

Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire 11th November 2018

Peter Litchfield

Not a good day. The A team lost 3-17, the B team 2-18 and the C team 0-20. This is reflected in the table below where only two Oxon pairs had positive Butlers!

<i>Pos</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Players</i>	<i>Butler Score</i>	<i>Factor</i>	<i>Factored Score</i>
1	12	Paul Lilley & Peter Swales	+50	1.0000	+50
2	4	Paul Denning & Richard Plackett	+43	1.0000	+43
3	7	Tricia Gilham & Richard Harris	+42	1.0000	+42
4	10	Peter Waggett & Roger Jackson	+32	1.0000	+32
5	8	Mel Barlow & John Arblaster	+30	1.0000	+30
6	3	Patrick Shields & Richard Chamberlain	+28	1.0000	+28
7	9	Tony Letts & Roger Schofield	+27	1.0000	+27
8	1	Garry Watson & Richard Butland	+26	1.0000	+26
9	11	Anne Swannell & Roger Williams	+22	1.0000	+22
10	5	John Cuncer & Mark Rogers	+21	1.0000	+21
11	14	Nigel Birks & Liza Furnival	+11	1.0000	+11
12	13	Robert Procter & Michael Robinson	+8	1.0000	+8
13	6	Mike Wignall & Wendy Angseesing	+6	1.0000	+6
14	19	John Slater & Nigel Wilkes	-1	1.0000	-1
15	22	Adrian Lambe & Ron Quainton	-7	1.0000	-7
16	17	Jonathan Davis & Nick Smith	-16	1.0000	-16
17	24	Lorna Swadling & Alastair Gidman	-23	1.0000	-23
18	2	Keith Stanley & Joe Angseesing	-28	1.0000	-28
19	18	Christopher Wilson & Matthew Covill	-33	1.0000	-33
20	23	Peter Litchfield & Malcolm Currie	-35	1.0000	-35
21	15	Kathy & Denis Talbot	-38	1.0000	-38
22	20	Christopher Whitehouse & Mary-ann Sheehy	-49	1.0000	-49
23	16	Alan Wilson & Steve Noble	-50	1.0000	-50
24	21	Colin Jones & Gillian Lonsdale	-66	1.0000	-66

I will comment on the hands in the following pages. This will obviously be mostly from the perspective of Malcolm and I. I also had comments from Alan, Robert, Christopher, Chris, John and Nigel which I have incorporated where I can. If on reading you have further comments please e-mail them to me at peterlitch@gmail.com and I will add them.

Malcolm and I play a strong NT, five card majors system with 2/1 game forcing. We were EW.

Dlr: North Vul: None	♠J 8 7 2 ♥Q J 9 3 ♦K Q 7 5 ♣K	Optimum NS 2H; 140
♠9 6 4 ♥A 10 6 5 ♦10 4 ♣9 6 5 3	W North E e 1 a s s t South t	♠A 10 5 3 ♥2 ♦A 6 2 ♣Q J 7 4 2
12 4 11 13	♠K Q ♥K 8 7 4 ♦J 9 8 3 ♣A 10 8	♣♦♥♠N N 5 9 9 7 7 S 5 9 9 7 7 E 7 4 3 5 5 W 7 4 4 5 5

Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score 40									
<i>Pairs</i>		<i>Contract</i>				<i>Scores</i>		<i>Points</i>	
<i>N/S</i>	<i>E/W</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Ld</i>	<i>Tks</i>	<i>N/S</i>	<i>E/W</i>	<i>N/S</i>	<i>E/W</i>
1	13	4♥	S	♠6	10	420		9	-9
3	15	4♥	N	♣Q	9		50	-3	3
6	17	4♥	N	♣4	9		50	-3	3
8	19	3NT	S	♣6	8		50	-3	3
9	21	6♦*	N	♠A	10		300	-8	8
11	23	2♣	E	♦3	7	50		0	0
14	2	4♥	N	♣Q	9		50	-3	3
16	4	4♥	S	♣6	9		50	-3	3
18	5	1♥	S	♦10	9	140		3	-3
20	7	2♥	S	♦10	10	170		4	-4
22	10	4♥	N	♣Q	10	420		9	-9
24	12	4♥	N	♣Q	8		100	-4	4

Our bidding went P-1C-P-1H P-1S-P-2C All pass One off for -50. The opposition failed to mention their 25 points and we got a poor board because lots were going off in 4H. I guess an Acol version might be 1H-P-2NT-P 4H. Not sure how anybody got to 6D which was deservedly doubled.

Against Robert N opened 1D and the bidding went 1D-P-1H-P 2H-X(showing the two black suits)-3NT-P 4H All pass. W led 6S probably in response to the double and E returned 10S. Now they couldn't stop 4H.

Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ A Q J 6
 ♦ A 10 8 2
 ♣ A 9

Optimum
 NS 2C, NS
 2D; 130

♠ K 9 2	W North	E	♠ A J 10 6 5
♥ K 9 5 3	e 2	a	♥ 10 7 4
♦ K 4 3	s	s	♦ Q 7
♣ 8 5 4	t South	t	♣ Q 6 3

17	♠ 8 7	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
9	♥ 8 2	N 10 10 8 7 8
5	♦ J 9 6 5	S 10 10 8 7 8
	♣ K J 10 7 2	E 2 2 5 6 4
		W 3 3 5 6 5

Board No 2 N/S Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score 50									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	3NT	N	♠ J	8		100	-4	4
3	15	3NT	N	♠ 10	8		100	-4	4
6	17	2♠	E	♥ 8	6	100		2	-2
8	19	1NT	N	♠ J	7	90		1	-1
9	21	2♠	E	♥ 8	5	150		3	-3
11	23	2♠	E	♥ 8	5	150		3	-3
14	2	2NT	N	♠ 10	8	120		2	-2
16	4	1NT	N	♠ J	7	90		1	-1
18	5	2NT	N	♠ 10	7		100	-4	4
20	7	3♦	N	♥ 4	10	130		2	-2
22	10	3♦	N	♠ 10	10	130		2	-2
24	12	4♦	N	♥ 7	8		200	-6	

Against us they continued to underbid Bidding went P-P-P-1H 1S-P-2S All pass. We lost 3H,3C and the DA for three off, again a poor board

Against Robert NS played in 3NT despite E bidding S for one off. Robert thinks they may have bid 3NT to imply they have a S stop so they get a different lead. Sounds a bit convoluted to me.

Alan says that 1NT was enough for him when W opened a nebulous C in third seat.

Dlr: South ♠9 8
 Vul: E/W ♥J 7 4 2 Optimum
 ♦A 9 5 4 EW 2N; -
 ♣Q 9 7 120

♠Q 2 W North E ♠A 5 4
 ♥K 8 6 5 e 3 a ♥10 9 3
 ♦6 3 2 s s ♦K Q 8
 ♣K J 6 4 t South t ♣A 8 5 3

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

Board No 3 E/W Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score -60									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
3	15	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
6	17	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
8	19	2♠	S	♦6	7		50	0	0
9	21	2♠	S	♦3	8	110		5	-5
11	23	2♠	S	♦3	7		50	0	0
14	2	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
16	4	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
18	5	2♠	S	♣4	7		50	0	0
20	7	2♥	S	♦3	7		50	0	0
22	10	2♠	S	♦3	6		100	-1	1
24	12	2♠	S	♦3	6		100	-1	1

Nearly unanimous, 1S-P-1NT-P 2S All pass One off. We could get it one more off after the good D lead. I need to lead a H when in early, before the CQ is set up

Dir: West ♠K 8 5
 Vul: All ♥9 5 3 2 Optimum
 ♦J 8 3 NS 5DX; -
 ♣10 5 4 500

♠A W North E ♠Q 9 7 6 2
 ♥K Q J 7 6 4 e 4 a ♥A 10
 ♦10 9 s s ♦A 2
 ♣Q 7 6 2 t South t ♣J 9 8 3

 4 ♠J 10 4 3 ♣♦♥♠N
 12 11 ♥8 N 2 93 65
 13 ♦K Q 7 6 5 4 S 2 93 65
 ♣A K E 1041068
 W1041068

Board No 4 Both Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score -220									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	4♥	W	♦3	9	100		8	-8
3	15	4♥	W	♦3	8	200		9	-9
6	17	4♥	W	♦3	8	200		9	-9
8	19	4♥	W	♦3	10		620	-9	9
9	21	4♥	W	♦3	8	200		9	-9
11	23	4♥	W	♦3	10		620	-9	9
14	2	3♥	W	♦3	10		170	2	-2
16	4	4♥	W	♦3	10		620	-9	9
18	5	4♥	W	♦3	9	100		8	-8
20	7	3NT	E	♦K	9		600	-9	9
22	10	4♥	W	♦3	10		620	-9	9
24	12	2♥	W	♦3	10		170	2	-2

Our bidding was 1H-P-1S-2D 2H-P-4H The problem was not losing three club tricks. Malcolm won the DA, drew trumps, cashed the SA and then exited with a diamond Then our man kindly overtook his partners J and cashed his two top clubs. If he doesn't do this the lack of entries to E make it necessary to finesse the C9, S's bid makes it most likely he has at least one of the AK.

Nigel did right and finessed the C9

Christopher says; Our opponents played in 3NT rather than 4H. Mary-Ann, who had bid diamonds, chose to lead DK rather than her fourth highest, and I wasn't sure I could afford to unblock, so I followed with D3 to give count. Fearing I had started with D32, Mary-Ann threw diamonds when declarer now reeled off six heart tricks, so we only managed to score a spade, a diamond and two clubs. A good hand for Smith peters, which we don't play.

Dlr: North ♠9 2 Optimum
 Vul: N/S ♥K J 8 6 4 3 EW 4S; -420
 ♦6
 ♣A K 10 7

♠K 5 3 W North E ♠A Q 10 8 6 4
 ♥Q 9 e 5 a ♥A 10 7
 ♦A K Q 8 s s ♦7 3
 ♣J 8 6 2 t South t ♣9 3

11 ♠J 7 ♣♦♥♠ N
 15 ♥5 2 N 6 6 7 2 3
 10 ♦J 10 9 5 4 2 S 6 6 7 2 3
 4 ♣Q 5 4 E 7 7 5 10 9
 W 7 7 6 10 9

Board No 5 N/S Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score -420									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
3	15	3♠	E	♥5	11		200	6	-6
6	17	3NT	E	♥5	10		430	0	0
8	19	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
9	21	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
11	23	3♠	E	♦J	11		200	6	-6
14	2	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
16	4	3NT	E	♦J	10		430	0	0
18	5	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
20	7	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
22	10	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1
24	12	4♠	E	♥5	11		450	-1	1

We had a bidding misunderstanding. N opened 1H. I bid a weak 2S. 10 points is strong for this, probably better 1S but N having opened it seemed worth interfering with their bidding. S passed and E bid 3S. I thought we played Ogust after a weak jump overcall, Malcolm thought 2NT would be natural. Which is best? Since I was playing Ogust I thought 3S was weak and passed. Since he wasn't Malcolm thought 3S was invitational. 11 tricks was easy.

After 1H-1S it would probably go P-2H (good raise) P-2S-P-4S

Dlr: East ♠A 7 2 Optimum
Vul: E/W ♥K J 9 8 7 6 EW 1N; -
 ♦Q 7 5 120
 ♣6

♠K 9 5 3 W North E ♠Q 10 8
♥A Q 10 3 e 6 a ♥4 2
♦A K 4 s s ♦8 6 3
♣A 10 t South t ♣J 8 7 5 3

10 ♠J 6 4 ♣♦♥♠N
20 ♥5 N 5 5 5 4 4
3 ♦J 10 9 2 S 5 5 5 5 5
7 ♣K Q 9 4 2 E 7 7 8 8 8
 W 8 8 8 8 8

Board No 6 E/W Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score 70									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	2NT	W	♥7	8		120	-5	5
3	15	1NT	W	♥7	7		90	-4	4
6	17	4♠	W	♣6	8	200		4	-4
8	19	2NT	W	♥8	7	100		1	-1
9	21	2NT	W	♥8	8		120	-5	5
11	23	3NT	W	♥8	7	200		4	-4
14	2	4♠	E	♥5	8	200		4	-4
16	4	2NT	W	♥8	7	100		1	-1
18	5	1♥	W	♣6	6	100		1	-1
20	7	4♣	E	♥5	6	400		8	-8
22	10	2NT	W	♥6	7	100		1	-1
24	12	2NT	W	♥8	8		120	-5	5

Malcolm opened 2NT. I was obviously more optimistic than most in raising to 3NT but It was team's and I have a 5 card C suit and a possible S entry. Struggling to make 3 Malcolm went one extra off. He finessed the 10S which gives S two cards to win.. Better would be to play to the Q and finesse the 9 on the way back, not only because this worked.

Those that ignored the game bonus and played in 2NT (and made it) came top.

Christopher's opponents had a bidding misunderstanding and finished in 4C

Dlr: South ♠Q J 3 Optimum
 Vul: All ♥A K Q 9 5 S 7DX; -
 ♦K Q 3 1700
 ♣10 5

♠A K 10 2 W North E ♠9 6
 ♥-- e 7 a ♥J 6 4 3 2
 ♦J 9 8 2 s s ♦A
 ♣Q J 8 7 4 t South t ♣A K 6 3 2

17 ♠8 7 5 4 ♣♦♥♠N
 11 ♥10 8 7 N O 6644
 0 ♦10 7 6 5 4 S O 7644
 ♣9 E 136689
 W136689

Board No 7 Both Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score -510									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	3NT	E	♥7	9		600	-3	3
3	15	3♣	W	♥Q	13		190	8	-8
6	17	6♣*	W	♣5	12		1540	-14	14
8	19	4♣	E	♠8	13		190	8	-8
9	21	2♦	E	♣9	7	100		12	-12
11	23	5♣	E	♥7	13		640	-4	4
14	2	1♥*	N	♥3	6		200	7	-7
16	4	5♣	W	♥K	13		640	-4	4
18	5	5♣	W	♥K	13		640	-4	4
20	7	5♣*	W	♥K	13		1150	-12	12
22	10	5♣	W	♥A	13		640	-4	4
24	12	3♣	W	♥K	12		170	8	-8

Our bidding went P-1C(may be 2 cards)-1H-2H (good raise) P-4C-P-5C All pass. I guess 4D after 4C then 4H cue bids might get to 6C but only Jonathan and Nick got there. 7 made on the crossruff.

Robert bid 2NT after 1H, E bid 3C confirming C but W stuck with 3NT. The play was tricky. The heart lead went to the king (a spade discarded from dummy) and a long think before the spade queen appeared. Had he continued with a small heart at trick two life would have been interesting. However the run of the clubs caused North some problems and on the fourth club he threw a diamond. I cashed the diamond ace felling the queen, crossed to the last club and exited a diamond. North was able to cash his hearts but had to give up the last two tricks to the spade king and diamond jack.

Christopher couldn't resist a second double after 1C-P-X-P 5C-P-P

Nigel says they played in 1H doubled one off (after (1C) (prepared) – X – XX – 1D- X – 1H – X all pass) – whereas Jonathan Davies & Nick Smith bid and made 6C doubled with the EW cards! Incidentally it needed perfect defence to beat 1H but the defenders duly delivered with two early heart leads, which although sacrificing a trump trick then enabled repeated club forces.

Dlr: West ♠10 2
 Vul: None ♥K Q 9 6 4 2 Optimum
 ♦Q 7 6 EW 5S; -450
 ♣6 4

♠A K 9 6 W North E ♠Q 8 3
 ♥J 10 7 e 8 a ♥A 5 3
 ♦10 5 s s ♦8
 ♣A J 8 2 t South t ♣K Q 10 9 5 3

7 ♠J 7 5 4 ♣♦♥♠ N
 13 11 ♥8 N 1 9 6 2 2
 9 ♦A K J 9 4 3 2 S 1 9 6 2 2
 ♣7 E 11 4 6 11 6
 W 11 4 6 11 6

Board No 8 None Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score -250									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	13	5♣	W	♥K	11		400	-4	4
3	15	4♠	W	♦6	9	50		7	-7
6	17	4♠	W	♠2	11		450	-5	5
8	19	3NT	W	♥K	11		460	-5	5
9	21	5♣	E	♥8	10	50		7	-7
11	23	6♣	W	♥K	11	50		7	-7
14	2	3NT	E	♦K	6	150		9	-9
16	4	5♣*	E	♦K	11		550	-7	7
18	5	3NT	W	♥6	10		430	-5	5
20	7	5♣	W	♦6	10	50		7	-7
22	10	3NT	W	♥6	11		460	-5	5
24	12	3NT	W	♥K	11		460	-5	5

Our bidding went 1C(might be 2 cards)-2H-3C-3D 4C-P-5C-5D!! This was passed round to me, though Malcolm can double 5D. My choice was X or 6C. I should probably have taken the money for 300 but 6C looked possible. After the lead of KH it was. After drawing trumps Malcolm played AS, then QS dropping the S10. Does restricted choice apply here, indicating finessing for the J? Also S can be counted for at least seven D and one H and one C, therefore likely four S. However Malcolm played for the drop. One down!!

If they don't lead the HK, 5C can be made by eliminating S and D and ducking a H to N. Against 5C, Mary-Ann led D6 and switched to her singleton heart. Declarer got the spades wrong and eventually drifted one off

Dlr: North ♠7 6 Optimum
 Vul: E/W ♥Q 8 4 2 NS 3H;
 ♦A 9 7 2 140
 ♣6 5 3

♠Q 4 2 W North E ♠K 10 9 8 5
 ♥J 7 5 3 e g a ♥9
 ♦Q 5 3 s s s ♦K J 10 6
 ♣Q 7 4 t South t ♣A J 8

6 ♠A J 3 ♣♦♥♠N
 7 12 ♥A K 10 6 N 8 6 9 4 7
 15 ♦8 4 S 8 6 9 4 7
 ♣K 10 9 2 E 5 7 4 8 6
 W5 7 4 8 6

Board No 9 E/W Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score -30									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	1NT	S	♠2	7	90		3	-3
4	15	1NT	S	♠2	8	120		4	-4
5	17	1NT	S	♠2	6		50	-1	1
7	19	4♥	N	♠10	9		50	-1	1
10	21	1NT	S	♠2	7	90		3	-3
12	23	2♣	E	♥K	9		140	-3	3
14	1	3♥	S	♠2	8		50	-1	1
16	3	3♥	S	♠2	7		100	-2	2
18	6	1NT	S	♠2	7	90		3	-3
20	8	2♣	E	♥A	8		110	-2	2
22	9	3NT	S	♠2	7		100	-2	2
24	11	3♥	N	♠10	7		100	-2	2

Our bidding went. P-1S-1NT-2S All pass. Five card majors makes the 2S bid easy. After the bidding S clearly has most of the points and I lost one trick in each suit.

Dlr: East ♠A 10 2 Optimum
 Vul: All ♥3 2 EW 2H; -
 ♦8 7 6 2 110
 ♣A 8 5 4

♠8 5 4 3 W North E ♠J 9 7 6
 ♥Q 8 e 10 a ♥K J 10 9 6 4
 ♦A K Q 3 s s ♦10 9
 ♣Q J 2 t South t ♣3

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

Board No 10 Both Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score -40									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	3♣	S	♦A	8		100	-2	2
4	15	3♣	S	♦K	8		100	-2	2
5	17	2♥	E	♥5	9		140	-3	3
7	19	1NT	S	♦K	8	120		4	-4
10	21	2♥	E	♠K	8		110	-2	2
12	23	1NT	S	♦K	8	120		4	-4
14	1	3♥	E	♠K	9		140	-3	3
16	3	3♣	S	♦K	8		100	-2	2
18	6	4♥	E	♠K	9	100		4	-4
20	8	2♥	E	♠K	8		110	-2	2
22	9	3♣	S	♦K	8		100	-2	2
24	11	1NT	S	♦A	8	120		4	-4

I was taught not to make a weak 2 bid with four of the other major. What do people think today? Anyway I passed, S bid 1NT passed out and made +1. Several EW bid and made 2 or 3H or NS went down in 3C so bidding here worked.

Dlr: South ♠A K 10 8 2 Optimum
 Vul: None ♥6 2 NS 3S;
 ♦K Q 8 140
 ♣4 3 2

♠Q 9 W North E ♠J
 ♥K 10 9 5 e 11 a ♥A J 8 7 4
 ♦J 7 5 s s ♦A 10 4 3
 ♣10 9 8 5 t South t ♣Q 7 6

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

Board No 11 None Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score 20									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	3♠	N	♠J	9	140		3	-3
4	15	3♠	N	♣6	9	140		3	-3
5	17	3♥	E	♣A	7	100		2	-2
7	19	4♠	N	♥A	9		50	-2	2
10	21	4♠	N	♣6	9		50	-2	2
12	23	3♠	S	♣10	9	140		3	-3
14	1	4♠	N	♥A	9		50	-2	2
16	3	3♠	N	♠J	9	140		3	-3
18	6	4♠	N	♣6	9		50	-2	2
20	8	4♠	N	♠J	9		50	-2	2
22	9	4♠	N	♠J	9		50	-2	2
24	11	4♠	N	♠J	9		50	-2	2

Our bidding (I think) went P-P-1S-2H 3S-All pass. I guess if they were playing four card majors 3S was enough on S's hand. Anyway they stayed out of the impossible 4S.

Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

♠K 10 9 8 7
 ♥Q 5 4
 ♦K 8 5
 ♣J 8

Optimum
 EW 7CX;
 500

♠J 3
 ♥10 9 7
 ♦Q 7 3 2
 ♣A Q 4 3

W North E
 e 12 a
 s s
 t South t

♠6
 ♥K J 6 3 2
 ♦9
 ♣K 10 9 7 6 2

9
 9 7
 15

♠A Q 5 4 2
 ♥A 8
 ♦A J 10 6 4
 ♣5

♣♦♥♠ N
 N 3 114 127
 S 3 113 127
 E 102 81 2
 W102 81 2

Board No 12 N/S Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score 480									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	5♣*	E	♠A	10	100		-9	9
4	15	4♠	S	♥7	11	650		5	-5
5	17	4♠	S	♥10	10	620		4	-4
7	19	4♠	N	♦9	11	650		5	-5
10	21	5♠	N	♦9	12	680		5	-5
12	23	4♠	S	♥10	11	650		5	-5
14	1	4♠	N	♦9	11	650		5	-5
16	3	4♠	S	♥10	11	650		5	-5
18	6	4♠	S	♥9	11	650		5	-5
20	8	5♣*	E	♥A	10	100		-9	9
22	9	5♣*	E	♠A	10	100		-9	9
24	11	6♠	N	♥3	11		100	-11	11

P-P What do I bid? I didn't want to bid 3C as that would lose the H. An ideal hand for the two suited weak two openers that we don't play? Anyway I have the rule of 18 so I opened 1C (could be short) so the bidding went P-P-1C-1S 1NT-2S-P-3D P-4S All pass. Maybe having opened on 7 points I should have had the courage of my convictions and bid 3H over 2S. That at least would have told partner I was very distributional and we may have got to the 5C sacrifice.

Robert had a 2H bid showing H and a minor so their bidding went P-P-2H-2S 2NT(which minor?)-3S-4C-4S 5C-P-P-X. Only one off for an excellent sacrifice. For Alan W just raised to 3H and when N bid 4S everybody passed.

Dlr: North ♠K 9 7
 Vul: All ♥A Q 10 8 6 Optimum
 ♦J N 1H; 140
 ♣K 9 6 3

♠Q J 10 5 W North E ♠8 4 2
 ♥K J 9 7 4 2 e 13 a ♥3
 ♦5 2 s s ♦K 8 7 6 3
 ♣8 t South t ♣A Q J 2

13 ♠A 6 3 ♣♦♥♠N
 7 10 ♥5 N 108988
 10 ♦A Q 10 9 4 S 9 8888
 ♣10 7 5 4 E 3 5455
 W3 5455

Board No 13 Both Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score 120									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	2♥	N	♠4	9	140		1	-1
4	15	3♣	N	♠4	10	130		0	0
5	17	3♣*	N	♦6	10	870		13	-13
7	19	2♥	N	♠4	8	110		0	0
10	21	2♥	N	♠4	7		100	-6	6
12	23	3♦*	W	♥A	4	1400		15	-15
14	1	3NT	S	♠Q	7		200	-8	8
16	3	5♣	N	♥3	7		400	-11	11
18	6	3NT	S	♠Q	7		200	-8	8
20	8	2♥	N	♠8	9	140		1	-1
22	9	2♦*	E	♥5	6	500		9	-9
24	11	3NT	S	♠Q	7		200	-8	8

Disaster! After the 1H opener I bid 2NT (minors) I am not proud of it but I have seen worse. It continued P-3D-P P-X All pass. Five off for -1400 when they have nothing on. Malcolm did as he was told and no blame on him but in retrospect maybe a pass of 2NT would work. It probably wouldn't have been doubled and is only three off.

Robert had the auction 1H-P-2D-P 2H All pass. A spade lead to the king, diamond jack overtaken with the queen, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff etc allowed declarer to make two diamonds, two spades and five hearts for an overtrick.

Alan opened 1H. Playing 2/1 that south hand isn't worth 2D, so Steve responded 1N. Now I could introduce 2C. 2S from Steve showed a strong raise in C (it couldn't be natural since he hadn't responded 1S initially). I thought that was quite promising and in the end just jumped to 5C. On a good day it makes, but it does need trumps 3-2 with CA onside, plus a bit of help in either H or D. Here it was hopeless, when I played on C it went 4 off for -400! **Their worst result of the day.**

Dlr: East ♠ K Q J 7 6 5 4
 Vul: None ♥ 10 3 Optimum
 ♦ 7 3 EW 5D; -
 ♣ A 4 400

♠ A 10 W North E ♠ 8
 ♥ A J 6 e 14 a ♥ Q 7 5 4
 ♦ A K 8 6 5 s s ♦ Q J 10 4 2
 ♣ K Q 8 t South t ♣ 9 6 5

10 ♠ 9 3 2 ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
 21 5 ♥ K 9 8 2 N 5 2 3 8 3
 4 ♦ 9 S 5 2 3 8 3
 ♣ J 10 7 3 2 E 8 11 10 5 8
 W 8 11 10 5 8

Board No 14 None Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score -20									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	4♠*	N	♠8	8		300	-7	7
4	15	4♠	N	♦Q	8		100	-2	2
5	17	5♦	W	♠K	10	50		2	-2
7	19	4♥	W	♠K	9	50		2	-2
10	21	3♠*	N	♦Q	9	530		11	-11
12	23	3NT	W	♠K	8	50		2	-2
14	1	3NT	W	♠K	8	50		2	-2
16	3	3NT	W	♠K	8	50		2	-2
18	6	3♠*	N	♦Q	8		100	-2	2
20	8	3NT	W	♠K	10		430	-9	9
22	9	3NT	W	♠K	8	50		2	-2
24	11	5♦	E	♠9	10	50		2	-2

Our bidding started P-P-2NT-P, 5points and a decent D suit is an automatic 3NT. There are only ever 8 tricks after the automatic KS lead.

Mike opened West a multi, North put in 3S raised to four by his partner and doubled by Mike to show the strong hand.

Several other N's saved the day for EW by bidding S! But Alan's bidding was 2D (multi) (3S) P (P) 3NT. W chose 3NT rather than a double.

Christopher says that -430 is clearly my fault. Playing Italian discards, I was reluctant to make S4 my first pitch as this would have had secondary overtones that I was afraid my spades might not run. H3 would indicate a liking for hearts, while HT would ask for a spade, which is no more help to partner than S5 or my actual discard, C4, which indicated something worthwhile in hearts (would that I had held C3 instead...). But partner knows there's always a chance I won't have a perfect discard and am having to do the best I can, and I was probably going to have to throw at least one spade during the play, so I should have just got on with it

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

Our bidding was P-1C-1S-X 2S-3H All pass. N led a S so Malcolm discarded a D on the AS and made 9 tricks.

Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

♠K 9 8
 ♥--
 ♦A K J 8 5 2
 ♣K J 9 6

Optimum
 NS 2D;
 110

♠Q 6
 ♥A Q 10 4
 ♦10 7 6
 ♣Q 10 5 2

W North
 e 16
 s
 t South t

♠A 7 5 3 2
 ♥K 8 5
 ♦3
 ♣A 8 4 3

15
 10 11
 4

♠J 10 4
 ♥J 9 7 6 3 2
 ♦Q 9 4
 ♣7

♣♦♥♠N
 N 5 9 5 6 7
 S 5 9 5 6 7
 E 8 2 7 7 6
 W 8 2 7 7 6

Board No 16 E/W Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score 160									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	13	2♦	N	♠A	9	110		-2	2
4	15	5♦*	N	♥5	10		100	-6	6
5	17	3♦	N	♠3	10	130		-1	1
7	19	3♦	N	♥5	10	130		-1	1
10	21	5♦	N	♦3	11	400		6	-6
12	23	3♦	N	♠A	10	130		-1	1
14	1	3NT*	W	♦K	7	500		8	-8
16	3	3♦	N	♥K	10	130		-1	1
18	6	3♦	N	♠A	10	130		-1	1
20	8	3♦	N	♦3	11	150		0	0
22	9	3♦	N	♦3	11	150		0	0
24	11	3♦	N	♠A	11	150		0	0

I forget how our bidding went but it was probably something like P-1D-1S-P P-2D-P-P 2S-P-P-3P All pass. D made 10 or 11 tricks depending on how they guessed the C.

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠ J 9 8
♥ 9
♦ J 9 6
♣ A Q 10 8 5 2

Optimum
NS 3C;
130

♠ K 3
♥ K Q 10 8 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 4

W North E
e 17 a
s s
t South t

♠ Q 7 6 5 2
♥ 6
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K J 6 3

8
8 8
16

♠ A 10 4
♥ A J 4 2
♦ A K 8 5
♣ 9 7

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
N 108688
S 108688
E 3 5755
W3 4654

Board No 17 None Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score 210									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	4♥*	W	♦6	6	800		11	-11
3	13	3♥*	W	♦6	6	500		7	-7
6	19	4♥*	W	♦6	7	500		7	-7
8	17	5♣	N	♥6	10		50	-6	6
9	23	4♥*	W	♦6	7	500		7	-7
11	21	1NT	N	♠5	9	150		-2	2
14	4	3♥	W	♠8	8	50		-4	4
16	2	3♣	N	♦2	9	110		-3	3
18	7	3NT	S	♥K	9	400		5	-5
20	5	3♣	N	♥6	8		50	-6	6
22	12	1NT	N	♠2	6		50	-6	6
24	10	5♦	S	♣4	7		200	-9	9

Our bidding went 3C-P-3NT-4H P-P-X All pass. 3NT was bid confidently. Unfortunately 3NT doesn't make as a) N's clubs don't run and b) he anyway only has 6. Malcolm made one more than deep finesse for -500. He says he should have been disciplined and passed but he wasn't the only one.

Against Robert, N didn't preempt so the bidding went P-P-1NT-3H X(takeout) All pass

Chris says: W decided not to come in with Hearts. 3C - P - 3N all pass. Matthew did well to make. KH ducked (followed by a very long think) 7D-6D-10D-KD - the 7D lead was explained as they never lead top of nothing, but possible he might do anything! 9C round to JC 5S won by KS 3D-9D-2D-5D 6D-QD-AD-4D 7C won by Ace after West shows out Spade finesse Spade Ace Duck a heart to West who is endplayed into AJ tenace.

Dlr: East ♠8 6 5 2
 Vul: N/S ♥K 8 5 2 Optimum
 ♦K 8 5 EW 3N; -
 ♣9 6 400

♠K Q 7 W North E ♠A 10 9 3
 ♥A Q 7 3 e 18 a ♥10 9
 ♦A Q 7 2 s s ♦J 6 3
 ♣J 5 t South t ♣K 10 3 2

6 ♠J 4 ♣♦♥♠N
 18 8 ♥J 6 4 N 5 4 5 4 4
 8 ♦10 9 4 S 5 4 5 4 4
 ♣A Q 8 7 4 E 8 8 8 9 9
 W 8 9 8 9 9

Board No 18 N/S Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score -410									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	3NT	W	♥5	9		400	0	0
3	13	3NT	E	♣7	9		400	0	0
6	19	3NT	W	♣9	10		430	-1	1
8	17	3NT	W	♥2	9		400	0	0
9	23	3NT	E	♥6	10		430	-1	1
11	21	1NT	W	♥2	9		150	6	-6
14	4	3NT	W	♥2	10		430	-1	1
16	2	3NT	W	♥2	9		400	0	0
18	7	3NT	W	♣9	9		400	0	0
20	5	3NT	W	♥2	10		430	-1	1
22	12	3NT	W	♦5	9		400	0	0
24	10	3NT	W	♠6	9		400	0	0

I think our bidding went P-P-1D-P 1S-2C-3C-P 3NT All pass. S led H6 won by N with HK. He led a C and S won CQ and CA. I then had the rest of the tricks. I guess the 1NT was a result of the weak NT where the 1NT rebid is wide ranging (or maybe W had lost SK)

Dlr: South ♠10 4
 Vul: E/W ♥10 9 2 Optimum
 ♦8 NS 2S;
 ♣K J 7 6 4 3 2 140

♠8 5 W North E ♠A 9 3 2
 ♥A J 8 6 3 e 19 a ♥5 4
 ♦Q 7 6 4 s s ♦A 10 5 3 2
 ♣Q 10 t South t ♣9 5

4 ♠K Q J 7 6 ♣♦♥♠N
 9 8 ♥K Q 7 N 9 55 98
 19 ♦K J 9 S 1056 98
 ♣A 8 E 3 86 33
 W3 86 33

Board No 19 E/W Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score 150									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	3NT	S	♥6	10	430		7	-7
3	13	3NT	N	♦3	7		100	-6	6
6	19	1♠	S	♦4	9	140		0	0
8	17	4♠	S	♠5	8		100	-6	6
9	23	1♠	S	♣Q	11	200		2	-2
11	21	5♣	N	♠A	10		50	-5	5
14	4	1♠	S	♦4	8	110		-1	1
16	2	3NT	N	♦3	8		50	-5	5
18	7	3NT	N	♦3	8		50	-5	5
20	5	3NT	S	♥6	10	430		7	-7
22	12	3NT	S	♥6	10	430		7	-7
24	10	3NT	S	♥6	10	430		7	-7

Our bidding was 1S passed out. The CQ lead was unfortunate letting them make 11 tricks. In 3NT it takes a D lead to beat it and thus the N's that declared 3NT were unlucky.

John also passed out 1S

Christopher says: Mary-Ann upgraded the south hand and opened 2NT, right-siding 3NT (presumably the auction starts 1S - 1NT otherwise?)

Alan says he approves. His partner didn't upgrade, and the auction continued 1S – 1N; 2N – 3C. Is it clear that that is to play? Steve didn't think so, and we ended in 3N by N.

Dlr: West **♠K J 7**
 Vul: All **♥6 5 3 2** Optimum
 ♦K J 10 NS 3N; 660
 ♣A K 3

♠A Q 6 5 4 W North E **♠10 8 3**
♥8 4 e 20 a **♥Q J 9 7**
♦A 9 4 2 s s **♦6 3**
♣J 8 t South t **♣7 5 4 2**

 15 **♠9 2** ♣♦♥♠N
 11 **♥A K 10** N 111110811
 11 **♦Q 8 7 5** S 111110811
 ♣Q 10 9 6 E 2 2 3 4 2
 W2 2 3 4 2

Board No 20 Both Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score 660									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	3NT	N	♠3	11	660		0	0
3	13	3NT	N	♥Q	11	660		0	0
6	19	3NT	N	♠3	11	660		0	0
8	17	3NT	N	♠3	11	660		0	0
9	23	3NT	N	♠10	11	660		0	0
11	21	3NT	N	♠8	11	660		0	0
14	4	3NT	N	♠3	11	660		0	0
16	2	3NT	N	♠10	11	660		0	0
18	7	3NT	N	♠3	8		100	-13	13
20	5	3NT	N	♠8	11	660		0	0
22	12	3NT	N	♠8	11	660		0	0
24	10	3NT	N	♠8	11	660		0	0

Looks like a bog-standard 3NT+2 but Chris suckered himself into going off in 3N.

Bidding was 1S - 1N - P - 3N

East led S3 to Ace and the 5 was returned. I asked what agreement they had on leading partner's unsupported suit and was told they lead the smallest with 3+ to an honour. I rose with the King to block the suit in the likely 5-3 split. After I had quickly gone 1 off I asked East if I'd received the correct explanation and was overjoyed to hear "oh we count the 10 as a honour". My fault not making further enquiry into West's answer

Dlr: North ♠10 9 4 2 Optimum
 Vul: N/S ♥A J 5 3 2 NS 2H;
 ♦K J 9 110
 ♣7

♠7 6 W North E ♠K Q J 8 3
 ♥Q 7 4 e 21 a ♥10 8 6
 ♦Q 10 8 s s ♦A 6 5
 ♣A K 9 8 2 t South t ♣5 3

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

Board No 21 N/S Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score 60									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	2♦	S	♣A	9	110		2	-2
3	13	Passed Out						-2	2
6	19	Passed Out						-2	2
8	17	1NT	S	♠7	7	90		1	-1
9	23	3NT	W	♥3	4	250		5	-5
11	21	1♠	E	♥K	6	50		0	0
14	4	4♣	W	♠2	5	250		5	-5
16	2	Passed Out						-2	2
18	7	2♠	W	♣7	6	100		1	-1
20	5	Passed Out						-2	2
22	12	Passed Out						-2	2
24	10	2♣	S	♠7	6		200	-6	6

With us N opened 2H, described as weak with H and another suit. With a reasonable S suit I overcalled 2S. Thinking I had more than I actually did Malcolm bid 3NT. This was not a success. Should I have passed?

Dlr: East ♠--
 Vul: E/W ♥A Q 9 Optimum
 ♦A 10 8 4 NS 6D; 920
 ♣K J 9 8 4 3

♠10 7 6 4 W North E ♠J 9 8 5 3
 ♥J 10 4 3 2 e 22 a ♥6 5
 ♦J s s ♦9 7 6
 ♣10 7 2 t South t ♣A Q 6

14 ♠A K Q 2 ♣♦♥♠N
 2 7 ♥K 8 7 N 111210911
 17 ♦K Q 5 3 2 S 111210911
 ♣5 E 2 1 3 4 2
 W2 1 3 4 2

Board No 22 E/W Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score 870									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	6♦	S	♥J	12	920		2	-2
3	13	6♦	S	♥J	12	920		2	-2
6	19	3NT	N	♠9	11	460		-9	9
8	17	6♦	S	♥J	12	920		2	-2
9	23	6NT	N	♠9	11		50	-14	14
11	21	6♦	S	♥J	12	920		2	-2
14	4	6♦	S	♥J	12	920		2	-2
16	2	6♦	S	♥3	12	920		2	-2
18	7	6♦	S	♦J	12	920		2	-2
20	5	6♦	S	♥3	12	920		2	-2
22	12	6♦	S	♦J	12	920		2	-2
24	10	6♦	S	♥3	12	920		2	-2

NS had a long and complicated auction in which they discovered their diamond fit but opted for 6NT. They probably play too much pairs. They had 11 top tricks but eventually had to try C and there was no winning option. Much discussion ensued.

Dlr: South ♠A J 10 6 3 Optimum
 Vul: All ♥10 9 5 EW 1N,EW
 ♦J 9 2C; -90
 ♣K 3 2

♠Q 2	W North	E	♠K 9 8 5
♥A J 3	e 23	a	♥Q 8 4
♦K Q 4 3	s	s	♦10 8
♣Q 9 5 4	t South	t	♣J 10 8 6

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

Board No 23 Both Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score -130									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	2♠	N	♣6	6		200	-2	2
3	13	2♦	S	♠Q	6		200	-2	2
6	19	2♦	S	♣4	7		100	1	-1
8	17	1NT	S	♣4	5		200	-2	2
9	23	2♠	N	♦10	7		100	1	-1
11	21	2♦	S	♣4	7		100	1	-1
14	4	2NT	N	♣J	5		300	-5	5
16	2	2♦	S	♣4	7		100	1	-1
18	7	2♦	S	♣4	7		100	1	-1
20	5	2♠	S	♠2	7		100	1	-1
22	12	1NT	W	♠J	8		120	0	0
24	10	2♦	S	♣4	7		100	1	-1

We think our bidding went 1D-P-1S-P 2D-P-2S All pass. I went one off. Only 1NT by W made a positive score. Presumably S passed.

Dlr: West ♠Q 6 4 3 Optimum
 Vul: None ♥9 6 EW
 ♦9 8 4 4DX,EW
 ♣K 7 6 4 4HX; 100

♠5 W North E ♠K 9 2
 ♥7 4 3 2 e 24 a ♥A K 10 8
 ♦K 10 6 5 s s ♦A J 3 2
 ♣J 10 9 3 t South t ♣5 2

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

Board No 24 None Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score 30									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	1NT	E	♠10	5	100		2	-2
3	13	1NT	E	♠J	6	50		1	-1
6	19	3♥	E	♦7	9		140	-5	5
8	17	1NT	E	♠J	6	50		1	-1
9	23	2♠	S	♥4	9	140		3	-3
11	21	2♠	S	♣J	9	140		3	-3
14	4	2♦*	E	♥Q	10		380	-9	9
16	2	1NT*	E	♠J	7		180	-5	5
18	7	3♠	S	♥4	9	140		3	-3
20	5	4♠	S	♥4	8		100	-4	4
22	12	2♠	S	♥4	9	140		3	-3
24	10	3♠	S	♣J	9	140		3	-3

Our bidding went P-P-1NT-2S All pass. Made +1

Against Robert 1NT was passed out and there was no clue for the D finesse and he took it the wrong way to go one off. Where S doubled 1NT they took the finesse the right way and made.

Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

♠ 9 7
 ♥ Q 5 4
 ♦ 10 8 4 2
 ♣ Q 9 8 3

Optimum
 EW 1H; -
 140

♠ A 6 2
 ♥ A K J 10 6 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ K 10 5

W North E
 e 25 a
 s s
 t South t

♠ 10 8 5
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ Q 9 7 6
 ♣ A 7 4 2

4
 18 6
 12

♠ K Q J 4 3
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A J 5 3
 ♣ J 6

♣♦♥♠ N
 N 5 6 4 5 4
 S 5 6 4 5 4
 E 8 7 9 7 7
 W 8 7 9 7 7

Board No 25 E/W Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score -40									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	2♥	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3
4	13	4♥	W	♠9	9	100		4	-4
5	19	4♥	W	♠9	9	100		4	-4
7	17	4♥	W	♠9	9	100		4	-4
10	23	2♥	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3
12	21	2♥	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3
14	3	4♥	W	♠9	9	100		4	-4
16	1	4♥	W	♠9	9	100		4	-4
18	8	4♥	W	♠9	10		620	-11	11
20	6	3♥	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3
22	11	3♠	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3
24	9	3♥	W	♠9	9		140	-3	3

Our bidding P-P-1S-X P-2C-P-2H All pass. Made +1. Should 2H be regarded as forcing? It seemed to me that the chances of W having a good enough hand to make game opposite my flat 6 points and poor H fit were remote but if I said anything we were likely to end up in four going down. As happened at several tables. So I passed.

Dlr: East ♠A 10 6 3 Optimum
 Vul: All ♥6 4 EW 4H; -
 ♦K J 5 650
 ♣K 8 6 5

♠K J 8 7	W North	E	♠Q 9 2
♥A K Q 9 8	e 26	a	♥J 7 2
♦9	s	s	♦A Q 6 3
♣A 10 2	t South	t	♣7 4 3

11	♠5 4	♣♦♥♠ N
17	♥10 5 3	N 4 6 2 2 2
9	♦10 8 7 4 2	S 4 6 2 2 2
3	♣Q J 9	E 8 7 1 1 1 0 9
		W 8 7 1 1 1 0 9

Board No 26 Both Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score -630									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	4♥	W	♥4	10		620	0	0
4	13	4♥	W	♥4	11		650	-1	1
5	19	4♥	W	♣5	10		620	0	0
7	17	4♥	W	♥6	10		620	0	0
10	23	4♥	W	♥6	10		620	0	0
12	21	4♥	W	♥4	10		620	0	0
14	3	4♥	W	♥4	11		650	-1	1
16	1	4♥	W	♦5	10		620	0	0
18	8	4♥	W	♥6	10		620	0	0
20	6	4♥	W	♥6	10		620	0	0
22	11	4♥	W	♥6	10		620	0	0
24	9	4♥	W	♥6	11		650	-1	1

Our bidding P-P-1H-P 2H(7-9 points, 3 card support)-P-4H All pass. The D finesse for the overtrick is probably safe enough if taken early while the HJ is still an entry to dummy but it is teams. Obviously not many took it.

Dlr: South **♠10**
 Vul: None **♥A 10 8 6 4 3 2** Optimum
♦J 10 7 3 EW 3N; -430
♣7

♠4 2 W North E **♠A K Q J 8 5**
♥Q 5 e 27 a **♥K J**
♦A Q 2 s s **♦8 4**
♣J 9 6 5 4 3 t South t **♣A 8 2**

5 **♠9 7 6 3** **♣♦♥♠** N
 9 18 **♥9 7** N 2 77 3 3
 8 **♦K 9 6 5** S 2 77 3 3
♣K Q 10 E 1065 1010
 W1065 1010

Board No 27 None Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score -350									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
4	13	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
5	19	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
7	17	4♠	E	♥9	9	50		9	-9
10	23	4♠	E	♥9	9	50		9	-9
12	21	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
14	3	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
16	1	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
18	8	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
20	6	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2
22	11	3♠	E	♥9	10		170	5	-5
24	9	4♠	E	♥9	10		420	-2	2

Our bidding P-P-3H-4S All pass. I then proceeded to completely misplay the hand. My excuse is that I was trying to avoid taking the D finesse. Since N had nothing but the A in H he could well have the DK. But I finished up losing 1H,2C and 1D.

Dlr: West ♠8 5
 Vul: N/S ♥K 9 6 4 3 2 Optimum
 ♦Q 10 2 EW 2N; -
 ♣K 3 120

♠10 3 2 W North E ♠K J 7 6
 ♥A 8 e 28 a ♥J 10 7
 ♦K J 8 4 s s ♦A 9 6
 ♣A 10 9 7 t South t ♣J 8 5

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

Board No 28 N/S Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score 10									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	1NT	W	♥4	7		90	-3	3
4	13	3♥	N	♥7	9	140		4	-4
5	19	1NT	W	♥4	7		90	-3	3
7	17	3♣	W	♥4	7	100		3	-3
10	23	1NT	W	♥4	7		90	-3	3
12	21	1NT	W	♥4	6	50		1	-1
14	3	1NT	E	♥Q	5	100		3	-3
16	1	2♥	N	♦A	7		100	-3	3
18	8	1NT	W	♥4	7		90	-3	3
20	6	1NT	W	♥4	6	50		1	-1
22	11	1NT	W	♥4	5	100		3	-3
24	9	2NT	E	♥Q	7	50		1	-1

Our bidding 1D-P-1S-P 1NT All pass. 1NT was a bit of a struggle. I don't remember exactly how Malcolm made it.

Robert led the H7 against 3H which let the contract through. HJ would have been better.

Alan says: I even managed to go off in 2H! W had bid D, so E kicked off with DA and another. I was relieved that the third round wasn't ruffed. Now I worked out that there was room for E to hold HA (W hadn't opened a 14-6 NT) and since it was more convenient to play H from hand I was happy to lead to HQ – I wasn't too worried about a 4th round of D since I still had a trump in dummy. W did indeed play the last D, so I discarded my spade loser – although I realised that it probably wasn't a loser any more since W would have been more reluctant to give the ruff and discard if they had a potential S trick. When E ruffed with HJ I had to decide whether to try to drop H10 on the next round or to finesse against it. Needless to say, the Principle of Restricted Choice didn't work for me...

Dlr: North ♠ J 8 5
 Vul: All ♥ J 9 7 4 3 Optimum
 ♦ J 9 EW 4C; -
 ♣ 6 5 2 130

♠ K 4 3 2 W North E ♠ 10 6
 ♥ A 8 6 e 29 a ♥ Q 10 5
 ♦ 6 s s ♦ 10 8 7 5
 ♣ K 10 9 7 3 t South t ♣ A Q J 8

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

Board No 29 Both Vul Dealer North									
Butler Score 80									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	2♠	S	♦6	8	110		1	-1
4	13	2♦	S	♣10	9	110		1	-1
5	19	3♦	S	♣10	9	110		1	-1
7	17	1♦	S	♠2	9	110		1	-1
10	23	3♦	S	♦6	9	110		1	-1
12	21	1♦	S	♥A	10	130		2	-2
14	3	1♦	S	♣10	7	70		0	0
16	1	1♦	S	♠3	9	110		1	-1
18	8	1♦	S	♣7	9	110		1	-1
20	6	4♦	S	♣10	9		100	-5	5
22	11	1♦	S	♣10	8	90		0	0
24	9	1NT	E	♦A	8		120	-5	5

Our bidding P-P-1D-X P-2C-3D All pass. The DJ gave S an entry to take the S finesse so they made 6D and 3S tricks.

Christopher says: His bidding went P - (P) - 1D - (X) - P - (2C) - 2S - (P) - 3D - (P) - P - (4C) - P - (P) - 4D. One off. 4C can make but they need to read the hearts well

Alan says: 1D passed out at our table (and some others, I think). I confess I would probably have doubled with the W hand.

Dlr: East
 Vul: None

♠ J 7 5 3
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ K J 4
 ♣ A 10 5

Optimum
 NS 3N;
 400

♠ A Q 8
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ 10 9 3 2
 ♣ Q 9 8 7

W North
 e 30
 s
 t South t

♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ 10 9 7 6 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ J 4 3 2

13
 10 5
 12

♠ K 6 4
 ♥ K J 2
 ♦ Q 8 7 6 5
 ♣ K 6

♣♦♥♠ N
 N 6 10 6 8 9
 S 6 10 7 8 9
 E 6 3 6 4 4
 W 6 3 6 4 4

Board No 30 None Vul Dealer East									
Butler Score -80									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1
4	13	3NT	N	♥10	6		150	-2	2
5	19	3NT	S	♣7	6		150	-2	2
7	17	3NT	S	♦10	9	400		10	-10
10	23	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1
12	21	3NT	S	♦10	8		50	1	-1
14	3	3NT	S	♣9	6		150	-2	2
16	1	3NT	S	♦3	7		100	-1	1
18	8	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1
20	6	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1
22	11	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1
24	9	3NT	S	♣7	8		50	1	-1

They bid P-1NT-P-3NT. The rule of 11 says S has the CK so E can play low. Deep finesse drops the doubleton HQ but nobody else except Jonathan and Nicks opponents?

Dlr: South ♠10 9 3 Optimum
 Vul: N/S ♥Q 7 EW 7HX;
 ♦K 9 6 3 1400
 ♣A J 4 3

♠6 5 4 W North E ♠J
 ♥10 6 5 4 e 31 a ♥A K J 9 8 2
 ♦Q J 4 s s ♦10 8 5 2
 ♣Q 9 5 t South t ♣7 2

10 ♠A K Q 8 7 2 ♣♦♥♠ N
 5 ♥3 N 12 9 5 12 7
 16 ♦A 7 S 12 9 5 12 7
 ♣K 10 8 6 E 0 4 7 1 1
 WO 4 7 1 1

Board No 31 N/S Vul Dealer South									
Butler Score 650									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	4♠	S	♥4	11	650		0	0
4	13	4♠	S	♦Q	12	680		1	-1
5	19	6♠	S	♥4	12	1430		13	-13
7	17	4♠	S	♥4	12	680		1	-1
10	23	4♠	S	♥4	12	680		1	-1
12	21	6♠	S	♥5	12	1430		13	-13
14	3	4♠	S	♥5	12	680		1	-1
16	1	5♥*	E	♠K	8	500		-4	4
18	8	6♠	S	♥4	11		100	-13	13
20	6	6♠	S	♥6	9		300	-14	14
22	11	4♠	S	♥4	11	650		0	0
24	9	4♠	S	♥4	12	680		1	-1

Opponents bidding 1S-P-2C-2H 4S All pass. They didn't sniff at the slam and would have had to guess the clubs to make it.

Chris says: On B31 in 6C Matthew took the wrong view in clubs.

Bidding was 1S P 2C 2H 3H P 4S P 4N P 5H P 6S

After ruffing the second H and drawing trumps, Matthew took a losing club finesse, expecting East to have values. Probably better is to take 2 rounds of trumps, then 2 diamonds, ruff a D high, cross to S10 and ruff the 4th D. Placing East with 6H this leaves him with 2C, but it's still a close call as he's come in at the 2 level after we've both bid.

Christopher says: Bidding was 1S - 2C - (2H) - 4H - 4S - 4NT - 5C - 6S. 6H was led. East won and played another top heart. Mary-Ann ruffed, cleared two rounds of trumps, played DA, DK, ruffed a diamond and then played off the rest of her trumps. West came down to a heart and three clubs and east to a heart, DT and two clubs, but it wasn't clear from the play whether west had thrown DQJ in a devious attempt to conceal the whereabouts of DT or whether he had started with DQJx. It wasn't for want of thought that Mary-Ann guessed wrong. I don't think I've ever seen her take so long over a declarer problem. 14 X-imps away rather than 13 in.

Dlr: West **♠K 7 6**
 Vul: E/W **♥7 4** Optimum
 ♦A Q J 9 8 5 W 6C; -1370
 ♣10 3

♠Q 4 3 W North E **♠A J 10 9**
♥Q J 9 3 2 e 32 a **♥A**
♦K 4 s s **♦10 3**
♣A J 7 t South t **♣K Q 9 5 4 2**

10 **♠8 5 2** **♣♦♥♠** N
 13 14 **♥K 10 8 6 5** N 1 642 2
 3 **♦7 6 2** S 1 542 2
 ♣8 6 E 1169117
 W12791111

Board No 32 E/W Vul Dealer West									
Butler Score -570									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
2	15	4♠	W	♣10	11		650	-2	2
4	13	5♣	E	♦2	11		600	-1	1
5	19	3NT	W	♦Q	9		600	-1	1
7	17	3NT	W	♦Q	9		600	-1	1
10	23	4♠	W	♣10	11		650	-2	2
12	21	3♠	E	♦6	11		200	9	-9
14	3	3NT	W	♦Q	9		600	-1	1
16	1	3NT	W	♦Q	9		600	-1	1
18	8	3NT	W	♦Q	9		600	-1	1
20	6	3NT	W	♦Q	12		690	-3	3
22	11	3NT	W	♠6	10		630	-2	2
24	9	4♥	W	♦A	8	200		13	-13

We played in the Moisian 4S after 1H-2D-X-P 2S-P-4S All pass. This is a much superior contract to 3NT which goes crashing off if the SK is with S. 5C is even better but only Robert and Michael were in that. After the C10 lead Malcolm took the safety play of finessing the S once then playing A and another to make sure that he didn't get the lead through the DK.