



Commentary for the SBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs – The Lord Thomson Trophy

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Dear Bridge player

Thank you for your support of this SBU Simultaneous Pairs 2026. Some of you will have played face to face at a club, others online, but whichever it was, we do hope you enjoyed the hands, found them interesting, challenging and fun whatever result you ended up with!

So now you can relax and enjoy the commentary - I wonder if you agree with what they wrote!

Do have a look on the SBU website at <https://www.scottishbridge.org/> for all the SBU news and also for information about forthcoming tournaments and join us for other events before too long.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

South opens 1♦ and has a choice of rebids over the 1♠ response. Most experts will bid a quiet 2♣, while many club –players will prefer 3♣, 2NT, or even 3NT.

The winning choice is 2♣ – if North passes – as South will go on with 2NT over a false preference to 2♦, and 2/3NT are both easily beaten by a heart lead.

That is not to say that some will not make a no trump contract after rebidding 2NT and receiving a club lead, but a heart would be the popular expert lead even with clubs unbid.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

East should pass as dealer. It is all very well opening with a weak two bid when holding four cards in the other major and a minimum, but it becomes more dangerous when holding such a maximum.

West will show a strong no trump type by either opening or rebidding 1NT, and East will drive to 4♠, where there are 11 tricks and the layout means that there is no way to get the hearts wrong.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Left to themselves (and an aggressive North might overcall 1♠ to affect that), E/W might bid 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2NT – 3NT.

A diamond lead leaves declarer with awkward communications, but the favourable club position means that he has nine tricks, if he can untangle them, and the defence will eventually have to give him entry to his ninth trick.

Win the diamond, cash ace and king of clubs, then the jack, king of spades, then the nine of diamonds, and what is the defence to do?

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

If North opens 1♣ and East overcalls 1♥, South can double to show four spades and North can jump to 2♠ to show four-card support – just as he would have raised a 1♠ response to 2♠.

East may compete with 3♥, as he has substantial extra playing strength for a simple overcall, but South too has enough in hand to compete to 3♠, which will often end the auction.

If declarer gives up two club tricks he should be able to come to nine, all South's diamond losers going on the established clubs.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Even vulnerable, most Souths will surely open 1♣ in third seat. Whether West overcalls 1♦ (my choice) or doubles, North will bid 1♥ and South rebid 1♠. West will bid for a second time, double if he started with an overcall, 2♦ if he started with a double, and North's raise to 2♠ should end the auction.

The bare jack of clubs proves to be a very useful card, and careful play should result in eight tricks for a handy +110.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

The deal belongs to N/S, who can make ten tricks in a club contract or eight in no trump. If East opens a strong no trump, North may have to overcall 3♣, as so many people play 2♣ as artificial. A 1♦ opening would run round to North who could now bid a simple 2♣, while a 1♠ opening might be raised to 2♠ and now once again North would have to overcall at the three level.

At this vulnerability, E/W should not compete, even if the spade fit has been found.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

North will, presumably, open 1♦ after two passes, and East double. If South passes, West responds INT and plays there for +90 or +120, but South will often respond 1♠.

West still bids INT – he doesn't need a spade stopper as partner has implied something in spades by his take-out double of 1♦.

Now North, with three good spades and a singleton, may compete with 2♠, but that should be two down for –200, the kiss of death on a competitive partscore deal.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

While I was not in favour of opening 2♠ on the six-four hand on Board 2, once partner has passed I can afford to be much more flexible, and I would open the East hand with 2♥. South overcalls 3♦ and that will frequently end the auction. It looks like nine tricks, but East can be endplayed if declarer reads the position, and that means a possible tenth trick. I

If West competes with 3♥, N/S will have to double to protect their equity, as two down is only –100 if undoubled.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

North has a normal 1♠ opening and, playing Acro, South responds 2♦ and North rebids 2♠.

South has three options – to pass, bid 2NT, or bid 3♦ – two game invitations on a misfitting ten-count. 2♠ will be no sort of fun to play but the likely heart king lead gives a fifth side-suit winner and now declarer should be only down one – the same outcome as in 3♦ or, on a heart lead (my preference), in 2NT.

2NT on a club lead has chances to make for a very good score to N/S.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West's hearts are very poor for a vulnerable weak two bid so many will pass and North open 1NT (possibly whether playing either weak or strong no trump). South transfers to spades then bids the diamonds, and North ends the auction with a jump to 4♠.

Most Souths will make 11 tricks as East will not normally cash the ace of hearts and the heart loser will go away on the clubs.

Where South becomes declarer, a heart lead will be much more attractive and ten tricks will then be made.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Slam is cold in either red suit but it may prove to be very difficult to get there. West will open 1♥, North overcall 1♠ and East bid 2♦.

South should compete with 2♠ and West may simply jump to 4♥ and play there. East will surely pass on that auction, but it is hard to see what West could do to get any slam interest out of his partner on those cards.

Bidding either slam should score 90% plus of the matchpoints.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

Whether after opening 1NT or after opening 1♣ and rebidding 1NT, North should become declarer in 3NT, ignoring any interference from East as the vulnerability makes it hard to achieve a sufficient penalty to compensate for the cold N/S game.

There are 12 tricks available, even on a passive heart lead. The fall of the jack of clubs means 11 top tricks and there is a positional squeeze against East in the red suits to produce the 12th trick.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

The likelihood is that almost everyone will find the five-three heart fit and play 4♥ on the N/S cards, the main question being who will be declarer.

Double dummy, 12 tricks can be made, however, as a practical matter, declarer will want to ruff a diamond in the North hand and then it will be more convenient to play ace and another heart, losing to the queen.

If North is declarer, East may lead a trump, trapping his partner's queen – and someone will even make 13 tricks now.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Though not everyone will open with only 10 HCP, the six-five shape means that most will open 1♠ on the South hand.

West may overcall INT, though he is a bit good for that action, and North compete with 2♠. E/W can make nothing above the one level, while 4♠ is unbeatable if played by South as the defence can only prevent heart ruffs at the cost of trump tricks.

Plus 420 (or even +590) will be huge for N/S.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

At this vulnerability I would open 2♥ as West. North would overcall 3♣ and East would have a tough call. Double would be the winner as that should collect +500, but even pass works out OK as +200 in lieu of a partscore is usually a good result.

Where West passes, North opens 1♣ and East overcalls 1♠. From here it will be a question of where the music stops. E/W can make 2♥ but won't be allowed to play there, while N/S make 2♦, but again will not be allowed to play there.

2♠ E/W or 2♣ N/S should be defeated.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Yet another borderline weak two bid for West.

I would open 2♠ due to the extra potential provided by the six-four shape, but some will not. With or without a 2♠ opening, N/S are likely to get to 4♥ as South is too strong to settle for a partscore.

Getting there is easier than making ten tricks, however. Despite the pre-emptive opening from West, declarer may get heart right as he is so short of entries to the North hand, but even then there is work to be done.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The big double fit means that a lot of tricks can be made – 10 by N/S in a red suit, 11 by E/W in a black suit.

Absolute par, then, is for N/S to play 6♥/♦ doubled down two for –300. If South opens 1♥, West will double and North may make a pre-emptive raise to 3♥, raised to game by South, who may bid 4♦ on the way.

West doubles again, East bids 4♠ and South probably takes the push to 5♥. West bids 5♠ and now? If South has shown the second suit, North may save in 6♥, knowing of the double fit.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

E/W are cold for slam in either clubs or hearts and should have a good chance to get there. Say that West opens INT (12-14); East uses Stayman then splinters with 3♠ over the 2♥ response.

West is minimum but has a fifth trump and only a jack is wasted opposite East's shortage, so he will co-operate, or even drive to slam himself.

A 1♥ opening will also see East bid strongly – he could almost ask for key cards straight away, particularly if facing a five-card opening.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

When South opens 1♣, West may cuebid 2♣, both majors. Though the major-suit fit is only moderate, East does have ace-king, ace, and will compete to the three level if necessary, and nine tricks is what E/W can make in a spade contract, despite the four-one trump split.

If South's 1♣ opening showed a genuine suit, North may bid 3♣ over West's 2♣, and that will allow South to compete to 4♣ over 3♠. The best E/W can now do is to double and collect +100.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

N/S are close to having slam values but the lack of a good trump fit should see them stop in 3/4NT, slam being quite a poor proposition just looking at the two hands.

In practice, there are 12 tricks to be had in no trump or in either black suit, but the bare king of hearts is a big part of what makes that possible and that is obviously an unlikely situation.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

North has a book example of a weak 2♠ opener and East has an easy double. Even at this vulnerability, South should raise to 4♠ – the opposition surely have a game and possibly slam, so make it difficult for them to explore.

If West makes a responsive double, just showing points, East may settle for the penalty and collect +200. If, on the other hand, West is willing to commit to the five level, as he probably should be when holding a strong suit and spade shortage, 5♣/♦ are both unbeatable for +400.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

East opens 1♣. If South doubles, hardly classical, but a matter of personal style, North rates to bid 4♥ and go one down on accurate defence.

If, however, South passes, North will overcall and N/S should stop safely in partscore and chalk up a painless +140 for a useful matchpoint score.

West should not get involved on his shapely hand with no fit for partner.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

West will open 1♠ and should usually declare the spade game.

On a diamond lead, the defence can take two quick tricks, while on any other lead declarer can take a diamond discard on the second heart. From here it is just a matter of playing spades successfully.

Lead the jack to the queen and ace then go back to dummy to lead a spade to the nine and there will be no trump loser, so 11 or 12 winners, according to the opening lead.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Modern style is to open 1♠ with five-five in the back suits and now a lot Easts will make an ugly 2♥ overcall.

If N/S stop off to take a penalty, they should collect only +300, which will not be sufficient with 4♠ an easy make their way. If, for example, South bids a natural 2NT over the 2♥ overcall, North will bid 3♣ and South, liking the ♠A and ♣Q, jumps to 4♠.

There is no particularly strong reason to get the spades right, so those who do so and make 11 tricks should score very well.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

If South opens with a weak no trump, it is best for West to make his systemic overcall to show both majors rather than double for penalties. This gives the best chance of showing his hand-type and getting to a sensible contract. East will show heart preference and West can raise to 3♥ to invite game, which East will decline.

If South opens 1♣, West makes a Michaels Cuebid, again showing the majors, and again raising the 2♥ response to 3♥.

The favourable spade position means everyone should make ten tricks.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

The defensive benefit of making the opening lead means that neither side can make INT, but E/W can make 2♦ and N/S 3♥. If West opens INT, North may make an aggressive double as he has a good lead.

Will anybody run? If not, a spade lead and later heart switch could lead to down three and a huge score. If East runs to 2♦, South will introduce his heart suit and has an easy +140.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

N/S can make 2♠, while double dummy E/W can make 3♣, though in practice they will normally fail by a trick. I could live with a 2♠ opening on the South cards but, while pre-empting with a side four-card major used to be almost a capital offence, that is very much a matter of personal style these days.

If South does open 2♠, should West overcall 3♣? I'm sure most people will do so, but it should be far from automatic with so much defence and so little offence.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

The likelihood is that North will either open or rebid INT and play there.

East may lead a diamond even if South has bid the suit as there is no stand-out alternative. Declarer will run the diamond, losing to the queen, and win the likely diamond continuation. Declarer has communication problems and the play could be quite complex.

He will make seven tricks, or possibly eight if the defence comes to his aid.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

When North opens 1♠ and South responds INT, West cannot double as that would be take-out of spades. His options are therefore to pass or to overcall 2♦. Either way, North will rebid 2♥ and, whether South passes or gives false preference to spades,

North will not enjoy his contract. 2♠ and 2♥ should both be two down for -200. That means that those Wests who win the declaration in a diamond partscore should score very poorly for their +110.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West will double South's 1♦ opening but North will ignore that and respond 1♥ then, after a 1♠ rebid from partner, perhaps jump to 2NT. South will go on to game but the outcome is unclear.

Double dummy, declarer can make ten tricks in no trump, playing hearts from the top to drop the jack, but leading a club to the ten to pick up that suit nicely.

I expect more to succeed in 3NT than to go down, but the play and defence could be very interesting.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

North opens 1♠ and, when East overcalls 2♥, South may make a negative double. Whether N/S have the modern agreement that a jump rebid to 3♠ is forcing in an uncontested auction, it should be only invitational in a competitive auction.

An invitational 3♠ fits the bill nicely but South will not accept the game invitation.

The tenth trick is decided by the club finesse and, with the queen onside, +170 should be a popular result, with +620 scoring very well.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

N/S can make 11 tricks in spades but, on repeated diamond leads, only ten in hearts. If North opens 1♠, he may play there. Some Souths may scrape up a INT response and now North will jump to 3♥ and South raise to game.

Many will open 2♣ and that will automatically see game reached, presumably 4♥ as he should rebid 2♠ then follow up with 3♥, South raising to the heart game.