



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2015-16



While waiting for 2pm

If you want to borrow a Bernard Magee DVD, give me a £30 deposit and if the video isn't back within one month, you can keep it and I'll buy a new one...

There will be a duplicate event on the first session in May (May 13).

Find a partner, Find another pair so you come as a foursome (but the 4 are not a team). Agree your system with your partner before hand.

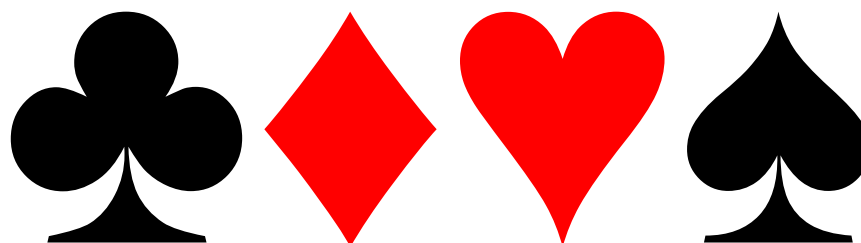
Experts are available if you can't find a partner.



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Week 12 Balancing



Steve Bailey



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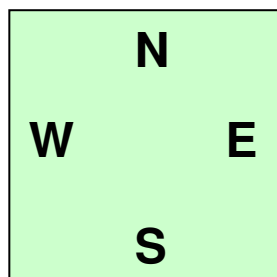


Week 12 Balancing

As dealer, what does West bid?

What is West's planned rebid?

♠ 10 9
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A Q 10 8 6
♣ A K Q



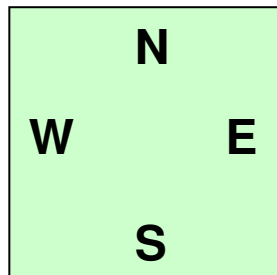


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Week 12 Balancing

♠ 10 9
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A Q 10 8 6
♣ A K Q



As dealer, what does West bid?

As always, before you answer this question, you evaluate your hand – shape and HCP (and points).

5332 – a balanced shape

15 HCP

16/17 Pts (+1 for L5D, +1 for L2♠ once a fit found).

1♦

What is West's planned rebid?

1NT



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Week 12 Balancing

♠ K J 6 5 3

♥ J 5 4 2

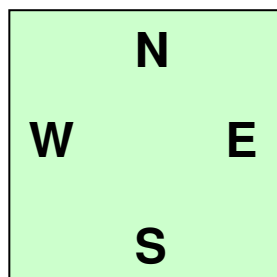
♦ 7 4

♣ J 5

Now we look at several
different N hands.

5422, 6 HCP.

(1♦)



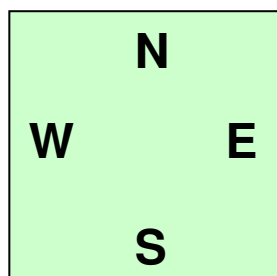


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Week 12 Balancing

♠ K J 6 5 3
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ J 5



(1♦)

Now we look at several different N hands.

5422, 6 HCP.

Unbalanced, L5♠ with 2 honours. Insufficient points to overcall.

Pass

How many HCP/Points do we need for a suited overcall?

*8+ at the 1 level,
11+ at the 2 level.*



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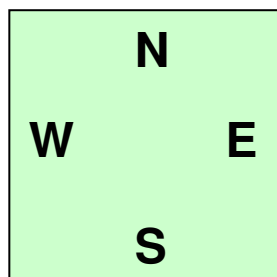
Week 12 Balancing

♠ A J 6 5
♥ A Q 2
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ J 5

Now we look at several different N hands.

4432, 13 HCP.

(1♦)



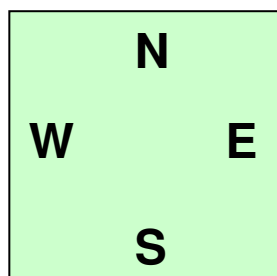


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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A J 6 5
♥ A Q 2
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ J 5



(1♦)

Now we look at several different N hands.

4432, 13 HCP.

Enough points for a suited overcall, but no L5+ suit.
Not enough points for a NT overcall.

Pass

(What do we need for a NT overcall?)

16..18 balanced with a stop (or 2) in ♦.)



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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A 6 5 3 2

♥ A K Q 2

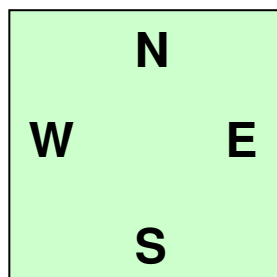
♦ J 7

♣ J 9

Now we look at several
different N hands.

5422, 15 HCP.

(1♦)



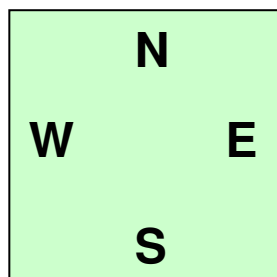


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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A 6 5 3 2
 ♥ A K Q 2
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ J 9



(1♦)

Now we look at several different N hands.

5422, 15 HCP.

Unbalanced, strong enough to overcall, L5♠.

But only one honour in ♠ and only a SQOT of 6 in a feeble suit.

Pass



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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A K 5 3 2

♥ Q J 5 2

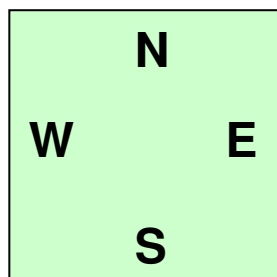
♦ J 7

♣ J 9

Now we look at several
different N hands.

5422 12HCP

(1♦)



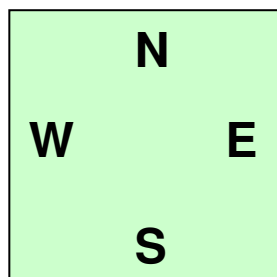


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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A K 5 3 2
 ♥ Q J 5 2
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ J 9



(1♦)

Now we look at several different N hands.

5422, 12 HCP.

Unbalanced, strong enough to overcall, L5♠.

Two honours in ♠ and a SQOT of 7 in the suit.

1♠.



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Week 12 Balancing

A simple suited overcall requires:

8+ HCP at the 1 level,
11+ HCP at the 2 level.

L5+ suit.

2+ honours in that suit.

SQOT equal (or more) than the tricks of the level you bid.
(7+ for 1 level, 8+ for 2 level.)

A NT overcall requires:

16+ HCP.

Balanced hand.

Stoppers in opponents bid suits.

If any one of these criteria is missing, you have to pass.



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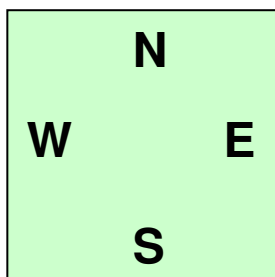
Week 12 Balancing

Now we look at a couple of different E hands.

(Pass)

6322, 7 HCP.

(1♦)



♠ Q 8
 ♥ 9 7 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ Q 7 6 4 3 2



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Week 12 Balancing

(Pass)

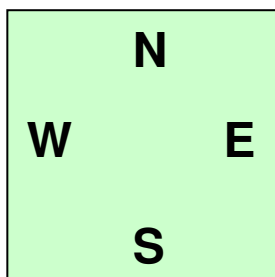
Now we look at a couple of different E hands.

6322, 7 HCP.

Need 8+ points to bid at 2 level, and L6♣ are poor quality.

1NT “nothing better”.

(1♦)



♠ Q 8
 ♥ 9 7 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ Q 7 6 4 3 2



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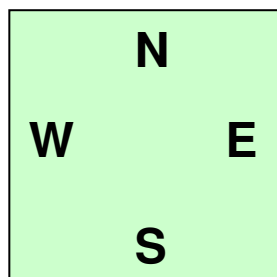
Week 12 Balancing

Now we look at a couple of different E hands.

(Pass)

5422, 5 HCP.

(1♦)



♠ Q 8 7 4
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ 10 6 4 3 2



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Week 12 Balancing

(Pass)

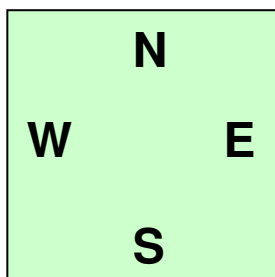
Now we look at a couple of different E hands.

5422, 5 HCP.

Not enough HCP/Points for even 1NT dustbin bid.

Pass.

(1♦)



♠ Q 8 7 4
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ 10 6 4 3 2



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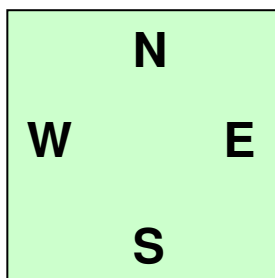
Week 12 Balancing

Now we discuss S.

5332, 7 HCP.

(Pass)

(1♦)



(Pass)

♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K J 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7



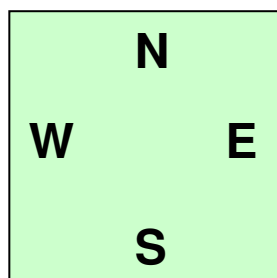
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Week 12 Balancing

(Pass)

(1♦)



(Pass)

♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K J 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7

Now we discuss S.

5332, 7 HCP.

To overcall, we need:

8+ HCP at the 1 level, ✗

L5+ suit, ✓

2+ honours in that suit, ✓

SQOT = 7+. ✓

Pass.

(Dramatic music plays in background.)



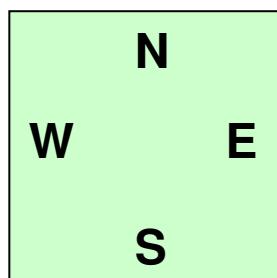
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Week 12 Balancing

(Pass)

(1♦)



(Pass)

♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K J 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7

What is the meaning of the bidding so far from South's point of view?

W has 12..19 HCP (he could have 10 or 11 if he uses the Rule of 20, but that adds "Points" for shape to get to the minimum 12...

N probably has 0..15 HCP – he could have more if his long suit is ♦.

W has 5 or fewer, otherwise he would have bid at least 1NT.



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Week 12 Balancing

HCP probabilities, aka How likely is it to have X HCP?

0	0.4%	14	5.7%
1	0.8%	15	4.4%
2	1.4%	16	3.3%
3	2.5%	17	2.4%
4	3.9%	18	1.6%
5	5.2%	19	1%
6	6.6%	20	0.6%
7	8%	21	0.4%
8	8.9%	22	0.2%
9	9.4%	23	0.1%
10	9.4%	24	0.1%
11	8.9%	25+	0.0% (not actually zero)
12	8%		<i>Applies in the absence of knowledge of the HCP of any other hand.</i>
13	6.9%		<i>8%+ shown red.</i>



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Week 12 Balancing

HCP probabilities, aka How likely is it to have X HCP?

The following maths is not rigorous, just “hand-waving” generalities.

What that table shows is that HCPs nearer to 10 are much more likely than those further away.

So West's HCP range of 12..19 totals 33%, of which 12..14 totals 20%, which is over half of 33%. In other words, over half the time West opens 1♦, he will have 12..14 HCP.

We know East has 0..5 HCP, and over 50% of the time he will have 4..5 HCP.

In other words, we expect the opening pair usually to have 16..19 HCP between them!

So usually North/South will have the majority of the points!

I expect that is a surprise to you.



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Week 12 Balancing

How can we use that information?

It is no good N/S just playing the hand in 1♦, since choice of trumps gives a big advantage to E/W, who will usually make their contract.

*Note that I am using **usually** a lot here. These are the expected, the most common results more than 50% of the time. Maybe 60% of the time (wild guess, no analysis). The other (say) 40% of the time this won't be the case.*

With the majority of the points, it wants to be N/S's contract. If South has only got (say) 7 HCP, then usually North will have around 14 HCP.

So why didn't N overcall?

Because his shape was wrong – perhaps no L5 suit or no honours in his L5 suit. Less often because he is short of HCP!



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Week 12 Balancing

Balancing

After the sequence

“Bid, Pass, Pass”

we are introducing a new bidding concept.

The pair will have agreed to use this concept before play and it will be listed on their system card.

The player after the ‘Pass, Pass’ “**borrow**s” 3 HCP. Usually memorised as borrowing a King. Not any specific king, but just adding 3 HCP to the HCP total and now making his normal bid.

When Partner responds, he subtracts 3 HCP from his total to compensate.

This only applies after “**Bid, Pass, Pass**”.



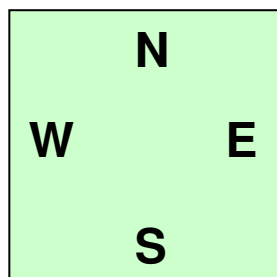
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Week 12 Balancing

(Pass)

(1♦)



(Pass)

♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K J 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7

Balancing

As always there are exceptions, which you can read about in chapter 12 of RWPB. We will detail them next time.

Reprising.

What does S bid here with “10” HCP (7 + 3(king))?

Obviously 1♥.

Let’s see the whole bidding sequence...



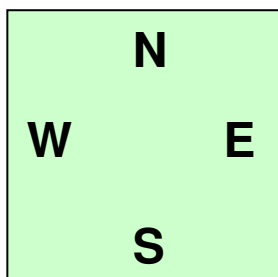
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Week 12 Balancing

♠ A J 6 5
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ J 7 4 2
 ♣ J 5

♠ 10 9
 ♥ 10 8 7
 ♦ A Q 10 8 6
 ♣ A K Q



♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K J 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7

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

W	N	E	S
1D	P	P	1H
2D?	2H	P	P
P/3D	-/PPP		

If NS are left in 2H, they will probably make it.

If EW bid on to 3D they will probably go down.

South's bid is advantageous for the N/S partnership.



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Week 12 Balancing

Balancing

This borrowing of 3 HCP is referred to as balancing or protecting. *I don't really understand why the names, but that is what is used.*

Pages 162 & 163 of RWPB are, IMO, a little confusing. I see no reason why they shouldn't be simplified as:

Any weak bid by the player in the balancing/protective position (after bid, pass, pass) is assumed to have “borrowed a king”. I think you can use this for ANY **non-jump** overcall.

1 level suit	normally 8+ HCP	here 5+ HCP will do.
2 level suit	normally 11+ HCP	here 8+ HCP will do.
1NT	normally 16..18 HCP	here 13..15 HCP will do.
Double	normally 12+ HCP	here 9+ HCP will do.

This differs from what RWPB says – see next page.



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Week 12 Balancing

Balancing

My summary in black. RWPB's values in blue.

1 level suit	normally 8+ HCP	here 5+ HCP will do. here 6+ will do.
2 level suit	normally 11+ HCP	here 8+ HCP will do. here 8+ HCP will do.
1NT	normally 16..18 HCP	here 13..15 HCP will do. here 11..14 HCP will do.

I have a problem with the fact that the point ranges P.M. gives in RWPB differ from his explanation in the body of the text.

Until such time as I understand it, I suggest everyone uses the simpler "borrow 3 HCP" with non-jump bids.

Any jump bid has its standard point count. No borrowing occurs.



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Week 12 Balancing

Balancing

Note that there is an overlap region where a weak hand with an extra 3 points becomes a strong hand. Bid those as the weak hand.

Over the next week, read pages 159..165 of RWPB

Now let's play some hands using this technique.



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Week 12 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I do not plan to ask you to move.

NS have the pair number of their table, N has his back to the screen.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 6.

When you have played a hand, pass it to the next numbered table in sequence. The highest numbered table passes to table 1.

And one last thing – **as part of the learning process** – I would like the partner of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (announcing 1NT to be 12-14 points, ALERTing a conventional bid, ...) – **AND ALSO** to give a brief **description** to the other three players on what the bid means.

Any questions?

Tea / coffee & biscuit. (20p)

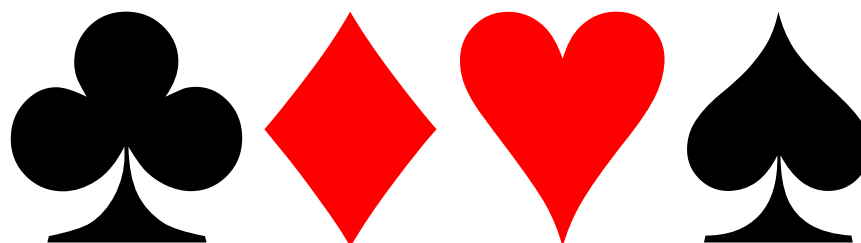
PLAY



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Week 12 Balancing



The end

Week 12 set hand
references follow.



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hand sources

Q+ = Hand dealt by Q-Plus bridge program (8 digit reference).

RWPB = Right Way to Play Bridge by Paul Mendelson
(often only 2 hands given and “SGB choice” or “Deal” for other 2.)

SGB Choose = Cards sorted by me to try to make the deals work.

Blue results from travellers

Red results are reference results.

Boards as played are rotated compared to the book presentation
(which mostly make South dealer). Rotation defined by position of ♠A.



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
1	N	None	RWPB pg 160 + Choose			A♠=E
2	8	2H-1	W 7	50	-	
3	9	2H=	W 8	-	110	
4	10	2H-1	W 7	50	-	
Ref a	1D	N 7	70	-		Without Balancing
Ref b	2H+1	W 9	-	140		With Balancing by EW

This was intended to illustrate the advantage Balancing gives.

However the play has let 8 & 10 down. 9 is “ok”, even though not ideal.

N=SQ87 HT8 DAKT96 CAK2 E=SAJ65 see RWPB
 S=ST94 H976 DQ8 CQT643 W=SK32 see RWPB



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	Q+ 0662-0003			A♠=E
2	8	3S+1	N 10	170	-	
4	10	2S+1	N 9	140	-	
Ref		3S+2	N 11	200	-	

Bidding ok, play not quite ideal.

N=SKQ953 HAT3 D872 CKJ

E=SA HKQ74 DAJ543 CT54

S=ST764 H96 DK9 CAQ983

W=SJ82 HJ852 DQT6 C762



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.	
3	S	E/W	SGB Choose		A♠=W
2	8	1NT	W 7	-	90
3	9	2NT-3	W 5	300	-
Ref		2S=	S 8	110	-

Bidding expected to be

P	1D/1C	P	P	N=SK86 HT98 DKT9 CKT92
1S	1NT/P	2S	P	E=SQ75 HJ765 DJ32 CJ87
P	P			S=JT943 HQ83 DAQ4 C63
				W=SA2 H AK4 D8765 CAQ54

I expected EW bidding on to 2NT to go down (but only by 1). But why wasn't 1NT overcalled by 2S ~ bidding to the fit?



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	RWPB pg164a + Choose			A♠=W
2	8	2S=	N 8	110	-	
3	9	2S=	S 8	110	-	How did S declare this?
4	10	1S+1	N 8	110	-	
Ref		2S+1	N 9	140	-	

Bidding ok, but play one off.

N=SQ987 see RWPB

S=SKJ42 see RWPB

E=ST HK92 DT532 C87653

W=SA653 HAQT6 DJ6 CAT2



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
5	N	N/S	RWPB pg 163 + Choose			A♠=N
3	9	2S+2	E 10	-	170	
4	10	2D-1	N 7	-	100	E didn't do a WeakTakeOut
Ref		2S+1	E 9	-	140	

E10's failure to bid 2S let NS4 get a NS top.

Good play by EW9 to make an extra overtrick, an EW top.

N=SA2 HK972 DAKT976 CQ E=SJ9873 see RWPB
 S=ST65 HJT65 D- CT98652 W=SKQ4 see RWPB



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	RWPB ph164b + Choose			A♠=W
2	8	1S+2	E 9	-	140	
3	9	2S+1	E 9	-	140	
4	10	2S+2	E 10	-	170	
Ref		2S+1	E 9	-	140	

Near enough right. :-)

N=SQ83 HT765 DT62 CKT3 E=SKJ7642 see RWPB
 S=ST5 HAJ92 DKQ7 CQJ92 W=SA9 see RWPB



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source			Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
7	S	All	SGB Choose			A♠=N
4	10	4S-1	N 9	-	100	N o'call with only 1 honour!
Ref		4S=	S 10	-	620	
N=SA9865 H9543 DAJ CAJ			E=S7 HJ2 DT954 CK76543			
S=SQJ432 HT6 DQ832 C98			W=SKT HAKQ87 DK76 CQT2			