

Scottish Schools Teams Championship for the Scotsman Cup

Board 29
North Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 2♦; NS 1♥; Par -120

A weak no trump followed by a transfer to hearts will probably keep EW quiet. This contract will eventually go down and the +100 will be adequate compensation for the +110 available in spades.

Board 30
East Deals
None Vul

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

EW 4♥; EW 3♠; EW 1N; NS 2♣; Par -420

If East opens a weak two spades then East-West will miss their heart fit.

If East passes then they will be able to support hearts strongly after West's opening 1♥. However it is unlikely that they will bid game, so the weak two spades openers will not lose a big swing.

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Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

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

EW 2N; EW 3♠; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; Par -120

A hand that will probably be passed out unless East pre-empts with 3♣ or South or West opens a weak no trump.

This will be far more successful for West than South.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 4♥; S 3N; NS 3♠; N 2N; NS 3♣; EW 1♦; Par +620

South should open 1♥ and North will respond 1NT, showing about 6-9 HCP without four spades and without support for partner.

South has a difficult rebid: 3♥ is most descriptive especially when you know you do not have a spade fit. North is minimum and would pass at pairs, but at teams you need to bid game whenever possible.

West will probably lead a club and you should lose a spade and two hearts. Remember to play on trumps first.

Board 31
South Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +620

South will open a weak no trump and North should transfer into hearts and then rebid 3NT, giving South a choice of games (3NT or 4♥). With a doubleton heart South will pass.

East-West will need to lead diamonds to prevent South making some overtricks. A normal spade lead will allow South to play low from dummy and East will need to switch to a diamond, otherwise declarer will have time to establish the fifth heart.

Board 32
West Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♣; NS 1♦; Par +450

After North opens 1♠, South will respond 2♥ and North will probably continue with 2♠. After South rebids hearts, showing at least six, North should raise to 4♥.

The all-seeing computer can make eleven tricks, but I expect most will be very happy with ten. If West leads a spade or club, then South should take care to ruff the losing diamond before drawing trumps and play to lose two hearts and a club to make the contract.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

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

EW 2♠; NS 2♥; EW 2♦; Par -100; NS 3♥×-1

When non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, never be afraid to open a little light with a good suit.

West is likely to pass so North should open with 1NT (11HCP plus a good 5-card suit is sufficient). South will transfer to hearts via 2♦ and eventually this will come back to West.

The winning decision is for West to bid 2♠ but I expect many will pass. It may be a 4-3 fit, but dummy has some nice diamonds for you.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 1N; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; Par -140

North should open a weak no trump to show a balanced 12-14 HCP. This will protect (hide) your major suit kings. East may double 1NT for penalties or make a conventional bid to show both major suits (most use 2♣ for this).

Although the computer can beat 1NT seeing all four hands, I would expect North to make it. So it is safer to overcall to show both suits and play safely in 2♥.

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Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 9 6
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ 10 7 2

♠ K 5
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ 4
♣ A Q J 9 5 3

♠ Q J 10 8 7 4
♥ A K 8 4
♦ K J 2
♣ —

♠ A 3 2
♥ J
♦ Q 9 8 6 3
♣ K 8 6 4

6 14
10 10

EW 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 2N; EW 2♣; NS 1♦; Par -140

East will open 1♠ and West has sufficient strength, and a good suit, to respond 2♣. East should rebid 2♥ to show at least 5-4 in the majors: this is better than rebidding the spades to show six, as you show 9 cards rather than 6. West will probably raise to 3♥ (although 4♥ is possible), but East will raise to game despite the void in partner's suit.

South will lead a helpful diamond but it will be hard to avoid losing two aces and two trumps. 4♠ stands more chance, especially on a diamond lead.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 10 3
♥ 6 4
♦ J 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 4

♠ A 8 5 2
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ Q 7 6
♣ A 5

♠ K 6
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ A K 10 2
♣ 6 3 2

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ A K 8
♦ 9 8 5
♣ K Q J

2 13
10 15

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 3♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♣; Par -620

East will open one no trump. If South doubles, then West should redouble for penalty. North will run to clubs but this will be difficult to double.

If South passes, a good ten count with both majors is worth using Stayman 2♣ to try and find a major suit fit. This will lead to the making 4♥ contract.

Against this South should lead the ♣K. You have two tricks in trumps and you are looking to set up two more tricks. Lead the top of touching honours.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ K Q 7 2
♥ Q J 10 2
♦ A Q 7 5 2
♣ —

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ A K 8
♦ J
♣ K J 10 7 4

♠ J 10 3
♥ 9 7 5 4
♦ 10 9 8 6 4
♣ 9

♠ 9 8
♥ 6 3
♦ K 3
♣ A Q 8 6 5 3 2

14 1
16 9

NS 2N; S 2♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; N 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +120

South holds a classical 3♣ pre-emptive opening bid. A fair seven-card suit with little interest in the other suits and less than opening values.

Unfortunately for West, double is takeout and not penalty. Safest to pass as partner will try to bid or double with shortage in clubs.

As you can see from the hand record, the best action for North is pass. Partner has long clubs and nothing else, what do you expect to make?

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9
♥ A J 8 2
♦ 9 7 5 3
♣ Q 5 2

♠ K J 7 6 5
♥ K 10 9 7 5 4
♦ K 6
♣ —

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

♠ Q 8 4 3
♥ Q 6 3
♦ J
♣ A 9 8 7 4

11 10
10 9

EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par -120

Distributional hands can be difficult for all players and this is no exception. I would open 1♥ as West: it is only ten points, but very strong distribution and you will struggle to show this if you pass. Bravery is key!

I expect West will eventually bid 3NT with the spades well stopped, but unfortunately you are too high - but you will be in good company.

Board 25
North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A Q 6
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A 5
♣ 10 7 6 5 4

♠ K 9 8 7 3
♥ J 6
♦ K Q 8 6
♣ A Q

♠ J 10 4 2
♥ Q 10 9
♦ J 10 2
♣ J 8 3

♠ 5
♥ A K 8 4 3
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ K 9 2

10 5
15 10

NS 3♥; NS 1N; NS 2♠; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; Par +140

After two passes and at favourable vulnerability, South may open with only ten points as it indicates a good opening lead.

West should overcall 1♠ and North can bid 1NT with a double spade stop and a maximum pass. East's 2♠ will finish the auction.

The defence needs to find a diamond ruff to defeat this contract, which looks unlikely.

Board 27
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 7
♥ A J 8 6
♦ K 4 3
♣ K 9 6 3

♠ A 8 5
♥ K 4
♦ A 10 6 2
♣ A Q J 4

♠ K Q J 4 2
♥ Q 9 7 5 3 2
♦ J 9
♣ —

♠ 10 6 3
♥ 10
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 10 8 7 5 2

11 10
18 9
2

EW 5♠; EW 5♥; EW 4N; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; Par -450

West will open 1♦ and East should respond 1♥, their longest suit, rather than 1♠ which is their strongest suit.

West will rebid two no trump to show a balanced 18-19 points and now East can bid 3♠. This only shows four spades so West will sign off in three no trump, but East knows this cannot be a good place and bids 4♥, as partner should have two hearts. West will pass this. The bad trump split means that this will only make ten or eleven tricks.

Board 26
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ A J 10 2
♥ J 5 3
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A 9 8

♠ Q 7 3
♥ A Q 4
♦ A 4
♣ K 7 6 4 3

♠ K 5 4
♥ 9 7 2
♦ K Q 9
♣ Q J 5 2

♠ 9 8 6
♥ K 10 8 6
♦ J 8 6 5 2
♣ 10

10 11
15 4

EW 4N; EW 4♠; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; Par -630

Some East's may open but this hand is really too light. West is too strong for one no trump and will open 1♣. East may respond two no trump as they are too strong for a simple one no trump response and this will be raised to game.

This will make in comfort, even on a spade lead as South has no entry to lead them again.

Board 28
West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A Q J 2
♥ A 4
♦ A Q 9 8 5 2
♣ A

♠ 6
♥ 9 8 3
♦ K 10 7 6
♣ 9 8 6 5 4

♠ 10 5
♥ K 6 5 2
♦ 3
♣ K Q J 7 3 2

♠ K 9 8 7 4 3
♥ Q J 10 7
♦ J 4
♣ 10

21 9
3 7

NS 7♠; N 6♦; NS 5N; S 5♦; NS 2♥; EW 2♠; Par +2210

Strong two-suited hands can be difficult to bid if you start too high, so you can often open at the one-level and show your strength on the next round. Here I suggest that you open 1♦ as North. East will overcall 2♣, which South should pass and North should reopen with a double. I'd now bid 3♠ with the South hand, to show a good suit and a hand that was not strong enough to bid on the previous round. North will probably ask for aces and then settle in the small slam. Count your tricks!

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Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 7
♥ J 5 2
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ 10 9 7 3

♠ J 9 3
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ J 10 6
♣ K J 2

♠ 8 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 8 5
♣ Q 8 5

♠ A K Q
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 6 4

5 4
9 22

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; Par +630

South will normally open two no trump and be raised to game by North.

West should lead the ♦ J as it is the only safe lead. The heart position means that South will make ten tricks most of the time.

Board 22
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K 10 5 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 10 6

♠ Q
♥ A K 10 7
♦ A Q 9 6 3
♣ J 9 2

♠ J 9 8 4 3
♥ J
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A 7 5 3

♠ A 7 6
♥ 9 8 4 3 2
♦ 2
♣ K Q 8 4

9 6
16 9

NS 1N; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par -90

After two passes West should open 1♦ - note you open the longer suit, not the stronger. If East passes then you'll be pleased to be in diamonds and not hearts, but many Easts will want to bid their 5-card spade suit.

West does not really have a strong enough hand to bid 2♥ when you have a singleton spade, but I would rebid 1NT despite the singleton. Partner has bid your singleton suit and hopefully the high singleton will be sufficient. This will get passed out. A heart lead will be a nice start.

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ A 8 3
♥ 10 9 5
♦ A 10 3
♣ A Q 8 3

♠ K 10 6
♥ K 6
♦ J 7 5 4
♣ J 10 9 6

♠ J 9 7 4
♥ A Q J 8 7 2
♦ 2
♣ 7 5

♠ Q 5 2
♥ 4 3
♦ K Q 9 8 6
♣ K 4 2

14 8 10

EW 3♥; NS 3♦; NS 3♣; NS 1N; EW 1♠; Par -140

After two passes North will open a weak no trump. With both sides vulnerable it is prudent for East to pass, but I guess many will bid 2♥. This may finish the auction and dummy will be a pleasant surprise.

With the spade finesse working East can make nine tricks, losing two clubs, a diamond, and the ace of spades.

Board 24
West Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 6
♥ 7 6 5
♦ A 9 6
♣ J 6 5 2

♠ Q 7 5 4
♥ A K
♦ K J 10 8 5
♣ Q 10

♠ 3 2
♥ J 8 4 2
♦ Q 7 3 2
♣ 9 8 4

♠ A K J 8
♥ Q 10 9 3
♦ 4
♣ A K 7 3

5 15 17

NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 2♦; Par +140

After West opens 1♦ it will be passed around to South who has a perfect hand for a takeout double. West should pass as partner clearly has nothing and North should respond 2♣. Although you have a diamond stop, you really need a stronger hand to respond one no trump.

East may feel that it is now right to show 4-card support with 2♦ and South's 3♣ should finish the auction. At least declarer knows where all the opponents points lie.

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Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 8 5
♥ 9 6 5 4 3 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ 6

♠ K 9 7 3 2
♥ Q
♦ A 9 6 3 2
♣ J 7

♠ Q 6
♥ K 10
♦ 10 8 7
♣ Q 9 8 5 4 2

♠ J 10 4
♥ A J 8 7
♦ J 5
♣ A K 10 3

9 10 7 14

NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +430

After two passes South will open a weak no trump showing a balanced 12-14 HCP. North should transfer to hearts or bid an invitational 3♥ if you do not play transfers. South has an easy accept to bid the low point count game.

South will lose one spade (throwing one spade loser on the ♣ K), one trump, and the ace of diamonds to make the contract. Just remember to draw trumps!

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 10 8 6 5
♥ A 4
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ 5 4

♠ 4 3
♥ Q
♦ A 10 7
♣ A K 10 9 8 7 6

♠ A J
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 2
♦ 9 8 2
♣ 3 2

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ K J 10 3
♦ Q J 6
♣ Q J

10 13 5 12

EW 3N; NS 2♠; EW 3♣; NS 2♦; Par -300; NS 4♦×-2; NS 4♠×-2

South has a weak no trump opener even though it is not the best 12 points (it is 'quacky' with too many queens and jacks).

West will bid a natural 2♣ if available (it shows the majors for some) and North can compete with 2♠. Despite a good fit, with a minimum hand South should pass but West will probably compete with 3♣. East-West should not worry about missing an 18 HCP three no trump contract!

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ 2
♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A K J 10 8

♠ 8 6 5
♥ 9 3
♦ K J 10 2
♣ Q 9 3 2

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ A Q J 10
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ 7

♠ K Q J 9 7
♥ 7 6
♦ A 9 6
♣ 6 5 4

13 11 10

N 2N; N 2♠; S 1N; EW 2♦; S 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +120

East should really pass as 4441 hands are never as strong as you think, but I expect some will open 1♥. South can overcall 1♠ and this is a problem for North, who will have to bid 2♣ (which is forcing). This should eventually lead to 3NT, a contract doomed to failure.

After three passes, North should open 1♥. When holding two 5-card suits, open the higher ranking one, not the stronger one, as it will make bidding both suits a lot easier. Well done to any North-South getting a plus score.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 3
♥ 6
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ J 8 7 6 5

♠ 10 8 2
♥ Q 10 8 5 4 3
♦ J 3
♣ Q 2

♠ 9 7 4
♥ J 2
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ K 10 9 4

♠ A Q 6 5
♥ A K 9 7
♦ A Q 2
♣ A 3

8 5 4 23

NS 7♠; NS 6♦; NS 5N; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; Par +2210

If West plays weak two bids, this is a normal 2♥ opener. The suit could be better but it is favourable vulnerability and you do not want to give the opponents a free ride. All auctions will probably finish in 3NT, even in a top-level event and South will make eleven tricks.

If West passes, then South will open 2♣ and rebid 2NT over North's 2♦ negative bid. North has an easy raise to 3NT.

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Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 6		♠ A 8 5 3
♥ Q 7 5		♥ A J 10 4
♦ 10 8 6 4 3		♦ K 2
♣ Q J 4		♣ 8 7 2
♠ 10 4 2	♠ N	♠ A 8 5 3
♥ 9 8 6 3	♥ W	♥ A J 10 4
♦ A 9 7	♦ E	♦ K 2
♣ K 9 3	♣ S	♣ 8 7 2
		♠ Q J 9 7
		♥ K 2
		♦ Q J 5
		♣ A 10 6 5
7	8	
	12	
13		

EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +90

East will open a weak no trump and that will finish the auction.

With ♠ QJ76 then the best lead is the 4th best spade, but with the ♠ 9 I would lead the ♠ Q in the hope of trapping the ♠ 10 later. This lead will probably be ducked by East and South can continue with the ♠ 7, established two more spade tricks.

Declarer needs to see all the cards to make this contract and will normally go down one or two tricks. Finding the heart fit will not play better.

Board 15
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 4		♠ K 7 6
♥ A Q 7 6 3		♥ 4
♦ Q 9		♦ A 10 5 3 2
♣ A 7 2		♣ Q 9 8 6
♠ 8	♠ N	♠ K 7 6
♥ K 10 9 8 5	♥ W	♥ 4
♦ 6 4	♦ E	♦ A 10 5 3 2
♣ K 10 5 4 3	♣ S	♣ Q 9 8 6
		♠ A J 10 5 3 2
		♥ J 2
		♦ K J 8 7
		♣ J
14		
6	9	
11		

NS 6♠; NS 3N; NS 3♥; NS 2♦; EW 2♠; Par +1100;
EW 7♣×-5

The South hand is too strong for an opening weak two bid or pre-empt and 1 ♠ is best. If West plays Michaels Cue Bids, then they may bid 2 ♠ showing hearts and a minor and now East will probably compete to 5 ♣.

However I expect most Wests will pass and North will respond 2 ♥. South should show a minimum opener and rebid 2 ♠ and now North should finish the auction with 4 ♠. Mathematicians can compute the precise odds of slam making.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 4 3		♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ K Q J 10 9 2		♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ 9		♦ 5 4
♣ K 5		♣ Q 6 2
♠ A 7 2	♠ N	♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ —	♥ W	♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ K Q 8 7 6 3 2	♦ E	♦ 5 4
♣ A 4 3	♣ S	♣ Q 6 2
		♠ J 5
		♥ A 6 5
		♦ A J 10
		♣ J 10 9 8 7
14		
13	2	
11		

NS 5♥; S 4N; N 3N; S 3♠; N 2♠; EW 2♦; NS 2♣;
Par +450

After two passes West will open 1 ♦ and North will overcall 1 ♥. South now has a very good hand with support for partner's suit. You can show this very good hand by cue bidding 2 ♦. If South had good spades or clubs, then they could be bid so 2 ♦ must promise heart support and a maximum hand for the auction to date.

So even when West bids 3 ♦, North can jump to game with 4 ♥. North needs to play a club to the ace to make the contract, based on West's bidding.

Board 16
West Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q J 9 6		♠ A 10 3
♥ A Q J 7 6 2		♥ A K 8 3
♦ 7		♦ K Q 10 9
♣ 6 4		♣ 9 8
♠ 8 7 2	♠ N	♠ A 10 3
♥ 4	♥ W	♥ A K 8 3
♦ A J 8 2	♦ E	♦ K Q 10 9
♣ A Q J 3 2	♣ S	♣ 9 8
		♠ K 5 4
		♥ 9 5
		♦ 6 5 4 3
		♣ K 10 7 5
6		
12	16	
6		

EW 6♦; EW 4N; EW 5♠; EW 3♠; EW 1♥; Par -1370

West can open 1 ♣ (not a weak no trump with a singleton) and North may overcall 1 ♥ - not many points but vulnerability is favourable. If North does overcall, East may just bid three no trump to show a balanced game hand with a good stop in hearts.

If North passes then East will respond 1 ♦. West can give a simple raise to 2 ♦. Slam looks a long way away so I expect East will just bid three no trump now. Finessing the club will bring 10 tricks.

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Board 17
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 6 4		♠ K 9 8
♥ A Q 7		♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8		♦ J 4 3
♣ 10 4 3		♣ A K Q
♠ 10 7 5 3	♠ N	♠ K 9 8
♥ J 10	♥ W	♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ 6 5 2	♦ E	♦ J 4 3
♣ 9 6 5 2	♣ S	♣ A K Q
		♠ J 2
		♥ K 9 8 6
		♦ A K Q 7
		♣ J 8 7
12		
1	13	
14		

NS 3N; NS 3♥; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; NS 2♣; Par +400

North will open one no trump showing 12-14 balanced. South can use Stayman by bidding 2 ♣ to ask partner for a major. North will bid 2 ♠ and South will bid three no trump. This sequence shows that South has four hearts.

East will lead the top three clubs. North has to notice that the ♥ J10 are doubleton and that the ♥ 9 is good for a trick. A losing spade finesse will mean nine tricks are the limit.

Board 19
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 9 3 2		♠ K Q 10 6
♥ K J 9 6 3		♥ Q 5 2
♦ 2		♦ 10 9 4 3
♣ J 10 9		♣ K 5
♠ 8 7 5	♠ N	♠ K Q 10 6
♥ A 10 8 7	♥ W	♥ Q 5 2
♦ K J 7 5	♦ E	♦ 10 9 4 3
♣ Q 6	♣ S	♣ K 5
		♠ A 4
		♥ 4
		♦ A Q 8 6
		♣ A 8 7 4 3 2
6		
10	10	
14		

NS 3♠; NS 1N; EW 2♦; Par +110

With an unbalanced hand South should open their longest suit, 1 ♣.

After West passes North will bid 1 ♥ and South should rebid 2 ♣. Although it is tempting to rebid 2 ♦, this is known as a reverse and shows 16+ points. You are not strong enough for this and 2 ♣ could be the final contract.

Board 18
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 10		♠ A Q 8 4 2
♥ K 9 8 4		♥ 6 5
♦ J 9 8 7 5		♦ 2
♣ Q 3		♣ A 9 8 4 2
♠ 9 5 3	♠ N	♠ A Q 8 4 2
♥ Q J 7	♥ W	♥ 6 5
♦ K Q 6	♦ E	♦ 2
♣ J 10 7 6	♣ S	♣ A 9 8 4 2
		♠ K 7 6
		♥ A 10 3 2
		♦ A 10 4 3
		♣ K 5
7		
9	10	
14		

EW 2♠; NS 2♥; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣; Par -110

East is at favourable vulnerability and has two good 5-card suits. With all my points in the long suits I would open 1 ♠ despite only holding 10 points. South has more points and can double 1 ♠ for takeout. West will ignore this and bid 1 NT.

Opposite a takeout double North should bid 2 ♥ rather than diamonds. This is because the takeout double focuses on the major suit (or suits) and partner is almost guaranteed to have hearts and not always guaranteed to hold diamonds. West will probably pass 2 ♥ to lose -110.

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 9 6 2		♠ 7 5
♥ J 8 5		♥ K 10 9 7 6
♦ A 10 9		♦ Q J 6 5
♣ Q 9 3		♣ A 4
♠ A 8 4	♠ N	♠ 7 5
♥ Q 2	♥ W	♥ K 10 9 7 6
♦ 8 7 3 2	♦ E	♦ Q J 6 5
♣ J 10 8 2	♣ S	♣ A 4
		♠ K Q J 3
		♥ A 4 3
		♦ K 4
		♣ K 7 6 5
7		
10		
16		

NS 3♠; NS 1N; E 1♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♠; Par +140

After three passes South will open 1 ♠ and get raised to 2 ♠. This should be passed out.

West will probably lead the ♣ J which helps declarer resolve the problem in the suit. A heart lead would work better but you cannot prevent South taking nine tricks.