## U3ABC05 Practice Session

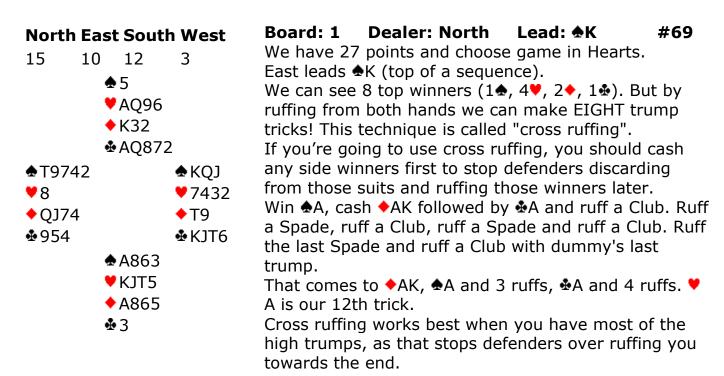
### Welcome!

Here is a list of all 16 hands available to play in today's MiniBridge Practice Session. It tells you useful stuff like the cards in each hand, the High Card Points, the "correct" contract and lead. It also explains how to play each hand – **don't worry too much about any of this!** The explanations are quite detailed, they are there if you want them, but don't feel bad if they make no sense right now or the play is totally different to how you played the hands. You're just getting started; these first few practice sessions are more about getting used to playing on your computer, meeting the other students and your instructors.

Bridge is a great game, but it can be overwhelming, so much to think about. Don't worry, it will get easier. We're here to help it all make sense. Don't worry about making mistakes, we all do. We're always happy to explain or answer questions. Remember, you're playing with other people who are just starting out, too. Let's have fun together!

-Ed

Boards 1 - 4: MiniBridge Cross ruffing in suit contracts



### **East South West North**

15 7 11 7 **♠**32 **♥**QT965 ◆ QT4 **♣** QJT **♣** QT95 **♠**AKJ8 **♥**AJ32 **¥**4 **†**3 ◆A652 **♣** A543 **♣** K762 **♣**764 **♥**K87 ♦ KJ987 **♣**98

Board: 2 **Dealer: East** Lead: ♠4 #70

We have 26 points and choose game in Spades. South leads ♠4 (lowest card from rubbish; leading away from their honours in Hearts or Diamonds is riskv).

We can see 8 top winners  $(4 \spadesuit, 1 \heartsuit, 1 \spadesuit, 2 \clubsuit)$  but can make two extra tricks by taking two ruffs in one of the

Win the Spade, cash ♣A K next (before defence can discard a Club and ruff them). Now cash the two red aces and cross ruff Diamonds and Hearts.

This comes to 11 tricks as we have managed to make 7 trump tricks plus 4 top winners.

## **South West North East**

12 12 5 11 **♣** AJ642 **♥**Q **♦**Q9 **♣** QT762 **♠**K3 **♣**QT985 **♥**KJ875 **♥**T42 ♦AJ5 **♦**KT742 **♣**543 • **♣**7 ♥A963

> **\***863 ♣AKJ98

**Dealer: South** Board: 3 Lead: **♣**3 #71

We have 23 points and choose part score in Clubs. West leads ♣3 (lowest card from rubbish; leading away from their honours in the other 3 suits is risky.) We can see 7 top winners  $(1 \spadesuit, 1 \heartsuit, 0 \diamondsuit, 5 \clubsuit)$ . We can make extra tricks by cross ruffing.

Win the trump lead, play ♥A and ruff a Heart. ♠A and ruff a Spade. Ruff another Heart, another Spade and the last Heart. Now draw trumps and lose the last three Diamonds for 10 tricks.



Boards 5 – 8: MiniBridge Finessing in No Trump contracts

North East South West  16	Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♥K #29 We have 28 points so we choose game in No Trumps. East leads ♥K (top of a sequence) and, if it holds, continues with the ♥Q. We can see eight top winners: 2♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 4♣. We hold up ♥A until the third round, to exhaust West of Hearts. Our best source of a ninth trick is in Diamonds. At trick four, we lead ♦5. If East plays ♦3, the ♦Q is played from dummy. If East plays ♦K it is taken with the ♦A and the ♦Q is a winner. This is an example of a finesse. One often has to play a finesse in hope; success is not a certainty.
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# **East South West North**

17 9 8 6 **♠**43 ♥T9876 **♦**K5 **♣** KT83 **♠** K86 **♣**A752 **♥**KJ **♥**AQ ♦ J643 **♦**T872 **♣**6542 **♣** AQJ **♠**QJT9

Board: 6 **Dealer: East** Lead: ♠Q #30

We have 25 points. With this number we would normally choose game in No Trumps, but the 10 points in Hearts are worth only two tricks. We therefore settle for part score in No Trumps.

We have five top winners:  $2 \spadesuit$ ,  $2 \checkmark$ ,  $0 \diamondsuit$  and  $1 \clubsuit$ . North leads ♠Q (top of a sequence).

We need two extra tricks. The best chance is to play the Club finesse. Win the first trick with &K and lead a Club. When South plays low, West plays 4J, which wins.

Cross back to East by leading ♥Q and playing ♥K on it. Now another Club finesse can be taken.

## **South West North East**

**♥**5432 ♦AQ9 **♣**97

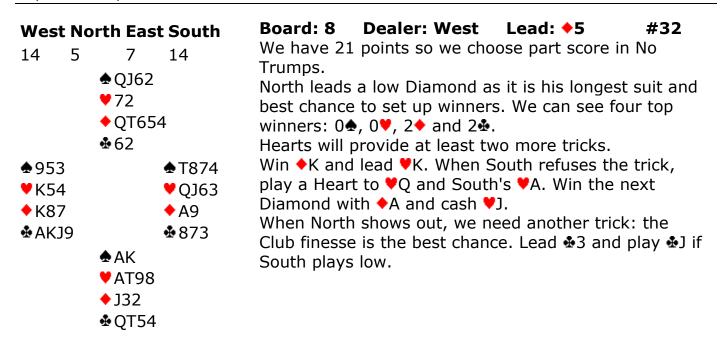
15 7 12 6 **♠**K42 **9**876 **♦**762 **♣** AKQ3 **♣**JT87 **♣**Q6 **♥**T32 ♥KQJ95 **4**3 **♦** K985 **♣**64 **♣**JT75 **♠** A953

> **Y**A4 ◆AOJT **♣**982

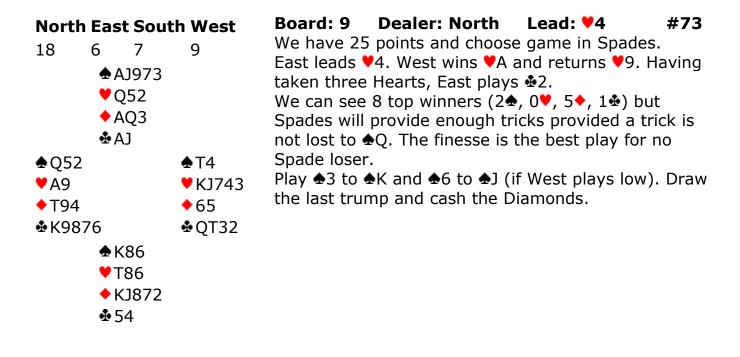
**Dealer: South** Board: 7 Lead: ♥K #31 We have 27 points so we choose game in No Trumps. West leads ♥K (top of sequence). We can see seven top winners:  $2 \spadesuit$ ,  $1 \checkmark$ ,  $1 \diamondsuit$  and  $3 \clubsuit$ .

We must win ♥A on the second round: we stand to lose a lot of Hearts if the opponents get the lead. Diamond finesses provide the extra tricks.

Win the  $\forall$ A, cross to North on a Club and play  $\diamond$ 2. If East plays low, play the ◆10. If this wins, cross to North on a Club twice more, repeating the Diamond finesse (only playing ◆A if East plays ◆K). We make 10 tricks.



Boards 9 – 12: MiniBridge Extra tricks in Trump contracts



### **East South West North** 15 5 9 11 **♠**AKQ6 **432 +**842 **♣**982 **◆**875 **♠**4 **¥**J5 ♥KQT9 ♦AKQ3 ◆JT97 ♣AKQ7 **♣**JT65 **♣**JT932 **♥**A876 **•**65 **♣**43

Board: 10 **Dealer: East** Lead: ♠J #74 We have 26 points and could choose game in

Diamonds or Clubs as we have only two losers. Let's say that we choose Diamonds.

South leads \( \Darksquare ) and we ruff the second Spade. We can see 9 top winners  $(0 \triangleq, 0 \checkmark, 4 \diamondsuit, 4 \trianglerighteq$  plus a  $\spadesuit$ ruff). The extra tricks can come from Hearts by driving out the **Y**A. But if all opponents' trumps are drawn, we will have no trumps left in hand and defence can cash a Spade trick.

So after two rounds of trumps, we drive out the ♥A, keeping a trump to ruff another Spade. Then we can cross over to dummy to draw the last trump.

### **South West North East**

12 13 9 6 **♣**7432 **♥**T5 ♦ K94 **♣** AQ72 ♠ KJT **♣**Q95 **♥**KJ964 **♥**A83 **•** 53 **♦**872 ♣KJ6 **♣**T953 **♣** A86 **♥**Q72 AOJT6 **♣**84

**Dealer: South** Board: 11 Lead: •3 #75 We have 22 points and choose part score in Diamonds. West leads  $\diamondsuit$ 3. We can see 7 top winners (1 $\spadesuit$ , 0 $\blacktriangledown$ , 5 $\diamondsuit$ ,

We have three possible ways of making an extra trick:

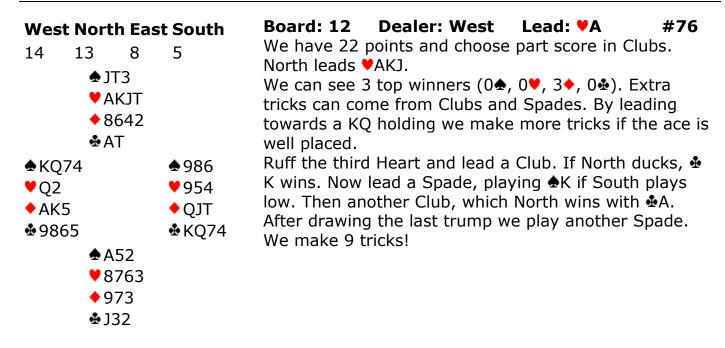
- 1. East might have ♥AK, in which case leading towards ♥Q will promote that card.
- 2. West might have ♣K, in which case finessing ♣Q would succeed.
- 3. We might be able to ruff a Heart in dummy. We can't guarantee this after the trump lead, but sometimes the opponents aren't able to play trumps each time they're on lead.

Taking all this into account, we win the opening lead with dummy's ♦9 and try a Heart to ♥Q. Unfortunately West wins with ♥K and plays another trump, which we win in hand.

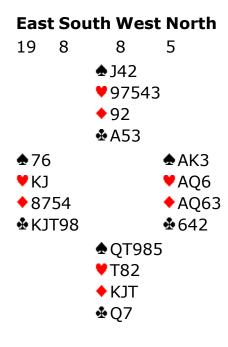
When we play a second round of Hearts West wins with ♥J, but doesn't have a third trump to lead. We win the Spade return in hand and make sure of our contract by ruffing ♥7 with dummy's ♦K.

We're in the wrong hand to draw the last trump or take the Club finesse, but by exiting in Spades we'll force the opponents to help us in some way. West wins the Spade and switches to a Club. We try dummy's ♣Q, which holds the trick. We cash ♣A and claim three more tricks with our trump winners in hand. Making nine tricks.

East could have held us to eight tricks by overtaking his partner's ♥J at trick 4. He would then have been able to stop the Heart ruff in dummy.



Boards 13 – 16: MiniBridge Other Finessing positions in No Trump contracts



Board: 14 **Dealer: East** Lead: ♠T #34 We have 27 points so we choose game in No Trumps. South leads extstyle 10 (top of an internal sequence). We can see six top winners:  $2 \spadesuit$ ,  $3 \checkmark$ ,  $1 \diamondsuit$  and  $0 \spadesuit$ . Clubs offer the best chance of extra tricks. If South has the &Q, taking the Club finesse sets up four Club tricks.

Win the Spade and play ♣2 to ♣8. If it holds, come back by overtaking ♥J with ♥Q and play another Club. playing 49 if South plays low. When East's 4Q appears, play the ♣K and lose one trick only to ♣A, for ten tricks.

In practice North simplifies our task by beating ♣8 with A. We win the Spade return and lead another Club, planning to finesse ♣9. When South plays ♣Q we win with dummy's ♣K and cash the rest of our winners, again finishing with ten tricks.

#### 12 11 7 10 **♠**KQ5 **♥**65 **♦**K732 ♣QJT3 **全**T73 **♠** J42 ♥AT4 **♥**KQJ972 ◆QJT86 **♣** K865

**♠** A986

♦A954

**♣** A42

**983** 

**♣**97

**South West North East** 

Board: 15 **Dealer: South** Lead: •O #35 We have 23 points so we choose part score in No Trumps.

West leads  $\blacklozenge$ Q (top of sequence). East discards  $\clubsuit$ 2. We can see six top winners: 3 rianleq, 0 rianleq, 2 rianleq and 1 rianleq. We were lucky to escape a Heart lead. Surely, if the lead is lost, the opponents will switch to Hearts. Clubs can provide the extra tricks.

If East has the ♣K, these can be won without losing the lead.

We win the opening lead with dummy's ◆K and lead ♣ Q, playing low from hand when East plays low. We repeat the process with 4J. Eight tricks are now assured, but we can make more if one of the black suits breaks 3-3.

We try a Club to ♣A, but unfortunately West shows out. We continue with  $\triangle$ KQ followed by  $\triangle$ A and  $\triangle$ A. When this suit breaks 3-3 we finish with nine tricks.

<b>West North East South</b>					
18	11	5	6		
<b>♠</b> QT863					
	•	KT6			
	•	87			
<b>.</b> AQ4					
♣AK	7		<b>◆</b> 542		
<b>♥</b> A7	42		<b>♥</b> Q83		
AK	6		<b>♦</b> Q54		
<b>♣</b> 97	5		<b>₫</b> J862		
	•	J9			
	•	J95			
	•	JT93	32		
	4	KT3			

**Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♠6 #36** We have 23 points so we choose part score in No Trumps.

North leads a low Spade as it is his longest suit and best chance to set up winners.

We can see six top winners: 2♠, 1♥, 3♠ and 0♠. Hearts offer the best chance of an extra trick. After winning the first trick with ♠A we lead a low Heart towards ♥Q, hoping North has ♥K. If North plays low, try playing ♥Q.

In practice North plays ♥K and returns a Spade. We win in hand and cash dummy's red queens, followed by our ◆AK and ♥A in hand. When Hearts break 3-3 we can win an eighth trick with ♥7.

This is a sort of finesse too; we hope the key card will be well placed. Note that entering dummy with  $\bullet Q$  at trick 2 in order to lead dummy's  $\blacktriangledown Q$  would be doomed to failure. As the cards lie North just wins with  $\blacktriangledown K$ , but if South held that card he would play it on dummy's  $\blacktriangledown Q$ , leaving  $\blacktriangledown A$  as our only high card in the suit.