



The Irish Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Wednesday 6th November 2019

Session Number : 6268

Commentary by Brian Senior

I hope you -and your partner- enjoyed the hands this evening and will agree, a little at any rate, with our commentators. We are fortunate to have Paul Delaney and Brian Senior to nudge us in a better direction next time. Our thanks to them and of course, thanks to you for participating in our annual Pairs Competition.

Being affiliated to an NIBU and/or CBAI club confers on one automatic membership of the IBU. Over the years the Irish Bridge Union has fostered and developed Schools, Under 21s and Under 25s Bridge playing while all the time coaching players to participate at the highest level in European and World Championships.

Naturally the work of the IBU Confederation requires finance, your participation in this competition is a great help in this regard.

Likewise taking part in our other events aids revenue, these competitions include;

- ◆ Inter-Regionals
- ◆ Inter County Teams Championships – O'Connor and Burke Trophies
- ◆ I B U Seniors Congress
- ◆ All Ireland Pairs Championship – Moylan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Teams Championship – Egan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Intermediate & Novice
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Master grade

Again, many thanks for your support,

Jim O'Sullivan
I B U President



Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

The cards lie very favourably for E/W, such that they can make 10 tricks in either a diamond or a spade contract – admittedly, in spades declarer has to play trumps in double dummy fashion if the defence leads three rounds of clubs. The E/W auction may go 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♦ – Pass or 3♦, meaning that +130 may be the most common outcome. For the record, I would pass out 2♦ with the West hand – no need to stretch in case of a thin game at matchpoints.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

Most Souths will open, though that is not obligatory with a bare king in the 13-count, plus, 4-4-4-1 hands provide less playing strength than any other unbalanced shape and players often overvalue them. Today, N/S should bid and make 4♥ if declarer sorts out his side-suit before drawing trumps. If South opens, it is automatic to get to game. If South passes, West will probably open 1♠ and North make a two-suited overcall.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

N/S make 3♣, E/W 2♦ or 1♥. What should South open as dealer – Pass, 1♣ or 3♣? There is nothing wrong with passing a 10-point hand. Equally, there is nothing wrong with opening at the one level with such a good suit. My vote would, however, go to 3♣. Yes, we might occasionally miss a good game when partner, quite rightly, takes a pessimistic approach facing a non-vulnerable pre-empt, but whenever the deal belongs to the opposition the 3♣ opening will put them under pressure and we will be well ahead of the game.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

North opens 1♠ and East must either double or overcall. With short spades, East should fear a raise on the left, and a double, getting all three suits into the game, looks better than a 2♦ overcall, which shows only the one suit. South may pass or bid INT, but either way North will rebid 2♥, South raise, and North go on to game. Ten tricks should be made. Declarer will concede a ruff as he cannot afford to draw trumps before playing on his main side-suit.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

South is just short of opening 2NT and instead opens 1♠. Even if playing four-card majors, North does best to raise to 2♠ with three-card support if West bids only 2♣. A 3♣ overcall would silence North for now. Where North can raise to 2♠, South will bid 4♣. Where West bids 3♣, South may choose to defend because of his strong clubs. 3♣ should be down one. 4♣ makes double dummy, but is probably down in practice.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

East opens 1♣, South overcalls 1♠, and West passes. North may respond 2♥ and East rebid 3♣. If that ends the auction, it should be made exactly. N/S can make 4♦ if they can get there. Perhaps North will double 3♣ for take-out, when South has an easy 3♦ response? The double will not always work out so well as, from North's point of view, it is not that likely that N/S have an eight-card fit. Today, however, favours the brave.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

South opens 1♥ and, if playing Acol, North has enough to respond 2♣ – not, admittedly, a fine advertisement for the methods to bid that suit. South reverses into 2♠ and North bids 4♥, showing the three-card support but a poor hand – a better one would bid a forcing 3♥ to leave room for partner to explore slam prospects. 11 tricks is the normal outcome, whatever the opening lead.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦ – ? East's second call will decide the destination of the matchpoints on this one. Many pay that 2♥ is a one-round force – a bit much on this misfit, though it works well when West jumps to 3♠ in reply. So East may instead rebid 2♣, which at least avoids showing more strength than is actually held. West will raise to at least 3♠ now. The real disaster will be to pass out 2♦, which will barely trouble the scorers.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North has just enough for a 1♥ opening and East doubles. If South passes, West may jump to 2♠ and East bid 3♠ to invite game, accepted by West. If South raises to 2♥ and West still bids only 2♠, the lack of a jump may see East pass and the thin but making game will be missed. West could, of course, jump to 3♠, but may not like to do that with only a four-card suit.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

South is just short of having an opening bid, particularly when vulnerable, so West will get to open either a weak NT or 1♦. INT may be passed round to South, who can compete with whatever shows this hand-type in his methods.

However, N/S can make nothing at the two level or higher and anything more than down one will score very poorly. Double dummy, E/W can make 2NT, but in practice declarer will be happy with seven tricks.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

South opens 1♠ and raises the 2♥ response to 3♥ or perhaps 4♥. There is a borderline slam, but not many will bid it, I suspect. If they do, East may lead his singleton. Declarer needs to get both red suits right to succeed, as the bad spade break means there will be no extra tricks coming there. It is normal to get hearts right and, by the time that declarer starts on diamonds, it should be known where the length is so they too should be played successfully.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability NIS

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

E/W can make either 3♠ or 4♦, while N/S are held to seven tricks in a heart or club contract. North opens 1♥, East overcalls 1♠, and South should pass. West will raise spades, probably via 2♠ rather than a 2♥ unassuming cuebid, as he will downgrade the heart holding. With spades agreed, there is no reason why diamonds will ever be bid. To hold a spade contract to nine tricks the defence must force dummy to ruff a club to create a trump trick for themselves.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

East opens 1NT or 1♣ according to system and either one silences South. 1NT will end the auction. South may lead the ♠K to get an unblock or count signal then switch to the ♥Q. North will encourage and East win the king and cash the spades – down two. Trying to get a diamond trick without first cashing out could mean down four – ouch! After opening 1♣, East will rebid 1NT and again play there.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

Unless playing weak two-suited openings, East will pass and South opens 1♥. After 2♣ from West, North doubles (or maybe shows a good heart raise if playing five-card majors). 4♥ will be the normal contract. Declarer will win the club lead and play on diamonds to ensure a ruff in dummy (though that turns out to be unnecessary), and will lose one trick in each side-suit so come to 10 tricks.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability NIS

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

South opens 1♥ and North responds 1♠. It is surely correct to repeat the hearts rather than introduce such a relatively poor four-card diamond suit, and North should pass, relying on South to hold a six-card suit. 2♥ is the limit of the N/S cards. If South rebids 2♦ rather than 2♥, North may bid 2♠, and now the partnership has gone past its last making contract.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

If West opens INT, East may transfer to clubs and 3♣ becomes the final contract – just made with the spade loser going away on the hearts. A 1♣ opening will see East raise by whatever method the system dictates. This East hand is a bit good for a pre-emptive raise, but light for an invitation. No matter, as West has a minimum opening there will be no question of doing other than playing in 3♣.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

North opens 1♦, South bids 1♥, and West, with the best hand at the table, has to pass as both his suits have been bid. North rebids 1♠ and South raises to 2♠. In pass-out seat West might double now, but with LHO still virtually unlimited that is quite dangerous and most will pass. Declarer will play to ruff diamonds in the dummy and should be able to scramble eight tricks.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

If East opens a weak NT, West will use Stayman then jump to 3NT over the 2♦ response. Or East may open 1♦ and rebid INT over a 1♥ response, West again raising to 3NT. The ♠J goes to king and ace, declarer ducks the spade continuation then wins the queen. It may not even be clear who has the spades now. Get diamonds right and there are 10 tricks, get them wrong and there are only nine.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

If South passes, so will West, and North opens 1♥. East overcalls 1♠, South bids 2♣ and West will pass because of the prospective misfit. When North rebids 2♦, East may repeat the spades. 2♠ is down one with either defender having a possible ruff. South could open a mildly off-centre 3♣ and that might win silence everyone – down at least one – or may see East overcall 3♠ – down a couple, while if West bids 3NT it suffers similar fate.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

West opens 1♣, and East responds 1♦. South has the wrong shape to come in so passes, and West rebids 1♥. Whether East rebids an invitational 3♦ or a GF fourth-suit asking bid, the eventual contract rates to be 3NT played by West on a spade lead. Declarer can establish the extra tricks required by playing on diamonds. The friendly club position means that the defence can do nothing to hurt declarer.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

East may open a weak 2♦ and West perhaps respond 2♥, constructive NF. I would be quite happy to play in 2♥, as 3NT, while unbeatable, is a very ordinary contract. However, there is no suit on which the defence can play to actually defeat the NT game. East has a maximum opening and an OK heart holding, so to pass 2♥ would be a bit pessimistic. East should raise to 3♥ (West will often have a six-card suit), but West will decline the invitation.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

East has a good 2♣ opening and South may overcall 3♥ and be raised to game. At the reverse vulnerability West might save in 4♠, but vul. against not he will leave South to play the heart game. As it happens, 4♥ should be made while 4♠ doubled would be only down one for -200, so the save will score very well should anyone find it. Well done to those who do.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

South opens 1♥ and North raises to 2♥. East has an easy double, and South may raise himself to 3♥ if that would be pre-emptive in the agreed methods. That may be sufficient to shut West out for now, but East has extras so can double again. That should get E/W to a spade contract, but not perhaps to the thin game. Even 11 tricks are possible in a spade contract by dropping the ♣K and playing South for ace-doubleton spade.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

North will either open a 15-17 NT or open 1♣/♦ and rebid 1NT. Either way, if there is no opposition bidding North will become declarer in 3NT and, assuming a club lead from East, the first five tricks will be lost. That may not quite be the end of it, as there are some finesses to take – or avoid – before eight tricks are made. Down one may not score too badly. Even if North opens 1♦ and East overcalls 2♣, stopping at a making level may not be a trivial matter.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

Slam, particularly in spades, is decent but far from cold on the E/W cards, making in comfort on the actual layout. Acolites may bid 1♥ – 2♦ – 2NT – 3♠ – 4♣ (cuebid agreeing spades). Now it seems so natural to continue 4♦ – 4♥, after which it will be down to West whether to drive to slam. Strong no-trumpers may start 1NT – 2♣ – 2♥ – 3♦ – 3♠, and now, though the cuebids don't flow quite so smoothly, West may still fancy slam prospects.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

Some may open the East hand at the one level, but the opposition will often own the deal in four of a major, and in the long term a pre-emptive opening of 4♦ or 5♦ is likely to more than pay for itself. This time, 5♦ is the big winner, as the cards lie well for E/W and the contract is made. 4♦ may end the auction, or South may scrape up a 4♠ overcall. West could double that for down one – declarer should get the clubs right.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

North will open either 1♦ or 1♥ according to system. 1♦ will see East double and South raise to 2/3♦. 1♥ will see East pass and South respond 1NT – I prefer this to 2♥ facing a possible four-card major when looking at four queens, a very no-trumpy hand. And if South does respond 1NT, should North rebid 2♦ or pass? Well, he may not like passing with a small singleton club, but to bid 2♦ shows five hearts and may see preference to a four-two fit on another day.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability NIS

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

North opens 1♣ and east overcalls 1♥ despite the nine-high suit. That forces South to bid 2♦ and he will rebid 3♦ over North's 2♠. Now, I guess, North will end the auction by bidding 3NT. The defence can prevent declarer from making any diamond tricks, but North can play on the black suits to come to nine, with the defence not having the communications to get the hearts going.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

North opens 1♠ and South may dredge up a simple raise to 2♠ despite having only 4 HCP. West has to decide between 3♣ and double. East will pass 3♣ while responding 3♥ to double. Either contract should be successful, the three-three heart split leaving the defence powerless. Meanwhile, if North competes to 3♠, that should be down one. Do East's agreements permit a penalty double of 3♠? If so, the magic +200 on a partscore deal should score very well.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

This could be a wild one. East opens 1♦ and South pre-empt with 4♣, which should be too much for West. North may raise to 5♣ and East??? If he bids 5♠ he finds that 12 tricks cannot be prevented, with a diamond ruff getting to the West hand to pick up the spades without loss. If East bids 5♦, however, he has no dummy entry and must concede a spade as well as the top trumps; down one.

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

Left to themselves, N/S will find the four-four heart fit and bid to game on their combined 26 HCP. I would expect the majority to go down in game, though it is unbeatable double dummy, declarer managing an endplay against one or other defender depending on the exact sequence of plays. If South opens 1♦/♥, an aggressive West may overcall 3♣. That costs -800 if N/S can manage to defend it doubled.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

Some will be tempted to open 2♣ but that pre-empt's our own auction and I much prefer a quiet 1♦, rebidding 3♣ over the likely 1♥ response and possible 1♠ overcall. Over 3♣, East may repeat the hearts, West bid 3NT, and only now East admit to diamond support. That should see West drive to slam as it is an encouraging combination, more so than just bidding 3♦ over 3♣. 13 tricks are possible, but 12 more likely.

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