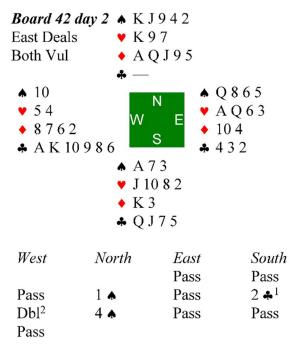
TELTSCHER TROPHY TRIALS 11/01/2025

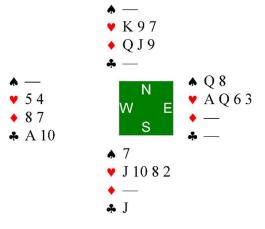


Drury, an invitational raise in spades
Lead directing

hoping the ♥Q was with West. After a spade to the eight, ace and ten, the ♥J was run to the ♥Q. East continued the trump force with another club, which was, again, ruffed in hand. The ♥K was taken by the ♥A, and East played his final club. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠K and 2 rounds of diamonds to leave this position:

On the play of the ◆Q, East had no answer. He eventually ruffed with the ◆Q, Frank discarded the ◆J, and East surrendered, but not before kicking himself for playing the ◆8 at trick 2!

So, if East could have defeated the contract on this line of play by holding on to the \$8, how can



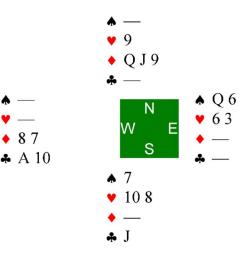
I particularly enjoyed this hand from the Teltscher Trials held at York Bridge Club recently. Not only was I vugraphing (is that a word?) at the time, but it



was played by our very own Frank Dixon and Paul Brereton. According to the travellers, Frank and Paul were the only pair to bid, and make, the only game possible.

East dutifully led a club after partner's double, and Frank ruffed when the queen was covered by the king. Aware that a losing spade finesse might allow a 3rd round to be played and put the contract in jeopardy (if the heart finesse loses to the $\mathbf{v}Q$, a further club force means the defence will have a club trick to cash when they get in with the $\mathbf{v}A$), Frank chose to use both

entries to dummy for heart finesses



declarer make 10 tricks against flawless defence after the same lead? The solution is to accept the trump force (like the "queens' gambit accepted" at chess perhaps?) and continue with a dummy reversal. Ruff the club lead, spade to the ace, club ruff, diamond to the king, club ruff, and cash the A to leave this position:

Once again, when declarer plays the \diamond Q, East has no answer. He can take his 2 spade tricks but is then end-played in hearts. Declarer must come to 3 more tricks for game.

Gotta say though, that line of play was difficult enough to find double dummy (my robots helped), never mind at the table.