

An Archive of Deals where the 'Rough' 2♦ Opening has been Employed

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1 Introduction

The 'Rough' 2♦ opening, also known as the 'Ekren' 2♦ (after the Norwegian Grand Master, Bjørn Ekren), is used to show a weak hand, with 4/5 diamonds, and a 4-card major. If you hold two four card suits then simulations indicate the chance of an eight card fit in one of them is around 60%, and rises to a healthy 78% if you are 5-4 or better. Total Trick theory predicts that your opponents will rarely get rich doubling you in a such a fit at the two level. Indeed you are virtually always safe if non-vulnerable. Even if the fit isn't there, the bid is quite slippery and it may be too tricky to be able to extract a penalty.

This archive is a record of deals where my partner or I have used the 'Rough' 2♦ opening, with or without success. I have tried to be comprehensive with this record, even including the slightly naughty openings at the end.

There are three main points of interest on each deal:

1. How the 2♦ opening performed at the table (against non-perfect opponents).
2. How the 2♦ opening might have performed, had the opponents been experts.
3. Whether the 2♦ opening risked a costly penalty.

My intuition suggests that the 2♦ opening will be very good against ordinary opponents, and perhaps hold its own against very good opponents (getting some good and some bad results). I doubt it will go for many big penalties, at the table.

2 Notes on the 2♦ Opening

2.1 Treatment of the 2♦ Opening

I play the 2♦ opening to show 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, with the range varying by position (but the same at all vulnerabilities):

1st position, 4-9 HCP.

2nd position, 6-9 HCP.

3rd position, 0-9 HCP.

4th position, 8-11 HCP.

Strictly speaking, opener shouldn't have a void, or three 4-card suits. In 2nd position, we will choose not to open most of the 4/4 hands within the range, and thus the probability that we hold 5 diamonds for our bid is greatly increased. We probably don't open it at all in 4th position, but we haven't decided on this yet.

Non-vulnerable, we will open almost any hand within the specifications and treatments just given, but we will be slightly more careful when vulnerable, especially when opponents are non-vulnerable as well.

We occasionally step outside these limits in 3rd position (as with any system), and open 4441 hands, or hands with 6 diamonds and a 4-card major, or hands with 10-11 HCP. These are considered as misbids though, and responder shouldn't take this into account when responding.

2.2 Bidding in response to the 2♦ Opening

Our structure after the opening 2♦ is very simple, with most bids being sign-offs. The complete structure is:

2♥ is 'pass or correct', opener should pass this response if he holds 4 hearts, otherwise he should bid 2♠. If responder holds say 2-4-1-6 shape, he could bid 2♥, and, if opener continues with 2♠, retreat to 3♣.

2♠ is a non-forcing sign-off, responder has 5+ spades. Opener can (and should) raise when holding 4 spades and a non-minimum hand.

2NT is a forcing enquiry, two different structures are shown below, we usually play the simpler one.

3♣ is a sign-off, responder has 6+ clubs.

3♦ is a pre-emptive diamond raise, responder has 4/5 diamonds.

3♥ and 3♠ are pre-emptive bids, responder has a 7/8-card suit.

3NT+ are all to play, except 4NT and 5NT, which would be RKCB, or a grand slam try, respectively. Direct 4NT would be RKCB for diamonds, while 2NT (enquiry) followed by 4NT would be RKCB for opener's major suit.

In a competitive auction, over a double of 2♦, we play all bids as before, except that 'redouble' is asking opener to bid his major, and 2♥ becomes a natural sign-off. Over an overcall of 2♦, we play all bids as before, except that a cue-bid is forcing, asking opener to bid his major suit. All of our doubles are for penalty.

2.2.1 The simple 2NT enquiry

The simple 2NT enquiry has responses:

3♣ lower end of range, with 4 hearts.

3♦ lower end of range, with 4 spades.

3♥ upper end of range, with 4 hearts.

3♠ upper end of range, with 4 spades.

2.2.2 The complicated 2NT enquiry

The more complicated 2NT enquiry has responses:

3♣ upper end of range (not 5♦+4♠), then 3♦ asks,

3♥ upper end of range, 4♦+4♥.

3♠ upper end of range, 4♦+4♠.

3NT upper end of range, 5♦+4♥.

3♦ lower end of range, with 5 diamonds, then 3♥ asks,

3♠ lower end of range, 5♦+4♠.

3NT lower end of range, 5♦+4♥.

3♥ lower end of range, 4♦+4♥.

3♠ lower end of range, 4♦+4♠.

3NT upper end of range, 5♦+4♠.

3 Suggested Defence to the 2♦ Opening

The suggested defence shown here has been devised with simplicity in mind. Having said that, it is the very defence I would play, if I met the 'rough' 2♦ at the table. It is also the defence that I will consider my imaginary 'experts' to use, when judging how they might bid over our 2♦ opening.

Dbl takeout, 12-19ish fairly balanced, or perhaps some strong types, with Lebensohl 2NT available in response, for a very weak hand.

2♥ or 2♠ natural overcall, good values with a good suit.

2NT natural overcall, balanced 16-18 HCP.

3♣ natural overcall, good values with a good club suit.

3♦ strong forcing bid, 19+ HCP, or very good playing strength (at least 8 playing tricks).

3♥ or 3♠ natural and strong, with a good long suit and 7-8 playing tricks.

3NT to play.

4 Alternative Auctions

When considering alternative auctions (that is, a typical auction on the same deal at other tables in a large field), I have tried to be objective and realistic. Of course, often lots of silly things go on, and the scores on the traveller don't bear much resemblance to the 'par' score.

My imaginary players use a system called Standard Warwick. This is a frilly student-friendly version of standard ACOL, with weak 2's in the majors, and a weak 1NT.

A description of this system can be viewed at the Warwick University Bridge Club website:

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/~suaak/standardintro.html>

5 The hands

5.1 Brighton

Dlr: West ♠ AJ87 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ J86
 ♦ QJT87
 ♣ 3

♠ KT4	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q9	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ K52		♥ AT93				
♦ K42		♦ A63				
♣ J876		♣ KQT5				

♠ 6532
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ 95
 ♣ A942

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	Dbl (3)	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.
3. Intended as takeout, but taken by West as penalty.

It is probably more sensible to play the second double as takeout. East may be better overcalling 2NT on the first round, although he would be taking a risk, with his partner being a passed hand.

The opponents didn't defend perfectly, so 2♠ went off 1, for -100. It should go more off, although it would be hard for East/West to penalise us (without a misunderstanding!).

At another table, a typical auction will get East/West to either 1NT or 3NT, depending on how aggressive they are (and perhaps on their system). Declarer should make at least 8 tricks, and will rarely go off in 3NT.

I note that 2♠ could go more than one off, but think that this is worth the risk, against **average** opponents.

5.2 Brighton

Dlr: West ♠ A952 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ 94
 ♦ A9732
 ♣ 87

♠ 863	N W E S	♠ KQ4	
♥ AJ5		♥ 7632	
♦ QJT5		♦ 4	
♣ 954		♣ AKQ32	

♠ JT7
 ♥ KQT8
 ♦ K86
 ♣ JT6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	3♣	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

3♣ is a poor bid by East. He would be much better to Double, which will be passed out (South will pass rather than try to escape to a major, and a brave West should be able to Pass). Now the long spade will always make a trick, and, even with the bad diamond break, declarer should be able to escape for -500 at worst, and perhaps only -200.

At the table, we let 3♣ slip through (we should take it off) for a score of -110.

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	No	1♣	No
1♦	No	1♥	No
1NT	End		

They are struggling to reach 3NT, which isn't that good a contract anyway, although it can be made on this layout.

So on this deal, the 2♦ opening risks going for a penalty of -200 or more, with most of the field only in partscores either way. This would be a big risk, especially at MPs, in a good field.

5.3 Reading

Dlr: North ♠ AK53 MPs
 Vul: EW ♥ J3
 ♦ 95432
 ♣ T5

♠ J	N W E S	♠ T842
♥ T42		♥ 9875
♦ JT76		♦ K
♣ K9873		♣ A642

♠ Q976
 ♥ AKQ6
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ QJ

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♠ (3)	No	4♠
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Maximum with 4 spades (as opposed to minimum with 4 spades).

South considers investigating a slam, but decides that he would need too much from the North hand (slam is likely to be on a finesse *at best*). The ♦K was led, and declarer played out trumps before cashing his remaining winners, for 10 tricks.

At another table, a typical auction should get North/South to the same contract of 4♠.

5.4 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ K987 Aggregate
 Vul: EW ♥ K74
 ♦ K542
 ♣ T3

♠ AJ432	N W E S	♠ T5
♥ T9		♥ AJ853
♦ Q863		♦ J7
♣ 72		♣ QJ95

♠ Q6
 ♥ Q62
 ♦ AT9
 ♣ AK864

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♥	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

South could double 2♥ for penalty, but isn't quite strong enough this time. On the lead of the ♠Q, the defence eventually came to 9 tricks, for a score of +400. Of course, East should keep quiet, and then 2♦ will be the final contract – perhaps making, and not going more than 1 down.

At other tables, some Wests and Easts will open their hands with a weak (or Lucas) 2. This could be very costly, if South can find a Double and North a Pass. Otherwise, the contract may well end up as 2NT, after

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	No	No	1♣
No	1♦	No	1NT
No	2NT	End	

1NT or 2NT should both make for a small positive score.

5.5 Rugby

Dlr: North ♠ AQ94 MPs
 Vul: None ♥ 63
 ♦ QT64
 ♣ 765

♠ KT2	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J763	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ T9754		♥ A82				
♦ 3		♦ A972				
♣ QJ98		♣ AT				

♠ 85
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ KJ85
 ♣ K432

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	3♦
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.

East is slightly off-shape for a takeout double, but it is not too bad. West is not quite strong enough to stretch to 3♥. At the table, 3♦ was made, for +110, with both finesses being right.

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	No	1NT	No
2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)	End

1. Transfer - showing 5+ hearts.
2. Completing the transfer.

On the sensible lead of ♥K, East can score 8 tricks fairly easily, for -110.

So the 2♦ opening would have gained even against good defence.

5.6 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ K865	MPs			
Vul: EW	♥ T5				
	♦ QT97				
	♣ QJ7				
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ AT9 ♥ 642 ♦ A653 ♣ KT9 </td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> </td> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ Q42 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 842 ♣ A643 </td> </tr> </table>			♠ AT9 ♥ 642 ♦ A653 ♣ KT9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q42 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 842 ♣ A643
♠ AT9 ♥ 642 ♦ A653 ♣ KT9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q42 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 842 ♣ A643			
	♠ J73				
	♥ AJ983				
	♦ KJ				
	♣ 852				

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	2♥ (3)
2NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.
3. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades. (had forgotten to agree that Rdbl meant this).

East has made a fairly disgusting takeout double, and West's 2NT bid is equally silly, deservedly going 3 down for +300.

East/West do better by just passing, letting North/South come to rest in 2♠, on a 4-3 trump fit. 2♠ can be made, and shouldn't fail by more than one trick.

At other tables, the deal may well be passed out. Otherwise, 1NT by East/West is probably the best spot, with 7 tricks available, although North/South may find 7 tricks of their own, first.

Against good opponents, opening the North hand with 2♦ may be asking for a bottom instead of an average, but against ordinary opponents it is just about worth opening.

5.7 Coventry

Dir: West	♠ 74		MPs
Vul: All	♥ T865		
	♦ A9876		
	♣ A5		
♠ 6	N W E S	♠ AKQT952	
♥ KQ72		♥ A3	
♦ 532		♦ K4	
♣ JT432		♣ K8	
	♠ J83		
	♥ J94		
	♦ QJT		
	♣ Q976		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	4♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

East has made the practical bid of 4♠. We let declarer make 11 tricks, creative defence might hold him to 10.

East/West are unlikely to want to penalise North/South (in 2♦ doubled), but if they do, they might well be able to extract the magic -800. But -500 is more likely.

At other tables, East/West should always get to 4♠. Even if East makes a slam try, but stops at the 5-level, he should be fine.

5.8 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ J3	IMPs			
Vul: All	♥ T973				
	♦ KT86				
	♣ 754				
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ K9872 ♥ – ♦ Q9543 ♣ JT8 </td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> </td> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ AQ6 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ A ♣ KQ632 </td> </tr> </table>			♠ K9872 ♥ – ♦ Q9543 ♣ JT8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AQ6 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ A ♣ KQ632
♠ K9872 ♥ – ♦ Q9543 ♣ JT8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AQ6 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ A ♣ KQ632			
	♠ T54				
	♥ J8642				
	♦ J72				
	♣ A9				

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	No
2♠	No	3♣	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.

Both East and West have been very conservative here – East could choose to overcall 3♦ directly (strong and forcing), or he could bid 3♦ on his second turn, which would also show a strong hand. 3♣ is a strong bid, but it's non-forcing. West is really worth 3♠ or even 4♠ on his first turn, and should bid again over 3♣. Both 6♣ and 6♠ are good contracts. After the 2♦ pre-empt, some would argue that East/West should be happy to find a playable game, and not stretch too hard to find a slam.

If West decides he is worth a pass of his partner's Double (recommended action), the defence can expect to take at least 8 tricks (for -800), and probably 10 tricks (for -1400). This is still a good save for North/South compared to the slam, which is on, but it could be a costly penalty when the other table are only in game.

At other tables, good East/West pairs shouldn't have too much trouble reaching slam. They will probably reach 6♠ rather than 6♣.

Vulnerable, it might be wiser not to open the North cards, against good opponents anyway!

5.9 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ KJ74 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ 642
 ♦ Q965
 ♣ J8

♠ Q93	N W E S	♠ 8
♥ AT7		♥ J983
♦ T873		♦ AK2
♣ QT5		♣ A9762

♠ AT652
 ♥ KQ5
 ♦ J4
 ♣ K43

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

North got the lead of a low heart, and played low from dummy quickly, in the hope that West would play the ♥A from his holding. West managed to play the ♥T, correctly, and continued with ♥A and another heart. North got the trumps wrong, and thus only came to 7 tricks, for -100.

At other tables North/South should still end in 2♠, unless East/West bravely compete to 3♣ (which goes 1 down for +100). 2♠ does have play, and so the 2♦ opening has not cost, except in perhaps making the defence slightly easier.

5.10 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ A53 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ T962
 ♦ Q983
 ♣ 52

♠ – ♥ J54 ♦ A2 ♣ AKQJT986	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQJ9742 ♥ A8 ♦ T764 ♣ –
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ T86
 ♥ KQ73
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ 743

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	3♠	No
4♣	No	4♠	No
4NT (2)	No	5♦ (3)	No
6♣	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Blackwood.
3. One ace.

6♣ was hopeless, as would 6♠ have been. The problem is the lack of communication between the two hands. 3NT is the best spot, but almost impossible to land in. 4♠ would probably make.

At other tables, unless West is very restrained (perhaps judging well that he has a misfit with East), they are going to end in a slam.

The 2♦ opening is unlikely to be punished (for -800) by the opponents, when they each have their own solid suit, and a void.

5.11 Coventry

Dlr: West	♠ KJ7		IMPs												
Vul: EW	♥ KT97														
	♦ T863														
	♣ J9														
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">♠ 852</td> <td style="width: 15%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: left;">♠ 963</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ AQ653</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ J82</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ 42</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ AJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ A85</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ KT643</td> </tr> </table>				♠ 852	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ 963	♥ AQ653		♥ J82	♦ 42		♦ AJ	♣ A85		♣ KT643
♠ 852	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ 963													
♥ AQ653		♥ J82													
♦ 42		♦ AJ													
♣ A85		♣ KT643													
	♠ AQT4														
	♥ 4														
	♦ KQ975														
	♣ Q72														

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♥ (3)	No	4♠
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Maximum with 4 hearts (as opposed to minimum with 4 hearts).

South had misunderstood the 3♥ response, thinking that North had a *minimum* hand with 4 *spades*, which goes some way towards explaining his 4♠ bid. South can visualise 4♠ making opposite some possible North hands, although he may do better by just bidding a quiet 3♦, in the long run. Note that North has overvalued his hand as well, – it's more of a minimum than a maximum.

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	No	No	1♦
1♥	1NT	2♥	End

North may choose to bid 3♦ on the third round, especially at favourable vulnerability, but his hand is so flat, and his heart holding so nice, that he should prefer to defend. 2♥ could be taken 2 off, with good defence, for +200, although +100 is perhaps more realistic.

5.12 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 7542 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ K73
 ♦ A874
 ♣ J4

♠ AQ98 ♥ JT ♦ Q93 ♣ KQ82	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ T3 ♥ A542 ♦ JT ♣ AT963
N					
W E					
S					

♠ KJ6
 ♥ Q986
 ♦ K652
 ♣ 75

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
Dbl (2)	No	3♣	No
3♠	No	4♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.

N.b. during the bidding, East had his ♥2 mixed in with his diamond suit!

East/West stumbled into the rather good contract of 4♠, even on the 4-2 trump fit, as the cards lie it is cold! Lucky for us, declarer made a bit of a hash of it, and ended up 3 down for +300.

Playing the recommended defence to the 'rough' 2♦, East would probably still bid 3♣, to show his good values. West might try 3♦, looking for 3NT, and when East bids 3♥, West will revert to 4♣, which just scrapes home.

At other tables, East/West will probably play the hand in 1NT, for -90 or perhaps as much as -150, or alternatively in a club partscore, for -130.

5.13 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ J843 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ JT8
 ♦ A8643
 ♣ 7

♠ KQ9	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ A7652
N						
W	E					
S						
♥ K743		♥ Q5				
♦ T95		♦ 7				
♣ KJ4		♣ AQT95				

♠ T
 ♥ A962
 ♦ KQJ2
 ♣ 8632

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♠	3♦
4♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

South led the ♦K, and continued with the ♦Q, declarer ruffing. He now sneaked a quick heart trick, before discovering the bad trump break on the second round of spades. From here, he can always make the contract, by simply drawing another round of trumps and then playing on clubs. Even on the best defence, where South must take his ♥A on the first heart trick, declarer can always make – as the cards lie.

Other East/West pairs should reach 4♠ with ease, and perhaps the defence won't be so unkind to declarer as we were (having been aided by the diamond pre-empt).

North/South are safe in 3♦, declarer can always find 9 tricks, and perhaps one could say that the 2♦ opening gives the opponents a chance to go wrong, although they should be alright on this deal.

5.14 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ 43		MPs												
Vul: EW	♥ QJ97														
	♦ KQJ75														
	♣ 85														
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ 96</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ AJ875</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A8</td> <td></td> <td>♥ T6542</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A64</td> <td></td> <td>♦ 83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ QJT642</td> <td></td> <td>♣ A</td> </tr> </table>				♠ 96	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AJ875	♥ A8		♥ T6542	♦ A64		♦ 83	♣ QJT642		♣ A
♠ 96	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AJ875													
♥ A8		♥ T6542													
♦ A64		♦ 83													
♣ QJT642		♣ A													
	♠ KQT2														
	♥ K3														
	♦ T92														
	♣ K973														

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
3♣	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

North led the ♠4, and West miscounted the trumps to end up 2 off instead of the 1 off that he was heading towards. I can't see a line for the defence to hold declarer to 7 tricks. West should probably keep quiet, even with 6 clubs - his hand is still very defensive.

The deal may be passed out at other tables, although these days, someone is bound to opt to open light (perhaps West will open 1♣ in 4th position). East/West don't have an 8-card fit, while North/South only have an 8-card fit in diamonds (which our opening 2♦ managed to hit on the nose). Stopping low is the order of the day, most partscores will go off, although North/South can make 9 tricks in diamonds. North/South are due a positive score on this deal, with the par score estimated at about +150 (some Easts will get carried away, and end in a very poor contract, perhaps even game).

North/South are safe in 2♦, declarer can always find at least 8 tricks, and if East/West compete, they will find themselves heading for a poor score.

5.15 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ 5		MPs								
Vul: NS	♥ J843										
	♦ KJT64										
	♣ K95										
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> </table>					N			W	E	S	S
	N										
W	E	S	S								
♠ K9872		♠ JT63									
♥ 962		♥ K7									
♦ A32		♦ 98									
♣ 76		♣ AQJ82									
	♠ AQ4										
	♥ AQT5										
	♦ Q75										
	♣ T43										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
2♠	No	3♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

On the lead of the ♥3, declarer made 9 tricks, for -140. He should always make this many, in a spade partscore, and East/West will usually buy the contract in some number of spades. The only exception would be if East chooses to pass, whence South will open 1NT, and West may be too weak to overcall. East should still protect, especially if playing a 2-suited defence like Astro, although if he hasn't opened, he may not protect either. 1NT by South should easily make, perhaps for as many as 10 tricks.

North/South are safe in 2♦, in fact 9 tricks are available with the ♥K onside. 2♥ could make 10 tricks, if the defence don't take their 3 club winners quickly. Some North/South pairs may compete to the contract of 3♦ (or 3♥), and be allowed to play there, although realistically East/West should bid on to 3♠.

5.16 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ 985		MPs																			
Vul: NS	♥ KT42																					
	♦ KJ864																					
	♣ 8																					
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">♠ AK763</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">♠ T42</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ Q6</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ A83</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ –</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ QT753</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ Q97532</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ AT</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				♠ AK763	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ T42		♥ Q6		♥ A83		♦ –		♦ QT753		♣ Q97532		♣ AT	
♠ AK763	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ T42																	
N																						
W E																						
S																						
♥ Q6		♥ A83																				
♦ –		♦ QT753																				
♣ Q97532		♣ AT																				
	♠ QJ																					
	♥ J975																					
	♦ A92																					
	♣ KJ64																					

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
2♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

On the lead of the ♣8, declarer somehow managed to lose 6 tricks, to go one off, for +50. Making 10 tricks is within declarer's reach, and should be a fairly standard result (whether in 2♠ or 4♠). West will find it difficult over the 2♦ opening, but perhaps 3♣ is better, or even Dbl (although with such a distributional hand this is not recommended).

4♠ is not a brilliant contract, although some aggressive pairs will bid to it, with West having such a distributional hand, and East the two useful aces along with 3-card spade support. In the actual field, twice as many pairs were in 2♠ as 4♠, with one or two other scattered results. The par here is judged to be -240, between the -170 for 10 tricks in a spade partscore, and -420 for the spade game.

Note that it is possible for the defence to extract the magic -500 from doubling 2♦, although West is unlikely to let this happen with such a distributional hand. Also, in 2♦, declarer might manage to scrape home with 7 tricks, for only -200.

5.17 London

Dlr: South ♠ J952 MPs
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ Q9632
 ♣ J93

♠ A83 ♥ A874 ♦ J874 ♣ 72	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ KT7 ♥ QJ62 ♦ AK ♣ AK85
N					
W E					
S					

♠ Q64
 ♥ KT95
 ♦ T5
 ♣ QT64

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	–	–	No
No	2♦ (1)	2NT	No
3♣ (2)	No	3♥	No
4♥	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 0-9 HCP.
2. Stayman.

On the lead of the ♣4, declarer won and led the ♥Q, covered and won with the ♥A, and discovered the bad trump break returning to hand with the ♥J. He still managed to escape by ruffing two clubs in dummy, for 10 tricks. West was assuming East had 16-18ish, but still has enough to drive to game (3NT is bound to be safe, with his Jxxx holding in diamonds to help stop the supposed danger suit).

4♥ making 10 tricks was a universal contract, and a standard result of -420.

Note that if East tries a Double of 2♦, which would be quite reasonable, South would Redouble, and West would Pass. North would bid 2♠, and East Double again, which West will sit. If the East/West defend well, they will get their reward with a penalty of -500 or more.

5.18 Internet

Dlr: South ♠ Q93 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ Q432
 ♦ A6532
 ♣ 3

♠ J85 ♥ AT65 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 876	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A42 ♥ KJ9 ♦ 97 ♣ AKQJ5
N					
W E					
S					

♠ KT76
 ♥ 87
 ♦ KT8
 ♣ T942

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	–	–	No
No	2♦ (1)	Dbl	No
3♥	No	4♥	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 0-9 HCP.

On the lead of the ♣3, declarer won and ran the ♥9, won by North, who cashed the ♦A and led another diamond to his partner's King, followed by a club ruff for the setting trick. If declarer takes the view that North has the ♥Q, he can play to the ♥A and finesse on the way back, then cash the ♥K so that North only makes one trump trick, and the defence only take 3 tricks. The defence can do better by opening with a spade, declarer's task is then impossible.

The standard contract is 3NT by East. South will probably lead a spade, and, unless North is kind, declarer has a straight 50-50 choice for his contract. Because of the entry problems to dummy, he will probably prefer to take the heart finesse through South.

After the 2♦ opening, East's double is fine, but think that West should just bid 2♥ (2NT would be Lebensohl). Then East can continue with 3♣, and West can bid 3NT with his diamond stop. The defence need to find a spade switch before presenting declarer with a diamond trick.

Note that if West decides to pass out 2♦ doubled, the contract should be taken at least 1-off, although it is unlikely to go more than 2-off (for -300).

5.19 Coventry

Dir: North	♠ AJ96	IMPs	
Vul: NS	♥ Q54		
	♦ QT87		
	♣ 87		
♠ K732	N W E S	♠ 4	
♥ A96		♥ KT73	
♦ J952		♦ K43	
♣ A4		♣ K9532	
	♠ QT85		
	♥ J82		
	♦ A6		
	♣ QJT6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

On the lead of the ♣3, West won and returned the ♣4, won by East. East led another club, ruffed by West, declarer mysteriously discarding a heart. West plays a heart to his partner's King, and receives another club, ruffed, and this time over-ruffed by declarer. Not sure what happened after that, only that declarer ended up 1-off, for -100.

The contract can be made if declarer plays on the diamonds early – with a diamond to the ace followed by a finesse of the ♦10 on the way back.

At other tables, the hand may get passed round to West, who will open 1NT. North/South, being vulnerable, will probably not compete, and 1NT will be the final contract. There are routes to 7 tricks, although the contract seems more likely to fail by 1 or 2 tricks.

5.20 Internet

Dlr: West	♠ 7		IMPs																
Vul: None	♥ AT82																		
	♦ KJ632																		
	♣ T98																		
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">♠ T53</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">♠ AKQJ964</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ KJ3</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ 76</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ AT9</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ Q875</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ J742</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ -</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				♠ T53	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AKQJ964		♥ KJ3		♥ 76		♦ AT9		♦ Q875		♣ J742		♣ -	
♠ T53	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AKQJ964																	
♥ KJ3		♥ 76																	
♦ AT9		♦ Q875																	
♣ J742		♣ -																	
	♠ 82																		
	♥ Q954																		
	♦ 4																		
	♣ AKQ653																		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♠	No
3♦ (2)	No	3♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Forcing, primarily interested in 3NT.

On the lead of the ♣K, East ruffed, played out trumps, got the diamonds right (helped by the bidding), and correctly finessed dummy's ♥J rather than ♥K. Therefore declarer finished with 11 tricks, losing just one trick in each red suit. -200 was a good result, against the making contract of 4♠.

Of course, with the diamonds marked by the bidding, 4♠ is a good contract to be in, and maybe East should be more aggressive over his partner's forcing 3♦ bid, or maybe West should realise that his red cards may be just what his partner needs (along with a trump fit), and raise to 4♠.

At other tables, many East/Wests will be pushed to 5♠ when North/South compete to the 5-level in clubs, perhaps on an auction like

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	No	1♠	2♣
2NT	3♣	4♠	5♣
No	No	5♠	End

5♣ will usually be a good sacrifice, although it can go for -500 if declarer gets the hearts wrong.

5.21 Internet

Dlr: West	♠ AQ32		IMPs
Vul: NS	♥ 82		
	♦ QT754		
	♣ 85		
♠ T874	N W E S	♠ J96	
♥ K4		♥ AJ63	
♦ AK3		♦ J962	
♣ J973		♣ T4	
	♠ K5		
	♥ QT975		
	♦ 8		
	♣ AKQ62		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

On the lead of the ♣10, North won in dummy, and continued with clubs, throwing a heart on the third round. The defence were a bit sloppy, and declarer a bit lucky, and he somehow emerged with 8 tricks. Of course the defence can do much better, certainly taking the contract off, and perhaps taking it 2-off.

South should probably continue with 3♣ over North's 2♠ bid, playing in possibly a 5-1 fit is better than playing in a 4-2 fit, especially with those clubs. 3♣ is not a great contract, although if the defence don't start with diamonds, it has a chance of making. More likely it will drift 1-off. West may choose to double the final contract of 3♣, although he cannot be sure of the strength of South's hand, so a double seems unwise. It is IMPs after all.

Most North/South pairs will end in 2♥, after the simple uncontested auction of No - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♥. This plays slightly better than 2♠, you can force out the ♥J with a probable club ruff in dummy, and then you should have your 8 tricks. Only the best defence can take the contract 1-off.

5.22 Oxford

Dlr: North ♠ 2 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ J872
 ♦ K9642
 ♣ QJ9

♠ A854 ♥ AK963 ♦ 5 ♣ 543	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KQJT97 ♥ – ♦ QJ3 ♣ AK87
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♠ 63
 ♥ QT54
 ♦ AT87
 ♣ T62

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	3♠	No
4♦ (2)	No	4♥ (3)	No
4NT (4)	No	5♠ (5)	No
6♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. East thought a cue agreeing spades, West thought a general force.
3. East presumably cue-bidding, not sure what West thought it was.
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
5. 2 Key Cards and the ♠Q.

East/West's auction seems a dubious. I agree with East's jump to 3S, although West seems to be overbidding a bit. If he thinks his partner's 4♥ bid is natural-ish then his further action looks better. East was a weaker player. Our teammates were also in 6♠, after a strong club auction.

North/South couldn't be penalised after the 2♦ opening - East is always going to compete with his hand. But East/West could stop short of slam.

In Acol, I think whether they reach 6♠ would depend on West's response to East's probable 1♠ opening. West should probably splinter with 4♦, and the singleton diamond turns out to be the key. If West chooses either 2♥ or 3♥, East/West might stop short of slam.

5.23 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ K76		IMPs				
Vul: All	♥ T962						
	♦ KQT86						
	♣ 2						
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> </table>					<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>		
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>						
♠ Q984		♠ AT52					
♥ AJ75		♥ Q843					
♦ AJ		♦ 54					
♣ KQ8		♣ J65					
	♠ J3 ♥ K ♦ 9732 ♣ AT9743						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
Dbl (2)	No	2NT (3)	No
3♣ (4)	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.
3. Lebensohl (East thought it was asking West to bid his best suit).
4. Not alerted.

East/West's auction is from the twilit zone, one of them obviously didn't understand how Lebensohl works. Never mind though. When the dust cleared, West had 5 tricks, for +400.

East should never be bidding 2NT anyway, he has a fairly clear 2♥ response. West will now bid either 3♦ (and pass East's 3♥ continuation), or be greedy and bid 2NT (raised to 3NT by East) or 3NT directly. 3♥ should be fairly easy, but 3NT will need some help. North will find it difficult to continue with diamonds, after probably leading the ♦K (with declarer ducking) – any switch could be fatal to the defence. This would be very unlucky though.

At another table, East/West should have an uncontested auction to a heart partscore (either 1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♥, or 1♥ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3♥). This contract should make 9 tricks, for the par score of -140.

5.24 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 9762 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ AT
 ♦ T9753
 ♣ 53

♠ KQ854 ♥ Q5 ♦ J ♣ QJ842	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ JT ♥ J97 ♦ AK64 ♣ K976
N					
W E					
S					

♠ A3
 ♥ K86432
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ AT

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
2♠	No	2NT	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

East/West have done well in stopping low; perhaps West should continue with 3♣ over his partner's 2NT bid, East may then get excited and bid 3NT. Unfortunately, South had fallen asleep, and led a low diamond. Dummy's ♦J held the trick. Declarer played on clubs, and South had a second chance to redeem himself, but didn't find the heart switch when in with the ♣A, to hold declarer to 8 tricks. In total, declarer came to 11 tricks, for -210. At the other table, our teammates were in 3NT, making only 6 tricks (on a heart lead).

At other tables, East will open 1NT, and West should transfer to spades. He will probably continue with 3♣ (forcing) over the completion of the transfer, and West will play 3NT. South should find the heart lead, to defeat the contract.

If East/West try to double 2♦ for penalties, South will run to 2♥ (but he will pass out 2♦ undoubled). 2♥ can be held to 7 tricks on perfect defence, but East/West are unlikely to allow 2♥ doubled to be played. They would do well to stop in 3♣ (probably making 9 tricks for -110, but perhaps getting an overtrick).

5.25 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ J932		MPs																					
Vul: None	♥ J8																							
	♦ AT984																							
	♣ Q3																							
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ AKT5</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ Q8764</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ AQ4</td> <td></td> <td>♥ 95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ KJ732</td> <td></td> <td>♦ Q6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 7</td> <td></td> <td>♣ KJ96</td> </tr> </table>				♠ AKT5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ Q8764	♥ AQ4		♥ 95	♦ KJ732		♦ Q6	♣ 7		♣ KJ96
♠ AKT5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ Q8764													
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♣ 7		♣ KJ96																						
	♠ –																							
	♥ KT8732																							
	♦ 5																							
	♣ AT8542																							

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	3♣ (2)
Dbl	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Non-forcing.

When questioned, East claimed that he wasn't sure what the double was. To compound this, West clearly hesitated before following to the first round of trumps. South got off lightly though, only going for -300 when he should go for -500. 4♠ is on for East/West, even with the bad trump break.

South could try the effect of passing 2♦. This probably gets passed out, but it should be -300 at worst, and if it gets doubled, he can always retreat to 2♥ (naturally). The only problem with this is when North has 3 or 4 hearts, when 2♥ is a much better place to play (and much higher scoring). But South knows the opponents could be in 2♠.

Without the 2♦ opening, East/West should get to 4♠. They may even investigate slam, ending in 5♠, which will probably scrape home.

5.26 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ AQ4		MPs												
Vul: NS	♥ JT52														
	♦ T732														
	♣ Q2														
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">♠ KJ52</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">♠ T87</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ AK63</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ 97</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ KQ5</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ J984</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ 93</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ J654</td> </tr> </table>				♠ KJ52		♠ T87	♥ AK63	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♥ 97	♦ KQ5		♦ J984	♣ 93		♣ J654
♠ KJ52		♠ T87													
♥ AK63	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♥ 97													
♦ KQ5		♦ J984													
♣ 93		♣ J654													
	♠ 963														
	♥ Q84														
	♦ A6														
	♣ AKT87														

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
2NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

Not quite sure why West is bidding on his hand, he should be happy to defend 2♥ (or 2♠ if that's where North/South come to rest). Bidding 2NT is asking for trouble. The good news for the defence was that North found a club lead, the bad news was that it was the ♣2, which was fine at first sight, but when North wins the ♣Q on the second trick, he imaginatively switches to the ♠Q to try to create an entry to his partner's hand. This gave declarer a 6'th trick, for only +100 to North/South. Some pairs would probably make +120 in 1NT.

If South is left to play 2♥, he might be able to get to 8 tricks, but is more likely to go 1-off.

At other tables, West may find a double of South's 1NT opening, and anything could happen. Perhaps North/South playing 2♣ or 2♥ (doubled or undoubled), or East/West playing 2♦ or 2♠ or 3♦(doubled or undoubled). I'll give up there.

5.27 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ T65 MPs
 Vul: None ♥ J975
 ♦ QJ76
 ♣ AT

♠ KQJ98	N W E S	♠ –
♥ Q		♥ AKT83
♦ K82		♦ T93
♣ 8432		♣ KQ975

♠ A7432
 ♥ 642
 ♦ A54
 ♣ J6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♥	No
2♠	No	3♣	No
3♦	No	3NT	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

An unlucky one for a change. East didn't alert the 3♦ bid, but South didn't think this significant and thus didn't lead a diamond. Or switch to a diamond when in with the ♠A. So 3NT crept home. Of course, East has no business bidding 3NT, he should just pass 3♣ (or blast 5♣, which can be made). He succeeded in fooling us, although I suspect not deliberately.

At other tables, North/South could get into an embarrassing spade partscore (embarrassing when they discover the bad break). Or East/West might play in 3♣, for something like -110.

I would imagine that East would never pass 2♦, and a double without any spades would be pretty strange, so North/South are safe here.

5.28 Coventry

Dlr: West	♠ J3		MPs												
Vul: None	♥ QT97														
	♦ KQ92														
	♣ J32														
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">♠ T96</td> <td style="width: 20%; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> N W E S </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: left;">♠ K7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ 8653</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ A42</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ 54</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ AJ76</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ QT74</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ AK96</td> </tr> </table>				♠ T96	N W E S	♠ K7	♥ 8653		♥ A42	♦ 54		♦ AJ76	♣ QT74		♣ AK96
♠ T96	N W E S	♠ K7													
♥ 8653		♥ A42													
♦ 54		♦ AJ76													
♣ QT74		♣ AK96													
	♠ AQ8542														
	♥ KJ														
	♦ T83														
	♣ 85														

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	3♠ (3)
No	No	3NT	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. 'Takeout', presumably.
3. Non-forcing.

South should just bid 2♠, really. Anyway, he seemingly got away with it, when East bid 3NT. This is a very aggressive bid, he would have been better overcalling 2NT or 3NT on the previous round.

South led the ♦8, and declarer somehow managed to scrape 8 tricks together, for +50, a bad score for NS.

North/South should have been getting +100 (don't know how, since most East/West declarers would be in 2NT or 3♣), or should have been getting +110 from a spade partscore. +90 and +140 were also on the traveller!

At IMPs, I think East would normally open 2NT, and play there (on a low spade lead, probably goes 1-off, for +50). Or East opens 1♣, South overcalls 2♠, East re-opens, and West removes to 3♣, which is left. This has chances, but is probably 1-off as well.

Against experts, South should bid just 2♠, and EW will find it hard to double us for -100.

5.29 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ QJ43		MPs								
Vul: NS	♥ Q6										
	♦ A982										
	♣ T54										
♠ K9752	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ T8
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ J	♥ A98										
♦ QT653	♦ KJ74										
♣ K2	♣ AQ76										
	♠ A6										
	♥ KT87542										
	♦ –										
	♣ J983										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
2♠	No	No	3♥
No	No	3♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

Not quite sure why East protects with 3♠, he should be fairly happy to defend 3♥, vulnerable. Having said that, South will make 10 tricks in hearts unless the defence are on top form.

North led the ♥Q, West took the ace, and played a trump. South rose with the ace and tried to cash the ♥K, but declarer ruffed this, and played the ♠K and another spade. North could play out trumps, but had no heart left, so declarer wrapped up 9 tricks, for -140.

Unsurprisingly this was a bad score, although 3♠ was a fairly ridiculous contract for East/West to be in. At IMPs, I would estimate the par to be -130, although some East/West pairs would sell out to 3♥, others would play in 2♠, or even get carried away to game in diamonds.

If South is going to compete to 3♥ on the second round, there is a case for him bidding 3♥ straight away. Partner will know to raise if he has hearts himself (quite unlikely though). And South will have to bid 3♥ over partner's expected 2♠ response anyway.

5.30 Coventry

Dlr: West	♠ 84		MPs																					
Vul: Both	♥ QJ74																							
	♦ A974																							
	♣ QT5																							
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ K7</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ QJT92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ T653</td> <td></td> <td>♥ K2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 652</td> <td></td> <td>♦ K83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ KJ98</td> <td></td> <td>♣ A73</td> </tr> </table>				♠ K7	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QJT92	♥ T653		♥ K2	♦ 652		♦ K83	♣ KJ98		♣ A73
♠ K7	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QJT92													
	N																							
W		E																						
	S																							
♥ T653		♥ K2																						
♦ 652		♦ K83																						
♣ KJ98		♣ A73																						
	♠ A653																							
	♥ A98																							
	♦ QJT																							
	♣ 642																							

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

The opponents seem to have done alright. South can't really risk a 3♦ bid, since partner could only have 4 diamonds.

South led the ♦Q, and declarer managed to make 8 tricks when the defence lost concentration. For -110.

At other tables, East would open 1♠, and his partner would respond 1NT. This would probably be the final contract, although East might play in 2♠. Both these contracts should go 1-off.

The 2♦ opening is never going to be punished here, although if East passes, North will probably play in 2♦, and may well make 8 or 9 tricks.

5.31 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ J74		MPs
Vul: Both	♥ AQ32		
	♦ Q976		
	♣ 54		
♠ AT3	N W E S	♠ 9862	
♥ 654		♥ T7	
♦ K843		♦ 5	
♣ AJ3		♣ KT9872	
	♠ KQ5		
	♥ KJ98		
	♦ AJT2		
	♣ Q6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♥ (3)	No	4♥
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Maximum with 4 hearts (as opposed to minimum with 4 hearts).

The contract rested on the diamond finesse, which was wrong. So the score was -100.

At other tables, North/South pairs should be getting to the same game.

5.32 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 42 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ J643
 ♦ QJ72
 ♣ AJT

♠ AK3	N W E S	♠ QT95
♥ K		♥ QT975
♦ T853		♦ K96
♣ 98732		♣ K

♠ J876
 ♥ A82
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q654

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

West led the ♦8, to the Jack, King and Ace. South played another diamond to the Queen, and ruffed a third round in hand. He ended up making 7 tricks, which is about the best he could have hoped for. Score was -50.

At other tables, the board may well be passed out, so getting a negative score is not a good result.

5.33 Coventry

Dir: North	♠ QJ5	IMPs	
Vul: None	♥ K872		
	♦ 8543		
	♣ K6		
♠ 82	N W E S	♠ AK7643	
♥ AQJT		♥ –	
♦ KT		♦ AQJ962	
♣ AJ754		♣ 8	
	♠ T9		
	♥ 96543		
	♦ 7		
	♣ QT932		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2NT (2)	No
4♥ (3)	No	6♠	No
6NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Showing both majors (Dbl would have been a strong NT overcall).
3. Alerted, but we never asked for an explanation.

South led a club, for +50. Either a club or a heart lead will take the contract off. At the other table, our teammates reached the grand slam in diamonds, which requires a 3-2 spade break.

East has a problem over the 2♦ bid, but i'm not sure that a 2NT overcall will solve it. Not sure why West felt the need to remove 6♠ to 6NT.

East/West will find it very difficult to punish North/South (who will find their heart fit).

This is the second deal where the 2♦ opening has made it effectively impossible for East/West to reach a diamond slam (see also deal 7.6)

5.34 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ QT5 IMPs
 Vul: Both ♥ K852
 ♦ QJ86
 ♣ J3

♠ A74	N W E S	♠ 86
♥ AQ76		♥ JT
♦ K5		♦ 742
♣ T962		♣ AKQ874

♠ KJ932
 ♥ 943
 ♦ AT93
 ♣ 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	3♦
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

This is where the Rough 2♦ is at its best. South's 3♦ bid finished the auction, when East/West have a good chance of making 3NT. East led the ♥J, and North made 8 tricks, for a score of -100.

Perhaps East could have stretched to a 3♣ overcall on the first round, if he'd been feeling aggressive.

Our teammates bid and made 3NT.

5.35 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 9876 MPs
 Vul: Both ♥ 832
 ♦ A865
 ♣ K5

♠ AQJ2 ♥ J76 ♦ 42 ♣ A932	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ KT3 ♥ K95 ♦ 93 ♣ JT876
N					
W E					
S					

♠ 54
 ♥ AQT4
 ♦ KQJT7
 ♣ Q4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♦ (3)	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Minimum with 4 spades (as opposed to maximum with 4 spades).

South is thinking of trying 3NT or 4♥ if North shows up with a maximum hand. 3NT needs quite a lot, and South may do better just raising to 3♦ immediately, perhaps putting West under pressure.

West led a trump, and it was easy for North to collect +110, with one of the heart honours onside.

This score should be the par, some North/South pairs may be allowed to play in 1NT, making at least 7 tricks, and perhaps more on a heart lead.

5.36 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ KJ72 MPs
 Vul: EW ♥ Q4
 ♦ KT72
 ♣ 843

♠ AT93	N W E S	♠ Q865
♥ AK972		♥ JT85
♦ –		♦ J963
♣ QJT9		♣ 6

♠ 4
 ♥ 63
 ♦ AQ854
 ♣ AK752

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	5♦
Dbl	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

East started with a low club, North won in dummy, and played a diamond to the King, discovering the bad break. He played the ♦10, covered, and won in dummy, but couldn't get back to hand to repeat the finesse without West winning and giving his partner a club ruff. Sloppy declarer play really, North should fear two club ruffs, and just cash three rounds of trumps, exiting with a spade towards the king. Now he shouldn't go for more than -300. As it was, he was let off by the defence, West cashing the ♥AK when in with the spade, before giving partner a club ruff.

At another table, East/West should reach 4♥, and if North/South sacrifice, East/West may be tempted to bid 5♥, which will probably go off.

5.37 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ K632 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ T2
 ♦ 9865
 ♣ KQ4

♠ 87 ♥ K763 ♦ QT43 ♣ J95	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AJ95 ♥ J854 ♦ A6 ♣ T63
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ QT4
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ KT2
 ♣ A872

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

South could pass 2♦, but thinks that a major-suit partscore will score higher, if it comes in, and partner might only have 4 diamonds anyway.

East led a low heart, dummy playing the ♥Q and West winning the ♥K, then continuing with another heart. Declarer discards a diamond on dummy's third heart, and fumbles about a bit, emerging with 8 tricks, for +110.

At other tables, South will probably play in 1NT, which isn't too hard on a heart lead. At least 7 tricks are there for the taking, and declarer will probably get an overtrick (or 2).

5.38 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ K742 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ J7
 ♦ KJ64
 ♣ J93

♠ Q96 ♥ QT82 ♦ T2 ♣ KQ75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A3 ♥ AK6543 ♦ A973 ♣ 6
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♠ JT85
 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ AT842

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♥	No
3♥	No	4♥ (2)	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. After quite a long a think.

South led the ♠J, which established a second trick for South when in with the ♣A, which he duly took, that was all though, East making 11 tricks for -450. If South doesn't cash the ♠T, leading a diamond instead, the contract will be held to 10 tricks. It would be held to 10 on a diamond lead as well.

Apparently East's thinking was concerning going further than 4♥, which isn't unreasonable.

At another table, East/West should easily get to 4♥, a few may get excited and go even higher, but most will not.

2♦ by North/South wouldn't go too badly, North should be able to scrape 6 tricks together. But East is never going to let 2♦ be played, is he?

5.39 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ 6		MPs								
Vul: None	♥ A642										
	♦ KT754										
	♣ T43										
♠ AK843		♠ JT72									
♥ T3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♥ KQJ75
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♦ 96		♦ AQ3									
♣ AJ62		♣ K									
	♠ Q95										
	♥ 98										
	♦ J82										
	♣ Q9875										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	3♥	No
3♠	No	4♠	No
4NT (2)	No	5♦ (3)	No
5♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
3. 1 or 4 of the 5 keycards (the 4 aces and the ♠K)

North led the ♣4, and West lost a trump and a heart, making 11 tricks for -450. If North leads a diamond, West can always take the diamond finesse.

Not sure if the 2♦ opening would give declarer too much extra help. He 'knows' the hearts are breaking 4-2, so he doesn't need to worry about the problem of hearts not breaking.

I don't agree with East's jump to 3♥. A 2♥ overcall would seem more sensible. Then West will bid 2♠, and East can jump to 4♠ to show his extra strength.

At other tables, East/West should get to 4♠, and manage to stop in 5♠ if they look for a slam.

5.40 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 9742 IMPs
 Vul: EW ♥ A8
 ♦ 9652
 ♣ A82

♠ AJT ♥ JT95 ♦ KQ4 ♣ J76	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 86 ♥ KQ762 ♦ AT ♣ QT54
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ KQ53
 ♥ 43
 ♦ J873
 ♣ K93

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	2♦ (1)	No	3♦
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

With the duplication, 6 tricks was the limit, for -150. Our teammates bid and made 4♥ at the other table.

5.41 Internet

Dir: West	♠ Q64		IMPs
Vul: Both	♥ KT62		
	♦ QT84		
	♣ 74		
♠ T982	N W E S	♠ AK753	
♥ J987		♥ A5	
♦ 3		♦ A7	
♣ AJ32		♣ Q965	
	♠ J		
	♥ Q43		
	♦ KJ9652		
	♣ KT8		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♠	5♦
No	No	Dbl	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

East led the ♠K, and the defence had no trouble taking 5 tricks, for a score of -800. Perhaps South should have contented himself with 4♦. Among the field, some other pairs were also sacrificing in 5♦, while some were allowing 4♠ to be played.

East/West should have no trouble bidding to 4♠, and some North/South pairs will take the sacrifice.

If South does just bid 4♦, West should continue with 4♠, and North/South will not sacrifice.

5.42 Internet

Dlr: North ♠ KT97 IMPs
 Vul: EW ♥ J4
 ♦ 8732
 ♣ K62

♠ J6432	N W E S	♠ Q
♥ AQ72		♥ T986
♦ AT		♦ KJ954
♣ Q3		♣ J85

♠ A85
 ♥ K53
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AT974

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
2♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

North led the ♥J, and the defence managed to take 6 tricks for +100. This was a good score compared to letting East/West make 2♥, although some North/South pairs made positive scores in 1NT.

If West keeps quiet, it is North/South who end in 2♠, probably only making 6 tricks for -100.

5.43 Internet

Dlr: North ♠ 832 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ 9876
 ♦ KQJ93
 ♣ 2

♠ AJT9	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q654
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 5		♥ QJ32			
♦ AT42		♦ 765			
♣ QT64		♣ J8			

♠ K7
 ♥ AKT4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AK9753

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♦ (3)	No	3NT
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Minimum with 4 spades (as opposed to maximum with 4 spades).

West led the ♥9, and South managed to escape with 7 tricks for -100. Other North/South pairs had reached 4♥, making 8 or 9 tricks for a similar score, although some had managed to stop short. 4♥ isn't an unreasonable contract.

Not sure why North forgot the system, if remembered, South will probably bid 4♥ rather than 3♥, going off.

5.44 London

Dlr: North ♠ 98 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ A642
 ♦ K763
 ♣ 764

♠ J743 ♥ 85 ♦ JT4 ♣ KT53	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ KQ65 ♥ T97 ♦ 85 ♣ AQ92
N					
W E					
S					

♠ AT2
 ♥ KQJ3
 ♦ AQ92
 ♣ J8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♥ (3)	No	4♥
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Maximum with 4 hearts (as opposed to minimum with 4 hearts).

West led the ♠3, and 10 tricks were easy to come to, with both red suits breaking 3-2, just losing three tricks in the black suits.

4♥ is quite difficult to bid in Acol, especially if East/West compete in spades. The actual datum was +370 for North/South, so +620 for making 4♥ was worth +6 IMPs.

South does have to be careful about duplication; this would be a poor game if North's black suit holdings were reversed.

5.45 London

Dlr: West ♠ 94 IMPs
 Vul: EW ♥ KJT2
 ♦ A954
 ♣ T95

♠ J6	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ QT752	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ AQ7		♥ 965				
♦ JT8		♦ K732				
♣ J6432		♣ K				

♠ AK83
 ♥ 843
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AQ87

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

West led the ♣3, and South finished with 8 tricks exactly. If he starts on the hearts immediately, playing double-dummy he should be able to make 9 or 10 tricks.

North/South could receive a large plus score if East/West mess about in the bidding, although ordinarily they should just score +120 or +150 in 1NT.

5.46 London

Dlr: North ♠ 8653 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ QJ2
 ♦ K8765
 ♣ 9

♠ Q42 ♥ KT97 ♦ QT ♣ QT62	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ T9 ♥ 53 ♦ AJ93 ♣ J8743
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ AKJ7
 ♥ A864
 ♦ 42
 ♣ AK5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♦ (3)	No	4♠
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Minimum with 4 spades (as opposed to maximum with 4 spades).

West led the ♥7, and North's ♥J held the trick. Now South can use the ♣K to throw a heart from dummy, and avoid any heart loser. At the end, West has to guess which card to keep out of the ♣Q and the ♥9, and guesses wrong (not knowing very much about South's hand). Thus with all three finesses wrong, he still makes the contract for +620. This is a rather good score, +13 IMPs versus the people going down in 4♠ (for a datum of -200).

4♠ seems like a standard contract, even if South is restrained and the bidding starts No-1♥-1♠-3♠; North should still push on to 4♠.

5.47 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ J5		IMPs
Vul: None	♥ 9642		
	♦ QJ98		
	♣ Q63		
♠ KQ8	N W E S	♠ AT42	
♥ AKT73		♥ 5	
♦ A6		♦ KT75432	
♣ AJ9		♣ K	
	♠ 9763		
	♥ QJ8		
	♦ –		
	♣ T87542		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
2NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

North led the ♣3, and even with the diamonds not breaking, 12 tricks are still available double-dummy. But our declarer managed to hold himself to 9 tricks in the play. -150 was a good score versus those who bid and made 3NT, but unfortunately some East/West pairs were getting rather excited and bidding slams, and mostly going off, although a handful did bid and make 6NT.

If West had a penalty double available, he could use that (and hope that East lets it sit). Otherwise, he might be better to make an initial takeout double, and follow up with a bid of No Trump (to show a 19-22 HCP balanced hand). With the 2♦ opening, East will probably be wary of bidding a slam.

On the actual layout, both 6NT and 6♦ can both be made, if played with care (6NT needs declarer to guess the hearts correctly). Even 7♦ and 7NT have good chances on 2-2 or some 3-1 diamond breaks.

The datum for the deal is -920 at IMPs, since i'd expect my teammates to reach 6♦ with the East/West cards, and play it well enough to make it.

5.48 London

Dlr: North ♠ J963 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ J72
 ♦ KQ96
 ♣ 82

♠ T752 ♥ KQ94 ♦ J ♣ Q954	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K8 ♥ A65 ♦ A8532 ♣ AK3
N					
W E					
S					

♠ AQ4
 ♥ T83
 ♦ T74
 ♣ JT76

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2NT	No
3♣ (2)	No	3♦ (3)	No
3NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Stayman.
3. No 4-card major.

South led the ♦7, and declarer drifted 1-off, for +50. At other tables, South led the ♣J after an auction like 1♦-1♥-2NT-3NT, which allowed declarer a chance to make 3NT.

The datum for the deal is -200, reflecting the fact that some declarers will make 3NT, and some will go off.

5.49 Internet

Dlr: West ♠ KJ52 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ J92
 ♦ K872
 ♣ T4

♠ 97 ♥ AKT7 ♦ 63 ♣ KJ973	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AQT864 ♥ 8643 ♦ 5 ♣ Q6
N					
W E					
S					

♠ 3
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ AQJT94
 ♣ A852

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♠	5♦
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

East led the ♠A, and switched well to a heart, for his partner's ♥A and ♥K, and declarer couldn't avoid a club loser at the end, for -100. 5♦ was a bit of an overbid by South, perhaps 4♦ is better, then leaving the decision to partner, if East/West compete to 4♠.

The datum for this deal was -100, since most North/South pairs were competing to 4♦ (1-off); some were allowed to play in 3♦ making, while some East/West pairs were allowed to play the hand in partscores (making) or in 4♥ (also making).

6 Summary of these Hands

I have tried to compose a running table to briefly summarise the answers to my three initial questions. I have rephrased those questions into a few categories below. The measure of success will be my own prediction of our net IMP gain, in an imaginary butler field, because this is easier for me to consider, than thinking in terms of MPs, also it is more interesting in the context of Warwick University Bridge Club, because we play more teams bridge. The difference between "unlucky" and "lucky" is undefined, as yet. I just made it up, in my head. And I'm not sure how useful it is. Anyway, those categories I mentioned:

1. How did the 2♦ opening perform at the table?
2. How should the 2♦ opening gain in a good field if "slightly lucky"?
3. How should the 2♦ opening gain in a good field if "slightly unlucky"?

Table: Hypothetical Net IMP Gain of the Rough 2♦ Opening

#	At The Table	Good (Lucky)	Good (Unlucky)	Imagined Par
1	+2	+2	-3	-180
2	+1	-2	-7	-140
3	0	0	0	+420
4	+8	-2	-5	+150
5	+6	+6	+6	-110
6	+7	+3	-2	0
7	0	0	0	-650
8	+15	0	-1	-1430
9	-4	+2	-4	+40
10	0	0	0	-200
11	-6	0	0	+100
12	+10	0	-10	-130
13	+10	0	0	-420
14	+2	+2	-2	+150
15	0	0	0	-140
16	+7	+2	-5	-240
17	0	0	-9	-420
18	+10	0	0	-400
19	-4	0	-4	+50
20	+6	+6	0	-420

Table: Hypothetical Net IMP Gain of the Rough 2♦ Opening (continued)

#	At The Table	Good (Lucky)	Good (Unlucky)	Imagined Par
21	0	-5	-5	+110
22	0	+13	0	-1430
23	+11	0	-10	-140
24	-8	0	-6	+150
25	+3	+3	-2	-420
26	0	+1	-5	+90
27	-7	0	-7	-130
28	-2	0	-2	+110
29	0	+1	-2	-130
30	-5	0	0	+100
31	0	0	0	-100
32	-2	-2	-3	0
33	+14	+14	+11	-920
34	+11	+11	0	-600
35	0	0	0	+110
36	0	0	0	-300
37	0	0	0	+110
38	-1	0	0	-420
39	0	0	0	-450
40	+10	+10	0	-620
41	-3	+2	+2	-700
42	+5	0	0	-110
43	0	0	0	-100
44	+6	+6	+6	+370
45	0	+1	+1	+120
46	+13	0	0	-200
47	+13	+9	-2	-920
48	+6	+6	+6	-200
49	-3	0	0	-100
T	+131	+89	-63	-10690
A	2.7	1.8	-1.3	-218

Where **T** represents the column totals, and **A** represents the column averages.

The opening seems to be gaining for us at the minute – nearly 3 IMPs a board, on average, at the last count (but remember our opponents aren't

usually of the highest standard). It looks like the Rough $2\triangleleft$ would break even, at worst, in most fields.

7 Some Bonus Hands

This is a record of the deals on which we were slightly naughty to open 2♦.

7.1 Brighton

Dlr: North	♠ K5		IMPs																
Vul: EW	♥ J965																		
	♦ QT8754																		
	♣ 3																		
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">♠ A63</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left; padding-left: 10px;">♠ T94</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">♥ KT732</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 10px;">♥ 8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">♦ AK6</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 10px;">♦ –</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">♣ T6</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 10px;">♣ AKQJ97542</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				♠ A63	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ T94		♥ KT732		♥ 8		♦ AK6		♦ –		♣ T6		♣ AKQJ97542	
♠ A63	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ T94																	
♥ KT732		♥ 8																	
♦ AK6		♦ –																	
♣ T6		♣ AKQJ97542																	
	♠ QJ872																		
	♥ AQ4																		
	♦ J932																		
	♣ 8																		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	3NT (2)	No
6NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Alerted, and explained while laughing as "I don't care what funny system you play" ...

This might seem unlucky, but at IMPs 6♣ (which is cold) is a better spot, and they will struggle to find it. In particular, East has a difficult time over the 2♦ opening – I don't think she can afford to double, so she would have to bid 3♦.

I think competent opponents should be able to reach slam in an uncontested auction (perhaps with the simple auction 5♣ – 6♣). At MPs, after this opening 2♦, if EW convince South that their slam is cold, he might decide to sacrifice in 7♦, which only goes for -1100.

Noted that the opening is on 2-4-6-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.2 Brighton

Dlr: North ♠ Q765 IMPs
 Vul: EW ♥ 53
 ♦ QJT6
 ♣ AJT

♠ T3	N W E S	♠ 982
♥ AQ87		♥ KT92
♦ AK83		♦ 952
♣ K42		♣ 983

♠ AKJ4
 ♥ J64
 ♦ 74
 ♣ Q765

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

With trumps breaking, and the ♣K onside, declarer easily comes to 9 tricks for +140. I can't see how East/West could do better after the opening bid, – what can West do but pass?

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	No	No	No
1♦	No	No	Dbl
1♥	2♠	End	

Of course, South may choose to open light in third position, in which case West will make a takeout double, and North/South should get to 2♠ anyway.

Noted that the opening is over strength, with 10 HCPs (all working). This is non-standard in 1st position.

7.3 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ JT		MPs									
Vul: NS	♥ 7653											
	♦ AKJ852											
	♣ T											
♠ K9832		<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AQ6
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 9			♥ AQT42									
♦ T43			♦ 76									
♣ Q862			♣ J97									
	♠ 754											
	♥ KJ8											
	♦ Q9											
	♣ AK543											

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♥	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

A bit lucky on the bidding, and on the play East managed to go 2 off in 2♥. East would be much better to Double, then South will probably pass rather than try to escape to a major, and West will call 2♠ and play there. This contract will probably make, for -110. NS cannot be harmed in 2♦, since North has so many diamonds, but if South looks for a 4-3 major suit fit (being worried about playing in diamonds), North/South could end up playing in 2♥ doubled, off.

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	No	1♥	2♣
No	2♦	Dbl (1)	No
2♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

North/South are certainly struggling to find 3♦, although this can go off if the defence find their heart ruffs before trumps are drawn.

Noted that the opening is on a 2-4-6-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.4 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ –		MPs
Vul: NS	♥ 8432		
	♦ JT652		
	♣ KJT3		
♠ KQT965		N	♠ A73
♥ KQ9	W	E	♥ AJ76
♦ K3	S		♦ A94
♣ 54			♣ A96
			♠ J842
			♥ T5
			♦ Q87
			♣ Q872

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No (2)	No
2♠	No	4♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Claims he thought he only had 13 HCP. Dbl would be better than 2NT.

It's a pretty poor effort by East/West, 7♠ is cold unless the side suits break very badly.

At another table, a typical auction would easily get East/West to at least a small slam, and if West takes control he should judge that a grand slam is likely to be easy, certainly at worst on a finesse.

If East/West want to punish North/South (in 2♦ doubled), they could get -800, although -500 is more likely.

Noted that the opening is on a 0-4-5-4 shape, which is non-standard.

7.5 Reading

Dlr: North	♠ J843	MPs	
Vul: None	♥ –		
	♦ AJ854		
	♣ QT95		
♠ KT95	N W E S	♠ Q2	
♥ A642		♥ KJ7	
♦ Q96		♦ KT732	
♣ J3		♣ 764	
	♠ A76		
	♥ QT9853		
	♦ –		
	♣ AK82		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

Declarer can always make 2♠, and will sometimes make 9 tricks on a cross-ruff, for a very good score.

At another table, a typical auction would be

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	No	No	1♥
No	1♠	No	2♣
No	3♣	End	

A good East might protect on the 31rd round with 3♦, which would go two off (probably undoubled). As it is, 3♣ will easily make at least 9 tricks on a cross-ruff.

Noted that the opening is on a 4-0-5-4 shape, which is non-standard.

7.6 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ A732 IMPs
 Vul: All ♥ QT82
 ♦ 8643
 ♣ 7

♠ Q984 ♥ J543 ♦ J7 ♣ AK5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KT ♥ A ♦ AKQT952 ♣ Q94
-----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

♠ J65
 ♥ K976
 ♦ –
 ♣ JT8632

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	Rdbl (3)
3♦ (4)	No	3NT	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.
3. Asking opener to bid 2♥ with 4 hearts, or bid 2♠ with 4 spades.
4. Forcing.

East has been pretty wet here, with his 3NT effort. Some might choose to bid 3♦ (very strong and forcing) on the first round, with his hand, but after partner has freely forced, he must make more of an effort. Having said that, 6♦ is always going to be difficult to bid when North/South have bid that suit naturally! South led a heart, but East managed to sneak a spade winner at trick 2, so he made 12 tricks for -690.

If East/West want to punish North/South, they will defend 2♥ doubled, and probably take it for -500, which isn't as good as a game for them.

At other tables, East/West shouldn't have too much trouble reaching 6♦.

Noted the opening is on 4-4-4-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.7 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ 7		IMPs								
Vul: NS	♥ QT83										
	♦ A852										
	♣ T654										
♠ A63	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QJT85
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 654	♥ K7										
♦ JT976	♦ KQ										
♣ 93	♣ J872										
	♠ K942										
	♥ AJ92										
	♦ 43										
	♣ AKQ										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♠	4♥
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

South can be fairly sure that North has 4 hearts, and although his ♠K may be worthless, he still has just about enough to bid 4♥. In the event, it made easily with an overtrick, after the lead of the ♠A. The contract should make anyway, with the ♥K onside.

At other tables, North/South may struggle to find 4♥, when East opens 1♠. South will probably prefer to bid 1NT rather than Dbl. If West does not compete with 2♠ directly, North may use Stayman to escape (to 2♥), unless his partner is expected to respond 2♠ with 4 spades and not 4 hearts. North/South are not expected to bid game here, so it seems like a systematically good result for the Rough 2♦.

Noted that the opening is on a 1-4-4-4 shape, which is non-standard.

7.8 Internet

Dlr: West	♠ QJ532	IMPs													
Vul: All	♥ QT4														
	♦ Q942														
	♣ 5														
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ 76</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ AK94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 8</td> <td></td> <td>♥ J95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ JT7</td> <td></td> <td>♦ K83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ AKT9632</td> <td></td> <td>♣ Q84</td> </tr> </table>				♠ 76	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AK94	♥ 8		♥ J95	♦ JT7		♦ K83	♣ AKT9632		♣ Q84
♠ 76	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ AK94													
♥ 8		♥ J95													
♦ JT7		♦ K83													
♣ AKT9632		♣ Q84													
	♠ T8														
	♥ AK7632														
	♦ A65														
	♣ J7														

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	No
5C	No	No	Dbl
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.

South could bid 2♥ (natural) over East's double, but with 3-card support for his partner's likely 5-card diamond suit, he figures that it will cause East/West more problems if he passes. His double of 5♣ is slightly risky – the contract is unlikely to go more than 1-off, and North/South didn't have a game on (after South's decision to pass). He will look a bit silly if North turns out to have 4 hearts.

In the event, declarer can ruff the second heart, but always has two diamond losers, so is 1-off.

North should never open 2♦ here, he should instead open 2♠, passed round to West who protects with 3♣, and his partner ends the auction with 3NT. If South leads hearts then the defence should succeed in taking the contract off, declarer has 9 tricks as soon as he gets in. And West may prefer to convert the game to 5♣ which, as we have seen, drifts 1-off. If North remains silent, East will probably open a weak 1NT, and West will do something.

Noted that the opening is on a 5-3-4-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.9 Internet

Dlr: North ♠ 8742 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ 962
 ♦ J72
 ♣ J85

♠ T9	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AQJ653
N					
W E					
S					
♥ QJ4		♥ K83			
♦ T943		♦ AK8			
♣ 9742		♣ T			

♠ K
 ♥ AT75
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ AKQ63

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♠	3NT
No	No	Dbl	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

South may be wiser to pass, rather than bid 3NT (or 3♣) at this vulnerability. He needs a lot to make 3NT, and partner may have 4 hearts (not that unlikely after the 2♠ overcall). 3NT went well down.

Without North's adventurous 2♦ opening, the auction may go something like:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	No	1♠	2♣
No	No	Dbl	No
2♦	No	2♠	End

North's 2♠ bid on the third round is strong, but non-forcing, and West will gladly pass. East will probably take 9 tricks, for -140.

Noted that the opening is on a 4-3-3-3 shape, which is non-standard.

7.10 Internet

Dlr: North	♠ –	IMPs															
Vul: None	♥ 9765																
	♦ Q653																
	♣ J8543																
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">♠ K975</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: left;">♠ QT3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ J</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ KQT83</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ AKT4</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ J72</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ AKQ7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ 96</td> </tr> </table>			♠ K975	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ QT3	♥ J		♥ KQT83	♦ AKT4		♦ J72	♣ AKQ7		♣ 96
♠ K975	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ QT3												
N																	
W E																	
S																	
♥ J		♥ KQT83															
♦ AKT4		♦ J72															
♣ AKQ7		♣ 96															
	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ8642</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ A42</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 98</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ T2</td></tr> </table>	♠ AJ8642	♥ A42	♦ 98	♣ T2												
♠ AJ8642																	
♥ A42																	
♦ 98																	
♣ T2																	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
Dbl	3♣ (3)	3♥	3♠
Dbl	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Minimum with 4 hearts (as opposed to maximum with 4 hearts).

South's use of the 2NT enquiry is a bit risky - he doesn't want to be at the 3-level if North has hearts (or is he then going to play in 3♠ anyway?) An immediate 2♠ is probably wiser, although he is probably worried about missing game if partner does have spades. As a result of this hand, I decided that a 2♠ response to 2♦ should not be strictly non-forcing - opener can raise with 4-card spade support and a non-minimum hand.

After (2♦) - No - (2♠), West faces a difficult problem. His double should be for takeout rather than penalty, so he can't do that, and any number of NT is risky. Perhaps double, then bid 3NT over partner's 3♥ bid, or raise his minor to the 5-level if he bids 3♣ or 3♦.

At other tables, South should open some number of spades, and West is likely to end in 3NT. Some declarers will make 3NT, and some will go off.

Noted that the opening is on a 0-4-4-5 shape, which is non-standard.

7.11 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ Q9 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ 8643
 ♦ T765
 ♣ K64

♠ 732	N W E S	♠ AJ84
♥ A7		♥ QT9
♦ AQ2		♦ J93
♣ T8753		♣ QJ2

♠ KT65
 ♥ KJ52
 ♦ K84
 ♣ A9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

North's selection of 2♦ seems rather aggressive, but we won't dwell on this. It was the last board of a cup match which we were comfortably winning, and we hadn't managed to open 2♦ yet, that evening, if that counts as an excuse.

South was licking his lips until the disappointing dummy went down, but he managed to hold his losses to -100 with average declarer play and not-so-good defence.

Neither East nor West can reasonably be expected to bid in this auction.

At the other table, East was allowed to make 8 tricks in 1NT (11-14 HCP), which seems fair. At other tables, the deal would probably be passed round to South, who would open a weak 1NT. This would become the final contract, struggling on a club lead. Certainly going at least 1-off, and maybe 2-off. So in a pairs competition, the opening wouldn't have cost.

Noted that the opening is on just 5 HCP in 2nd position (and bad suit quality in the long suits, when vulnerable), which is non-standard.

7.12 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ J986	IMPs																	
Vul: None	♥ 9732																		
	♦ KQ54																		
	♣ 9																		
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">♠ Q5</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">♠ KT73</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ AJT84</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ 5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ T8</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ AJ96</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ 7643</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ AQT5</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				♠ Q5	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ KT73		♥ AJT84		♥ 5		♦ T8		♦ AJ96		♣ 7643		♣ AQT5	
♠ Q5	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div>	♠ KT73																	
♥ AJT84		♥ 5																	
♦ T8		♦ AJ96																	
♣ 7643		♣ AQT5																	
	♠ A42																		
	♥ KQ6																		
	♦ 732																		
	♣ KJ82																		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	No
2♥	No	2NT	No
3♥	No	3NT	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout?

East's bidding seems a bit aggressive, I think he would be better passing (he doesn't mind defending 2♦). If it comes back to him having gone

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦	No	2♥
No	No	?	

Then he could double now (for takeout of hearts). West's 3♥ bid leaves a bit to be desired, too. 3♣ is better – he should expect the auction to be game forcing, but his partner will surprisingly pass. 2♦ doubled would go for -500, but as usual, it is very hard to penalise.

At other tables, East/West will probably be able to settle in 1NT or 2♣, with an overtrick hard to come by.

Noted that the opening is on a 4-4-4-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.13 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ J742 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ T72
 ♦ Q854
 ♣ 63

♠ QT3 ♥ 65 ♦ T3 ♣ AQ9743	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 865 ♥ 84 ♦ AK97 ♣ KJ85
N					
W E					
S					

♠ AK9
 ♥ AKQJ93
 ♦ J62
 ♣ T

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2NT (2)
No	3♦ (3)	No	3NT
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Artificial forcing enquiry.
3. Minimum with 4 spades (as opposed to maximum with 4 spades).

South's bid of 3NT is fairly silly, he can expect a club lead. 3♥ would be better, against good opponents anyway. The contract only went 2-off, when East forgot his discard system and asked for a heart instead of a diamond (he might as well cash the ♦AK when he is in – the lead was a low club to his ♣K, and then his ♣J holds the next trick).

At the other table, West had opened 3♣, and South tamely protected with 3♥, the final contract. Given a free run, North/South should stop short of game, and make +140 in a heart partscore.

Noted that the opening is on just 3 HCP in 2nd position, which is non-standard.

7.14 Coventry

Dlr: South	♠ –	MPs
Vul: EW	♥ Q875	
	♦ KQ96	
	♣ KT985	
♠ A43	N W E S	♠ KJT65
♥ T94		♥ AKJ2
♦ AT52		♦ 73
♣ A62		♣ J3
	♠ Q9872	
	♥ 63	
	♦ J84	
	♣ Q74	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	–	–	No
No	2♦ (1)	Dbl (2)	No
No	Rdbl (3)	No	2♠
No	3♣	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 0-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.
3. SOS.

I can't imagine why West didn't double 3♣. I think East led the ♠J, and North managed to make 7 tricks in the play, for -100.

North should just take his medicine and pass 2♦ doubled. Though this would probably have cost more than -100.

At other tables, East/West should get to a game, and then go off. 4♠ is nasty on the 5-0 trump break, with 2 trump losers and 2 minor suit losers. 3NT could be made, if the defence are kind.

Noted that the opening is on a 0-4-4-5 shape, which is non-standard.

7.15 Coventry

Dlr: North	♠ –		MPs								
Vul: Both	♥ T832										
	♦ KJ876										
	♣ QJ54										
♠ KJ854		♠ A763									
♥ 74		♥ A96									
♦ A	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♦ QT954
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♣ T9762		♣ K									
	♠ QT92										
	♥ KQJ5										
	♦ 32										
	♣ A83										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	No	3♦ (3)	No
3♠	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.
3. Not alerted (so presumably natural).

South could quite possibly only have 3 hearts, so not sure why East feels the need to bid 3♦.

North led the ♣Q, and when South didn't switch to a trump, declarer made 9 tricks, for -140. A trump return might have gained a trick for the defence.

At other tables, East/West should still end in a spade partscore, so -140 wasn't a bad score.

Noted that the opening is on a 0-4-5-4 shape, which is non-standard.

7.16 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ Q IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ KT76
 ♦ AJT3
 ♣ T983

♠ 9642 ♥ 9843 ♦ K74 ♣ 54	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK8753 ♥ AQ ♦ Q65 ♣ 62	
-----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--

♠ JT
 ♥ J52
 ♦ 982
 ♣ AKQJ7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♠	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

2♠ made for -140, while at the other table, our teammates had reached 4♠, making the same 9 tricks, for -50.

North/South aren't going to find their club fit after this start, although West will only be pushed to 3♠, and 4♣ by North/South will not make.

With trumps breaking, 2♦ would be a fairly safe contract for North/South. But East should always overcall anyway.

Noted that the opening is on a 1-4-4-4 shape, and 10 HCP, which is non-standard.

7.17 Coventry

Dlr: South	♠ T743		IMPs
Vul: None	♥ –		
	♦ AK9865		
	♣ K65		
♠ KJ	N W E S	♠ AQ6	
♥ 8642		♥ AKQ93	
♦ Q7		♦ J42	
♣ JT983		♣ A2	
	♠ 9852		
	♥ JT75		
	♦ T3		
	♣ Q74		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	–	–	No
No	2♦ (1)	2♥	No
3♥	No	4♥	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 0-9 HCP.

South led a spade, and declarer managed to go off, he played 3 rounds of trumps (noting the bad break on the first round), which was his mistake, since he needed two diamond ruffs in dummy.

Our teammates bid and made 4♥.

Noted that the opening is on a 4-0-6-3 shape, and 10 HCP, which is non-standard.

7.18 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ 9864 MPs
 Vul: Both ♥ AJT64
 ♦ T643
 ♣ –

♠ AQ732	N W E S	♠ T5
♥ 2		♥ KQ9853
♦ KQJ		♦ 95
♣ 8432		♣ KJT

♠ KJ
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A872
 ♣ AQ9765

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	2♥	3♦
Dbl (2)	No	3♥	No
3NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Not alerted.

North led a diamond, and the contract drifted 2-off, for +200. West is strong, but may be better off passing 3♦. North/South are going off in hundreds.

Depending on the lead, 3♦ could make 7 or 8 tricks. It should never make 9.

No contract by either side is attractive, with only North/South having an 8-card fit.

Noted that the opening is on a 4-5-4-0 shape, which is non-standard.

7.19 Internet

Dir: North	♠ J		IMPs
Vul: None	♥ AQ42		
	♦ AT985		
	♣ JT5		
♠ A852	N W E S	♠ KT94	
♥ K963		♥ JT5	
♦ Q73		♦ 62	
♣ 86		♣ A943	
	♠ Q763		
	♥ 87		
	♦ KJ4		
	♣ KQ72		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	No
Dbl (2)	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Takeout.

East led a low spade, and North managed to wrap up 11 tricks in the play, for +480. It turned out that all those overtricks were valuable, since a lot of the field had reached and made 3NT.

The double is fairly tight, and the penalty pass ridiculous. East will play in 2♠ if he is *brave* enough to bid it! That wouldn't be such a good result for North/South.

In an Acoll field, North may not open, but even if he does, North/South should still stop in 1NT or 2NT.

Noted that the opening is on 12 HCP, which is non-standard.

7.20 Coventry

Dlr: North ♠ AT54 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ 8
 ♦ Q9543
 ♣ AT8

♠ J832 ♥ A5 ♦ AT76 ♣ 653	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 96 ♥ KT97 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ97
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♠ KQ7
 ♥ QJ6432
 ♦ K
 ♣ K42

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
No	2♠	End	

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

South has done well in the bidding, and the play was fairly straightforward for 8 tricks and +110, even with the 4-2 trump break. At other tables, South will probably play the hand in 2♥, which will fare just as well.

Noted that the opening is on 10 HCP, which is non-standard.

7.21 Internet

Dlr: West	♠ QJ63		IMPs								
Vul: EW	♥ 62										
	♦ QT65										
	♣ 972										
♠ KT98	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A72
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 854		♥ T73									
♦ AJ93		♦ K874									
♣ J6		♣ 543									
	♠ 54										
	♥ AKQJ9										
	♦ 2										
	♣ AKQT8										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	3NT
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

South could try asking for North's suit – it would be embarrassing if it were hearts, and the defence started by cashing spades. But the odds of that are pretty slim, and bidding 3NT causes a blind lead. West led a low diamond, and the defence played 4 rounds, dummy taking the 4th trick with the ♦Q. 10 tricks were easy from there, with both hearts and clubs behaving kindly. If the defence switch to spades, after cashing 3 diamonds, they can take the contract off. But with the honours split, it isn't clear.

Most other tables were in 4♥, after a variety of strange and wonderful auctions. Some would argue for a game forcing 2♣, others for a forcing Acol 2♥, if available. Some were passed out in 1♥.

Noted that the opening is on 5 HCP, which is non-standard in 2nd position.

7.22 Coventry

Dlr: West ♠ T965 MPs
 Vul: Both ♥ KT
 ♦ K8643
 ♣ A7

♠ KJ3	N	♠ 7
♥ J93	W E	♥ Q87654
♦ QT52	S	♦ A97
♣ T62		♣ KJ9

♠ AQ842
 ♥ A2
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q8543

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	2♥	End

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.

South could risk 2♠, and he probably would if he weren't vulnerable. 2♥ made with an overtrick, for -140.

Other North/South pairs will manage to find their spade fit, and compete to 3♠, which makes.

Noted that the opening is on 10 HCP, which is non-standard in 2nd position.

7.23 Internet

Dlr: North ♠ Q8764 IMPs
 Vul: NS ♥ A7
 ♦ 9762
 ♣ Q8

♠ KT93	N W E S	♠ 52
♥ KJ8652		♥ QT9
♦ KJ3		♦ Q854
♣ –		♣ 9643

♠ AJ
 ♥ 43
 ♦ AT
 ♣ AKJT752

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	3NT
Dbl	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

South is in a nasty position over 2♦. 3NT could be horrible, but at IMPs he can't risk a pass. He could inquire with 2NT, and pass a 3♣ response (bidding 3NT over anything else). But he has 9 top tricks if the clubs come in, or if something else nice happens.

The double was a bonus, when dummy came down with the ♣Q and an ace as well. 3NT* made 10 tricks for +950.

Noted that the opening is on a 5-2-4-2 shape, which is non-standard.

7.24 London

Dlr: North ♠ J5 IMPs
 Vul: None ♥ A764
 ♦ QT9642
 ♣ 6

♠ A7 ♥ KT5 ♦ K8 ♣ AKJ973	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ QT94 ♥ QJ93 ♦ – ♣ QT854
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ K8632
 ♥ 82
 ♦ AJ753
 ♣ 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
–	2♦ (1)	No	3♦
3NT	End		

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 4-9 HCP.

North led the ♦6, and the contract drifted 1-off, when West can only take 8 tricks before having to give up the lead.

West is a bit stuck over 3♦, and East can hardly pull 3NT. Most of the field were in 5♣+1, scoring -420, so scoring +100 was worth +11 IMPs.

Noted that the opening is on a 2-4-6-1 shape, which is non-standard.

7.25 London

Dir: West	♠ QJ		IMPs
Vul: EW	♥ T653		
	♦ Q743		
	♣ 852		
♠ T862	N W E S	♠ 543	
♥ KJ72		♥ Q9	
♦ K85		♦ AT962	
♣ K9		♣ AJ7	
	♠ AK97		
	♥ A84		
	♦ J		
	♣ QT643		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	2♦ (1)	No	2♥ (2)
End			

1. Showing 4/5 diamonds and a 4-card major, 6-9 HCP.
2. Asking opener to pass with 4 hearts, or correct to 2♠ with 4 spades.

West led the ♠8, and declarer managed to escape with 7 tricks, for a score of -50. At the other table, East played the hand in 2♦, for +90 and +1 IMP on the board.

North may not even dredge up a response to 1♣ on this board, so in a larger field, East/West would average about 100 whether in diamonds or in NT.

Noted that the opening is on just 5 HCP in 2nd position, which is non-standard.