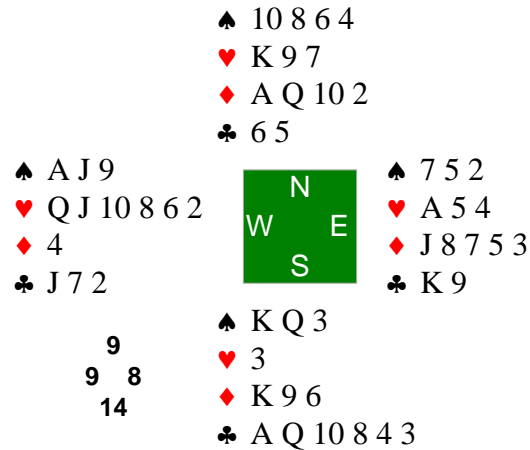


Board 1

North Deals
None Vul



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

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

Lead: ♣ 6

South will open 1 ♣, and West should overcall 1 ♥. The extra heart makes up for the only having 9 HCP. North should make a NEGATIVE DOUBLE showing exactly four spades. East should raise to 2 ♥. South has good enough clubs and a side singleton to rebid 3 ♣. West uses the Law of Total Tricks to compete to the 3-level in hearts (9 trumps = 9 tricks) and that should end the auction.

West has to lose 2 ♣, 1 ♦, and 1-2 spades depending on if he guesses well in the spade suit. Even going -1 is OK because N/S will make 3 ♣ if they are allowed to play it there, which pays 110. Going down 1 in 3 ♥ only gives them 100.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 4♣; NS 2♠; Par +630

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	3 N	Pass	2 ♣
Lead: ♥ 3		All pass	


South opens 1 ♣, and North responds 1 ♠. South is now faced with a difficult problem - if he rebids 2 ♥, it is a REVERSE. This is because South would be introducing a new higher suit at the 2-level than he opened at the 1-level, after partner only showed enough to respond. He can choose between lies here - either rebid 1 NT with a singleton, or rebid 2 ♣ with only five of them. Either of those is reasonable with this hand.

North now knows we have enough for game and no fit, so he can go straight to 3 NT.

East has a normal lead from either red suit, but both may give up a trick unfortunately here. The ♠ J (top of a sequence) is also a reasonable lead, but partner may assume you have more than three of the on some hands.

Declarer should work on clubs, and ultimately take 4 ♣, 2-3 ♦, 2-3 ♥, and 1 ♠, depending on the opening lead.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 8 2	♠ A J 5 3	♠ Q 7 6 4
♥ J 8 7 4 3	♥ A 10 5	♥ K Q 9
♦ 8	♦ K 6 5 3	♦ A Q 4 2
♣ A Q J 9 4	♣ 10 3	♣ K 2
12	♠ K 10 9	♥ 6 2
8 16	♥ 6 2	♦ J 10 9 7
4	♦ J 10 9 7	♣ 8 7 6 5
		

EW 4♥; E 3N; E 4♣; W 2N; W 3♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par -620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	1N	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	All pass
Lead: ♦ J			

After North opens 1♦, East should overcall 1NT showing 15-17 and a diamond stopper. West now transfers to hearts, and East accepts the transfer. Normally, 8 HCP is in the invitational range when partner opens/overcalls 1NT. But, with such nice shape, I think it is OK to treat this hand as game-forcing. So, West can bid 3♣. This shows 4+ clubs (along with the 5+ hearts) and a game-forcing hand.

East knows we have a heart fit, so he can go to game in hearts.

South has a normal ♦ J lead. It doesn't work out that well for the defense, as declarer gets a free diamond finesse.

Declarer will work on setting up dummy. The clubs are already setup, and the hearts will be good after the ace is taken. So, we win the ♦ Q, play the ♦ A pitching a spade loser and now we get to work pulling trump. North will win the ♥ A and cash a spade, but now E/W are home free to pull trump and take all of the club tricks.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ A K J 5	♠ Q 3	♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ 8	♥ A J 10 4 3	♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ K Q 10 8 3	♦ A J 4 2	♦ 9
♣ K J 4	♣ 7 3	♣ Q 10 6 5
12	♠ 10 9 6	
17 4	♥ K 7 5	
7	♦ 7 6 5	
	♣ A 9 8 2	

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

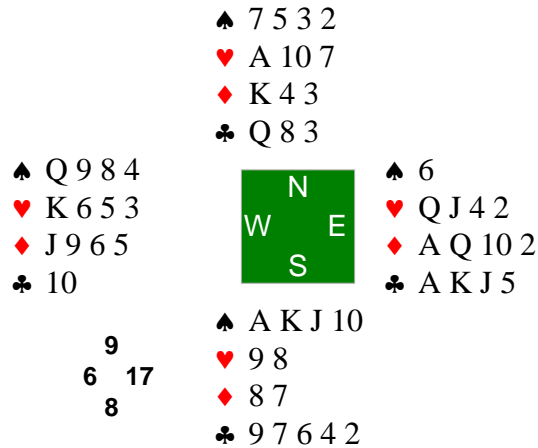
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Dbl	Pass	2 ♠	All pass
Lead: ♥ 5			

West has a nice 17 count, but is unbalanced so he starts with 1 ♦. North overcalls 1 ♥. East is too weak to bid here. South can raise to 2 ♥. West should come back in with a TAKEOUT DOUBLE here. He's showing extra points, 0-2 hearts, and 3+ cards in all other suits.

East dutifully bids 2 ♠. His club suit is better, but bidding at the 2-level is much better than going to 3 ♣. Neither N/S should compete to the 3-level with only 8 trumps and vulnerable, and West should feel comfortable passing, having already shown his points and strength by forcing partner to bid at the 2-level.

South should lead a heart. In 4-4 trump fit, if one hand is significantly stronger than the other, the stronger hand is the dominant hand. Thus, here, look for losers in the West hand that we can ruff or pitch using cards in the East hand. We may want to work on our diamonds early on so we can ruff a couple of them in our hand and set them up before using all of our trumps to pull trumps. The opponents will get 1-2 ♦, 1 ♣, 1 ♥, and probably a spade told the contract to around 8 tricks.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul



EW 5♥; EW 3N; EW 5♦; EW 2♠; EW 2♣; Par -450

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Lead: ♠ 2

East opens 1♦, and West has just enough to respond. With 4-4 in the majors, bid up the line over partner's 1m opening. East can now add a point for the singleton spade (now that we have found an 8+ card fit) and get up to 18 points, which is enough to bid game. North has a normal spade or club lead. Declarer should again choose the strong hand (East) as the dominant hand. East has some club losers we might get rid of by ruffing them in our hand.

So, we'll get on lead eventually depending on the opening lead, and play ♣ A and ruff a club. No need to cash the other high club! It will be good later. We want to get to ruffing while the ruffing's good.

Now, we want to get back to dummy, so let's play diamonds. Don't give up on the diamond finesse! Play a ♦ to the Queen - today, it wins. Ruff the other little club in your hand. Dummy is looking better and better, so now we can get to work pulling trump. The opponents will score 1♠, 1♥, and they may end up with 1♦ depending on how the entries play out.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 7 3 2	♠ A 10 9 8	♠ 6
♥ A 8 5 2	♥ J 10 7 6	♥ K 4 3
♦ K 2	♦ 4	♦ A Q 10 8 7 3
♣ K 10 3	♣ A Q J 8	♣ 6 5 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K J 5 4	
	♥ Q 9	
	♦ J 9 6 5	
	♣ 9 7 4	

12
12 9
7

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠
All pass			
Lead: ♦ K			

East has a textbook 2♦ opening. Neither South nor West has enough to bid here. North now finds himself in BALANCING seat. You are in balancing seat when your pass would be the end of the auction. If you are in balancing seat after the opponents have stopped at the 2-level, you can bid with a touch less than normal.

So, with a 12-count and the perfect takeout shape, South can definitely come in here with a double. South Bids 2♠. West shouldn't compete here - E/W is vulnerable, and they have only an 8-card fit. The Law of Total Tricks suggests that you need a 9-card fit to compete to the 3-level. So, South will play 2♠.

It is often tough to know what to do in these 4-4 fits. You usually want to pick one hand to "set up" - so, get rid of all the losers in one particular hand. Here, the North hand will be easier to set up as it doesn't have a bunch of little diamond losers in it. So to set up the North hand, we'll want to drive out the ♥ AK, so that the JT are good, and ideally take some club finesses if possible. When you know trumps may be splitting badly (i.e. when one opponent preempts), it is often good practice to set up your side suit (hearts) first. So, West will lead the ♦ K, and then probably another diamond lacking anything better to do. We ruff this, and should immediately start playing on hearts. When the heart suit is looking good, we can get to work trying to pull trumps and taking our club finesses.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 10 4	♠ K Q J 5	♠ 9 7 3
♥ 6	♥ K J 8 2	♥ 9 7 4
♦ A 9 6	♦ K 10 8 4	♦ Q J 7 5 3
♣ A 8 7 6 5 3	♣ 4	♣ K 9
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: green; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 8 6 2	
	♥ A Q 10 5 3	
	♦ 2	
	♣ Q J 10 2	

13
12 6
9

NS 4♥; NS 3♠; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♣	Dbl	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	
Lead: ♥ 6			

After the takeout double, South is forced to bid. When your partner doubles and you are forced to bid, the lowest possible bid is a weak hand (i.e. bidding 1 ♥ shows a weak hand, where you only bid because you had to). So, with a good 9 count (and 5 hearts), you are near invitational range, and should be JUMPING to 2 ♥ here. Now North hears you say you are invitational with 4+ hearts, and should go to game with the side shortness that adds a couple of points to our hand.

West has such a tough lead problem - I basically never lead an unsupported ace (unless it's against a slam), or away from an ace in a suit contract, so I'd lead a trump.

Declarer has to lose 1 ♠, 1 ♦, and 1 ♣. He has to be pretty careful to ruff everything back and forth before pulling all of the trumps, but can make 10 tricks if careful.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 4	♠ 10 9	♠ A 7 5 2
♥ 7 6 3	♥ K Q 10 5 4	♥ 2
♦ 9 4 2	♦ J 8 6 3	♦ 7 5
♣ 6 5 3 2	♣ 10 9	♣ A K Q J 8 4
6	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 5px;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 8 6 3
5 14	♥ A J 9 8	♥ A J 9 8
15	♦ A K Q 10	♦ A K Q 10
	♣ 7	♣ 7

NS 4♥; NS 4♦; EW 4♣; EW 1♠; Par +100; EW 5♣×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Dbl
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♣	4 ♥	5 ♣	Dbl
All pass			
Lead: ♦ A			

Tough auction - two passes to East, who opens 1 ♣. South makes a takeout double, and West should pass. North bids 1 ♥. Now East should come back in with 1 ♠. Even if we are not hoping too much for a spade fit, this describes both our side spade suit AND the rough shape of our hand to partner. If we had a generic balanced hand with 4 spades and 3-4 clubs, we wouldn't step into an auction when partner could easily have 0 HCP. So bidding 1 ♠ both shows 4 spades AND a "real" club suit - 5+ clubs. South should raise hearts, either by bidding 2 ♥ or 3 ♥ - it is very close. Either way, West should now know we have a 9+ card club fit and raise clubs. North will go to game, but East should believe that 4 ♥ is making and cite the fact that E/W are non-vulnerable to take a sacrifice - even if we are going down in 5 ♣, we are banking on the opponents getting less than they would have in 4 ♥ making 4. South should double and that will end the auction. E/W have to lose 3 red tricks to go down a measly 100, instead of letting the opponents make 420 in hearts.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

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

10
10 16
4

W 4♥; EW 3♠; E 3♥; W 4♦; W 2N; E 3♦; E 1N; W 2♣; E 1♣;
Par -620

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 N	Pass
2 ♣	Dbl	2 ♥	Pass
3 N	All pass		
Lead: ♣ 4			

East opens 1N showing 15-17 HCP. West bids Stayman to find out about a ♠ fit. North should DOUBLE Stayman. Whenever we double an ARTIFICIAL bid, it asks partner to lead that suit. North definitely wants a ♣ lead, and won't be happy if partner leads away from an honor in a different suit.

Now, North, look at the ♣ suit - we have 8, so partner and declarer have 5. When partner leads the ♣ 4 and declarer plays the 3, we know partner started with 1 or 3 clubs, as he'd lead high if he had a doubleton. So, we don't want to give declarer the ♣ K for free. Play a passive ♥ J (top of a sequence) and when partner gets on lead with the ♦ A, he can lead another ♣ THROUGH dummy and beat the contract!

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ J 10 9 8 4	♠ K Q 5 3	♠ 7 2						
♥ J 7	♥ K Q 6	♥ A 10 8 3 2						
♦ Q 9 6 2	♦ 8 7	♦ J 4						
♣ 3 2	♣ J 10 9 8	♣ Q 7 5 4						
<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;"></td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;"></td></tr> </table>			W	N	E		S	
W	N	E						
	S							
	♠ A 6							
	♥ 9 5 4							
	♦ A K 10 5 3							
	♣ A K 6							

11
 4 7
 18

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 N
Pass	3 N	All pass	
Lead: ♠ J			

South is in the 18-19 balanced range - too much to open 1N and too little to open 2N. He should opens 1 ♦ and plan to jump to 2N later to show the strength. Don't worry about having a stopper everywhere! It is too important to show HCP and shape, and we can't accommodate everything sometimes.

North has a nice hand, but not enough to think about slam with 29-30 combined HCPs, so he goes to game in NT.

West should lead a spade despite the spade bid, given the sequence. Transportation is a little messy on this hand. We have 3 ♠, 2 ♦, and 2 ♣ off the top. We can easily build a heart trick for #8, but what about #9? Considering we have only one heart stopper, we shouldn't rely on the diamond suit to split evenly to take our additional trick(s). Instead, let's build a club trick right away by playing ♣ A, ♣ K, and another club. East will win that, and either play another spade or a diamond, but now we are all set to knock out the ♥ A to take the 3 top spades, 1 big heart, the ♦ A and ♦ K, and three club tricks for 9 total.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 9	♠ A 8 7 5	♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ Q 10 6 5	♥ 9 8 3 2	♥ A 4
♦ 3 2	♦ K Q	♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ A K Q 3 2	♣ J 8 5	♣ 9 6 4
10 13 4 13	♠ K J 4 ♥ K J 7 ♦ A J 9 7 6 ♣ 10 7	

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♦
All pass			

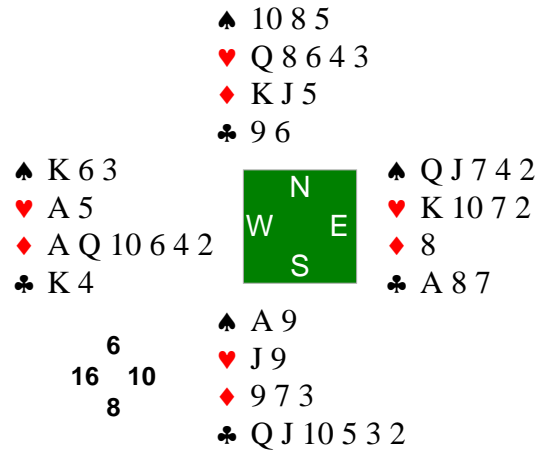
South opens 1♦, and West should definitely overcall 2♣, North can now make a **NEGATIVE DOUBLE** - when no one has bid a major, the negative double shows 4-4 in **BOTH** majors. Coming in at the 2-level like this requires 10+ HCP. East passes (not enough to raise partner's clubs), and South is in a bit of a pickle. He has no club stopper, so he can't bid 2NT. He doesn't have a fit for either major. So, he has to fib and rebid 2♦ with only 5 of them. He'd prefer to have 6, but it's not a perfect world.

North has 10, which is sometimes enough to invite partner to game, but with a flat hand and no club stopper, I'd pass and let partner have it in diamonds. West will lead three rounds of clubs, and now South can get to work pulling trumps and taking guesses in the majors. He'll likely lose 2♣, 1♠, and 2♥, but the major suits are incredibly tricky and he may go down 1. A lot of it is guesswork when we are trying to find aces and queens.

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul



EW 6♠; E 4N; W 3N; EW 3♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; Par -980

West starts with 1 ♦, and East bids 1 ♠. When one major is longer than the other, always bid the longer one first. West should JUMP in diamonds to show the extra strength. Now East can bid 3 ♥ to show the 4-card heart suit.

Now, West has already denied having 4 spades as he didn't raise partner's spades immediately. So, if he bids spades later, he is showing 3 of them. West bids 3 ♠ and East can go to game in spades.

3 NT might make here as well, but spades will be much easier to play as you can ruff things back and forth as you need.