

Summary

Overall Result

A team: 15-5

B team: 16-4

C team: 11-9

Cross-imps

Pair	Across own team	Across all three teams
AW/SN	5.3	-6.8
CW/MS	-7	5.9
EM/NS	19.3	1.5
MR/RP	31.7	36.7
NB/LF	14.3	24.3
RQ/AL	37.7	16.9
AG/LS	22.3	31.5
CW/TD	-1	-13.6
SN/KK	-15.7	-17.5
DW/DS	-33.3	-27.1
PL/MC	21.7	18.5
AW/LH	39.3	32.6

Boards

Board 1

Dealer North

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

Most declarers struggled to make a contract on this board, with only Alistair/Lorna achieving 2♥= for Oxford. Those playing a strong no trump bought the contract, but suffered an immediate 6 diamond tricks and the ♣A for defence.

A team: -8 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-50	-110	-50	50

B team: 3 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-50	50	110	-50

C team: -9 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-50	-50	-100	50

Board 2

Dealer East

A quiet board; all making partscore in no trumps or clubs.

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

A team: 0 imps

B team: -4 imps

C team: 2 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-150	120	-90	120

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-120	120	-180	120

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-130	150	-90	90

Board 3

Dealer South

Disaster for the A team when I bid the wrong slam. 6♠ needed a 3-3 trump break and didn't get it. After 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ - 4♦ - 4♠ we'd run out of room somewhat. I could have tried no trumps rather than trusting partner to have better spades (which he had not guaranteed on this sequence), or at least found out about the queen of spades.

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

How would your partnership play 5N after 4♠? There is an argument for playing it as 'pick a slam', putting the onus on partner, but this was not something that we had discussed. Alan/Steve's auction was:

1♠ - 2♥ (GF) - 2♠ (not necessarily 6) - 3♦ - 3♠ - 4♦ - 5♣ (presumably a cue, though Alan didn't think diamonds were 100% agreed) - 5N (pick a slam) - 6♦

An effective auction! Most played in 6N, with one pair apiece missed slam in the C team for a flat board.

A team: -32 imps

B team: -2 imps

C team: -1 imp


AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
940	-1020	-50	-990

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
920	-1010	990	-920

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
490	-1020	1020	-520

Board 4

Dealer West

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

Great result for the B team with all four pairs gaining a plus score.

Peter/Malcolm got the best result of the day, collecting +400 defending 3N, after a bidding sequence of P - (P) - 1♦ - (2♠) - X - (3♠) - 3NT.

South led the ♠Q and declarer lost their way a bit. The defence took 5 spades tricks, two hearts and one of the minor suit kings.

A team: 1 imp

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-130	100	200	-140

B team: 30 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
140	130	140	200

C team: 0 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-100	-200	400	-110

Board 5

Dealer North

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

All NS pairs in the A and B teams overbid to 4♥ and went two off for their trouble.

A team: -28 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-200	-140	-200	-50

B team: -22 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-200	100	-200	-120

C team: 12 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
140	-140	140	100

Board 6

Dealer East

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

Many pairs were in 3NT, and although deep finesse is making 12 tricks, in practice it's tricky to find the right line. Is it better to play on diamonds or spades? If you play on diamonds, should you run the jack or play to the king?

Three tables went off to five making. Rob's account:

1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 3NT by N/S

I led a club, ducked and Mike continued the suit with me false-carding to pretend clubs were 4-4. In practice the false card is irrelevant as playing to the diamond king caters for a stiff queen and so has to be better than running the jack. If anything it put declarer off any need to get to his tricks quickly which might have suggested taking a spade finesse with the consequences seen at Christopher and Mary-Ann's table. Declarer chose the diamond to king and ace, Mike knocked out the second high club and my diamond queen provided the entry to my last two clubs for one off.

Chris/Mary-Ann did even better to take this three off - Mary-Ann "played like a woman with plenty of side-suit entries", and declarer both played on spades and failed to duck a club.

Elsewhere, Alan/Steve and Nigel/Liza did well to bring in 6♦. At my table Nick removed 3NT to 4♠, not realising I had such good cover in the unbid suits! Tim/Chris found themselves on the wrong side of slam, as they would several more times that afternoon!

A team: 49 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
920	150	420	50

B team: 0 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
920	-460	460	-920

C team: -22 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
460	-460	-100	-460

Board 7

Dealer South

♠ A 9 8 5 3 2	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ -
♥ 10 5 4		♥ A Q 7 3
♦ 5		♦ 10 9 7 2
♣ A 9 5		♣ K J 8 6 3
		♠ K 10 7 6 4
		♥ J
		♦ A K J 4 3
		♣ 7 2

A good start for Rob and Mike. East's hand is surely just right for a protective double after hearing LHO open 1♠, 2♥ from RHO and 2♠ from LHO passed round. Mike knew what to do - PASS - and that was 500 to the good guys.

A less good start for Nick and me, who overbid to 3NT. It's always hopeless, but the cards lay about as badly as they could do to go a whopping four off, though thankfully undoubled.

No one managed to make a contract on this board, with most staying low for 'only' -200.

A team: 5 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-200	200	-400	500

B team: 12 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-200	300	-200	300

C team: -24 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-800	200	-200	200

Board 8

Dealer West

♠ K 10 7 6	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ -
♥ Q J 6		♥ 10 5 4 3 2
♦ Q 7		♦ K J 10 4 3 2
♣ K 8 5 2		♣ Q J
♠ Q J 8 5 3 2		♠ A 9 4
♥ A K 8		♥ 9 7
♦ 6 5		♦ A 9 8
♣ 6 4		♣ A 10 9 7 3

20 imps for the A team when all four pairs went plus. Mike/Rob made 3♦ after an auction 1♠ - 1NT - 2♠ - 3♦. Nick and I rather happily defended 2♠, as did Alan/Steve.

A team: 20 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
100	110	100	110

B team: 4 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
130	-50	-110	110

C team: 2 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-110	-100	130	110

Board 9

Dealer North

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

Our auction began 1♣ - 1♥ - 1N (12-14). Nick tried 3NT and was rather relieved that I had the three diamond stops required to set up clubs!

Chris/Mary-Ann found themselves in a tricky spot after

P - (1♣*) - 2♦ - (X) - 3♦ - (P) - P - (X) - all pass

The defence started with three rounds of trumps, and could now cash four heart tricks and knock out ♠A before declarer could unblock ♣A. Ouch!

A team: -10 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
630	-800	630	-630

B team: 0 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
630	-630	630	-630

C team: 4 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
630	-600	630	-600

Board 10

Dealer East

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

Most pairs played in 4♥, but well done to Mike/Rob for finding the club slam (and commiserations to Sandra/Krys who defended it). Rob says:

I decided my 6/5 was just strong enough for a reverse, so 1♥ - 2♦ - 3♣. Mike's 4♣ bid was enough to hear. 4♦ (kickback) elicited a 2 out of 5 key card response. Whether this is AK of clubs or A diamonds with one of the top clubs slam looks good whenever partner has the club jack or clubs are 2-2.

At our table we had the slightly puzzling auction 1♥ - 2♣ - 4♥, and I let through an overtrick on a trump lead.

A team: 24 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-620	620	-650	1370

B team: -2 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-620	600	-620	620

C team: -38 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-1370	620	-620	170

Board 11

Dealer South

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

6♦ is not a bad spot to be in, only requiring the spade finesse, but it was a good board for the C team when the two Leicestershire pairs found the king offside. Chris/Tim in the B team also tried 6 to no avail.

When partner opens 1♦, and your RHO overcalls 1♥, how do you describe North's monster? Rob's practical 3NT was a winner on the day.

A team: 2 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-430	420	-400	430

B team: -24 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-430	400	-460	-50

C team: 40 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
50	430	50	430

Board 12

Dealer West

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

Most pairs played in spades, with a few getting too high - there's nowhere to park your diamond losers.

A team: -2 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-100	100	-140	110

B team: -2 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-150	110	100	-100

C team: 12 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-140	140	100	140

Board 13

Dealer North

♠ Q 2	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 6 5 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A 9 7 4 3 2	♥ 10 8 6 5										
♦ A 7 6 4 2	♦ Q 8										
♣ -		♣ K 3 2									
♠ A 10 8 7 3											
♥ Q J											
♦ 5											
♣ A J 9 8 4											
	♠ K J										
	♥ K										
	♦ K J 10 9 3										
	♣ Q 10 7 6 5										

Mostly flat in 5♦, this hand worked well for Rob/Mike's methods when they could open a 5-10 ♥/♦ two-suiter. Perhaps a 1♥ opener would have helped them reach slam, but at least they found the right strain - unlike our opposition, who couldn't quite find a 9th trick in 3NT, even without the better spade lead.

A team: 24 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-620	620	100	620

B team: 0 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-620	620	-620	620

C team: -21 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-620	150	-600	600

Board 14

Dealer East

♠ 8 7	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q 10
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A Q 10 3 2	♥ K 9 4										
♦ 7 5 4	♦ A K J 9 8										
♣ Q 8 2		♣ 6 4									
♠ A J 9 6 3 2											
♥ J 7 5											
♦ 6											
♣ K J 7											
	♠ 5 4										
	♥ 8 6										
	♦ Q 10 3 2										
	♣ A 10 9 5 3										

Alan has a tale of woe here:

I opened a 15-17 NT and Steve bid 2♥. I was half tempted to break the transfer, but with only 3-card support settled on 2♠. Now partner jumped to 4♠. Our agreement is that this is a mild slam try, since with no interest at all he would just bid 4♥ over 1N. Now I felt that my lack of 4 trumps wasn't a problem, so risked a cue-bid of 5♦, over which Steve rapidly signed off. Unfortunately the misfit makes this a pretty poor contract. But it had chances. Jim Mason led ♣3, and I felt this was a 50/50 guess since he would be very likely to lead a small one from A or Q once I had denied a club control. I'm tempted to think with the benefit of hindsight that I might have got this right, since there is a chance of avoiding any club loser at all if he has underled ♣A - but anyway, I didn't. Paul Bowyer put in ♣Q and carefully cashed ♥A before returning a 2nd club.

A team: -24 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-50	-450	420	-450

B team: -2 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
450	-450	420	-450

C team: -4 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
420	-450	420	-450

Board 15

Dealer South

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

An unfortunate one for the A team! Rob says:

1♣ from Mike as South (can be short), 1♥ from me, 1NT from East, Double from Mike. We weren't up to the careful defence required to beat this one. My signalling for a club didn't help, nor did starting with three top diamonds in case they were 4333 round the table.

Others played in a safe club contract.

A team: -16 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/SP
-130	110	-130	-180

B team: 2 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-100	130	-130	130

C team: -2 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-130	130	-130	110

Board 16

Dealer West

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

Both Oxfordshire Wests opened a short club in the A team, and were likely equally dismayed when partner bid an inverted 3♣.

Alan was allowed to play there, but at our table South found a double and they competed in spades.

Defending 3♠, I led 6♦ to the king and partner's ace, who switched to ♣T, covered. I switched to a heart, won on table, and declarer tried a spade. Nick won the ace and played another club. Now I could play another diamond (the 4, not the 7), and at trick 13 declarer found himself on the table having to lose the 5♦ to my ♦7. Three down and a beer to boot!

A team: 1 imp

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/SP
110	-100	150	-150

B team: 2 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
150	-90	120	-150

C team: -4 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
90	-150	90	-90

Board 17

Dealer North

NS do well to make a contract here. Alan's auction went 1♠ - 1N - 2♥ - 3♣, which was not easy but came home.

♠ A Q 10 8 7	♠ J 5 4 3			
♥ K 9 7 6 2	♥ 5 4 3			
♦ 7 5 3	♦ K Q 4			
♣ -	♣ Q 9 8			
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; 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
N				
W E				
S				
♠ K 9				
♥ A Q 10 8				
♦ 10 8 6				
♣ K 4 3 2				
♠ 6 2				
♥ J				
♦ A J 9 2				
♣ A J 10 7 6 5				

A team: -5 imps

B team: 11 imps

C team: -8 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
110	-140	-100	50

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-50	100	110	50

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
140	-140	-50	-110

Board 18

Dealer East

Almost universally flat in 3NT, though Mike's major suit holdings put him off raising the 1NT rebid to 3 - understandable if unusually cautious. Of course the cards lay right to make this a wrong decision. At green it is a 50/50 decision, but at red it would be right to gamble on 3NT every time.

♠ K J 10 6 4 3	♠ A Q 9			
♥ J 4	♥ K 8 7			
♦ J 5 3	♦ K 10 8 6			
♣ 10 6	♣ J 5 2			
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; 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
N				
W E				
S				
♠ 7				
♥ 10 9 2				
♦ A Q 4				
♣ A Q 9 8 7 4				
♠ 8 5 2				
♥ A Q 6 5 3				
♦ 9 7 2				
♣ K 3				

A team: -17 imps

B team: -6 imps

C team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-490	490	-520	170

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-490	490	-490	400

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-490	490	-490	490

Board 19

Dealer South

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

A bittersweet board for me - sweet because for probably the first time ever I remembered how to show the correct two suits playing Gerber, bitter as I propelled us to 5♦ and West had no problem doubling.

We had the option of defending 4♠ which would have been profitable!

Against Mike, North overcalled his 1NT opener with 2♥. Letting them play there stopped them finding the better diamond suit, and netted +100.

Alan also overcalled 1NT 2♥ this time showing hearts and a minor. Steve was happy to bid 3♣ pass/correct!

A team: -2 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
110	-130	-100	100

B team: -12 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-100	-130	130	-130

C team: -12 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-100	-130	130	-130

Board 20

Dealer West

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

A horror story from Rob:

Mike opened 1♣, North bid 2♠ and after pass, pass, double I bid 3♥ and played there. North won the ace of spades, cashed the club ace and played ace other diamonds. I mistakenly read him for a singleton club and later miscounted trumps to end up out of control and four off in a contract which should only be down two.

Sandra/Krys collected a nice +300 to gain the C team a few imps. Other tables were less dramatic with NS making a spade partial.

A team: -22 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-110	-140	170	-400

B team: 0 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
140	-170	140	-100

C team: 5 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
300	-140	110	-170

Board 21

Dealer North

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

There has been much discussion on how best to play 3NT by North - look out for a longer article in the Oxford Times!

I decided not to go up with the ♥J at trick one, on the off-chance that West's presumed singleton was the queen. Actually, if the jack holds, you can play a heart to the ace and a club towards table. If East has the ace, going up with it gives you 9 tricks without a 4th heart, and when they duck you have the tempo to set up your 9th trick. If West has the ace they can not attack diamonds, so the only danger is East having 5 clubs.

If instead you continue with hearts, what do you do when they switch to a diamond? You need to guess the distribution and the location of the ace of clubs in order to find the duck. I didn't duck, but East let go of their second diamond. (Partner made a tongue-in-cheek comment about overtricks being unimportant; I don't think he realised at that point what I'd got away with!)

Alan was treated to a spade lead rather than a heart, but played ♥A at trick two, then another top heart (having seen T drop). Two diamond discards, encouraging the suit, gave the position away but Alan still had to place the ace of clubs in order to duck.

Well done to the B team, where both Oxford pairs made 4♥ and both Leicestershire players went off in 3NT. Well done also to Sandra/Krys for making 3NT (and all defenders who gave their opposition a hard time). A massive 100 imps to the county over all these teams!

A team: 28 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-100	200	600	100

B team: 48 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
620	100	620	100

C team: 24 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
600	100	-100	100

Board 22

Dealer East

Imps in for the A team when Mike/Rob wasted no time taking a club ruff against 4♥. Everyone else comfortably made 3NT.

♠ A 2							
♥ K Q J 7 3							
♦ J 4 2							
♣ A 3 2							
♠ K Q 7 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #90EE90;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">W</td><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #90EE90;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 10 9 3	
N							
W	E						
S							
♥ 9 5 4 2		♥ A 6					
♦ K 9 6 5		♦ 10 3					
♣ 5		♣ J 10 8 7 6 4					
♠ J 8 6 5							
♥ 10 8							
♦ A Q 8 7							
♣ K Q 9							

A team: 24 imps

B team: 2 imps

C team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
460	-430	460	50

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
430	-430	490	-460

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
430	-430	430	-430

Board 23

Dealer South

This should be quite flat in 4♥, but a few recorded a minus score playing at the 5 level. Taking a trump finesse is a better percentage than playing for the drop, but perhaps the bidding had suggested otherwise.

♠ A 9 7 6 3 2							
♥ 5							
♦ J 8 7 4							
♣ 3 2							
♠ K 10 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">W</td><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #FF0000;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ Q J	
N							
W	E						
S							
♥ A Q J 10 9 3		♥ 8 6 4 2					
♦ K 3		♦ A 5					
♣ 9 7		♣ K Q 10 6 4					
♠ 8 4							
♥ K 7							
♦ Q 10 9 6 2							
♣ A J 8 5							

A team: 2 imps

B team: 28 imps

C team: -26 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-620	650	-650	650

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-620	650	100	650

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-650	-200	-650	650

Board 24

Dealer West

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

A rare event - a completely flat board across all twelve tables!

A team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
420	-420	420	-420

B team: 0 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
420	-420	420	-420

C team: 0 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
420	-420	420	-420

Board 25

Dealer North

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

Part-scores all round. Our auction started 1N - P - P - 2♣ (both majors) - P - 2♠. Nick chose to double this, which landed us in a poor 4-3 club fit with a terrible break! Perhaps I should have let the double ride; 2♠ rates to go at least a couple off.

Tim had rather more fun than we had. His story:

I enjoyed the play on #25 if not the auction:

P-(1♣)-P-(1♥)-P-(1N)-P-(P)-X-(P)-2♠(ugh) all pass.

EW were playing 5-card 1♠ and 12-14 NT, so had to open 1♣ 3+ on a 15-count 4-3-3-3. A helpful ♣4 lead went to K, A and I cashed ♣Q seeing ♣9 from RHO. This seemed to indicate the actual 4-3-3-3 shape so I had a complete read on the hand and immediately cross-ruffed hearts & clubs, scoring up the first seven tricks before exiting with a club overruffed. ♦K had to score for my eighth trick and +110.

A team: -14 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
120	-120	-200	-90

B team: 10 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
120	-120	100	110

C team: -4 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
120	-50	-100	-50

Board 26

Dealer East

♠ A 10	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 7 6 5
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 6 3 2	♥ A Q 8 5										
♦ K 10 3	♦ Q 9 7 6 2										
♣ A J 9 8 3	♣ -										
♠ K J 4 2		♠ Q 9 3									
♥ K 10 9 7 4		♥ J									
♦ 8		♦ A J 5 4									
♣ K 5 4		♣ Q 10 7 6 2									

Another good result across the board with a total of 81 imps to Oxfordshire!

Leicestershire A had a 2♥ opening in their arsenal allowing them to show an intermediate hand with both majors. They reached 4♥ one off on a trump lead.

Well done Alistair/Lorna and David/David for bringing back game.

A team: 22 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
140	0	170	100

B team: 28 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
140	90	620	-140

C team: 31 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-150	600	100	200

Board 27

Dealer South

♠ Q 9 7	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K J 5	♥ Q 10 9 6 4										
♦ 9 4	♦ K 10 2										
♣ A 9 7 4 3	♣ K J 8										
♠ K J 6 2		♠ A 8 5 3									
♥ 7 3 2		♥ A 8									
♦ 8 7 6		♦ A Q J 5 3									
♣ Q 6 5		♣ 10 2									

Most pairs reached 3NT, except for Peter/Malcolm's opponents so a gain for the C team.

Diamonds 3-3 made it easy for declarer, as did helpful defenders (like me) leading a heart.

A team: -4 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-430	430	-460	400

B team: -2 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-460	430	-430	430

C team: 15 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-460	430	-130	490

Board 28

Dealer West

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

Nearly another totally flat board, if it wasn't for that pesky overtrick.

A team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
430	-430	430	-430

B team: -2 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
430	-430	430	-460

C team: 0 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
430	-430	430	-430

Board 29

Dealer North

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

Another 96 imps to the good guys.

Almost everyone pre-empted in diamonds and EW got to a spade game. At our table they opened 2NT, a "sub-standard pre-empt in a minor". Nick overcalled 3♠ and I raised to 4 - I thought I was putting down a very nice dummy with 5 card support and two aces!

North chose a spade lead, which gave Nick the tempo to arrange a diamond discard. Other declarers weren't so lucky on a diamond lead, and I expect they were quite miffed to find trumps 3-0 and both finesses wrong!

A team: 24 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-100	100	620	100

B team: 24 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
620	100	-100	100

C team: 48 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
620	100	620	100

Board 30

Dealer East

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

No problems with the play in either 4♥ or 3NT, and only one Leicestershire pair didn't reach it.

A constructive 2♠ opening from Alan seemed to give NS a problem. N protected with 3♦. What should S bid? The possible choices are 3♥, 3N and pass, probably in that order. But South chose 3♠. Now North retreated to 4♦ and South left it there, with 5♦, 4♥ and 3N all making.

A team: 12 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
-150	400	-420	420

B team: -4 imps


NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
-450	430	-450	420

C team: -6 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
-490	400	-450	450

Board 31

Dealer South

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

Not a hand for the bidders - only Mike/Rob managed to make a contract on this board. Their story:

Mike opened 1♦ and this was passed out. Defence slipped up after ducking the opening heart lead by allowing Mike an entry to North with a club ruff! This enabled him to park two losing spades on the inaccessible top hearts.

A team: 20 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
200	-100	200	70

B team: -10 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
100	-100	-100	-100

C team: 2 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
100	-200	100	50

Board 32

Dealer West

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

Most pairs reached 4♠ with just two pairs in the C team missing out. Peter/Malcolm's bidding went 1♠ - 3♣ (Bergen raise, 7-9 points 4 S) - 3♠ - all pass. Although West has only 8 points, the good 5 card suit and the singleton make it worth a stronger raise.

At our table Nick showed a good raise with 2NT, I showed a non-minimum with a club shortage, and Nick raised to 4. Alan/Steve had a similar auction (but raised straight to game over 2NT)

A team: 0 imps

AW/SN	CW/MS	EM/NS	MR/RP
650	-650	650	-650

B team: 0 imps

NB/LF	RQ/AL	AG/LS	CW/TD
650	-650	650	-650

C team: 2 imps

SN/KK	DW/DS	PL/MC	AW/LH
650	-650	170	-140