

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 1, 9, 17 & 25

Vul: None Dealer: N

S – A4
H – AQJ643
D – A74
C – 97

S – Q10876
H – 9
D – 1098
C – J1086

S – J953
H – 87
D – 653
C – AK53

S – K2
H – K1052
D – KQJ2
C – Q42

West	North	East	South
	1H	Pass	2NT
Pass	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	4D	Pass	4H
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Bidding:

- **1H** Opener has a nice 15 HCP hand, worth 18 counting 2 for the heart length and 1 for having 3 aces.
- **2NT** Jacoby 2NT forcing raise, showing 13+ with 4 plus hearts
- **3H** Extra values 18+ points.
- **3S** S has a normal minimum J2NT, but since opener showed extra values, he must show his cheapest control.
- **4D** N shows first or second round diamond control, denies any club control

- **4H** S signs off because he knows the defense can take the first 2 clubs.

The Lead: C-A

Defensive Strategy: *W can see 17 HCP. N has shown 15+ HCP, so partner can have up to 8 HCP. If E has the C-AK, then he has at most 1 HCP.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from a singleton, AKx, AKx(x), AKJ10

Count Losers: Losers are 2 clubs

Note: To count the losers as declarer, decide which hand we are going to set up and count "as losers", all the cards that are not high, or are not covered by high cards in partner's hand. Therefore Axx opposite a singleton starts off as 2 losers, if we are counting losers from the hand with Axx and "no" losers if counting from the hand with the singleton. Counting Axx initially as 2 losers is done even if we have a huge trump fit. Ruffing the small card in the dummy is part of the plan. If we don't start off counting those losers, we might forget to include that ruff in the timing.

Make a plan before playing to the first card from dummy: After E takes his 2 club tricks, we can claim. If E switches to another suit after trick 1, we can get rid of a club loser with a diamond to make on overtrick.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 2, 10,18 & 26 Vul: NS Dealer: E

S – 5
H – 10876
D – J876
C – A1098

S – KQ43	S – A10982
H – Q5432	H – AKJ
D – 2	D – A94
C – KJ4	C – Q2

S – J76
H – 9
D – KQ1053
C – 7653

West	North	East	South
		1S	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5S	Pass
6S	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Bidding:

- **1S** E plans to show a balanced 18-19 HCP next round
- **4D** Splinter raise, showing 4 plus spades with a singleton diamond and 10-12 HCP (13-15 DP)
- **4H** So much for plans J E has no wasted values in diamonds and is interested in slam. He shows his cheapest control. Blackwood is not useful since E has 2 fast club losers.
- **4NT** W knows that his side controls all the side suits and that opener is interested in slam. He should ask for aces.

- **5S** 3 aces
- **6S** Setting the contract

The Lead: H-9 *Hoping to trump a heart. The chances are good that N has an ace. If it is H-A (E's cue bid could be second round control) or S-A, we will get a heart ruff to defeat the contract. There is no diamond trick to establish since dummy has a singleton and 4+ trump.*

Defensive Strategy: *N can see 16 HCP. W has the H-A. Partner is leading a singleton or low from KJ9. If the H-9 is a singleton, then if we can get in before partner's trump are pulled we can get the C-A and a heart ruff. The H-9 cannot be a doubleton because N can see all the spots lower than the 9.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from a singleton, 9x, or 9x.

Count Losers: Counting from the E hand, (master hand w long trump), 1C & 2D losers.

Make a plan before playing to the first card from dummy: We have the top 4 hearts. *Therefore, if N follows with a heart, we can discard 2 losers on the hearts.* We should win the lead with the H-A, and pull trump, starting with S-K or S-Q in case a defender has S-Jxxx. If spades are 2-2, we will be able to trump 2 diamonds in dummy and discard 2 club losers, making 7. On this hand spades are 3-1, so after drawing trump, we have 1 diamond ruff.

Unblock the hearts, ruff a diamond and discard the other diamond on the hearts. They get C-A and we make the slam.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 3, 11, 19 & 27 Vul: EW Dealer: S

S – AK3
H – 975
D – K10543
C – 102

S – 542
H – KQ432
D – 76
C – 543

S – 9876
H – A106
D – 8
C – Q9876

S – QJ10
H – J8
D – AQJ92
C – AKJ

West	North	East	South
			1D
Pass	3D	Pass	3S
Pass	4D	Pass	5D
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Bidding:

- **1D** Hoping N bids 1H so we can jump to 2NT showing 18-19 balanced
- **3D** 10-12 DP in support of diamonds, no major
- **3S** 3S shows a stopper for NT. Below the level of 3NT that's assumed to be the first choice for game when we lack a major suit fit.
- **4D** N can't bid 3NT. With no control in either unbid suit, I would not want to go to 4S to show a control there because S might have enough for 3NT but not 5D.
- **5D** Opener is not willing to stop below 5D

The Lead: H-K *The opponents have avoided 3NT and selected the more difficult contract of 5D. It is likely neither side has a heart control.*

Defensive Strategy: *E can see 16 HCP. S has shown a strong hand opposite his partner's limit raise. If partner has the heart queen instead of a doubleton H-Kx, then we should expect no other HCP's.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from a singleton (unlikely), AK, KQ, KQx(x)

Count Losers: Losers are 2 hearts and 1 club

Make a plan before playing to the first card from dummy: We need to get rid of a club loser as there is nothing we can do if W leads both honors taking the first 2 heart tricks. We can ruff 1 club in dummy, so plan to pull trump, ruff a club and claim. _

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 4, 12, 20 & 28 Vul: Both Dealer: W

S – 985
H – 9
D – QJ97
C – QJ1062

S – AJ1032
H – KJ2
D – 1062
C – A4

S – KQ
H – AQ108543
D – 543
C – 5

S – 764
H – 76
D – AK8
C – K9873

West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4C	Pass	4H	Pass
Pass ¹	Pass		

The Bidding:

- **1S** Minimum but respectable opener
- **2H** 5 plus hearts
- **3H** 3 plus hearts
- **3S** Cuebid in support of hearts. This is a control bid rather than spade support because we already have a major suit fit in hearts.
- **4C** First or second round club control
- **4H** No diamond control
- **Pass¹** No diamond control here either

The Lead: D-A The opponents made a slam try but stopped short of bidding it after passing up a diamond control.

Defensive Strategy: *N can see 19 HCP. Partner is unlikely to lead an unsupported ace, so we will give an encouraging signal to continue. Playing D-Q would guarantee the D-J (or a singleton D-Q) allowing S to underlead the king if needed. If E has 3 diamonds, we need to find 1 more trick to set the contract.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from a singleton, Ax, AKQ(x), AKJ(x)

Count Losers: Losers are 3 diamonds

Make a plan *before* playing to the first card from dummy: If the opponents take the first 3 diamond tricks, we will pull trump and claim as we have no more losers. We will make our contract. If the opponent's do not continue diamonds, then we will pull trump and play our spade suit and will be able to get rid of 2 diamond tricks, making 6.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 5, 13, 21 & 29 Vul: None Dealer: N

S – AK1086
H – 3
D – 32
C – AKQ104

S – 97	S – 52
H – AQ987	H – K642
D – K87	D – J1096
C – 876	C – 532

S – QJ43
H – J105
D – AQ54
C – J9

West	North	East	South
	1S	Pass	3S
Pass	4C	Pass	4D
Pass	4NT	Pass	5D
Pass	6S	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Bidding:

- **1S** 16 HCP with great shape.
- **3S** 10-12 DP with spade support
- **4C** Opener can picture 10 tricks in spades and clubs, slam is not far off. He shows first or second round club control.
- **4D** First or second round diamond control.
- **4NT** N knows S has first or second round diamond control.
- **5D** One ace
- **6S** Going for it!

The Lead: H-2 *We know the opponents are likely to have 1 control in hearts otherwise, they would not have bid slam. We still make a lead from our best suit in hopes of finding partner with something in the heart suit.*

Defensive Strategy: *W can see 20 HCP. N had slam interest when S showed 10-12, so his hand should be worth about 20 points, not all of it in HCP. E should have few HCP's. The H-2 is a singleton or low from 3 or 4. W should win the H-A and return a heart.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from third or fourth best

Count Losers: Losers are 1 heart and 1 diamond.

Make a plan before playing to the first card from dummy: W will win the opening lead, but the defense does not have the timing to take another trick. Our clubs will be used to pitch 3 diamonds from dummy. We can ruff the second diamond as long as spades divide 2-2 or 3-1.

Pull trump, then play the club suit, starting with the jack and then low to the ace. Play out the clubs, discarding diamonds as we play them. Once we discard all but the ace we can play a diamond to the ace and then cross ruff our heart and remaining diamonds. We will make our slam contract.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 6, 14, 22 & 30

Vul: NS Dealer: E

S – K852
H – J965
D – 8
C – J987

S – AQ4
H – K4
D – AQ1093
C – 1054

S – 63
H – AQ1032
D – K542
C – K3

S – J1097
H – 87
D – J76
C – AQ62

West	North	East	South
		1H	Pass
2D	Pass	3D	Pass
3S	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The Bidding:

- **1H** Solid opener
- **2D** 4 plus diamonds, game forcing.
- **3D** Confirming diamonds as trump.

- **3S** Spades stopped. 3H would show 3 plus hearts because our known fit is in a minor.
- **3NT** I have clubs stopped .With no major suit, 3NT is the first choice for game.

The Lead: S-J

Top of a sequence.

Defensive Strategy: *N can see 20 HCP. He knows E has described a hand with 5 plus hearts and 4 plus diamonds. E also showed a club stopper, his likely distributions are 1=5=4=3 or 2=5=4=2.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from J109(x), J1087, KJ109(x) or KJ10(x)

Count Winners: Winners are 1 spade, 3 hearts and 3 diamonds

Make a plan *before* playing to the first card from dummy: We need 2 more tricks to make our contract. They are available in diamonds if we play the suit correctly. Start diamonds by winning in the hand that has 2 of the top 3 honors, so if either opponent shows out we can finesse his partner's D-Jxxx.

Win the S-A, as we cannot stand a club lead through the C-Kx. After cashing the diamonds, test hearts. If hearts split 3-3, or if N discards 1 on the diamonds we will make 11 tricks, otherwise 9.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 7, 15, 23 & 31 Vul: EW Dealer: S

S – Q1076
H – A543
D – 43
C – A43

S – 82
H – KQ106
D – 765
C – QJ65

S – 9
H – J987
D – A98
C – K10987

S – AKJ543
H – 2
D – KQJ102
C – 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3S	Pass	1S
Pass	5H	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	6S

The Bidding:

- **1S** The playing strength is enough to open 2C, but we should have better defense as well for the strong opener. Opener plans to jump shift on the next round.
- **3S** 10-12 with spade support
- **4NT** No cuebids are needed here. S knows all the suits are controlled and just needs to know how many aces partner has.
- **5H** 2 aces
- **6S** The decision

The Lead: H-K

Defensive Strategy: *E can see 18 HCP between his hand and dummy. It is difficult to know S's HCP, but we do know he has a hand with good controls to ask for aces without cuebidding.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The lead is from a singleton (unlikely), KQ, KQx(x) or KQJx

Count Losers: There is 1 diamond loser. If diamonds divide 6-0 or 5-1 there is a second diamond loser.

Make a plan before playing to the first card from dummy: We will win the lead, pull trump and knock out the D-A, claiming the rest. If necessary we can trump the fifth diamond in dummy.

Control Showing Cuebids

Board 8, 16, 24 & 32 Vul: Both Dealer: W

S – 1085
H – A104
D – QJ10
C – Q652

S – AQ972
H – 5
D – 85
C – AJ1074

S – KJ43
H – QJ8
D – AK93
C – K3

S – 6
H – K97632
D – 7642
C – 98

West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	2NT	Pass
4C	Pass	4D	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
6S	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Bidding:

- **1S** 11 HCP with great shape, the hand's worth about 14 counting 1 point for the fifth spade and 2 more for the second 5-card suit.
- **2NT** Game forcing raise
- **4C** 5 plus clubs
- **4D** Cuebid showing diamond control and some chance at slam. It is not safe for E to ask for aces with 2 fast heart losers.
- 4NT** After E's 4D control bid, W can now bid 4NT.

➤ **5D** E shows 1 ace

➤ **6S** Decision

The Lead: D-Q The H-A is also a tempting lead, but if W's heart cuebid is based on H-Kx it might give up the setting trick.

Defensive Strategy: *S can see 20 HCP. If opener has 12 HCP N would have 8.*

Declarer's Plan (*Defense in italics*):

Analyze the lead & think about distribution: The D-Q is either top of sequence or a short suit

Count Losers: Losers are 1 heart and 2 clubs

Make a plan *before* playing to the first card from dummy: If spades are 2-2, we can draw trump and then ruff 2 clubs in dummy, making the slam if clubs are 4-2 or 3-3. However, if spades are 3-1 and we draw them all, we would need clubs to divide 3-3 or a successful finesse in clubs.

We could try to ruff 2 clubs while leaving the S-10 outstanding, but the chances of being overruffed in diamonds makes that unattractive. The best chance is to draw 3 trump and play the top 2 clubs. Then lead C-J and if N does not cover, let it go. We succeed if N has C-Q or if S has a singleton or doubleton C-Q, almost 60%.