

WCPL Commentary – October 2016

We'd like you to add your own observations or any questions by clicking on:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lt8d0XwyvA4MqCd4tKC85gJIMpbmRuCT_Q9FLu0NDcs/edit?usp=sharing

<p>Bd: 1 ♠ K762 Vul: None ♥ AK6 Dir: North ♦ AJ953 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ AQJ84 ♥ J9873 ♦ K ♣ 85</p> <p>15 11 HCP 7 7</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ 52 ♦ 8764 ♣ AQJ109</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 3 4 - 1 1 S 3 4 - 1 1 E - 1 - - W - 1 - -</p>	<p>Bd: 2 ♠ A854 Vul: N/S ♥ 9853 Dir: East ♦ 106 ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ K106 ♥ K106 ♦ Q743 ♣ A73</p> <p>5 12 HCP 10 13</p> <p>♠ J9 ♥ AJ4 ♦ A982 ♣ K1052</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 - - - S 1 - 1 - - E - 2 - 1 2 W - 1 - 1 1</p>	<p>Bd: 3 ♠ 2 Vul: E/W ♥ 9832 Dir: South ♦ 7643 ♣ J1043</p> <p>♠ 108 ♥ AJ105 ♦ KJ109 ♣ Q82</p> <p>1 11 HCP 22 6</p> <p>♠ KQJ654 ♥ 764 ♦ 85 ♣ 65</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - - - S - - - - E 7 7 7 3 7 W 7 7 7 3 7</p>
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Board 1

Because of a non-arrival, we had to sit out the first set but I can see W has a tricky decision after 1♦-P-3♦. Pass, Dbl and 3♠ seem to be the options and only the cautious option of Pass will be successful. Assuming Pass is chosen N will either Pass or try 3♠, S will bid 4♣ and N will sign off in 4♦. The scores suggest just Jimmy and David got into trouble on the EW cards, while Darren and Ian got overboard with 5♦.

Board 2

I missed out here as my latest favourite gadget of a Mini No-Trump may be opened on the E cards. I say "may" as it is one of the worst 10 counts I could envisage. On this hand it doesn't really matter. Either EW will make 1NT or NS will go down in the same contract.

Board 3

Another hand I would have liked to play. 1st in hand at favourable I would open 3♠ and it will be difficult for EW to find slam. The cautious among you will open 2♠ and after two passes E should re-open with a Dbl. W has no real choice other than to force to game and my preferred system is to bid 3♠, showing 4♥ and denying a ♠ stop. The traditional Lebensohl method is to bid 2NT then 3♠, but this wrong-sides 3NT if partner wants to play there. Over 3♠, E will jump to 5NT asking partner to "pick-a-slam" in case W can bid 6♣. W actually bids 6♦ and E can decide whether to Pass or bid 6NT.....either will work on this hand. I'm a little surprised to see only Steve & Mike bid to 6NT, well done them.

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<p>Bd: 4 ♠ 54 Vul: All ♥ KJ96 Dir: West ♦ K109 ♣ 10543</p> <p>♠ AQ98762 N ♠ – ♥ Q1083 W 4 ♥ A42 ♦ Q7 E ♦ J86543 ♣ – S ♣ A962</p> <p>7 ♠ KJ103 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 10 HCP 9 ♥ 75 N 3 - - - 2 14 ♦ A2 S 3 - - - 3 ♣ KQJ87 E - - 1 1 - W - - 1 1 -</p>	<p>Bd: 5 ♠ Q7 Vul: N/S ♥ 109542 Dir: North ♦ K1062 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ K642 N ♠ A10953 ♥ Q W 5 ♥ AK6 ♦ – E ♦ A983 ♣ AKQ109876 S ♣ 4</p> <p>6 ♠ J8 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 14 HCP 15 ♥ J873 N - - - - 5 ♦ QJ754 S - - - - ♣ 32 E 7 2 2 7 7 W 7 2 2 7 7</p>	<p>Bd: 6 ♠ – Vul: E/W ♥ KJ75 Dir: East ♦ A743 ♣ AQ953</p> <p>♠ K108543 N ♠ AQ76 ♥ Q1043 W 6 ♥ A2 ♦ Q E ♦ J985 ♣ 42 S ♣ K87</p> <p>14 ♠ J92 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 7 HCP 14 ♥ 986 N 4 4 1 - - 5 ♦ K1062 S 4 4 1 - - ♣ J106 E - - - 4 1 W - - - 4 1</p>
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Board 4

My preferred auction here is 1♠-1NT-2♥-Pass, though I see no-one reached this spot. No doubt W rebid ♠ instead of introducing ♥. Understandable, but imo not optimal.

Board 5

Wow, a bidding challenge here which no-one managed the 10/10 7NT or 7♣. 7♠ came in twice, clearly missing QJxx trumps is no issue! Perhaps folks will upload their sequences on this one to the forum.

Board 6

We played this one for fun. After 1NT-P-2♥ I have no bid on our methods. Dbl would show 16+ and a cue-bid of 2♠ would show 5-5, so I have to Pass for now and double later. E jumped to 3♠ to show a maximum with 4♠ and W raised to game. I follow through my plan with a Dbl and all Martin had to do now was bid 5♣ or 5♦ with his 3343 5 count. Unsurprisingly he Passed and we were booked for -790 until declarer went awry in the play and went one down. No matter, it didn't count.

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<p>Bd: 7 ♠ AQJ942 Vul: All ♥ K1032 Dir: South ♦ K ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ -- N ♠ 6 ♥ 84 W 7 E ♥ QJ765 ♦ QJ9543 S ♦ 8762 ♣ KJ1063 ♣ Q42</p> <p>17 ♠ K108753 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 7 HCP 5 ♥ A9 N - - 2 7 5 11 ♦ A10 S - - 3 7 5 ♣ 985 E 2 2 - - W 2 2 - -</p>	<p>Bd: 8 ♠ J1097 Vul: None ♥ AKQ105 Dir: West ♦ 3 ♣ 875</p> <p>♠ 85 N ♠ KQ62 ♥ 7 W 8 E ♥ 643 ♦ 6542 S ♦ A1098 ♣ AKJ642 ♣ 109</p> <p>10 ♠ A43 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 8 HCP 9 ♥ J982 N - - 3 1 - 13 ♦ KQJ7 S - - 3 1 - ♣ Q3 E 2 2 - - 1 W 2 2 - - 1</p>	<p>Bd: 9 ♠ AQ Vul: E/W ♥ K32 Dir: North ♦ J10832 ♣ K42</p> <p>♠ J65 N ♠ K92 ♥ 1084 W 9 E ♥ AJ95 ♦ AQ76 S ♦ K95 ♣ AJ7 ♣ 1086</p> <p>13 ♠ 108743 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N 12 HCP 11 ♥ Q76 N - - - - 4 ♦ 4 S - - - - ♣ Q953 E 1 2 3 1 4 W 1 2 3 1 4</p>
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Board 7

Another board we played for fun and quickly reached 7♠. Simply 1♠, Blackwood, 3 aces, 7♠. I wonder how three pairs missed the grand? Well done Ian and Darren who did bid it.

Board 8

My preferred auction would be 3♣-P-P-Dbl, P-4♥. This is difficult to beat, as on a ♣ lead W has to switch to ♠ rather than playing three rounds of ♣. I see two NS pairs let EW play in 3♣, while one made and the other went down in 4♥. Interesting hand. W has to count defensive tricks and realise a ♠ trick will often be needed to beat game after cashing a second ♣.

Board 9

Looks like all routes lead to 2♠ and it is a question of how many tricks the defence donates. The results show a range of between -3 and +1. A lead of 108x by the W hand is so much better than the 108x in the E hand. C'est la vie.

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<p>Bd: 10 ♠ Q87 Vul: All ♥ 984 Dir: East ♦ KQ86 ♣ K86</p> <p>♠ KJ62 ♥ A1073 ♦ 92 ♣ Q105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W 10 E S</p> <p>♠ 10943 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 10754 ♣ 74</p> <p>10 10 HCP 4 16</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ Q65 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AJ932</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 2 1 - 2 S 3 2 1 - 2 E - - 1 - W - - 1 -</p>	<p>Bd: 11 ♠ KJ54 Vul: None ♥ A72 Dir: South ♦ 75 ♣ KJ96</p> <p>♠ 1093 ♥ 106 ♦ 843 ♣ Q7532</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W 11 E S</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K9854 ♦ AKQJ96 ♣ A</p> <p>12 2 HCP 17 9</p> <p>♠ AQ862 ♥ QJ3 ♦ 102 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 - - 3 - S 1 - - 3 - E - 4 2 - - W - 4 2 - -</p>	<p>Bd: 12 ♠ 972 Vul: N/S ♥ J6 Dir: West ♦ J1073 ♣ KQ42</p> <p>♠ KJ86 ♥ K109 ♦ 9864 ♣ J8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W 12 E S</p> <p>♠ Q1043 ♥ 32 ♦ KQ5 ♣ A1053</p> <p>7 8 HCP 11 14</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ AQ8754 ♦ A2 ♣ 976</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 - 2 - 1 S 1 - 2 - 1 E - 1 - 3 - W - 1 - 3 -</p>
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Board 10

The first real board of the evening for us and we reach the obvious 3NT. The focus is now on W, who will lead a major if NS fail to explore a major fit. We now know that leading from A10xx is better than KJxx, perhaps until the next time. Well done to the two pairs who led a ♥, including against us. I've no idea which suit is technically best. Any thoughts?

Board 11

With the E hand I would try and show a red 2-suiter then bid ♦ to show extra strength and length. At our table E doubled my 1♣ opening, then bid 3♦ over our 2♠, then 4♦ over 3♠. Pinpoint stuff, though fortunately they didn't reach game as Martin selected the ♦10 opening lead, nicely giving an entry to dummy with the ♦8 to pick up the ♥ suit. A ♥ lead at trick 1 achieves the same thing. Is it always best to lead one of our bid suits?

Board 12

We bid 1♥-1NT-2♥ where 2♥ is a mild invitation (we transfer with 2♦ to show a weak 2♥ bid). This put E off re-opening and we pick up +140. Cautious by E. The bidders do better with 3♠ making as the cards lie.

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<p>Bd: 13 ♠ K765 Vul: All ♥ 654 Dir: North ♦ Q86 ♣ A87</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ A7 ♦ J4 ♣ QJ9543</p> <p>9 12 HCP 8 11</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ KQ102 ♦ K1075 ♣ K106</p> <p>N W 13 E S</p> <p>♠ QJ103 ♥ J983 ♦ A932 ♣ 2</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N S - 2 1 - - E 1 - - - W 1 - - 1 -</p>	<p>Bd: 14 ♠ J9872 Vul: None ♥ K76 Dir: East ♦ A852 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 53 ♥ 32 ♦ 93 ♣ K865432</p> <p>8 3 HCP 17 12</p> <p>♠ Q104 ♥ Q985 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ Q9</p> <p>N W 14 E S</p> <p>♠ AK6 ♥ AJ104 ♦ 1074 ♣ AJ10</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N S - 2 1 2 - E 4 - - - 1 W 4 - - - 1</p>	<p>Bd: 15 ♠ K Vul: N/S ♥ KJ109752 Dir: South ♦ 952 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ 6 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ 98542</p> <p>11 13 HCP 4 12</p> <p>♠ Q92 ♥ AQ43 ♦ J863 ♣ QJ</p> <p>N W 15 E S</p> <p>♠ J1087643 ♥ 8 ♦ 4 ♣ K1076</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N S - - 2 - 1 E 4 3 - 4 - W 4 3 - 4 -</p>
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Board 13

We bid P-1♣-1♥(transfer)-1♠(weak NT) and W came into the action with 2♣. All seems reasonable though dummy not ideal. A common one down.

Board 14

E opened 1♥ and I protected with 1♠. Martin cue-bid 2♥ and I signed off in 2♠ for +110. Perhaps W should now come alive with 3♣; it is only because the ♣ are blocked that 3NT doesn't make EW. Again better to bid on than Pass.

Board 15

We got this one slightly wrong. Another short 1♣ opening from Martin and W bid 1♦. I jumped to 4♥ and W came back in with 5♣. I doubled this hoping to show defence and Martin not unreasonably bid 5♥ with ♥AQxx support. We have an agreement that Double after pre-empting says "I want to bid on but better to consult you first" and Martin thought it might apply here. We decided it doesn't in this case when our pre-empt faces an opening bid from partner. So one down in 5♥, as would 5♣ have been. We fortunately still gain a few imps when one teammate, Leslie and Nigel, made 4♠ doubled with an overtrick.

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<p>Bd: 16 ♠ J Vul: E/W ♥ 54 Dir: West ♦ K1095432 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ Q876 ♦ AQ8 ♣ 1092</p> <p>N W 16 E S</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ AKJ32 ♦ J6 ♣ QJ6</p> <p>4 12 HCP 12 12</p> <p>♠ KQ10532 ♥ 109 ♦ 7 ♣ AK83</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 2 - 2 - S 1 2 - 2 - E - - 2 - 1 W - - 2 - 1</p>	<p>Bd: 17 ♠ 9 Vul: None ♥ Q98 Dir: North ♦ K982 ♣ A9542</p> <p>♠ 62 ♥ J107532 ♦ A4 ♣ 1063</p> <p>N W 17 E S</p> <p>♠ K10753 ♥ AK4 ♦ 765 ♣ 87</p> <p>9 5 HCP 10 16</p> <p>♠ AQJ84 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ103 ♣ KQJ</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 5 5 - 2 2 S 4 5 - 2 - E - - 1 - - W - - 1 - -</p>	<p>Bd: 18 ♠ 975 Vul: N/S ♥ A6 Dir: East ♦ J53 ♣ AQ874</p> <p>♠ AQJ6 ♥ 109842 ♦ A6 ♣ J5</p> <p>N W 18 E S</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q53 ♦ Q109842 ♣ K92</p> <p>11 12 HCP 7 10</p> <p>♠ K10432 ♥ KJ7 ♦ K7 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 - - 1 - S 2 - - 1 - E - 2 1 - - W - 2 1 - -</p>
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Board 16

A weak 1NT from W and I bid a weak 3♦. 3♥ from E, presumably forcing, 3♠ S, 4♥ W, back to Martin who doubled, thinking there are not many suits where they are able to make some tricks. A top ♠ lead will take it two off, but the not unreasonable ♦ lead enabled E to throw a ♠ away, though +200 still a good result. Two NS pairs thought they would “save” in 4♠, not a good decision here.

Board 17

E caught us here with a very light 1♠ opening. Having passed I protected with Dbl, passed around to W who bid 2♥. I passed and Martin bid the “obvious” 3NT. After a ♥ lead and W holding the key ♦ entry this was two down, the only minus score on the sheet. If E passes we would have undoubtedly reached the top spot of 5♦, so another good board for the light bidders.

Board 18

A collection of errors by us on this board allowed 3♥ to make. W opened 1♥ raised to 2♥, 2♠ from S, 3♥ by W. 3rd and 5th leads didn't shine here as my ♠5 collected Martin's ♠K. I took the ♣5 with my Ace, saw Martin had 3 and played another. That was my last chance to play ♥A and another.

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<p>Bd: 19 ♠ K10654 Vul: E/W ♥ 6 Dir: South ♦ 1097 ♣ 9543</p> <p>♠ A9872 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ K ♣ A62</p> <p>N W 19 E S</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 10982 ♦ A6432 ♣ K87</p> <p>3 17 HCP 9 11</p> <p>♠ J3 ♥ A754 ♦ QJ85 ♣ QJ10</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - - - S - - - - E 1 2 4 2 2 W 1 2 4 2 2</p>	<p>Bd: 20 ♠ KQJ105 Vul: All ♥ Q873 Dir: West ♦ 108 ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ A643 ♥ K64 ♦ 7532 ♣ J5</p> <p>N W 20 E S</p> <p>♠ 972 ♥ AJ92 ♦ KQ4 ♣ Q82</p> <p>8 8 HCP 12 12</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ 105 ♦ AJ96 ♣ AK10743</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 1 - - S 2 1 - - E - - - 1 W - - - 1</p>	<p>Bd: 21 ♠ 875 Vul: N/S ♥ A54 Dir: North ♦ 10852 ♣ J84</p> <p>♠ A64 ♥ 10873 ♦ Q3 ♣ 10952</p> <p>N W 21 E S</p> <p>♠ KJ32 ♥ Q6 ♦ 9764 ♣ AK7</p> <p>5 6 HCP 13 16</p> <p>♠ Q109 ♥ KJ92 ♦ AKJ ♣ Q63</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 2 1 - 2 S 1 2 1 - 2 E - - - - W - - - -</p>
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Board 19

Standard cross-ruff hand in 4♥

Board 20

Another hand where we open 1♣ and opponents then bid the suit naturally, jumping to 3♣ here. A “safe” ♦ lead picked up that suit but we still had 5 tricks for one down. Any plus score good here. The agreement I have with all my partners is that 2♣ over a short 1♣ is natural and either 1NT or 2♦ shows the majors. So my preferred auction would have ended in 2♣.

Board 21

Again I open 1♣ and South's 1NT ended the auction. My preferred action with the South hand is to Pass then Dbl to show a balanced 16+. This enables us to get a penalty double when E rebids a weak 1NT. The other interesting point on this hand is that I see E did indeed get doubled in 1NT three times. A pet subject I have at the moment, coupled with the Mini NT opening (come to the November Masterclass for more details) is that if your 1NT opening gets doubled and partner passes, only leave it in if you are 4333, otherwise escape. Here I would have probably reached 2♣ undoubled on the EW cards.

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Bd: 22 Vul: E/W Dir: East ♠ QJ10 ♥ A43 ♦ J9 ♣ K10765 8 11 HCP 11 10 ♠ K752 ♥ QJ102 ♦ K654 ♣ J ♠ A984 ♥ K ♦ Q10832 ♣ Q98 N - - 4 - - S - - 4 - - E 2 - - 1 1 W 2 - - 1 1	Bd: 23 Vul: All Dir: South ♠ 95 ♥ AK75 ♦ A1097 ♣ AK6 7 18 HCP 7 8 ♠ AQ104 ♥ 1032 ♦ 5 ♣ Q10753 N W 23 E S ♠ J863 ♥ QJ86 ♦ QJ6 ♣ 98 N 1 - - - S 1 - - - E - 2 4 1 2 W - 2 4 1 2	Bd: 24 Vul: None Dir: West ♠ J5 ♥ J108742 ♦ QJ ♣ K76 16 8 HCP 10 6 ♠ 1094 ♥ Q3 ♦ 10742 ♣ A1085 N W 24 E S ♠ AQ862 ♥ K965 ♦ 9 ♣ J42 N 2 4 - - 2 S 2 3 - - 2 E - - 3 2 - W - - 3 2 -
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Board 22

I see two tables judged to Pass this one out. I decided to open the horrible E hand 1♦ and I now see Martin made a temporising “natural” bid of 1♥. I rebid 1♠ and Martin jumped to 2NT which I had no trouble passing. The 1♥ bid luckily persuaded N to lead a ♠ and we had enough time to set up 9 tricks.

Board 23

Poor judgement by me here. Martin opened 1♣ (of course!) and I bid 1♦ to show ♥. Martin jumped to 3♦ to show 18-19 balanced with 4♥ and I weirdly signed off in 3♥, which Martin also cautiously passed. So +170 (of course safely rising with the ♦A at trick one). Whoops, -20imps sorry teammates.

Board 24

The game swing returned on this board. Martin opened with a Multi, N 3♦, me 4♦ to ask for the major and we rested in 4♥. The cards lay well and we have 10 tricks. But I see Deep Finesse says only 9 tricks are available. I don't see it.....any thoughts? NS do well to press on to 5♦.

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<p>Bd: 25 ♠ QJ1053 Vul: E/W ♥ J6 Dir: North ♦ 106 ♣ AK104</p> <p>♠ 974 ♥ Q872 ♦ J753 ♣ 98</p> <p>N W 25 E S</p> <p>♠ K8 ♥ A953 ♦ K942 ♣ Q72</p> <p>11 ♠ A62 3 HCP 12 ♥ K104 14 ♦ AQ8 ♣ J653</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 5 1 1 5 4 S 5 1 1 5 4 E - - - - W - - - -</p>	<p>Bd: 26 ♠ 105 Vul: All ♥ AJ97 Dir: East ♦ K1082 ♣ A76</p> <p>♠ AJ973 ♥ 53 ♦ 965 ♣ 1054</p> <p>N W 26 E S</p> <p>♠ K8642 ♥ K64 ♦ J43 ♣ QJ</p> <p>12 ♠ Q 5 HCP 10 ♥ Q1082 13 ♦ AQ7 ♣ K9832</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 4 4 4 - 1 S 4 3 4 - 1 E - - 1 - W - - 1 -</p>	<p>Bd: 27 ♠ K73 Vul: None ♥ 10 Dir: South ♦ QJ654 ♣ KQ95</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ A9742 ♦ K93 ♣ AJ42</p> <p>N W 27 E S</p> <p>♠ AJ108542 ♥ K53 ♦ 72 ♣ 7</p> <p>11 ♠ Q6 12 HCP 8 ♥ QJ86 9 ♦ A108 ♣ 10863</p> <p>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 1 - - - S 1 - - 1 E - 3 3 - W - 3 3 -</p>
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Board 25

It's a horrible Dbl of 1♠ and I was there too with the E hand. But all was well and NS made 4♠+1. I see one pair were doubled in 2♦ for -500 which seems par after doubling 1♠, but how did one EW pair end up in 1NT doubled? See above for not resting in this contract with two 4 card suits.

Board 26

A short 1♣ by S this time and Martin overcalled a light 1♠ (important to take space up over short ♣s). N doubled and I jumped to 3♣ to show some defence as well as 4♠. S now doubled to show a real ♣ suit and over Martin's 3♠ N raised to 4♣ and played there, missing 4♥ reached at the other tables. Note Martin's 3♠ also made life more difficult for NS.

Board 27

We reached the par spot of 3♥ but I see two EW pairs managed to slip 4♥ through. I wonder how.....