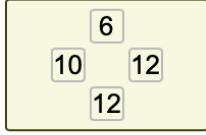
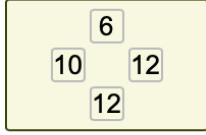


Oxfordshire Congress Teams by Chris Wilson

We were rather fortunate on this board from round 3.

Dir: South Vul: E/W	♠5 ♥K76532 ♦964 ♣K72
♠6 ♥Q1094 ♦AQ102 ♣Q983	♠AKQJ742 ♥J8 ♦3 ♣J65
West 19 South	North 19 East
	

♠10983 ♥A ♦KJ875 ♣A104	♠10983 ♥A ♦KJ875 ♣A104
	

The most common contract was 3S making or sometimes -1. At our table it went

1D – P – 1H – 3S

P – P – X – all pass

Had my Hs been Ax I'd bid 4H, but I didn't and I thought that against broken honours my spades would fetch a trick (hummm!).

I led HA and Matthew encouraged. I thought for quite a while and knowing he had nothing in D/S thought he must have CK for his X. I led CA then another. MC cashed HK enabling me to throw my remaining club and I could then ruff a C for the setting trick. Phew!

Rob & Mike judged this well with the auction:

1D – P – 2H (WJS) – 2S

P – 2NT – P – 3NT

So, a gain of 13 IMPs.

In the 6th round of 7 we trailed the long-time leaders (Cope / Jones) by 14 points and were drawn against them. There were 3 interesting boards.

Dlr: West
 Vul: All

♠K2
♥765
♦42
♣KQJ1087

♠94
♥AQ103
♦QJ93
♣432

North
36
South

West
East

♠8753
♥KJ9842
♦K
♣95

♠AQJ106
♥--
♦A108765
♣A6

♣	♦	♥	♠	N
7	4	-	6	1
S	7	4	-	6
E	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	2	-

At our table Leaping Michaels turned up for the first time since we started playing it years ago.

P – P – 2H – 4D

4H – 4S – all pass

12 tricks rolled in quickly.

At Rob and Mike's table oppos stopped in 3S after:

P – P – P – 1S

P – 1NT – P – 2D

3C – 3S

Board 41 was flat but of interest.

Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

♠J10
♥KQ62
♦Q76
♣KJ94

♠87
♥873
♦J1085432
♣2

North
41
South

West
East

♠K9642
♥104
♦9
♣A8763

♠AQ53
♥AJ95
♦AK
♣Q105

♣	♦	♥	♠	N
5	2	5	3	6
S	5	2	5	3
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

Playing 15-17/5M/short C, we bid:

1C – 1H

2H – 2S

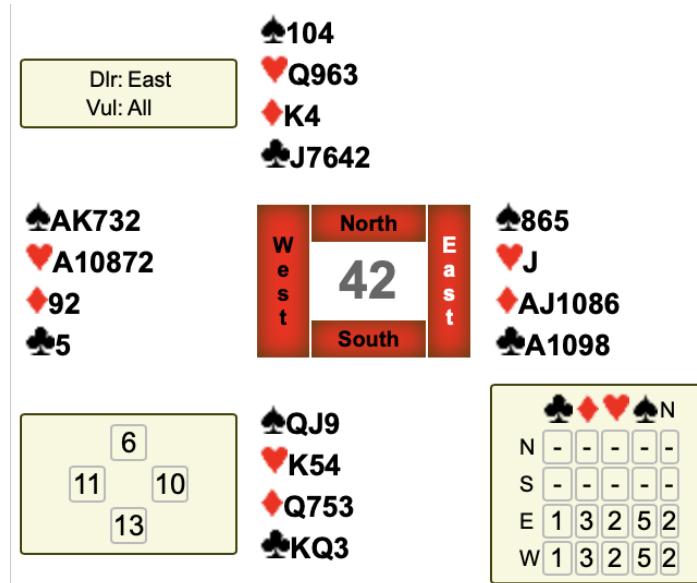
2N – 4N

5C – 6N

My 4N is somewhat ambiguous but Matthew decided it was keycard. After a long tank, I decided that I wasn't certain he had 4H and with points / flat chose NT rather than the suit.

At the other table there was a long artificial auction to also reach 6N.

6H by South should go off easily, and by North it depended whether E was a paid-up member of the 'lead an ace against a slam' club, and what he made of West's C2! At 31 tables, 4 stopped in game, 6H went off at 8 and made at 6. The other 13 were safely in 6N.



Our oppos stopped in 3S making but Rob and Mike bid to 4S after:

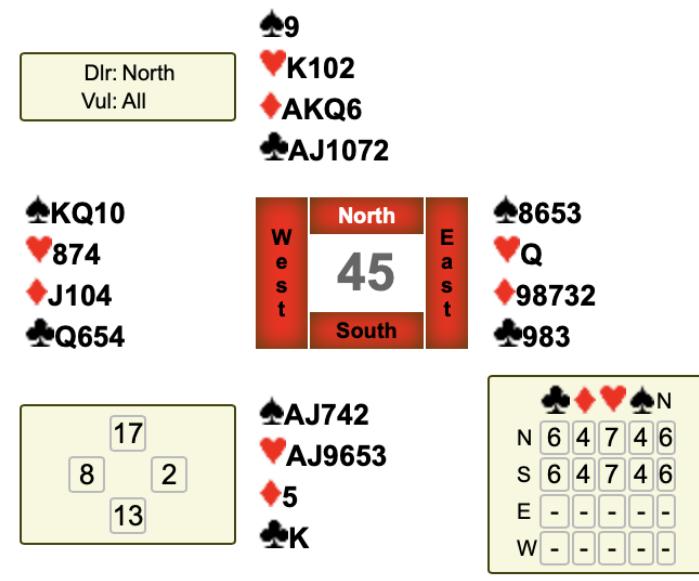
P - 1NT - 2C (LANDY) - P

3S - P - 4S

This made after the defence allowed HJ to make and Rob could then cross ruff.

Gains of 10 on both 36 and 42 secured a 17-3 win, so we were level with 1 round to play.

This was a big swing in the final round:



Our auction was:

1C – 1H
2D – 2S
3H – 4N
5C – 5D
5H – 6H

5C showed 3 and 5H denied HQ. Had MC shown it I was bidding 7, but missing Qxxx the odds were wrong, and also the other boards had felt like gains.

After a H lead 13 tricks quickly rolled in.

At Rob & Mike's table the opening 5 bids were the same but South then signed off in 4H giving us a 13 IMP swing and an 18-2 win.

Mary-Ann and her team beat Cope / Jones 11-9, so we were home!