

Oxfordshire vs. Gloucestershire - 22/04/2018

Summary

Congratulations to the B and C teams who beat Gloucestershire yesterday by 13-7 and 14-6 respectively, and thereby both won their divisions of the Midlands county league.

The C team have done particularly well, winning all their matches this season and finishing on 97 VPs, 13 ahead of second place. But the B team did almost as well, with 96 VPs, albeit with a couple of losses and only a 5VP margin over secondplace.

Sadly, the A team wasn't able to make it a clean sweep, losing 4-16 to a Gloucestershire team who still had some hopes of winning the title, but who lost out to Warwickshire by 4 VPs in the end. Our A team finished the season in 6th place. Well done especially to Nick Smith and Tim Dickinson who single-handedly seem to have prevented a whitewash for the A team.

Results

A team: 4-16

B team: 13-7

C team: 14-6

Cross-Imps

Pair	Across own team	Across all three teams
Alan Wilson & Steve Noble	-67.7	-36.1
Christopher Whitehouse & Chris Wilson	-25	-44.7
Tim Dickinson & Nick Smith	31.7	48
Aleks Lishkov & Ian Angus	-11	-34.1
Ron Quainton & Adrian Lambe	-7.3	-8.8
Alastair Gidman & Lorna Swadling	27.7	25.8
Rob Proctor & John Deech	19.3	9.3
Krys Kazmierczak & Sandra Nicholson	-15.7	-4.4
John Slater & Helen Lawton-Smith	-0.3	-13.1
David Bygott & Michiel Cottaar	-27.3	-2.7
David Stead & David Watkins	18.7	-4.5
Peter Litchfield & Malcolm Currie	45.7	54.8

Boards

Board 1

Dealer North

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

♠ K J 3 2	♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ Q 9 7 3	♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ A	♦ 6 5 2
♣ Q J 9 6	♣ 8 2

The majority of Norths here (including me) found it hard to resist going on to 5 of a minor over 4♥, perhaps giving South an unenviable choice between them. Deep Finesse says that the penalty can be kept to roughly the value of the EW game, but some declarers found it hard to keep control of the hand.

A team: 26 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♣x-3 N	5♣x-3 N	4♥+1 E	5♦x-5 N
-500	500	-450	1100

B team: -17 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
5♣x-5 N	4♥+1 E	5♦x-2 N	4♥= E
-1100	450	-300	420

C team: -15 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
5♣x-5 N	5♥x= E	4♥+1 E	5♣x-3 N
-1100	650	-450	500

Board 2

Dealer East

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

♠ Q 10 7	♠ J 9 6 4
♥ Q J 10	♥ A 5 3
♦ J 7 4	♦ 10 8 3
♣ 9 6 5 3	♣ K Q 4

A part-score hand, but quite a few imps for the A and C teams when everybody went plus.

A team: 30 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♣-1 E	3♠-1 N	5♣x-2 E	3♠-2 N
50	100	300	200

B team: -8 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♦= E	3♠-1 S	3♣= E	4♣-1 E
-110	100	-110	-50

C team: 24 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT-1 W	2♦+2 E	5♣-2 E	3♠-2 S
50	130	100	200

Board 3

Dealer South

♠ 10 5 4 2		♠ A
♥ A Q		♥ K J 7 6 5 2
♦ 10 8 3		♦ K Q
♣ A 9 5 3		♣ 8 7 6 2
♠ K 9 8 7 3		
♥ 10 9 3		
♦ 4 2		
♣ K J 10		
♠ Q J 6		
♥ 8 4		
♦ A J 9 7 6 5		
♣ Q 4		

This looks like another part-score hand, but a couple of optimists (one in each C team) bid up to 4♥, and found that the defence were unable to beat this in practice – it takes the lead of ♣Q at trick 1 (or trick 2 after cashing ♦A) to beat it, I think, which certainly doesn't look very appealing to South.

A team: 2 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♥+2 E	4♦-2 S	3♦-1 S	3♥= E
-170	100	-50	140

B team: 7 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♥= E	3♥= E	4♥-1 E	3♦-1 S
-140	140	100	50

C team: 4 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♦-1 S	3♠-3 N	4♥= W	4♥= E
-50	150	-620	620

Board 4

Dealer West

♠ J 7 5 4		♠ A K 8 3
♥ K 6 2		♥ A Q 10
♦ A 7		♦ Q 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 3		♣ 7 2
♠ Q 9 6		
♥ J 9 7 5 3		
♦ J 5 4 3		
♣ 10		
♠ 10 2		
♥ 8 4		
♦ K 10 8		
♣ J 9 8 6 5 4		

It looks like EW against the Davids might have had a misunderstanding about whether a double of 3♣ was for take-out or not. Certainly there was no way to defeat the resulting 3Cx, while EW should be able to make 3♥.

A team: -4 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
1NT-2 N	3♥= W	2♥+1 E	3♦+1 W
-200	140	-140	130

B team: -3 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
2♥+2 E	1♠-1 N	3♣+1 N	3♣+1 N
-170	100	130	-130

C team: 18 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♣= N	4♥-2 W	3♣x= N	4♥-1 W
110	-200	670	-100

Board 5

Dealer North

♠ -		♠ A Q 9
♥ K J 9 8 5 4 3 2		♥ Q 7
♦ 8 7		♦ Q 6 5
♣ 8 4 2		♣ A K Q 6 3
		♠ K J 8 7 6 2
	♥ 10	
	♦ A K 9 3 2	
	♣ 10	

In theory 10 tricks are the limit for EW in hearts or NS in spades, but it is easy to see 11 tricks being made in practice. A triumph in the B team where both our EW pairs made 5♥, but both our NS pairs held 5♥ or 6Hx to 10 tricks. Less successful in the A team. I sold out too easily when East opened 2♦, showing 18-9 balanced (no other options) and Steve overcalled 2♠. When West jumped to 4♥, I didn't take Steve's overcall seriously enough to compete. And a disaster for Chris and Christopher, who doubled 5♠ but failed to beat it. The defence started well with two top clubs, and declarer crossed to ♥A to lead a trump. Christopher went in with ♠A, but made the mistake of continuing with a diamond, assuming partner would have ♦K for his bidding and discouraging heart discard. A look at dummy, though, should make clear that declarer cannot possibly make his contract if you continue hearts or clubs since he cannot get to dummy to finesse against ♠Q. However much you want to trust partner's signals and bidding, I think it is always safer to trust the evidence of your own eyes when this is sufficient!

A team: -10 imps

B team: 48 imps

C team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♥+1 W	5♠x=S	4♠x+1 S	6♥x-1 W
-450	-850	990	-100

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
6♥x-2 W	5♥= W	5♥-1 W	5♥= W
300	450	50	450

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
5♥= W	4♥+1 W	5♥= W	4♥+1 W
-450	450	-450	450

Board 6

Dealer East

♠ 6 5 4		♠ K 8 3
♥ A K 7 4		♥ 9 2
♦ K 5 4		♦ Q 10 9 8 6 3
♣ Q 5 2		♣ 10 3
♠ Q J 9 7		♠ A 10 2
♥ Q J 10 8 5	♥ 6 3	
♦ A 7	♦ J 2	
♣ 9 8	♣ A K J 7 6 4	

A straightforward enough 3N at most tables, though a couple of NS pairs failed to bid it. Against Peter and Malcolm, South overcalled a weak 2♦ with 3♣, but N decided it was safer to ask for a diamond stop by bidding 3♠ rather than to show one by bidding 3N. South felt he didn't have much choice but to go on to 4♣.

A team: 2 imps

B team: 2 imps

C team: -3 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3NT+1 N	3NT+1 N	3NT+1 N	3NT=S
430	-430	430	-400

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3NT+1 N	3NT=N	3NT+1 N	3NT+1 N
430	-400	430	-430

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♣+1 S	3NT+2 N	3NT=N	4♣= S
130	-460	400	-130

Board 7

Dealer South

♠ Q 6 2		
♥ K Q 10 5		
♦ K Q 7 5		
♣ Q 7		
♠ K J 9 7 5 3	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 10 8 4
♥ 6		♥ J
♦ 8 6 3		♦ A 9 2
♣ 9 8 4		♣ K J 6 5 2
♠ -		
♥ A 9 8 7 4 3 2		
♦ J 10 4		
♣ A 10 3		

A bad board for the A team, costing 42 imps. Steve and I sold out to 4♠, and with only 50 points a trick at stake failed to extract the maximum number of undertricks. Chris and Christopher, on the other hand, found themselves in 5♠x, and after a misguess by declarer the result was -1100!

A team: -42 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♠-1 W	5♠x-4 W	5♥= S	5♥x= S
100	-1100	650	-850

B team: 0 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♥+1 S	4♥+1 N	5♥= S	5♥= S
650	-650	650	-650

C team: -1 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
5♥= S	4♥+2 S	5♠x-1 W	3♥+2 S
650	-680	200	-200

Board 8

Dealer West

♠ Q 10 9 7 2		
♥ A 10 9 4		
♦ Q 8 5		
♣ J		
♠ 8 4	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 5
♥ K Q J 6		♥ 2
♦ J		♦ A K 10 9 7 4
♣ Q 10 8 5 4 2		♣ K 9 6
♠ A 6 3		
♥ 8 7 5 3		
♦ 6 3 2		
♣ A 7 3		

A few EW pairs tried a pushy 3N. This made more often than not, but is by no means straightforward. Which suit should declarer play on after a spade lead to ♠Q and ♠K? Lorna made a successful choice of playing on hearts, and when North took ♥A to play ♠T she ducked. Now the contract could not be defeated, with clubs able to be established for 1 loser and the defence unable to keep declarer out of dummy without conceding the diamond suit.

A team: 15 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3♦+1 E	3NT-1 E	2♠= N	3NT= W
-130	-50	110	400

B team: -3 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
2♠-2 N	3NT= E	3NT= E	2♠-1 N
-100	400	-400	50

C team: -5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
2♥-1 W	3NT-3 E	2♦+2 E	2♦+2 E
50	-150	-130	130

Board 9

Dealer North

<p>♠ 9 ♥ K Q 10 7 5 ♦ Q J 9 3 2 ♣ K 2</p>		<p>♠ 7 5 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ A 10 8 ♣ A Q J 10 8</p>
<p>♠ K J 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K 7 6 5 ♣ 9 6 5 3</p>		
<p>♠ A Q 10 8 6 4 3 ♥ A J 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 7 4</p>		

The most successful board of the match for the A team. The challenge for NS is first to choose 4♥ rather than 4♠, and second to find a successful line in 4♥. After a trump lead I went for the simple line of relying on both majors to break 3-2, winning the trump in the North hand, then playing a spade to ♠A and ruffing a spade. After a trump to dummy I could ruff another spade high, cross back to dummy drawing the last trump, and enjoy the spade suit.

A team: 43 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♥= N	4♠-2 S	4♥+1 N	4♥-1 N
420	100	450	50

B team: -19 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♥-1 N	5♥-2 N	4♠-2 S	4♥= N
-50	100	-100	-420

C team: -4 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♥-2 N	4♥-1 N	4♥-2 N	4♠-2 S
-100	50	-100	100

Board 10

Dealer East

<p>♠ Q 3 2 ♥ J 7 6 ♦ K J 9 6 5 ♣ K 5</p>		<p>♠ 5 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ A 7 6 2</p>
<p>♠ A K J 10 9 8 4 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ A ♣ J 4</p>		
<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ K Q 9 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q 10 9 8 3</p>		

Only 3 successful declarers in game on this one. Oxfordshire's successful EW pairs were Peter and Malcolm who made 4♠ with the help of a defensive revoke (when you are having a good day, even the oppo seem to help!), and Christopher who made 3N. As he describes it, "Another hairy 3NT, against which south led ♣T. It seemed to me that my best chance was to bluff about the quality of my club intermediates in the hope of inducing a switch, so I covered and took an unsuccessful spade finesse. A lengthy pause ensued, after which north fished out...a heart. If I allow ♣T to hold the first trick, south can switch to a diamond and dummy is toast."

A team: -8 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♠+1 W	3NT= E	3NT= E	4♠-1 W
-140	600	-600	-100

B team: 0 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♠-1 W	4♠-1 W	4♠-1 W	4♠-1 W
100	-100	100	-100

C team: 8 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♠= W	4♠-1 W	2♠+1 W	4♠= W
-140	-100	-140	620

Board 11

Dealer South

♠ -	♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ Q 8 7 4 2	♥ J
♦ K 9 4	♦ A Q J 6 5 3
♣ Q J 10 7 5	♣ K 2
♠ A Q J 7	♠ K 9 5 4 2
♥ K 5 3	♥ A 10 9 6
♦ 8 7	♦ 10 2
♣ A 8 4 3	♣ 9 6

Despite the 5-0 trump break, EW can make 11 tricks in 4♠. Tim and Nick managed to beat 4♠, though, while Peter and Malcolm went down in the same contract.

A team: 10 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♠+1 W	4♠x= W	4♠-1 W	4♥-1 N
-450	590	50	50

B team: -26 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♠+1 W	2♥x= N	4♠+1 W	3NT+3 E
-450	-470	-450	490

C team: -5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♠= E	4♠+2 E	2♦+3 E	4♠-1 W
-420	480	-150	-50

Board 12

Dealer West

♠ J 8 7	♠ 10 9 2
♥ 8 6 5	♥ Q 10
♦ Q J	♦ A 7 2
♣ K J 10 3 2	♣ Q 8 7 6 5
♠ Q 6 4 3	♠ A K 5
♥ A K 7 4 3 2	♥ J 9
♦ K 8 4	♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ -	♣ A 9 4

Double dummy 9 tricks are the limit in hearts, but declare made game against Tim and Nick by winning ♦Q lead with ♦A and playing ♠T from dummy at trick 2. Not realising the layout of the suit, Nick went in with an honour and there was no way declarer was going to get the suit wrong on the second round now.

A team: -11 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♥+1 W	3♣x-1 N	4♥+1 W	3♥= W
-140	200	-450	140

B team: -4 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
2♥+1 W	3♣-1 S	2♥+2 W	2♥+1 E
-140	100	-170	140

C team: 2 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
2♠-2 S	2♥+2 W	2♥= W	2♥+2 W
-200	170	-110	170

Board 13

Dealer North

♠ 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #800000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 6
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A J 10 5 4 3 2	♥ K				
♦ 9 7 4	♦ A J 2				
♣ Q 9		♣ A K 10 8 7 4 3 2			
♠ A K 10 9 7 5 2					
♥ 7					
♦ 10 8 6 5					
♣ 5					
	♠ Q J 8 4				
	♥ Q 9 8 6				
	♦ K Q 3				
	♣ J 6				

One of the more interesting hands on the afternoon, I thought, in both the bidding and the play. North generally opened 3♥, and East had to decide what to do. Those playing non-leaping Michaels had no real choice but to bid 5♣, and I suspect this is the practical choice rather than 4♣ even if both are available. A couple of NS pairs went on to 5♥, and a couple of EW pairs played in 4♠ when East only bid 4♣ and then left West in 4♠, but 5♣ was the normal spot. After a heart lead to ♥A, North has a tough choice of what to switch to. If partner has ♣A then a spade to set up the ruff is likely to be right. But what if partner has a diamond trick (♦K?) and a slower trump trick (♣K?), or two diamond tricks (DAQ?). In practice the spade switch works not because of the ruff, but because declarer also only has a singleton and can't cash his second spade trick. No-one found this defence, though.

A team: -24 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♣+1 E	4♠-1 W	5♣+1 E	5♣+1 E
-620	-100	-620	620

B team: 23 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
5♥-3 N	5♥x-3 N	5♣= E	5♣= E
-300	800	-600	600

C team: -4 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
5♣+1 E	5♣+1 E	4♠+1 W	5♣= E
-620	620	-650	600

Board 14

Dealer East

♠ Q 7 5 3 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 6
N					
W E					
S					
♥ K J	♥ 10 4 3				
♦ 3	♦ J 9 8 4 2				
♣ 7 6 5 4 3		♣ A K 10			
♠ K 9					
♥ A 9 8 2					
♦ A K Q 7 6					
♣ J 8					
	♠ A J 8 4				
	♥ Q 7 6 5				
	♦ 10 5				
	♣ Q 9 2				

A 50/50 split between diamonds and 3NT for the EW pairs. 3N will always make with ♠A on side, and it looks like diamonds will make 11 tricks, barring an unlikely heart lead since NS will eventually be endplayed when declarer plays ♥A and another after eliminating the black suits.

A team: -12 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3NT= W	3NT= W	5♦= E	4♦+1 W
-400	400	-400	150

B team: 2 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♦+1 W	3NT= W	3NT= W	3♦+2 W
-130	400	-400	150

C team: 20 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT= E	5♦= W	5♦-1 W	3NT= W
-400	400	50	400

Board 15

Dealer South

♠ 10 2		♠ K 8 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 9 7 4		♥ 5 3
♦ A J		♦ 6 4 3
♣ A Q J 10		♣ 4 3
♠ Q J 6		
♥ A K 6 2		
♦ 10 9 8		
♣ K 9 5		
♠ A 9 ♥ J 8 ♦ K Q 7 5 2 ♣ 8 7 6 2		

Very few bid game on the NS cards, and it could easily be wrong to do so. On this occasion, with ♣K onside and a favourable diamond break, both 3N and 5♣ made. Well done David and David, and bad luck Chris and Christopher.

A team: -20 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♦+2 S	5♣= S	3♠-2 E	3♠-2 E
130	-600	100	-100

B team: 3 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
2♠-1 E	3♠-1 E	3♣+2 N	2♠x-1 E
50	-50	150	-100

C team: 30 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
2NT+2 S	2♠-1 E	3NT= S	3♠-1 E
180	-50	600	-50

Board 16

Dealer West

♠ Q 10 5		♠ A J 6 4
♥ A K 5 2		♥ Q J 9
♦ 10 7 4		♦ Q 6
♣ A 5 4		♣ Q J 8 3
♠ K 9 8 7 2		
♥ 7 6 3		
♦ J 8		
♣ 10 6 2		
♠ 3 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ A K 9 5 3 2 ♣ K 9 7		

Most of those who bid 3N were successful, but not all. In my case I received ♣Q lead from East after he had doubled my potentially short 1♣ opening. Maybe that should have been enough to alert me to the fact that he didn't have a classical TO double shape. But I thought he might well have DQJx or QJxx, and the chances of making all the diamonds by playing the suit from the top were small. So instead I decided to put the defence in before they had had a chance to signal, and won ♣A at trick 1 and played a diamond to ♦9 and J. After a lot of thought West led ♠7, and my ♠T lost to J. A lot more thought from East, but eventually he led back a spade, and my gamble had failed. If East leads ♠2 at trick 1, you need clear agreements about which spade West should lead back to make sure East doesn't shift at trick 3, fearing Q10xx in declarer's hand – I regard returning your original 4th highest as traditional, but other schemes are possible.

A team: -10 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3NT-2 N	2♦+3 N	3NT+1 N	3NT+1 N
-100	-150	430	-430

B team: -7 imps


RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3NT-1 N	3♦+1 S	2NT+2 N	2♦+3 S
-50	-130	180	-150

C team: -21 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT+1 N	5♦= S	3NT-1 N	3NT+2 N
430	-400	-50	-460

Board 17

Dealer North

<p>♠ K 10 8 ♥ 9 ♦ A K 8 6 2 ♣ K 7 4 2</p>		<p>♠ J 7 4 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ 10 9 7 3 ♣ 10 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A 6 3 ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ J ♣ A Q J 5 3</p>
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6♣ is a good contract here, having chances on a heart lead (you can ruff 3 times in the North hand), on a spade lead (insert ♠8!), or on a 4-3 diamond break. So congratulations to the Gloucestershire NS pairs in the A team, who both reached 6♣ – no-one else managed it.

A team: -42 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♣= S	6♣= S	3NT+1 S	6♣= S
400	-920	430	-920

B team: 0 imps


RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3NT+2 S	3NT+2 S	3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S
460	-460	430	-430

C team: 0 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S
430	-430	430	-430

Board 18

Dealer East

<p>♠ A 10 3 2 ♥ A K J 4 3 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ K</p>		<p>♠ J 5 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ - ♣ J 10 8 7 6 5 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ 7 4 3 2 ♣ A Q 9 2</p>
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What should the East hand open at favourable vulnerability? I agree with those who chose 4♣, although it generally led to a sizeable penalty on this occasion. Others chose only 3♣ or pass, which turned out well on this occasion. I've no idea whether West should rescue with this hand if North makes a take-out double of 4♣ and South leaves this in – well done to Ron and Adrian for collecting a penalty of 1100 when 4Cx was left in.

A team: -3 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♦x-4 W	4♦x-2 W	4♣x-3 E	4♣x-5 E
800	-300	500	-1100

B team: 21 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♣x-5 E	3♥-2 S	4♥-2 N	4♣-4 E
1100	200	-200	-200

C team: -8 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♦x-3 W	4♦x-4 W	3NT+1 S	4♠x-3 W
500	-800	630	-500

Board 19

Dealer South

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

Quite a range of results here. Curiously, both our NS pairs in the B team reached 3Cx on a 4-3 fit – for Robert and John it resulted from North showing spades and a minor over West’s 1NT opening, and I suspect the same may well have been true for Ron and Adrian. The latter pair conceded -500, but Rob enjoyed the hand rather more when the defence was less inspired: “a club was led and I put the ace on the queen and advanced the heart jack. This was covered by queen, king and ace. RHO cashed two top diamonds and continued a club which went jack, king. Now it could not be defeated. LHO actually played the king of spades which allowed me to win, play two rounds of trumps discarding a diamond and cross to dummy in hearts for the rest of the tricks. Not the finest defence!”

A team: 4 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2NT-2 W	2♥+1 N	3♠-2 E	3NT-2 W
200	-140	200	-200

B team: -1 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♣x-3 S	2♠= E	3♣x= N	3NT-1 W
-500	110	470	-100

C team: -8 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♣x-4 S	2♣x-2 N	2NT-1 E	1NT+2 E
-800	300	100	150

Board 20

Dealer West

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

A tricky bid for North, I felt, after West opened 1♠. Double seems to have been the majority choice, but I chose Michaels before emphasising hearts on the next round. In either hearts or clubs, the key issue for declarer is how to tackle the club suit. Those who (carelessly?) led to ♣A on the first round of the suit lived to regret it, particularly if they were playing at the 5 level. You can afford 2 club losers in 5♥, so it really can’t cost to play low to ♣9 (or run a low club from hand) on the first round of the suit.

A team: -24 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♥+1 N	4♥= N	5♥-1 N	5♥= N
650	-620	-100	-650

B team: 52 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♥+1 N	5♣-1 N	5♥= N	6♣x-1 N
650	100	650	200

C team: 5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♥+1 N	4♥= N	6♣-2 S	4♦-3 N
650	-620	-200	300

Board 21

Dealer North

♠ A		♠ K J 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q 10 8 7 2		♥ J 9 4
♦ 6 4 2		♦ A 8
♣ K Q J		♣ A 7
♠ Q 10 5 3 2		♠ 8
♥ 6		♥ A 5 3
♦ K Q 9 5		♦ J 10 7 3
♣ 9 6 5		♣ 10 8 4 3 2

Mostly flat in 4♠ by EW, but I threw away a few imps by doubling after we had bid 4♥ to make and oppo appeared to be sacrificing....

A team: -8 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♠x= E	4♠+1 E	4♠+1 E	4♠+1 E
-590	450	-450	450

B team: -25 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♠+1 E	4♠= E	5♥x-3 N	5♥-3 N
-450	420	-800	300

C team: 2 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♠+1 E	4♠+1 E	4♠= E	4♠+1 E
-450	450	-420	450

Board 22

Dealer East

♠ 10 8		♠ K Q J 7 4 2
♥ K 9 7		♥ A Q 8 5 2
♦ A 9 7		♦ 4 2
♣ K 8 6 5 4		♣ -
♠ 6		♠ A 9 5 3
♥ J 10 6 4		♥ 3
♦ K 10		♦ Q J 8 6 5 3
♣ Q J 10 9 3 2		♣ A 7

Not an easy hand to judge at the table who can make what. Par is 5♥X -1 by EW, and although it wasn't usually doubled nearly half the tables did indeed see EW go 1 down in 5♥.

A team: 13 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♥-1 E	5♥x-1 E	5♦x-1 S	4♥= E
100	-200	-100	620

B team: -11 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
5♥-1 E	5♦x-2 S	4♥= E	5♥-1 E
100	300	-620	-100

C team: 20 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
5♥-1 E	4♥= E	5♦x-2 S	3NT-2 S
100	620	-300	100

Board 23

Dealer South

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

A thin but unbeatable 4♠ bid by 4 Oxfordshire pairs but only one Gloucestershire pair – well done Chris and Christopher, Adrian and Lorna, Krys and Sandra, and Peter and Malcolm.

A team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♥= E	4♥= E	3♥+1 E	2♥+2 E
-620	620	-170	170

B team: 38 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
2♥+3 E	4♥= E	2♥+2 E	4♥= E
-200	620	-170	620

C team: 20 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
2♥+2 E	2♥+2 E	3♥+1 E	4♥= E
-170	170	-170	620

Board 24

Dealer West

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

3N makes easily enough, but 4 NS pairs reached 5♣, perhaps looking for a slam which two pairs actually bid despite missing a cashing SAK. Neither pair made 6♣, but Steve and I were the only pair to go off in 5♣ after West kicked off with SAK and simply continued with a third round to promote a trump trick.

A team: -16 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♣-1 S	5♣= S	3NT+2 N	5♣= N
-50	-400	460	-400

B team: -20 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
6♣-2 S	3NT+2 S	3NT+2 S	5♣= S
-100	-460	460	-400

C team: 20 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT+2 S	3NT+3 S	3NT+2 S	6♣-1 N
460	-490	460	50

Board 25

Dealer North

Not worth spending time on since everybody made game and no imps changed hands....

♠ Q J 5 4 3 2		
♥ K 3 2		
♦ A Q 10		
♣ 5		

♠ K 8 7 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 9
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 9 4		♥ Q J 8			
♦ J 3		♦ 8 7 6 4 2			
♣ J 7 6 3		♣ A 4 2			

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

A team: 0 imps

B team: 0 imps

C team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3NT+1 N	3NT= N	3NT= S	3NT+1 N
430	-400	400	-430

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S	3NT+1 N	3NT+1 S
430	-430	430	-430

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3NT+1 S	3NT+1 S	3NT= S	3NT= N
430	-430	400	-400

Board 26

Dealer East

Superficially similar, but here EW can compete successfully to 5♦ and push NS into a non-making 5♥ as happened at two tables – well done, Michiel and David. After P (1♥) P (4♥) I'm not sure EW have an obvious route into the auction.

♠ 9 8 3 2		
♥ A Q 7 6 5 3		
♦ 9		
♣ 5 4		

♠ K J	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 6 5 4
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 9		♥ -			
♦ K 8 4 3		♦ J 10 7 6 5			
♣ K 10 9 8 2		♣ J 7 6 3			

♠ Q 10 7		
♥ K J 8 4 2		
♦ A Q 2		
♣ A Q		

A team: 0 imps

B team: 0 imps

C team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♥= S	4♥= S	4♥= S	4♥= S
620	-620	620	-620

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♥= S	4♥= S	4♥= S	4♥= S
620	-620	620	-620

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♥= S	5♥-2 S	5♥-2 S	4♥= S
620	200	-200	-620

Board 27

Dealer South

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

Not an easy hand for EW to bid 4♥, with several selling out to 3♠ – and indeed 4♥ only makes if you guess which hand has ♦Q. Michiel and David persuaded NS to go all the way to 5♠, but were still marginally outscored by those who were allowed to play in 3♥.

A team: 5 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3♠= S	3♠= S	4♠-1 S	3♥= W
140	-140	-50	140

B team: -19 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
4♥= W	3♥= W	3♥= W	4♠-1 S
-420	140	-140	50

C team: -13 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
4♥= W	5♠-2 S	3♠= S	3♠= S
-420	100	140	-140

Board 28

Dealer West

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

A NT part-score at most tables, but 3 out of 4 pairs in the A team tried 3N. Sadly, Steve and I were the only pair who defended incompetently enough for this to make. It is probably too sad and convoluted story to tell, but I think the lesson is always to stay alert for ways you can make life easier for your partner. If you don't, there is always a chance that he will make a mistake even if careful analysis should still lead him to the right answer.....

A team: -13 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
3NT=	1NT+3	3NT-1	3NT-2
W	W	W	W
-400	180	50	-100

B team: -7 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
1NT+4	1NT=	1NT+3	1NT+3
W	W	W	W
-210	90	-180	180

C team: -5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
1NT+1	2♥+2	1NT=	1NT-1 E
W	W	W	
-120	170	-90	-50

Board 29

Dealer North

♠ 9 3 2	♠ A
♥ 9 6 4	♥ A 10 7 5
♦ J 6	♦ A 8 5
♣ 10 8 7 5 4	♣ A Q J 9 2

N
W E
S

♠ 10 6 4	♠ K Q J 8 7 5
♥ Q 3	♥ K J 8 2
♦ Q 10 9 7 4 3 2	♦ K
♣ 6	♣ K 3

A pretty wild deal. In practice every EW pair made enough tricks for game, but not everybody bid it. One possibility is for East to treat his hand as a balanced 20-22. If he does, I think West should always be tempted to bid up to 5♦ – hands will a long suit opposite a strong balanced hand always seem to produce a large number of tricks.

A team: 20 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
5♦+2 W	3NT+2 E	4♦+2 W	5♦+1 E
-640	660	-170	620

B team: -1 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
5♦+2 W	3♦+3 W	3♦+3 W	5♦+1 W
-640	170	-170	620

C team: -5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♦+3 W	2NT+1 E	5♦+2 W	1♣x+2 E
-170	150	-640	540

Board 30

Dealer East

♠ J 10 2	♠ A K 8
♥ 8 7 6 4	♥ Q 10 5
♦ A 8 7 6	♦ 5 3
♣ Q 3	♣ 9 8 7 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 7 5 4 3	♠ 9 6
♥ A J 2	♥ K 9 3
♦ K 10 9	♦ Q J 4 2
♣ K 4	♣ A J 10 5

Not the most interesting of hands, judging from the scores.

A team: -2 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♠+2 W	1NT+3 W	2♠+2 W	2♠+1 W
-170	180	-170	140

B team: -1 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
3♠= W	3♠+2 W	1NT+1 W	1NT-1 S
-140	200	-120	50

C team: -5 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
1NT+2 W	1NT-2 S	2♠+2 W	3♠= W
-150	100	-170	140

Board 31

Dealer South

♠ A K			
♥ 10 6 5			
♦ Q 2			
♣ A 10 9 8 4 2			
♠ J 9 4		♠ 7 6 3	
♥ K 7 3 2		♥ Q J 8 4	
♦ A 8 5		♦ J 10 3	
♣ K Q 3		♣ J 6 5	
		♠ Q 10 8 5 2	
		♥ A 9	
		♦ K 9 7 6 4	
		♣ 7	

A part-score for most, but two pairs in the A team tried a precarious 4♠ on a 5-2 fit. This can be made if you assume everything is breaking kindly, but Nick found a line that would have succeeded against a number of less kind distributions. Nick explains the play after a heart lead: “I won ♥A immediately and played a D to the Q which held. Now what? Double dummy, the way to make it is to cash SAK, then play on Ds. When both Ss and Ds break 3-3, you have 10 tricks. If either suit breaks badly, you could be several off. So it looked better odds to continue with Ds at T3, allowing E's 10 to win. The defence did well to play 2 rounds of Hs at this point - any other defence and I make it, as the cards lie (but they know everything is indeed 3-3!). I ruffed the 3rd H, played off ♣A, ruffed a club, ruffed a D, ruffed a club (if E shows out, I can't quite claim as W may well be able to chuck his 4th C on the next D). Now I ruffed a master D with ♠A and led a master club. If each defender is down to 3 trumps only, I have the slight chance that E will ruff with the 3 and I can force W to win and lead into Q10 but (a) Chamberlain (W) had under-ruffed on the previous round and (b) Shields ruffed in with the 6 anyway. So I had to try ♠T - no luck! But excellent defence, you'd have to say.”

A team: -29 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
2♠+2 S	2♠+2 S	4♠-1 S	4♠= S
170	-170	-100	-620

B team: -10 imps


RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
1NT-1 W	2♠+2 S	1NT-2 W	3♠+1 S
50	-170	100	-170

C team: -16 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
3♣-1 N	3♥-3 E	1NT-1 W	2♠= S
-100	-150	50	-110

Board 32

Dealer West

♠ K 8 5			
♥ Q 8			
♦ K 8 5 4 2			
♣ A J 6			
♠ 4 3		♠ 7 6	
♥ A 10 5 4 2		♥ J 7 3	
♦ Q 6 3		♦ J 10 9 7	
♣ Q 10 8		♣ 7 5 4 2	
♠ A Q J 10 9 2			
♥ K 9 6			
♦ A			
♣ K 9 3			

A relatively simple 6♠ for most, but two Gloucestershire pairs languished in game, and Steve and I rounded off a very undistinguished performance by joining them. After 1♦ – 1♠; 1N (12-4), Steve bid 2♦ (GF Checkback). I responded 2♠, and Steve tried 3♥, hoping to be able to make an unambiguous RKCB bid on the next round. When I continued with 3N, he was worried that 4N would sound natural, and contented himself with 4♠. This was clearly a mild slam try – otherwise he would simply have bid 4♠ on the previous round. But I couldn't really tell what he was looking for and felt my hand was not sufficiently good to carry on bidding. In retrospect a simple rebid of 3♠ over 2♠ would probably have worked (remember we were in a GF auction), since now 4N on the next round would clearly have been RKCB for spades.

A team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/CW	TD/NS	AL/IA
4♠+2 S	6♠= S	6♠= N	4♠+2 N
480	-980	980	-480

B team: 22 imps

RQ/AL	AG/LS	RP/JD	KK/SN
6♠= N	6♠= S	6♠= S	4♠+2 N
980	-980	980	-480

C team: 0 imps

JS/HLS	DB/MC	DW/DS	PL/MC
6♠= N	6♠= N	6♠= S	6♠= S
980	-980	980	-980