

## Hands from the Dawes match vs Worcestershire 16.10.16

### Hand 1:

I thought this hand was interesting from a bidding and play perspective.

Dlr: North Vul: None		♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ J 10 9 6	Optimum EW 6D: -920	Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North											
		♠ 5 ♥ A 8 7 3 ♦ J 10 8 7 5 4 ♣ 8 2	North West 1 East South	Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points				
		♠ Q 10 9 8 6 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ 7 4 3		N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W			
1				A1	A2	6NT	E	12	990	-16	16				
5				A2	A1	3NT	E	12	490	16	-16				
26				A3	A4	6NT	E	12	990	-42	42				
8				A4	A3	3NT	E	12	490	42	-42				
				A5	A6	3NT	E	12	490	24	-24				
				A6	A5	3NT	E	12	490	-24	24				
				B1	B2	5♦	W	11	400	-16	16				
				B2	B1	3NT	E	12	490	16	-16				
				B3	B4	6♦	W	12	920	-42	42				
				B4	B3	3NT	E	11	460	42	-42				
				B5	B6	3NT	E	10	430	24	-24				
				B6	B5	6NT	E	12	990	-24	24				

We bid 2♣ - 2♦ - 3NT to show 25-26 pts balanced, and West decided, not unreasonably, to pass. An alternative might be to explore other contracts and possible slams by bidding 4♣ over 3NT. This should mean whatever 3♣ means over 2NT, i.e. Stayman, puppet Stayman, Baron, or whatever.

A useful space-saving device to let you explore the best contract at a lower level is the popular *Kokish* convention, invented by Canadian expert and bidding theorist, Eric Kokish. After 2♣ - 2♦ (relay) opener rebids 2NT to show 23-24 pts balanced (non-forcing) and 2♥ to show a game-force with either hearts or a balanced hand. Responder is forced to relay again with 2♠ and opener can now show their hand-type by bidding 2NT (balanced 25+ pts, forcing), 3♥ (single-suiter with hearts, GF) or anything else (two-suited with hearts and the bid suit, GF). This hand could now be bid:

2♣	GF or 23-24 bal	2♦	relay
2♥	GF bal or hearts	2♠	relay
2NT	GF bal	3♣	Stayman
3♣	four spades	4♦	long diamonds and implying four hearts
4NT	to play, no fit	?	

Three pairs bid a slam, but do you really want to? Six diamonds and 6NT make, but only because the heart finesse works and the ♦K is doubleton. (Deep Finesse says that 6NT fails, but I suspect South has to find the difficult opening lead of ♥K to beat it.)

Playing 3NT by East I won the spade lead and led ♦Q from hand to encourage the defence to take the trick early. South then switched to ♥K which I had to duck to guarantee eleven tricks. In a slam I would have been forced to lead out ♦AQ and rely on the king falling doubleton.

Mike Beach contends that there's little point in leading  $\spadesuit Q$  on the first round, and I have to concede he may be right. The only advantage comes when a sleepy South bags the king on the first round (partner can hardly have a singleton ace) with  $Kxx(x)$ , and this is not likely to happen. I can only say it's even less likely to happen if  $AQ$  are led out.

Mike also prefers five or six diamonds as a contract to any number of no trumps in teams play. But how do you get there? West could jump to  $5\diamond$  over  $3NT$  (which Mike would always raise to six), but that gives up on a possible heart contract. On my suggested auction above West could insist on diamonds by rebidding them over  $4NT$ , and East would then be free to pass or raise.

If you want to explore minor suit slams over a  $2NT$  opener or rebid, by the way, here's a good system:

2NT strong, bal.                       $3\spadesuit$  puppet to 3NT  
 3NT (forced)                              ?

Now  $4\clubsuit/\diamond$  show both minors, at least 5-4 (bid the better one);  $4\heartsuit/\spadesuit$  show a single-suiter with  $\clubsuit/\diamond$ .  $4NT$  by opener should be discouraging and non-forcing with no fit, and anything else should be forward-going, agreeing responder's suit. (You could use  $4\heartsuit/\spadesuit$  over  $4\clubsuit/\diamond$  to agree the lower / higher of the two suits.)

### Hand 16:

It was difficult to stay out of game on this hand when West (not unreasonably) had opened the bidding:

Dir: West  
Vul: E/W

$\spadesuit 5$   
 $\heartsuit J 10 8 5 4$   
 $\diamond 8 7 4 2$   
 $\clubsuit 10 7 3$

Optimum  
EW 4D; -130

$\spadesuit A K 7 6 3$   
 $\heartsuit Q 3$   
 $\diamond Q 6$   
 $\clubsuit 9 6 5 2$

West

16

East

$\spadesuit 10 8$   
 $\heartsuit 9 6$   
 $\diamond A K J 5 3$   
 $\clubsuit A Q J 8$

$\spadesuit Q J 9 4 2$   
 $\heartsuit A K 7 2$   
 $\diamond 10 9$   
 $\clubsuit K 4$

	$\spadesuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamond$	$\clubsuit$	N
N	-	-	2	-	-
S	-	-	2	-	-
E	3	4	-	2	2
W	3	4	-	2	2

Board No 16 E/W Vul Dealer West									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W	
A1	A2	2 $\spadesuit$	W	5	300		30	-30	
A2	A1	4 $\spadesuit$	W	8	200		-30	30	
A3	A4	6NT*	W	8	1100		43	-43	
A4	A3	3 $\heartsuit$	S	7		100	-43	43	
A5	A6	4 $\spadesuit$	W	7	300		-4	4	
A6	A5	3 $\clubsuit$	E	10		130	4	-4	
B1	B2	4 $\spadesuit$	W	8	200		30	-30	
B2	B1	3NT	W	10		630	-30	30	
B3	B4	4 $\spadesuit$	W	7	300		43	-43	
B4	B3	4 $\spadesuit$	W	9	100		-43	43	
B5	B6	4 $\clubsuit$	E	10		130	-4	4	
B6	B5	3 $\spadesuit$	W	5	400		4	-4	

Our auction was:

1 $\spadesuit$     2 $\diamond$   
 2 $\spadesuit$     3 $\clubsuit$  natural, GF  
 3 $\heartsuit$  fourth suit                              3 $\spadesuit$  doubleton spade support  
 4 $\clubsuit$     4 $\clubsuit$  our most likely game

I assume those who stopped in a part score didn't open the West hand. Our teams were saved by the failure of NS to lead and continue hearts against 3NT, and some over-exuberant bidding by the second-team opponents to 6NT.

All Mike can say is that he doesn't like opening the West hand (Kath agrees; she passed at the table). For those of you who play bridge by numbers, this meets the requirements of a vulnerable 1♠ opening in a number of systems:

- It complies with Marty Bergen's "rule of 20" (hcp + length in the two longest suits  $\geq 20$ ).
- It complies with Ron Klinger's "rule of X + quick tricks" attempt to improve on Marty's scheme (hcp + length in the two longest suits + quick tricks  $\geq 21\frac{1}{2}$  non-vul,  $\geq 22$  vul).
- It complies with Zar Petkov's even more complicated "Zar points" system (hcp + length in the two longest suits + controls + difference between the longest and shortest suits  $\geq 26$ ).

(Unfortunately Roger and David, who champion the Zar system of hand evaluation, were sitting NS, so we won't know whether they would have opened.)

### Hand 10:

This was a hand where EW had to decide whether or not to bid game.

Dir: East  
Vul: All

♠ 6  
♥ A Q 8 6 5 3  
♦ 4 3 2  
♣ A 4 3

Optimum  
NS 5HX: -500

**Board No 10 Both Vul Dealer East**

Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
A1	A2	4♠	W	11	650	-21	21	
A2	A1	4♠	W	10	620	21	-21	
A3	A4	4♠	W	10	620	9	-9	
A4	A3	4♠	W	10	620	-9	9	
A5	A6	3♠	W	10	170	-14	14	
A6	A5	4♠	W	9	100	14	-14	
B1	B2	4♠	W	10	620	-21	21	
B2	B1	3♠	W	10	170	21	-21	
B3	B4	4♠	W	9	100	9	-9	
B4	B3	3♠	W	10	170	-9	9	
B5	B6	4♠	W	9	100	-14	14	
B6	B5	4♠	W	9	100	14	-14	

♠ A J 8 5 4 2  
♥ K J 10  
♦ A 6  
♣ K 9

North  
10  
South

♠ K Q 3  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 9 8 5  
♣ J 10 8 7 5

♠ 10 9 7  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ K J 10 7  
♣ Q 6 2

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

Our auction went:

1♠    2♥    2♠    3♥  
3♠    all pass

West ought to have a game-try available here so that East can bid game with a good hand for the bidding so far. If there's no bidding space available below three of our suit (as here), double should be used for this purpose. If NS are competing in diamonds, 3♥ should be a general game-try bid (it says nothing about the heart suit), and if NS compete in clubs West has a choice of suits so should bid the one in which

help is needed. With these methods West can bid 3♠ with a weak hand with six spades that just wants to compete without encouraging East.

Mike adds that East should be able to show an invitational hand with three trumps at their first turn with a 3♥ cue-bid. I did regret that we didn't have such an agreement at the time. The full scheme after an overcall is:

1♠ 2♥ ?

- 2♠ = purely competitive with three spades, or four in a balanced hand
- 3♠ = pre-emptive with four spades in a weak hand with ruffing potential
- 3♥ = an invitational raise or better with three spades
- 2NT = an invitational raise or better with four spades

This tends to be more popular in North America, where five-card majors are common, than over here. There's a danger of ending up at the three level in a 4-3 fit when playing four-card majors, but I still know a lot of Acol players who recommend it.

### Hand 6:

This hand triggered an alarm in the scoring programme as both NS and EW declared heart contracts:

Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

♠ Q 9 8  
♥ A K Q 10 7  
♦ J  
♣ J 10 9 8

♠ A K 10 3  
♥ --  
♦ A Q 9 7 4  
♣ 6 4 3 2

♠ J 7 6 4 2  
♥ J 2  
♦ 10 6 5  
♣ A K 7

Optimum  
EW 4D: -130

North		East	
6			
South		East	

♠ 5  
♥ 9 8 6 5 4 3  
♦ K 8 3 2  
♣ Q 5

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

Board No 6 E/W Vul Dealer East									
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points		
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W	
A1	A2	3♥	N	7	100	-20	20		
A2	A1	3♦	W	10	130	20	-20		
A3	A4	3♦	W	10	130	-18	18		
A4	A3	4♠*	S	9	100	18	-18		
A5	A6	3♥	N	10	170	2	-2		
A6	A5	2♠	S	9	140	-2	2		
B1	B2	4♥*	N	7	500	-20	20		
B2	B1	2♥	N	7	50	20	-20		
B3	B4	3♦	W	10	130	-18	18		
B4	B3	2♥*	W	7	200	18	-18		
B5	B6	2♦	W	11	150	2	-2		
B6	B5	4♥	N	7	150	-2	2		

I opened a rather horrible vulnerable multi-2♦, partner bid 2♥ and North doubled for penalty (a strange agreement – takeout is far more useful). This was passed out for what I hoped would be a good save against their game, but it was not to be. It would have been a good hand for West to redouble for rescue, but there's no guarantee three of a minor would play better.