

## 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

North
W
e
s
t
19
South
E
a
s
t

♠AKQJ742  
♥J8  
♦3  
♣J65

	6	
10		12
	12	

♠10983  
♥A  
♦KJ875  
♣A104

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	1	-	1	2	3
W	1	-	1	2	3

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

Dir: West  
Vul: All

♠K2  
♥765  
♦42  
♣KQJ1087

♠94  
♥AQ103  
♦QJ93  
♣432

North  
West 36 East  
South

♠8753  
♥KJ9842  
♦K  
♣95

9  
9 7  
15

♠AQJ106  
♥--  
♦A108765  
♣A6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	7	4	-	6	1
S	7	4	-	6	1
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.

Dir: North  
Vul: E/W

♠J10  
♥KQ62  
♦Q76  
♣KJ94

♠87  
♥873  
♦J1085432  
♣2

North  
West 41 East  
South

♠K9642  
♥104  
♦9  
♣A8763

12  
1 7  
20

♠AQ53  
♥AJ95  
♦AK  
♣Q105

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	5	2	5	3	6
S	5	2	5	3	6
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.

Dir: East  
Vul: All

♠104

♥Q963

♦K4

♣J7642

♠AK732

♥A10872

♦92

♣5

West  
42  
East  
South

♠865

♥J

♦AJ1086

♣A1098

6  
11 10  
13

♠QJ9

♥K54

♦Q753

♣KQ3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	3	2	5	2
W	1	3	2	5	2

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:

Dir: North  
Vul: All

♠9

♥K102

♦AKQ6

♣AJ1072

♠KQ10

♥874

♦J104

♣Q654

North		
West	45	East
South		

♠8653

♥Q

♦98732

♣983

	17	
8		2
	13	

♠AJ742

♥AJ9653

♦5

♣K

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

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!