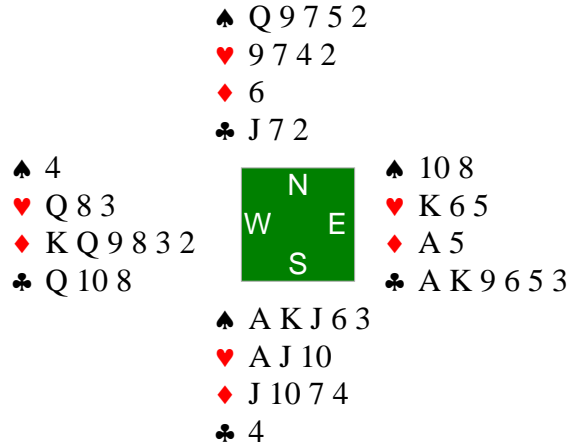


Board 1
 East Deals
 None Vul



| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2 ♦ | 4 ♠ | 1 ♣ All pass | 1 ♠ |

Lead ♦ K

Auction:

North's 4 ♠ is "bidding to the level of the fit". North has only 3 HCP and assumes that EW have the majority of the points so is prepared to sacrifice.

Play:

Declarer counts top tricks - 5 spades and the ♥ A. Declarer's plan is to make another four tricks by ruffing diamonds and clubs.

West wins ♦ K and then ♣ 8. East wins the ♣ K and tries ♣ A, but declarer ruffs, cashes ♠ A, crosses to ♠ Q to clear trumps, and leads ♥ 2 to ♥ 10. West wins with ♥ Q and leads ♣ Q, which declarer ruffs. Declarer ruffs ♦ 7 and leads ♥ 4 to ♥ J. Declarer now cashes ♥ A, ruffs the ♦ 7, crosses back to hand with a spade and ruffs a second diamond.

Game made, and EW can make 5 ♣.

Board 2
 North Deals
 None Vul

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| ♠ A 9 7 6 | ♠ 8 | ♠ K Q 10 5 3 2 | | | | | | |
| ♥ 7 6 | ♥ A Q 10 5 3 | ♥ 4 2 | | | | | | |
| ♦ 5 2 | ♦ A J 9 6 | ♦ K 7 4 | | | | | | |
| ♣ 10 8 7 4 2 | ♣ A Q 5 | ♣ K 6 | | | | | | |
| <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | | | W | N | E | S | | |
| W | N | E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ J 4 | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ K J 9 8 | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ Q 10 8 3 | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ J 9 3 | | | | | | | |

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 3 ♠ | 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ | 2 ♥ |
| | 4 ♥ | 4 ♠ | All pass |

Lead ♥ 8

Auction:

West bids 3 ♠, bidding to the level of the presumed 9 card fit. East has a 6th spade, and, knowing that partner has 4 spades, East bids 4 ♠, to the level of the 10 card spade fit.

Play:

North wins the opening lead with ♥ A and returns a low heart to South's ♥ K. South leads a small diamond which North wins with the ♦ A and returns a second diamond, which East wins with the ♦ K. Declarer draws trumps in two rounds finishing in dummy and leads a small club to the ♣ K. When that wins declarer can claim the rest, including a diamond ruff. Nine tricks made, scoring -50.

EW would make 10 tricks easily (+420) playing in 4 ♥, losing just one spade and the two minor suit kings.

Board 3West Deals
N-S Vul

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ J 7 | ♠ K Q 10 6 4 | ♠ 5 | | | | | | |
| ♥ A K J 9 5 | ♥ 4 3 | ♥ Q 10 8 7 6 | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 10 5 | ♦ 8 3 2 | ♦ K Q J 9 6 | | | | | | |
| ♣ K J 7 | ♣ A Q 3 | ♣ 4 2 | | | | | | |
| <table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"></td><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td><td style="padding: 5px;"></td></tr> </table> | | | W | N | E | | S | |
| W | N | E | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A 9 8 3 2 | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ 2 | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 7 4 | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ 10 9 8 6 5 | | | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | | | | | | |
| 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ | 2 ♥ | | | | | | |
| All pass | | 4 ♠ | | | | | | |

Lead ♥ 7

Auction:

South bids to the level of the 10 card fit, 4 ♠. West has no idea as to how strong or weak South is, so passes.

Play:

West wins ♥ K and leads ♥ A, which South ruffs.

South can count a further 4 tricks in spades and the ♣ A, 6 tricks in total, so needs four more tricks.

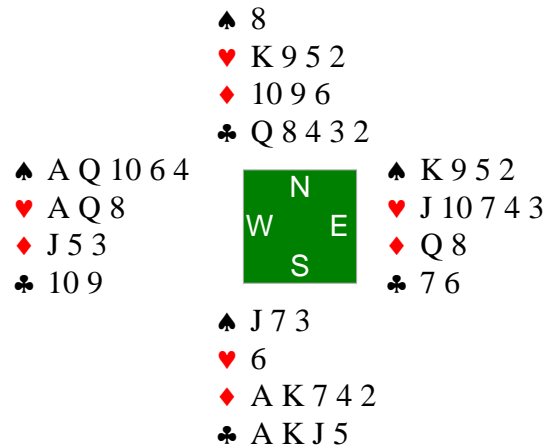
these will most likely come from the club suit.

South draws trumps and leads a small club to the ♣ Q. Declarer the plays ♣ A and a third club, which West wins. west now plays ♦ K and then leads a diamond which East wins. Now declarer is void in diamonds and her own hand and void in clubs in dummy so can win all the remaining tricks by cross ruffing.

10 tricks made with just 15 combined HCP, illustrating the power of big fits. it would have been a great outcome even if South ad made only 9 tricks (-100) because N/S can easily make 4 ♥.

Board 4

South Deals
None Vul



| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♠ | 1 ♦ |
| | | | All pass |

Lead ♦ 9

Auction:

East bids to the level of the known spade fit, 3 ♠. If East had bid 2 ♠ South would probably have risked 3 ♣ and North would raise to 4 ♣ or 5 ♣. East's 3 ♠ bid prevents South from showing his clubs.

Play:

South wins the lead with her ♦ K and switches to her singleton heart. Declarer sensed the danger of playing the ♥ Q and losing to North's ♥ K, after which North would lead a heart for South to ruff. So declarer wins with the ♥ A and draws trumps in three rounds, followed by the ♥ Q, which North wins with the ♥ K. North leads a diamond to East's ♦ A and leads ♣ A followed by ♣ K which declarer ruffs and claims the remainder. None tricks, contract made.

The vital principle is to bid to the level of the fit, and do so right away.

Board 5

West Deals
Both Vul

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

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ♠ A Q 7 | ♠ A Q 7 |
| ♥ J 5 3 | ♥ J 5 3 |
| ♦ A Q J 6 | ♦ A Q J 6 |
| ♣ 10 4 2 | ♣ 10 4 2 |

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | Pass | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| All pass | | | |

Lead ♣ 8

Auction:


South has 3 card heart support for partner and comfortably more than the 10 HCP required to make an Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB). North has opening values and would have overcalled with just 8 HCP , so North invites game by bidding 3 ♥ . South is very pleased with this development and buds 4 ♥ .

Play:

West wins the lead with ♣ Q , cashes ♣ AK (West discarding a diamond) and switches to a diamond. Declarer wins in dummy and leads a low trump (key play), felling East's ♥ K singleton. Declarer wins with ♥ A, crosses to ♥ J, back to ♥ Q and ♥ 10, and cashes winners. Game made.

Board 6

North Deals
None Vul

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ K Q J ♣ 10 6 5 3</p> | <p>♠ Q J 9 ♥ Q J 8 3 2 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ K 2</p> | <p>♠ A K 10 7 3 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ 8 7 5 2 ♣ A</p> |  |
| <p>♠ 6 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ Q J 9 8 7 4</p> | | | |

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

Lead ♥ 6

Auction:

West's 3 ♥ (UCB) promises 10+ HCP and 3+ spades. East stretches to 4 ♠.

Play:

Declarer assumes that spades will split 3-1 with the ♠ Q not dropping, so can see 4 spades winners, a heart winner, two diamond winners and the ♣ A. A ninth trick will come from heart ruff, and the tenth from a diamond ruff.

Declarer wins the lead with the ♥ A and leads the ♥ 9, won by South with the ♥ 10. South leads the ♣ Q which declarer wins with ♣ A. West ruffs a heart and leads ♦ K. North wins with ♦ A and leads ♠ Q which Declarer wins with ♠ K. Declarer wins two rounds of diamonds, happy to see North's ♦ 10 and ♦ 9 fall, thus establishing a fourth round diamond winner. Declarer leads a low spade from dummy, successfully finessing the ♠ 10. Declarer makes 6 spade tricks including a ruff, three diamond tricks, the ♥ A and ♣ A, 11 tricks in total

Board 7
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|
| <p>♠ Q 10 8 ♥ J 10 9 6 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 7 6 2</p> | <p>♠ 9 7 5 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A K 6 4 ♣ A 9 4</p> | <p>♠ J 4 ♥ Q 5 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♣ K Q J 10 3</p> | |
| | | | |
| | <p>♠ A K 6 3 2 ♥ A K 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 8 5</p> | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | 1 ♣ Pass | 1 ♠ 4 ♠ |
| All pass | | | |

Lead ♣ 6

Auction:

North's Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB) shows 10+ HCP (unlimited) and 3+ card support, i.e. a fit. South has 14 prime HCP and 2 shortage points, 16 in total, so bids game.

Play:

Declarer ducks in dummy and East wins with the ♣ 10 followed by the ♣ K, which declarer wins in dummy with her ♣ A. Declarer can count 7 top tricks, all aces and kings, and two more spade tricks if the opponents' spades break 3-2. The 10th trick can come from ruffing a heart but declarer needs to tread carefully.

The most likely split of the missing six hearts is 4-2. One round of hearts would have to be lost but the fourth round can be ruffed in dummy. The best time to lose a trick that can't be avoided is as soon as possible, so declarer plays a low heart from dummy, ducking in hand. West wins with the ♥ J and leads a third club. Declarer ruffs, cashes the ♠ AK and leaves the master trump (♠ Q) out. Declarer plays ♥ AK and ruffs the last heart in dummy. If West ruffs high it will be at the expense of a trump that would have won anyway.

Board 8

South Deals
Both Vul

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

| |
|-------|
| N |
| W E |
| S |

| |
|--------------|
| ♠ 10 8 |
| ♥ J 6 |
| ♦ K Q J 10 9 |
| ♣ K J 7 5 |

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | 1 ♦ |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| | | | All pass |

Lead ♦ 7

Auction:

East's 2 ♦, the opponents' suit, is an Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB) showing at least 3 card support for partner's spades and a hand with at least 10 HCP, though could be a lot stronger than that. West has 14 HCP and can now count 3 shortage points so, with 17 total points, bids game. East has a much stronger hand than the 10 HCP shown by the UCB, 15 HCP and a void, so bids the slam.

Play:

Declarer can count 10 top tricks, 5 spades (unless trumps split an unlikely 5-0), 3 top hearts and the ♣ A. Declarer needs two extra tricks. With a club void in dummy declarer cannot finesse the ♣ Q, so it looks like the opponents' ♣ K is sure to win a trick at some point. At first glance it looks like clubs can be ruffed twice, but declarer's only entries to hand to lead clubs for the ruffs are top trumps, which declarer will need to draw the opponents' trumps. Declarer hopes that hearts will break 3-3 so that the ♥ 4 becomes a winner.

Declarer wins the diamond lead with the ♦ A, crosses to the ♠ J and ruffs a low club in dummy. He then leads ♠ Q and when South plays ♠ 10 West overtake her ♠ Q with the ♠ K, then cash ♠ A to draw North's last trump. Now declarer plays ♥ AKQ, and when South shows out on the third round North's ♥ 10 is a master. But declarer has a cunning backup plan. South opened 1 ♦ and declarer and dummy started with seven diamonds so North's lead was almost certainly a singleton - in which case North will only have clubs left after winning with the ♥ 10. North must lead clubs to declarer's ♣ AQ. Declarer leads the ♥ 4 from dummy, and discards a club from hand rather than ruffing with spade that was always going to win a trick. 12 tricks made.

Board 9

East Deals

E-W Vul

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|---|---|--|
| | ♠ 7 6 | | | | | |
| | ♥ K 10 7 | | | | | |
| | ♦ A 8 6 | | | | | |
| | ♣ K 6 5 4 3 | | | | | |
| ♠ Q 10 5 3 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ J 10 9 3 ♣ J 9 | <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W E | S | ♠ K J 9 4 ♥ A ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ A Q 10 8 7 | |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A 8 2 | | | | | |
| | ♥ Q J 9 8 6 5 | | | | | |
| | ♦ K Q 2 | | | | | |
| | ♣ 2 | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | |
| | | 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | | | |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♥ | | | |
| All pass | | | | | | |

Lead ♣ J

Auction:

North's 2 ♣, bidding the opponents' suit, is an Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB), showing 10+HCP unlimited, and 3+ card support, a fit. South now can count at least 9 trumps and 15 points including shortage so jumps to 4 ♥.

Alternatively, using the Losing Trick Count (highly recommended), South assumes that North has at most 8 losing tricks for the UCB. South has 6 losing tricks, so a combined 14 losing tricks. 18-14 = 4, so bid 4 ♥)

Play:

Declarer ducks the opening lead and East let the ♣ J win. Declarer ruffs the ♣ 9 continuation and assesses the position.

Declarer can win 5 heart tricks once the ♥ A is driven out, plus the ♠ A and ♦ AKQ. that's 9 tricks. The 10th trick will come from ruffing the third round of spades in dummy, but that means delaying drawing dummy's trumps until the ruff has been taken.

Board 10
 East Deals
 None Vul

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

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | 1 ♦ | 1 ♠ |
| | | All pass | |

Lead ♦ 9

Auction:


North bids to the level of the known spade fit, 3 ♠. If North had bid 2 ♠ East would probably have risked 3 ♣ and West would raise to 4 ♣ or 5 ♣. North's 3 ♠ bid prevents East from showing his clubs.

Play:

East wins the lead with her ♦ K and switches to her singleton heart. Declarer sensed the danger of playing the ♥ Q and losing to West's ♥ K, after which West would lead a heart for East to ruff. So declarer wins with the ♥ A and draws trumps in three rounds, followed by the ♥ Q, which West wins with the ♥ K. West leads a diamond to East's ♦ A and leads ♣ A followed by ♣ K which declarer ruffs and claims the remainder. None tricks, contract made.

The vital principle is to bid to the level of the fit, and do so right away.

Board 11
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| <p>♠ 5 4 ♥ 6 5 3 2 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ K Q</p> | <p>♠ A 10 6 3 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ 9 4 3</p> | <p>♠ K ♥ K J 10 ♦ K Q J 5 ♣ A J 10 8 2</p> | |
| |  | | |
| | <p>♠ Q J 9 8 7 ♥ A Q 9 7 ♦ 8 ♣ 7 6 5</p> | | |
| <p><i>West</i></p> | <p><i>North</i></p> | <p><i>East</i></p> | <p><i>South</i></p> |
| <p>Pass</p> | <p>4 ♠</p> | <p>1 ♣ All pass</p> | <p>1 ♠</p> |

Lead ♣ K

Auction:
 Bidding to the level of the fit.

Play:
 West wins the first trick and follows with ♣ Q which East overtakes with the ♣ A and cashes the ♣ J. At Trick Four Est switches to thr ♦ K. Winning dummy's ♦ A, declarer successfully finesses ♥ Q and leads ♠ Q, planning to run it. Declarer strongly suspects that West cannot have the ♠ K because West has already showed 5 HCP, the ♣ AK, but did not respond 1 NT to East's opening bid. So declarer plays the ♠ A, hoping that East's ♠ K was singleton, which is the case. Declarer then draws the last trump, cashes the ♥ A and crossruffs hearts and diamonds. 10 tricks made.