

## Dawes Match report vs Nottinghamshire

The first team's heavy loss was balanced by good wins by the second and third teams. I was playing my second game ever with Paul (after a gap of several years), and finished ignominiously bottom of the Butler rankings by a long way, despite having no misunderstandings of any consequence, and not making too many obvious mistakes. We were playing a strong team who made some lucky decisions against us, so I think we can consider ourselves unfortunate. You can judge that for yourselves, here are some of the boards that generated large swings in the first team:

### Board 2, NS vulnerable, dealer East

Board No 2 N/S Vul Dealer East									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-3-4	5♣	N	♠2	11	600		15	-15
1-5-6	2-7-8	3NT	S	♥Q	10	630		15	-15
2-1-2	1-3-4	5♣*	N	♠2	11	750		-15	15
2-5-6	1-7-8	4♠	W	♣A	8	100		-15	15
3-1-2	4-5-6	5♣	N	♠2	11	600		-28	28
3-5-6	4-1-2	4♣	N	♠2	11	150		-28	28
4-3-4	3-3-4	3NT	N	♠2	10	630		28	-28
4-7-8	3-7-8	5♠*	W	♣A	7	800		28	-28
5-1-2	6-3-4	5♠	W	♣K	9	100		-23	23
5-5-6	6-7-8	5♣	N	♠2	11	600		-23	23
6-1-2	5-3-4	5♣	N	♠2	11	600		23	-23
6-5-6	5-7-8	3NT	N	♥J	10	630		23	-23

  

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠8 ♥K 9 ♦Q 4 ♣A K Q J 10 8 6 5	Optimum EW 5HX; 500
♠A K J 10 9 5 3 ♥Q 4 ♦9 8 ♣4 2	North 2 South	♠2 ♥J 10 8 7 5 3 ♦A J 10 3 ♣9 3
15 10 6 9	♠Q 7 6 4 ♥A 6 2 ♦K 7 6 5 2 ♣7	♣♦♥♠N N 5 1 - - 3 S 5 1 - - 3 E - - 2 1 - W - - 2 1 -

Our auction started 2♥ (weak) – pass – 2♠ (one-round force) and Paul overcalled 4♣ with the North hand. This was passed round to West, who bid 4♠, which I was quite happy to defend. Unfortunately, we can make 5♣ and 3NT, which were both bid at a number of tables.

Maybe other tables didn't have our start, maybe North bid 5♣, or (bravely) 3♠ over West's 2♠ to ask South to bid 3NT with a stop.

### Board 3, NS vulnerable, dealer North

Board No 3 E/W Vul Dealer South									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-3-4	3♦	W	♥K	11	150		25	-25
1-5-6	2-7-8	3NT	E	♣7	8	100		25	-25
2-1-2	1-3-4	6♦	W	♣A	12	1370		-25	25
2-5-6	1-7-8	5♦	W	♦6	10	100		-25	25
3-1-2	4-5-6	5♦	W	♥K	11	600		2	-2
3-5-6	4-1-2	5♦	W	♥K	11	600		2	-2
4-3-4	3-3-4	4♠	E	♦4	10	620		-2	2
4-7-8	3-7-8	5♦	W	♦6	11	600		-2	2
5-1-2	6-3-4	4♠	E	♦4	10	620		28	-28
5-5-6	6-7-8	5♦	W	♣A	10	100		28	-28
6-1-2	5-3-4	4♠	E	♥10	13	710		-28	28
6-5-6	5-7-8	3NT	E	♥10	10	630		-28	28

  

Dlr: South Vul: E/W	♠Q 10 3 ♥K Q ♦10 7 6 ♣A J 6 4 3	Optimum NS 7CX; -1100
♠7 5 ♥A 6 4 ♦K Q J 9 5 3 2 ♣2	North 3 South	♠A K J 9 6 ♥J 8 5 3 ♦A 8 ♣Q 10
12 10 15 3	♠8 4 2 ♥10 9 7 2 ♦4 ♣K 9 8 7 5	♣♦♥♠N N 2 - - - S 2 - - - E - 6 3 6 2 W - 6 3 6 2

At our table EW bid uninterrupted 1♦ - 1♠; 2♦ - 2♥; 4♦ - 5♦; P. Paul kicked off with a trump and declarer eventually lost three tricks whereas a spade finesse would have netted twelve. Unfortunately, another Staffs pair went off in 3NT, and the other Nottinghamshire pair bid and made a slam, so we lost heavily on the board.

### Board 4, both sides vulnerable, dealer West

Dir: West  
Vul: All

♠A Q 8 5 4  
♥8 7 5  
♦Q 7 3  
♣10 8

♠K J 10 7 6 3  
♥A  
♦A K 2  
♣K 7 5

8  
18 8  
6

Optimum  
NS 7HX; -2000

West	North	East
	4	
South		East

♠--  
♥Q J 9 6  
♦6 4  
♣A J 9 6 4 3 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	N	
N	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	
E	7	1	1	2	4
W	7	1	1	2	4

**Board No 4 Both Vul Dealer West**

Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-3-4	3NT	E	♥3	11	660	24	-24	
1-5-6	2-7-8	5♣	E	♠9	12	620	24	-24	
2-1-2	1-3-4	3NT	E	♦J	10	630	-24	24	
2-5-6	1-7-8	6♣	E	♦J	12	1370	-24	24	
3-1-2	4-5-6	5♣	E	♣Q	13	640	-48	48	
3-5-6	4-1-2	5♣	E	♦J	11	600	-48	48	
4-3-4	3-3-4	4♣	W	♣10	9	100		48	-48
4-7-8	3-7-8	3♣	W	♥7	8	100		48	-48
5-1-2	6-3-4	3NT	W	♥7	11	660	-22	22	
5-5-6	6-7-8	4NT	W	♦3	11	660	-22	22	
6-1-2	5-3-4	3♣	W	♥7	10	170	22	-22	
6-5-6	5-7-8	5♣	E	♦J	12	620	22	-22	

The EW auction started 1♠ - 2♣; 2♦ - 3♣; 4♥ - 5♣; 6♣ - P. 4♥ was a splinter, agreeing clubs as trumps, although splintering with a singleton ace or king is rarely a good idea, as partner won't know how to evaluate KQx or AQx opposite the singleton. Perhaps a raise to 4♣ would be wiser, allowing partner to start cue-bidding, but you'd have to be on sure ground that partner isn't going to pass.

Our opponents were the only ones to bid a slam, and I did reserve my rights at the end of the auction because the 5♣ bid had been slow (as had all the other bids, for that matter). A slow sign-off will always suggest something in reserve, so the raise to six has to be copper-bottomed or it will be ruled against by the tournament director.

I didn't pursue the matter. West has a good hand, admittedly, but East could have been worried about showing a spade control, in case West takes it as natural. I don't know what a director would have made of it.

### Board 5, NS vulnerable, dealer North

Dir: North  
Vul: N/S

Optimum NS 4S; 620

♠ J 10 9 8 7 5  
♥ A  
♦ J 10 8 7  
♣ K 2

♠ 2  
♥ 4 2  
♦ Q 9 5 4 2  
♣ A 9 7 6 5

West North East  
5  
South

♠ A Q 6  
♥ K J 10 9 8 6  
♦ 6  
♣ J 8 4

♠ K 4 3  
♥ Q 7 5 3  
♦ A K 3  
♣ Q 10 3

9  
6 11  
14

♣♦♥♠N  
N - 2 - 4 1  
S - 2 - 4 1  
E 1 - 1 - -  
W 1 - 1 - -

Board No 5 N/S Vul Dealer North									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-3-4	3♣	N	♦6	10	170		-14	14
1-5-6	2-7-8	3NT	S	♥4	7		200	-14	14
2-1-2	1-3-4	4♣	N	♦6	10	620		-14	-14
2-5-6	1-7-8	3♣*	N	♦6	8		200	14	-14
3-1-2	4-5-6	3♣	N	♥J	10	170		5	-5
3-5-6	4-1-2	4♥	E	♦K	7	150		5	-5
4-3-4	3-3-4	2♣	N	♦6	9	140		-5	5
4-7-8	3-7-8	3♥*	E	♦K	8	100		-5	5
5-1-2	6-3-4	3♣	N	♦6	8		100	-19	19
5-5-6	6-7-8	4♥	E	♠3	9	50		-19	19
6-1-2	5-3-4	4♣	S	♥4	9		100	19	-19
6-5-6	5-7-8	4♣	N	♦6	10	620		19	-19

This was our chance for a good score that we passed up. Paul opened 2♣, East overcalled 3♥, and I just bid 3♣, although I was aware we could have been missing game, we didn't have a stronger bid that wouldn't commit ourselves. Now West doubled to show the minors, and after a long think East passed this out.

I think West's bid is reckless, and he deserved to score -930 for his trouble, but Paul ducked the diamond lead in dummy and went one off after losing a diamond, two diamond ruffs and two aces. OK, that was one of our bad mistakes, but we still gained 14 cross-IMP's on the board as a team.

### Board 11, love all, dealer South

Dir: South  
Vul: None

Optimum NS 3N; 400

♠ A K 10  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ K 8 6 3  
♣ 10 9 7

♠ 9 8 5  
♥ A Q 9 4 3  
♦ 10 9 4  
♣ A 6

West North East  
11  
South

♠ J 7 6  
♥ J 10 8 2  
♦ Q 5 2  
♣ K 3 2

♠ Q 4 3 2  
♥ 7  
♦ A J 7  
♣ Q J 8 5 4

13  
10 7  
10

♣♦♥♠N  
N 4 3 1 3 3  
S 4 3 1 3 3  
E - - - - -  
W - - - - -

Board No 11 None Vul Dealer South									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-5-6	3NT	N	♥J	9	400		-9	9
1-5-6	2-1-2	2NT	N	♥J	7		50	-9	9
2-3-4	1-3-4	3NT	N	♥J	9	400		9	-9
2-7-8	1-7-8	2NT	N	♥J	9	150		9	-9
3-1-2	4-3-4	1NT	N	♥2	9	150		-19	19
3-5-6	4-7-8	2NT	N	♥J	7		50	-19	19
4-1-2	3-3-4	1♣	S	♠A	10	170		19	-19
4-5-6	3-7-8	2♥*	E	♣5	6	300		19	-19
5-1-2	6-5-6	1NT	N	♥J	7	90		-4	4
5-5-6	6-1-2	1NT	W	♦3	5	100		-4	4
6-3-4	5-3-4	2NT	N	♥2	9	150		4	-4
6-7-8	5-7-8	2♦	N	♥J	8	90		4	-4

This is one example of where I thought we were unlucky. South opened his miserable collection 1♣, I overcalled 1♥, North bid 2♦, Paul 2♥ and North ended the auction with 3NT. Paul led J♥, ducked to North, and North managed to scrape together nine tricks before we could regain the lead to put him down. Two 3-3 splits and a working finesse comes out at about a 6% chance, but luckily the only other pair to bid and make game was on our team so the loss was not so great.

### Board 17, love all, dealer North

Dlr: North Vul: None		♠Q J 8 7 ♥7 2 ♦A K Q 10 3 ♣9 7	Optimum EW 4CX; 100
♠K 6 4 2 ♥K 5 ♦7 6 5 ♣Q 10 6 4	North 17 South	♠10 5 ♥10 9 6 4 3 ♦8 ♣A K 5 3 2	
12 8      7 13	♠A 9 3 ♥A Q J 8 ♦J 9 4 2 ♣J 8	♣♦♥♠N N - 3 - 2 1 S - 3 - 2 1 E 3 - 1 - - W 3 - 1 - -	

Board No 17 None Vul Dealer North									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-7-8	4♣	N	♣A	8	100	22	-22	
1-5-6	2-3-4	3NT	S	♥K	10	430	22	-22	
2-1-2	1-7-8	5♦	N	♣K	9	100	-22	22	
2-5-6	1-3-4	5♦	N	♣K	9	100	-22	22	
3-1-2	4-1-2	5♦	N	♣A	10	50	-9	9	
3-5-6	4-5-6	3♦	N	♣K	9	110	-9	9	
4-3-4	3-7-8	4♣*	E	♦2	8	300	9	-9	
4-7-8	3-3-4	4♣	N	♣A	9	50	9	-9	
5-1-2	6-7-8	3♦	N	♣A	9	110	6	-6	
5-5-6	6-3-4	3♦	N	♣K	9	110	6	-6	
6-1-2	5-7-8	2♦	N	♣A	10	130	-6	6	
6-5-6	5-3-4	5♦	N	♣K	10	50	-6	6	

North opened 1♦ and East overcalled 2NT, showing the lowest-ranking unbid suits. I doubled and West bid a pre-emptive 4♣, which was passed round to me. I have shown a willingness to defend, so Paul should double 4♣ if he has any defence to that suit, and I can't really double with this trump holding. I took a leap to 5♦, and with two kings badly placed that went two off. Deep Finesse can beat 4♣, but it doesn't look easy. I thought I had a right to be disappointed that two rounds of clubs could be cashed.

### Board 26, both vulnerable, dealer East

Dlr: East Vul: All		♠J 9 8 5 3 ♥Q 5 2 ♦4 3 2 ♣5 4	Optimum EW 3N; -630
♠Q 7 ♥A 10 6 4 ♦K Q 9 ♣K J 8 3	North 26 South	♠K 10 6 4 ♥K 9 8 3 ♦A 7 5 ♣9 6	
3 15      10 12	♠A 2 ♥J 7 ♦J 10 8 6 ♣A Q 10 7 2	♣♦♥♠N N - - - - S - - - - E 3 3 4 3 4 W 3 3 4 3 4	

Board No 26 Both Vul Dealer East									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-1-2	2♠*	N	♣9	4	1100	19	-19	
1-5-6	2-5-6	3♥	E	♠A	10	170	19	-19	
2-3-4	1-7-8	2♠*	S	♦Q	4	1100	-19	19	
2-7-8	1-3-4	2♠*	S	♠7	5	800	-19	19	
3-1-2	4-7-8	4♥	W	♣5	10	620	20	-20	
3-5-6	4-3-4	2♥	W	♣5	10	170	20	-20	
4-1-2	3-7-8	4♥	W	♣5	10	620	-20	20	
4-5-6	3-3-4	4♥	W	♣5	10	620	-20	20	
5-1-2	6-1-2	4♥	W	♣5	10	620	17	-17	
5-5-6	6-5-6	3NT	W	♠5	8	100	17	-17	
6-3-4	5-7-8	4♥	W	♦4	10	620	-17	17	
6-7-8	5-3-4	2♣	S	♦K	4	400	-17	17	

Paul passed as East, and the opponents started a transfer sequence after a weak no trump. I doubled 2♠ to compete the part-score, and Paul bid 3♥, where he played, making ten tricks. It's clear that some Easts managed to pass the double for a healthy penalty, but in my world a protective double could be a lot weaker than this West hand.

We had a discussion afterwards about whether we can show some values here. There may be people who play lebensohl in this situation, but I wouldn't expect that to be a normal agreement. We are unlikely to have game on when East has passed and West doesn't have enough to double, so 2NT should perhaps be played as a scramble to try to find the best minor-suit fit. Let me know what you think.

**Board 27, love all, dealer South**

Dlr: South Vul: None		♠K J 3 ♥K 9 7 2 ♦K 2 ♣K 7 3 2	Optimum EW 3N; -460
♠Q 8 7 5 4 ♥Q 10 ♦Q 5 4 ♣A 10 4	North 27 South	♠A 10 ♥A J 8 ♦A J 8 6 3 ♣Q 9 8	
13 10 16 1	♠9 6 2 ♥6 5 4 3 ♦10 9 7 ♣J 6 5	♣♦♥♠N N - - - - S - - - - E 4 5 3 5 5 W 4 5 3 5 5	

Board No 27 None Vul Dealer South									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-1-2	1NT*	N	♦3	4	500	-4	4	
1-5-6	2-5-6	1NT*	N	♦6	4	500	-4	4	
2-3-4	1-7-8	3NT	E	♥5	10	430	4	-4	
2-7-8	1-3-4	1NT*	N	♦6	4	500	4	-4	
3-1-2	4-7-8	4♣	W	♣2	10	420	22	-22	
3-5-6	4-3-4	1NT*	N	♦3	4	500	22	-22	
4-1-2	3-7-8	3NT	E	♠J	10	430	-22	22	
4-5-6	3-3-4	2♣*	N	♦A	3	1100	-22	22	
5-1-2	6-1-2	3NT	W	♣2	11	460	4	-4	
5-5-6	6-5-6	3NT	E	♣5	10	430	4	-4	
6-3-4	5-7-8	3NT	E	♦10	11	460	-4	4	
6-7-8	5-3-4	1NT*	N	♦3	4	500	-4	4	

After two passes John Auld opened a weak no trump with the North hand. Paul doubled, and Irene had nowhere to go. A diamond lead gave declarer a trick (but so would anything else), but after that it was a rough ride for NS. We took nine tricks for +500, although Paul was quick to point out we should have taken another.

I see someone got a worse score in 2♣x, and I have some sympathy if South took action over the double, perhaps bidding 2♣ and then redoubling for rescue, although on this hand any suit they run to won't fare much better.

**Board 29, EW vulnerable, dealer East**

Dlr: North Vul: All		♠Q 5 4 ♥J 9 5 ♦4 3 ♣A 9 8 6 2	Optimum NS 5CX; -200
♠J ♥A K Q 4 2 ♦A Q 7 2 ♣7 4 3	North 29 South	♠K 7 6 3 2 ♥10 7 6 3 ♦10 8 5 ♣J	
7 16 4 13	♠A 10 9 8 ♥8 ♦K J 9 6 ♣K Q 10 5	♣♦♥♠N N 4 - - 1 - S 4 - - 1 - E - 2 4 - W - 2 3 -	

Board No 29 Both Vul Dealer North									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1-1-2	2-1-2	3♣	S	♥K	7	200	34	-34	
1-5-6	2-5-6	3♥	W	♣A	9	140	34	-34	
2-3-4	1-7-8	5♣*	S	♥K	9	500	-34	34	
2-7-8	1-3-4	4♥	W	♣4	10	620	-34	34	
3-1-2	4-7-8	4♥	W	♣A	9	100		-7	7
3-5-6	4-3-4	4♥	W	♦4	10	620	-7	7	
4-1-2	3-7-8	3♥	W	♦4	9	140	7	-7	
4-5-6	3-3-4	1♥	W	♦4	10	170	7	-7	
5-1-2	6-1-2	1NT	N	♠2	6	100	2	-2	
5-5-6	6-5-6	3♥	W	♣4	10	170	2	-2	
6-3-4	5-7-8	1♥	W	♦4	9	140	-2	2	
6-7-8	5-3-4	3♥	W	♣A	10	170	-2	2	

After two passes South opened 1♣ and I overcalled 1♥. North jumped pre-emptively to 3♣, which was passed round to me. Wisely or not, I competed with 3♦, Paul corrected to 3♥, and that's where we played, making nine tricks.

Other pairs managed to bid and make the game from the West side, luckily balanced out between the two sides in the second and third teams, but in the first team Notts bid and made game and took 500 from 5♣ doubled for our heaviest loss on a board.