a contract that should only fail by one trick. Further, it may force West to try 5♣, a contract that should fail (losing a heart and two spades against sensible defence).

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

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

N 5♠; EW 5♥; S 4♠; EW 5♦; NS 4♣; NS 2N; Par +200:

EW 6♦ ×-1; EW 6♥ ×-1

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠ ¹	2 ♠ ²	3 ♥ ³
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♦ ⁴	5 ♠
6 ♦ ⁵	6 ♠ ⁵	Dbl	All pass

1. Easily a Rule of 20 opening bid.
2. Michaels cue bid showing 5+hearts and 5+cards in a minor.
3. Good hand in support of spades. To show this type of hand cue bid the opponents' suit.
4. Showing the second suit to allow partner to judge the auction better.
5. By this stage it's difficult for both sides to know what's making (see text).

This was the most explosive hand of the whole weekend of the Corn Cairdis (80 boards in total). When dummy went down North will have thought that East West had misjudged. 6 ♠ only fails because West holds all five clubs and East holds all three outstanding trumps. Declarer will lose a diamond and a club.

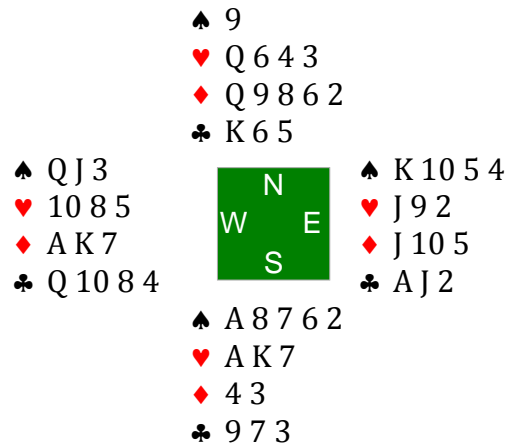
Often, with such high level bidding, there is some guessing involved as to who will make what. In the above auction all actions appear reasonable.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul



EW 2N; EW 2♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass ¹

1 N² All pass

1. An opening bid for some.
2. 12-14.

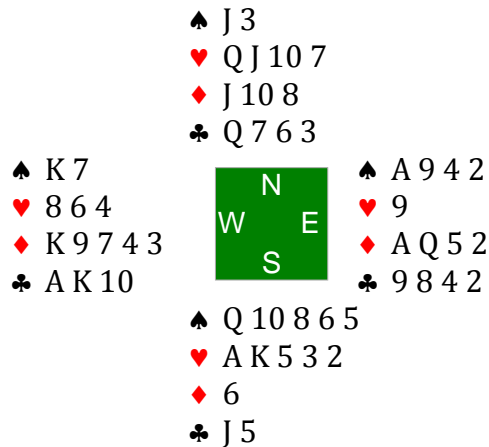
North may lead what looks like an unfortunate diamond. That gives declarer a third diamond but the defence can still hold declarer to eight tricks if they take the ace of spades and cash their four heart winners. This should happen but, if not, declarer could amass ten tricks - three spades, three diamonds and four clubs.

29thJune2016 - SupervisedPairs

Board 11

South Deals

None Vul



EW 5♦; EW 2N; NS 2♥; EW 3♣; EW 1♠; Par -400

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

1. A(nother) Rule of 20 opening bid.

2. For takeout.

This hand, from the Corn Cairdis, is coincidentally on the subject of protection. It's unusual, not just because of the delayed route into the auction, but because East West judge well and compete to the 4level. If North South misjudge to bid 4 ♥ that can be doubled and will fail by two tricks (plus 300 to East West). It would also be a misjudgment to double 4 ♦ as this can make with an overtrick*. Declarer needs to ruff two hearts in dummy but will also make two spades, five diamonds and a couple of clubs.

**it just seems too tough to reach 5 ♦. That might just happen if West makes a first round takeout double. That isn't too attractive - flattish hand, 3hcps in the opened suit, poor 3card heart holding.*

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 3♦; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +620

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

[Follow up to last week's talk]

Here South would have had enough to make a direct seat takeout double so the 4th seat double is absolutely clear. The auction follows a similar course to Board 1 (jump response, invitational raise and game bid). The North South hands fit together well with no wastage in the heart suit (a small singleton opposite small cards).

Declarer will come to ten tricks, losing a trump, a heart and a diamond. The easiest way to realise the contract is to take two heart ruffs in the South hand. (With ♦ 10 falling in two rounds, ten tricks can also be "seen" by way of three trumps, three diamonds* and four clubs.

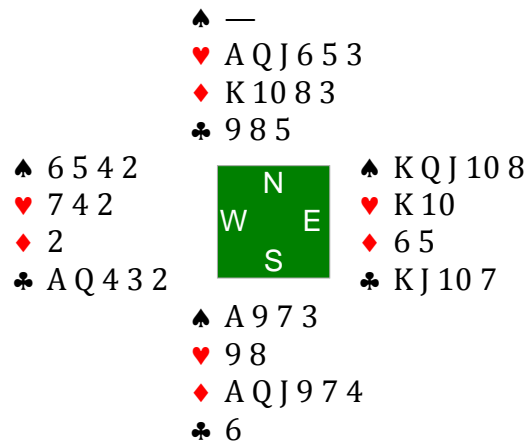
*♦ 9 being the third diamond winner.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 13

North Deals

Both Vul



NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 2N; EW 2♠; W 3♣; E 2♣; Par +600

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥ ¹	1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♠ ²	4 ♦ ³	Pass	5 ♦

All pass

1. A Rule of 20 opening bid.
2. Preemptive raise (would cue bid 2 ♥ with a good raise).
3. Support with support.

West's vigorous bidding will probably be sufficient to prevent North South reaching the higher-scoring 4 ♥. It's right for North to show support for diamonds but South will not know he is facing a 6card heart suit. *(That said, perhaps North will realise the importance of playing in the major and could suppress the diamonds.)*

Declarer will make 5 ♦, losing two tricks (a club and ♥ K).

In 4 ♥ declarer is likely to make eleven tricks too. One way of holding it to ten tricks is for East to lead an unlikely diamond. Now, on gaining the lead in hearts, a second diamond gives West a ruff.

29th June 2016 - Supervised Pairs

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

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

E 3♠; EW 2N; W 2♠; E 3♣; NS 2♦; W 2♣; Par -140
West North East South
 1 N¹ All pass
 1. 12-14.

We end quietly with another 1N hand. South does best to lead a diamond (♦ J, top of an interior sequence), a good idea when holding a decent 5card suit. Declarer can cash five club winners and make a spade and a heart on top of the ace of diamonds. That's eight tricks (the defence taking one spade and four diamonds).