Partner opened a weak two - commentary

Hand 1
North opens a weak 2♦.
East and South both pass.
West will probably compete. A 2-suited overcall looks ideal but in practice it will be 2♠ which will be passed out.
Diamonds can make 8 from the South hand (90) or 7 from the North hand on a club lead(-50), but will declarer drop the ♥K and keep leading towards the other heart honours?
Meanwhile spades make 7 tricks (50).

Hand 2
East has the perfect hand for a weak two in clubs. Unfortunately, no such bid exists, and so he passes.
West opens 1♦ on his 16-point balanced hand.
I find a 2♣ response on this East hand (rule of 14), but you might prefer a simple 1NT.
Opposite 1NT West should pass.
Facing the 2C response West must go to game either with 2NT (facing the 2-level change of suit) or with a direct 3NT if you have agreed that that shows a minimum in the 15-19 range.
West will either bid 2NT – forcing opposite the change of suit at the two-level – or 3NT to show a lower range no trump rebid with little hope of a major suit fit.
Declarer should have little trouble in coming to 9 tricks. (A good hand for the rule of 14.)

Hand 3
South passes and West opens 2♥.
With a 9-card fit East will either raise to 3♥, or ask with 2NT and then raise to game when partner comes back with 3♥.
Ten tricks can be made, but declarer needs to get every decision right.

Hand 4
West and North both pass, and East opens with 2♥.
South would much prefer to hold either a fourth spade or a more robust club suit but will surely compete with either double or 3♣ and North will choose between 2NT and 3NT.
NS will come to 9 tricks in no trumps.

Hand 5
North opens 2♠ and East must not be afraid to overcall 3♦.
South has nothing to contribute and West should bid 3NT.
9 tricks are almost routine.

Hand 6

East opens 2♠.

I double on this South hand in search of a heart fit, but3♦ is also possible.

West will raise to 4♠ on the 10-card fit.

If South doubled then North will almost certainly pass.

If South overcalled in diamonds, then North will surely find 5♦ at this vulnerability.

EW make 10 tricks in spades.

On this occasion the 3♦ overcall by South is the winning choice as 5♦x goes 3 down for a top score of -500.

Hand 7

South opens 2♦.

West should overcall 2NT which typically shows about 15-18 points with excellent stops in a more or less balanced hand. (Some prefer a minimum of 16 points.)

North should compete with 3♦ on the 9-card fit, and East has to force to game. The obvious choice is 4♥.

Note that, if North passes, East should show his 5 hearts with a 3♦ transfer (play the same continuations to a no trump overcall as opposite a no trump opening bid). West will complete the transfer with 3♥, East will rebid 3NT and West will correct to 4♥.

No trumps make 10 tricks but hearts score better with 11 tricks. Meanwhile NS can make 7 tricks in diamonds – a good sacrifice at this level but 5♦ over 4♥ would be a step too far.

Hand 8

West opens 2♦.

I pass on this North hand, but double and 3♣ are also possible.

If North passed then South will probably pass as well.

2♦ is doomed losing 2 clubs, 2 club ruffs, 2 diamonds, and probably a heart for -100.

If North doubled then South will might finish in 3♥, but is more likely to jump to 4♥, or bid 3♦ to suggest both majors, and if North bid 3♣ then South will bid 3♥ which I consider to be forcing leading to NS going 1 off in 4♥.

If NS can stop in 3♥ then this is the winning move. Otherwise pass by North is the best choice.

But note how West's weak two has presented him with a difficult choice.

Hand 9

North and East pass and South opens 2♦.

I overcall 2NT on this West hand, though it is minimum for the bid.

East will transfer to spades and will probably rebid 3NT, but will West correct to 4♠?

I might well pass, but 4♠ is the winning choice with spades making 10 tricks.

With the spade finesse failing no trumps makes only 7 tricks on a heart lead.

Hand 10

East opens 2♠ and South passes.
West should ask for more information with 2NT and East will bid 3♥ to show a maximum hand but with only 1 top trump honour. That should be sufficient to tempt West to 4♠.
Spades make 10 tricks and NT make 9 tricks.

Hand 11

South and West pass and North opens 2♠.
It's borderline whether East should overcall 3♥ – South will raise to 3♠ – and if East bid then West will compete with 4♥.
Hearts make 10 tricks and so 4♠ by NS is a good sacrifice going 1 down, but it is difficult to find.

Hand 12

West opens 2♥ and I pass on this North hand.
East will raise to 3♥, then can South find a competitive 3♠ which North will raise to 4♠?
EW must compete to 5♥ at this vulnerability for a penalty of 500 when they go three down doubled for 500 against a making 620 by NS.

Hand 13

North opens 1♦ (or 1♣) and East makes a weak jump overcall of 2♥.
South will probably pass but might double for take-out. West should make the unassuming cue-bid of 3♦ promising at least 3-card support and 10 or so points.
North probably passes, East signs off in 3♥ and that ends the auction.
3♥ makes 9 tricks.
NS can make 8 tricks in Diamonds.

Hand 14

East opens 2♥.
It is borderline whether or not South should overcall. It is likely to represent a making contract but partner will read it for a stronger holding. My choice is to pass.
Whether or not South bids West will raise to 3♥.
If South overcalled then North will double, South will repeat his spades and North will probably raise to game.
If South passed then North will probably also pass, but South should now take this second opportunity to bid his spades.
This is the more successful route. Spades make 9 tricks whilst hearts make 8 tricks. The optimum score is 3♠ making 9 tricks by NS.

Hand 15
South opens 2♠ and North should raise immediately to 4♠.
Can either East or West bring themselves to enter the auction?
At the prevailing vulnerability I would bid 5♦ on the West hand at the second opportunity, but it is unlikely that either of them will find the making 6♦ slam unless North guides them into it with a competitive 5♠. Perhaps 5♠ first time might have been a good idea?

Hand 16
West passes and North opens 2♠.
East passes and with 3-card support and fourteen points South enquires with 2NT
North bids 3♥ to show his upper range (and a poor suit) and South will bid the game.
4♠ makes 10 tricks when the ♦A appears on the right side.

Hand 17
North opens 2♥ and East should pass.
South will also pass then West's action will depend on the partnership agreement regarding the 2NT overcall in the protective seat. If the agreement is to play it as about 12 to 14 then West should bid 2NT and East will do well to pass this bid at pairs scoring.
2NT makes 8 tricks – the optimum contract. Otherwise NS will make 7 tricks in hearts for a good score.

Hand 18
East passes and South opens 2♦.
West passes and North should bid 2♥, a 1-round force promising a 5-card suit and game aspirations.
East will pass and with his 3-card support, singleton spade, and upper-range points South should raise to 4♥.
With ♦J and the ♠K well positioned NS can make 10 tricks from the North hand even against this trump split.