

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 6♦; NS 5♠; S 4N; N 3N; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +920

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

1. 12-14.
2. Transfer, showing 5+spades.
3. OK.

[Follow up on last week's Weak Two workshop]

Yes, North has a nine count but this hand is too powerful for a weak two level opening. The hand has two aces, some shape (a singleton) and a very good spade suit. Such hands straddle the border between an opening two level and an opening one level bid. As such, pass is the correct opening "bid".

It isn't obvious that North should insist on game opposite a weak no trump opening but it works well here. North uses a transfer because he has no vulnerable kings and queens that need protecting (had that been the case he may have bid 4 ♠ directly over 1N).

If North, not unreasonably, invites to game via 1N - 2 ♥; 2 ♠ - 3 ♠, game could easily be missed as South may pass 3 ♠.

Anyone who bids to 6 ♦ will have done very well ... and been a little lucky. This contract needs the spade finesse to be right and for trumps to break 3-2 (the latter because it's necessary to ruff a heart in the South hand for the twelfth trick).

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -110

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


A good, natural auction. West shows weakness when he bids a simple 2 ♦. If partner bids over this it always shows extra values. East is able to show his pattern by bidding 2 ♠ (i.e. 3154 shape, or similar) and West retreats to a safer spot (a known 5-3 fit, albeit one level higher than 2 ♠).

Outside of the trump suit 3 ♦ has three losers (two spades and a heart ... *no 4th best heart lead from South please*) so the contract makes provided declarer restricts his diamond losers to one. That's easier said than done. If declarer plays ace and another diamond he'll have to be inspired and duck in dummy. ♦ K beats the air and we have success. If declarer starts on trumps by playing a diamond to ♦ 10 that works when he next cashes ♦ A. Touch and go.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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



♠ Q 8 6	♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ A Q 10 7	
♦ J 2	

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 3♠; NS 4♣; NS 1♦; Par +450

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


It's quite easy to get carried away with the North hand but if you slot in cards that South can hold to make up 10 to 12 HCPs you'll see that slam will be marginal at best.

East may "kick-off" with the singleton club lead and that does declarer no harm. He'll be able to take winning finesses in the minors (against ♣ K and ♦ K) and will come to eleven tricks, losing just two spades. When a spade is led from dummy West must follow the old whist rule of "second hand low" else it creates two spade winners for North South. That would translate to a great North South score when twelve tricks are now made.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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



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

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

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

1. 5-9, 6hearts (a weak two).
2. (Generally) 14+, artificial enquiry. Game invite or better, usually, as here, with support for opener.
3. Maximum hcps (8-9) and two of the top three heart honours.

[Follow up on last week's Weak Two workshop]

The chunky heart suit, with all the points in the opened suit, makes West's 2♥ opening a perfect bid. East does not know how good partner is so it's also a perfect situation to use 2N, an enquiry looking for point range and suit quality. West's response is past the safe partscore zone but that matters not one jot. The response means that East would always be insisting on game.

With ♠ A badly placed there are always two black suit losers (one in each of spades and clubs) and the contract depends on the diamond suit. Declarer should take a *double finesse* in diamonds, that is finesse ♦ 10 on the first round and finesse ♦ J on the second. Provided the diamond honours are split (as here) or North has both of them, the contract is assured.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 1N; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -420
West North East South
Pass 2♥¹ All pass
1. 5-9, 6hearts ("weak").

[Follow up on last week's Weak Two workshop]

Though we might caution about maximum hands and voids, it looks about right to open the East hand with a weak two bid. It's good to mix it and East West can exploit the vulnerability, hoping to put some pressure on North South. The only pressure, however, falls on West who passes the opening bid, somewhat reluctantly.

South may start with ♦ J. East can shed two clubs on the top diamonds and lead a club. It's now possible for declarer to ruff a club in dummy and he may come to ten tricks with the aid of a *deep finesse* in spades (finessing ♠ 10 then finessing ♠ Q).

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

EW 2N; EW 2♥; EW 3♣; E 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -120
West North East South
Dbl¹ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1. Takeout, c. 7+hcps.

West's double is for takeout, showing both minors. The other option would be to raise the hearts, a reasonable strategy holding three trumps with an honour. On the above auction, once East bids 1N (15-16) West's ♠ Q becomes a good card and he may stand for 1N rather than putting the contract back to 2♥.

Declarer wins the opening spade lead in dummy and leads ♣ J. North shouldn't cover. East plays a second club finessing ♣ Q. When the clubs don't break he turns his attention to hearts, playing low towards the queen. With the hearts breaking 3-3 declarer will make at least eight tricks - two spades, three hearts and three clubs, with chances of making a ninth in diamonds or spades.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

♠ J 8 7 3	♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 8 3	♥ 8 3
♦ J 8 6 5 4	♦ J 8 6 5 4
♣ 7 6	♣ 7 6

EW 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 3♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; Par -110
West North East South
1 ♣ 1 N ¹ All pass
1. 15-17 or 15-18 (your choice). Club stop?!

North is awkwardly placed and the modern approach is to forget about the lack of a club stopper and make the bid that at least gets over the nature (balanced) and strength (15-17/18) of the hand. Some Wests may re-open with 2 ♣ but others could try a "please bid something, partner" double. In the latter case East bidding 2 ♣ works well but 2 ♦ would see West bidding 2 ♥. Now East has to decide whether to play a 4-3 fit at the two level or move to (a hoped for) 5-3 club fit at the three level.

In the shown auction West takes a conservative approach, put off by both the vulnerability and North seemingly showing club length. Passing out 1N may work out quite well as North will struggle to come to seven tricks.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

♠ A 9 8 7 3 2	♠ A 9 8 7 3 2
♥ —	♥ —
♦ K J 5 2	♦ K J 5 2
♣ J 8 3	♣ J 8 3

S 4♠; N 3♠; NS 3♣; EW 1N; EW 1♥; E 1♦; Par +420
West North East South
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ All pass

In some ways we'd like North to be able to say that 2 ♣ shows five clubs and that South has a single bid that shows a mild invitation, the extra spade length and the support for clubs. But alas, in the real world, such things are not possible so we'll have to content ourselves with North being able to invite the spade game. With a void in partner's first suit South is likely to be put off.

West's best lead is a trump and that should prevent declarer ruffing a diamond in dummy. With spades and clubs breaking 3-2 declarer should come to nine tricks (even after the trump lead). Declarer is helped by West holding the ace of a club but only a doubleton. That means that he is not able to hold up this ace sufficiently and declarer can always get to dummy's club winners.

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

♠ A Q 8
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ K 8 7 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 7

♠ —
 ♥ A K J 10
 ♦ A 10 5 4
 ♣ A K Q J 2

♠ 4 3 2
 ♥ Q 9 8 7 5
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ 10 5 4

♠ K J 10 9 7 6 5
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ 6 3

EW 7♥; EW 6♣; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; Par -1100: NS 7♠x-5

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

1. 5-9 (ish!), 6card suit (usually). See text.
2. Cueing the opponents' suit sets up a general force.
Sometimes it's looking to partner bidding 3N with a stopper in their suit.
3. Ace-showing cue bid.

[Follow up on last week's Weak Two workshop]

In all fairness 2♠ would be the preferred opening when vulnerable but even this mini preempt may make it difficult for opponents to reach a slam (yes opening 3♠ will make it even more difficult). There's something to be said for West passing 5♥ (East has not promised *any* values) but our West ventures onwards. Declarer does not have to take a diamond finesse to try to make all thirteen tricks (a finesse that fails anyway). East can ruff two spades in the West hand and there are thirteen tricks with the potential diamond loser and the third spade being discarded on the fourth and fifth club winners.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

♠ A 10 8 2
 ♥ J 10 5 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10 6 3 2

♠ 9 5
 ♥ A K 8 7 6
 ♦ Q 10
 ♣ J 9 5 4

♠ Q 7 4
 ♥ Q 9 4
 ♦ A K J 6 4
 ♣ K 7

♠ K J 6 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 9 7 5 3 2
 ♣ A Q 8

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

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

1. 15-16.
2. 3card heart support.

Modern systems tends to use 2♣ as some sort of artificial enquiry (Crowhurst being an early version of this) but it's still possible to conduct a good, natural auction. Here West shows his suits and East can support hearts at the second turn. The 2♥ bid shows three card support because four card support would have been confirmed on the previous round of bidding.

Well we've reached a good spot but the bridge gods are not with us. The 4-1 heart break scuppers the contract and declarer should lose two spades, a heart and two clubs. Had the hearts broken 3-2 the contract would have depended on the defence. A red suit lead and there would be ten tricks, whereas a black suit lead gives declarer no chance when North South cash the first four tricks.

East West have a combined 25 HCPs so count yourselves justifiably aggrieved if you book minus 200 for a poor score.

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

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

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

It doesn't pay to stretch to thin games playing match pointed pairs so South is quite right to pass North's support-showing, invitational bid of 3 ♦. With the diamonds breaking badly, making 3 ♦ will not be easy. Declarer does best to play on cross ruff lines and can restrict the defence to one spade, one heart and two diamond winners.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

NS 3N; NS 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; Par +300; EW 4♥x-2

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

1. 21-22, balanced (see text); or c. 18-21, unbalanced with eight playing tricks.
2. Values (commits to game or taking a penalty).

It would be possible to open the North hand 2N showing 19-20 balanced. Some might be put off that course by the 5422 shape (not least because of the dangerous small doubleton heart). The hand, though, also has a very good five card suit and a spade suit where knave and ten are working well in supporting the ace. Some could even treat the hand as a balanced hand in the range 21-22 (because of the positive black suit holdings), intending to rebid 2N over the 2 ♦ response to 2 ♣. That auction start is shown here. East puts a spanner in the works with a lead-directing spade overcall but that doesn't put North South off their stride.

East's best lead is the surprise attack of ♥ J but with the heart suit being blocked declarer can build a second diamond trick to ensure at least nine tricks.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

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

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 3♠; EW 2♦; EW 2♣; Par -620

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

This is a nasty deal with neither side having an eight card fit. At his third turn East might bid 2♥ and that will prove a more comfortable spot. In hearts declarer has no choice but to take a finesse of ♥J. With hearts breaking 3-3 and that finesse working, there are always an "easy" nine tricks (finesse ♦10 - oh yes? - and a tenth trick materialises).

In spades nine tricks can still be made but the trump holding doesn't look too promising. If declarer doesn't try to ruff a diamond the defence may hold the contract to eight tricks as declarer could lose three trumps and two diamonds (though, again, ♦10 can be finessed). If North ruffs in when West seeks to ruff a diamond he may ruff in front of dummy. This doesn't gain a trick though as it's at the cost of a normal trump trick.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

29th July 2015 Supervised Play

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
		2 ♠ ¹	Pass
4 ♠	4 N ²	Pass	5 ♣
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	6 ♣
Dbl	All pass		

- 5-9, 6card suit (a weak two).
- A two-suited hand (♣&♦ or ♣&♥ or ♦&♥) showing at least 5-5 distribution.

[Follow up on last week's Weak Two workshop]

We end with some fireworks. 2♠ by East is very pure (great suit, all the points in the trump suit) and West has a hand that says "I'll bid four and then bid five if they compete further". North's hand is dangerous for intervention but sitting back doesn't get many points in the modern game. 4N is reserved for showing a two-suited hands (use a double for a three-suiter or a 5431 semi-three suited hand).

If 5♠ doesn't make then 6♣ will be the wrong bid *provided 6♣ is failing too*. Well at these high levels it's well nigh impossible to know what's making. 6♣ is bid as insurance. If it makes then we can inwardly congratulate ourselves. If it doesn't make, it won't be expensive - North is marked with top cards in the red suits and short spades (a singleton at most after West's vigorous bidding) so ten or eleven tricks should be expected.

Bidding 6♣ works very well and loses just two tricks (the red suit aces). Five spades was making with East losing a heart and a club. North South have bid and conceded a profitable sacrifice (profitable because the cost of going down was less than the value of East West's game).