

## Oxfordshire Bridge Association

### MCOL Match against Shropshire and Staffordshire 13 October 2024

#### Results

The A and B Team won their matches 17-3, and the C Team won 15-5. This leaves the A and B Teams in first position in their respective leagues after two matches, and the C Team is lying in fourth place.

Interestingly there are different counties challenging each of our teams: for the A Team it is Gloucestershire, for the B Team Worcestershire and for the C Team it is both of these and Derbyshire.

Below is the x-imps for this match only. Congratulations to Peter and Malcolm for heading the table and to Sandra and Krys for being close behind.

1	Div C Oxon	Peter Litchfield & Malcolm Currie	+1.68	+590 / 352	32
2	Div B Oxon	Sandra Nicholson & Krys Kazmierczak	+1.41	+498 / 352	32
3	Div C Oxon	Peter Jackson & Alison Jackson	+1.06	+374 / 352	32
4	Div A Oxon	Alan Wilson & Nick Smith	+1.01	+356 / 352	32
5	Div C Staffs	Sue Yardley & Pamela Booth-Jones	+0.66	+234 / 352	32
6	Div A Oxon	Jonathan Davis & Charlie Bucknell	+0.63	+220 / 352	32
7	Div B Oxon	John Guilfoyle & Tony Guilfoyle	+0.54	+191 / 352	32
8	Div C Staffs	Joanne McLauchlan & Tracy Aherne	+0.44	+154 / 352	32
9	Div A Oxon	Matthew Covill & Chris Wilson	+0.32	+112 / 352	32
10	Div A Oxon	Tom Rainforth & Jon Green	+0.25	+89 / 352	32
11	Div B Oxon	Mary-Ann Sheehy & Christopher Whitehouse	+0.20	+71 / 352	32
12	Div B Staffs	86712 & David Nelson	+0.16	+56 / 352	32
13	Div B Staffs	CELIA DAY & claire marsh	+0.02	+7 / 352	32
14	Div A Staffs	Paul Cutler & David Beavon	-0.24	-84 / 352	32
15	Div C Oxon	Robert Gasser & AlisonWG	-0.26	-92 / 352	32
16	Div B Oxon	Finn Clark & Stuart Forsyth	-0.31	-110 / 352	32
17	Div B Staffs	nathaniel white & Robert Hunt	-0.40	-141 / 352	32
18	Div A Staffs	Martin Aherne & Steve Smith	-0.42	-148 / 352	32
19	Div A Staffs	Martin Church & Michael McCartney	-0.49	-173 / 352	32
20	Div C Oxon	Irene Holland & Andy King	-0.91	-321 / 352	32
21	Div A Staffs	Brian Nicholls & Keith Shuttleworth	-1.06	-372 / 352	32
22	Div C Staffs	Stephen Bennett & Hazel Bennett	-1.28	-450 / 352	32
23	Div C Staffs	neville harris & Viv Milne	-1.39	-489 / 352	32
24	Div B Staffs	Helen Lees & Peter Lees	-1.63	-572 / 352	32

## Board 1

<b>Board 1</b> <b>Dealer N</b> <b>None Vul</b>	♠ K65		
	♥ Q52		
	♦ 842		
	♣ 9765		
♠ Q842		♠ 1073	NT
♥ 10987		♥ 43	♠
♦ 63		♦ KJ97	♥
♣ AQ4		♣ J1082	♦
	♠ AJ9		♣
	♥ AKJ6		N 9 9 9 9 9
	♦ AQ105		S 10 9 10 9 9
	♣ K3		E 3 4 3 4 4
			W 3 3 3 3 4
			Par +430 3NT+1 S
			NS: 5+22=27 HCP
			EW: 5+ 8 =13 HCP

All pairs played in 3NT. All bar one made it. If you are going to finesse twice in diamonds it is better to lead towards the 10D and then the QD. As it happens you can strip West of most of their cards to end-play them so that you make the KC, but this did not happen at the table.

## Board 2

<b>Board 2</b> <b>Dealer E</b> <b>NS Vul</b>	♠ J763		
	♥ 654		
	♦ AK93		
	♣ 83		
♠ 94		♠ Q2	NT
♥ AKQ1087		♥ J92	♠
♦ J85		♦ Q1064	♥
♣ 65		♣ J942	♦
	♠ AK1085		♣
	♥ 3		N 7 12 6 9 12
	♦ 72		S 7 12 6 9 12
	♣ AKQ107		E 1 0 6 4 1
			W 1 0 6 4 1
			Par +1430 6♠= NS
			NS: 8+16=24 HCP
			EW: 6+10=16 HCP

Three pairs played in 6S, nine in 4S. After a heart lead the slam does rely on finding the QS. The bidding is the only thing of interest on the hand. At different tables West bid 2H, 3H and at one table 4H. My own preference would be for 3H which seems to use up a lot of space and certainly cuts down the options for North. At my table I bid 4S over 3H and Chris felt (only in retrospect ☹) that he should have made one more bid. Over 2H I like Malcolm's bid of 3H to show sound spade support, and this then resulted in rounds of cue bidding. At other tables North chose 2S (life was not treating Jonathan well at the time!) and 3S which when I bid it shows the same hand without the AK! 4H was a brave attempt to shut the opposition out, but left them the opposition guessing and they guessed to bid 6S!

## Board 6

<b>Board 6</b> <b>Dealer E</b> <b>EW Vul</b>	♠ 54		
	♥ AQJ2		
	♦ KQ		
	♣ AKQ42		
	♠ J108	♠ AQ96	NT
	♥ K9643	♥ 108	N 9 7 8 6 11
	♦ J1084	♦ A932	S 9 7 8 6 11
	♣ 3	♣ 1076	E 3 6 5 7 2
			W 3 6 5 7 2
	♠ K732		Par +400 5♣= NS
	♥ 75		NS: 21+4=25 HCP
	♦ 765		EW: 10+5=15 HCP
	♣ J985		

This hand is of little interest, other than the fact that I alone played in 1C. I had to look at the Gloucestershire v Leicestershire match to find four other players playing in the same contract. The majority of players holding the North hand chose 2NT or an equivalent bid. I feel a bit aggrieved that 3NT makes on the cards – it certainly does not have to be there. And there is a chance that 3NT needs to be played by South. Next time I shall bid 2NT and see what happens.

## Board 12

<b>Board 12</b> <b>Dealer W</b> <b>NS Vul</b>	♠ K7542		
	♥ 92		
	♦ Q4		
	♣ Q532		
	♠ 3	♠ A96	NT
	♥ KJ63	♥ AQ10875	N 6 9 4 8 6
	♦ 532	♦ J76	S 6 10 4 8 7
	♣ K10876	♣ 4	E 7 2 9 3 5
			W 7 2 9 3 5
	♠ QJ108		Par +300 5♥X-2 EW
	♥ 4		NS: 7 + 15 = 22 HCP
	♦ AK1098		EW: 11 + 7 = 18 HCP
	♣ AJ9		

Chris and I were lucky enough to be allowed to play in 4H which I made after a Diamond lead and spade switch by sneaking a club through. South could have done worse than continue with a second diamond and given his partner a ruff when the QD falls. However, it is more interesting when played in 4S by North. East needs to lead their singleton club, and when in with AS underlead the hearts to secure the KC and a club ruff. This defense was found by one Celia Day of S&S so well done to her. Others leading a club encouraged a finesse from declarer and benefitted from a ruff at trick 2. And finally Jonathan and Charlie found the defence, but against 5S for some reason.

Board 15

Nick and Alan were the only pair to find the making 4H on Board 15. In fairness to Alan it needed some defensive help at trick ten – one of those situations we’ve all been in where two cards take it off but you chose the third which allows it to make. Otherwise it just needs about three cards to be well placed. Meanwhile we can only guess what Nick’s non-vulnerable multis consist of...

Board 16

**Board 16**  
**Dealer W**  
**EW Vul**

♠ 97	♠ AQJ	♠ 10643	NT
♥ KQJ974	♥ 1065	♥ A8	♠ 6 9 6 9 9
♦ A3	♦ KJ7	♦ 10964	♥ 6 9 6 9 9
♣ 964	♣ K732	♣ J85	♦ 5 3 7 3 3
	♠ K852		♣ 5 3 7 3 3
	♥ 32		
	♦ Q852		
	♣ AQ10		

Par +140 1♠+2 NS  
 NS: 14 + 11 = 25 HCP  
 EW: 5 + 10 = 15 HCP

And here we go with more heroic bidding which can be justified by the play. West opened 1H and Peter J. was looking at a no-trumpy sort of hand with the

added value of 10H. 1NT was the call. After East passed Alison J. had a fairly straightforward raise to 3NT, assuming North had denied four spades. 1NT must have been bid fairly confidently at the table because East chose to lead a diamond to his partner's AD. West knew what to do now and confidently played KH to his partner's 8H, and the rest, as they say, is history. 3NT +1, or four tricks above par.

Board 17

Board 17, Dlr N  
5♠ X-3 E

W Steve Smith

N Alan Wilson

Other table  
2♦ +1 W

Martin Aherne E

♠ —  
♥ KQ10954  
♦ J973  
♣ 1096

♠ AJ93  
♥ J83  
♦ AKQ865  
♣ —

♠ KQ54  
♥ 72  
♦ 10  
♣ QJ7543

0  
0

♠ 108762  
♥ A6  
♦ 42  
♣ AK82

W	N	E	S
	3♥	P	P
X	P	4♠	X
P	P	5♣	X
5♠	P	P	X
P	P	P	

Nick Smith S

Luckily we do not have to wait terribly long to uncover what the Wilson-Smith partnership do with strong weak hands. West is in some difficulty when the opening pre-empt is passed round to him. Double is probably fair enough, hoping not to hear 5C opposite. East in my opinion has a 3S rather than 4S bid, and then found his club suit after Nick's double. If you are sitting South it is one of those auctions when you feel Christmas has come early. And so it proved as three off was +500.

Board 18

**Board 18**  
**Dealer E**  
**NS Vul**

♠ K96 ♥ KJ4 ♦ 9765 ♣ 876	♠ J1075 ♥ Q963 ♦ Q84 ♣ 54	♠ Q832 ♥ A1072 ♦ K102 ♣ 103	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>NT</td> <td>♠</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	8	7	6	7	9	S	8	6	6	7	9	E	4	6	6	6	4	W	4	6	6	6	4
NT	♠	♥	♦	♣																												
N	8	7	6	7	9																											
S	8	6	6	7	9																											
E	4	6	6	6	4																											
W	4	6	6	6	4																											

  

♠ A4 ♥ 85 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AKQJ92	Par +120 1NT+1 NS NS: 5+19=24 HCP EW: 9+7=16 HCP
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Board 18 was played most often in 3NT and required a spade lead and heart switch, and heart continuation to beat the contract. The closest to achieving this was the Smith-Aherne partnership against Nick and Alan, but they fell at the last hurdle.

Board 21

Bd 21, Dlr N 4♠ +1 W	♠ 87 ♥ QJ105 ♦ AQ1097 ♣ K10	N Paul Cutler Other table 3♦ = N																				
W Chris Wilson ♠ AJ964 ♥ 64 ♦ 3 ♣ A9843		Matthew Covill E ♠ KQ5 ♥ A9873 ♦ K4 ♣ J75																				
0 0 < > ↺	♠ 1032 ♥ K2 ♦ J8652 ♣ Q62	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♦	P	3♦	P	P	3♥	P	3♣	4♦	4♣	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																			
	1♦	P	3♦																			
P	P	3♥	P																			
3♣	4♦	4♣	P																			
P	P																					
David Beavon S																						

Ignoring a board where I made a huge underbid, we move to something a bit luckier. Having passed on the first round, I came in with 3H on the second round. Chris responded with 3S and North helped me out by bidding 4D – I suspect I would have passed if he had. 4S comes in and all is well. In retrospect I prefer a double to my 3H bid – these hands are always a bit of a fix. [post edit: I should I am told have bid 1H on the first round to avoid having to come in too high on the second round].

Pairs playing in 2D or 3D tended to score well for N/S.

Board 27

<b>Board 27</b>	♠ A104		
<b>Dealer S</b>	♥ KQJ6		
<b>None Vul</b>	♦ A109		
	♣ K103		
♠ Q2		♠ K86	NT
♥ 9		♥ 108532	♠ 9 9 6 5
♦ QJ543		♦ 62	S 10 9 9 7 5
♣ QJ954		♣ A82	E 3 3 4 6 8
	♠ J9753		W 3 3 4 6 8
	♥ A74		Par +430 4NT= NS
	♦ K87		NS: 17 + 8 = 25 HCP
	♣ 76		EW: 7 + 8 = 15 HCP

Here's a hand where you need to play it in 3NT rather than 4S which goes off on a heart ruff. 4S made twice when played by North when East preferred the lead of 6D or AC. Irene and Jonathan both judged well to play in 3NT in spite of probably knowing about five spades in the South hand. Two S&S pairs did not ask for three spades in the North hand and so landed there a bit more fortuitously. One pair went off in 3NT after a good defence from Peter J. and Alison J.

Board 30

**Board 30**  
**Dealer E**  
**None Vul**

♠ KJ7  
♥ A32  
♦ J65  
♣ K654

♠ A8  
♥ –  
♦ AQ932  
♣ AQJ1032

♠ 6532  
♥ 84  
♦ K10874  
♣ 97

NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣  
N 6 6 11 1 2  
S 6 6 11 1 2  
E 5 6 2 11 11  
W 5 6 2 11 10

♠ Q1094  
♥ KQJ109765  
♦ –  
♣ 8

Par +100 6♣X-1 E  
NS: 12 + 8 = 20 HCP  
EW: 3 + 17 = 20 HCP

This board cost the A Team 50 imps; gained the B Team 6 imps; and cost the C Team 32 imps. Two pairs opened the South hand 1H, the rest bid 4H. West then usually bid 4NT to show either a minor two suiter, or two places to play. Wests who unilaterally chose to bid clubs faired less well on the whole. It is not clear to me whether North should raise hearts – those who were allowed to play in 5H scored well. The risk however is that East is pushed into 6D. This made when Mary-Ann played it on a heart lead. But it didn't make when Alan played it and received a spade lead. Not a lead I would have found I must confess, although North had bid 5H and then doubled the final contract, so perhaps I should!

Board 32

dds 6 2

Bd 32, Dir W  
3NT = E

W John Guilfoyle

♠ 975  
♥ QJ98  
♦ A104  
♣ K53

Other table  
4♠ -2 W

Tony Guilfoyle E

♠ K10632  
♥ K10732  
♦ –  
♣ AQJ

♠ Q8  
♥ 5  
♦ KQJ95  
♣ 109764

W N E S  
1♠ P 1NT P  
3♥ P 3NT P  
P P

♠ AJ4  
♥ A64  
♦ 87632  
♣ 82

David Nelson S



And finally I have saved the best 'til last. John and Tony are clearly advocates of the LTC which works particularly well in suit contracts. Anyway, this is a play hand.

The 3D was led to the AD. 10D continuation looks normal (certainly more normal than 3D lead!). Tony won with KD and has a few entry problems. 4C is played to the JC and KC. At this point North holds ten cards and only one of them allows the contract to make. So the 4D lands on the table. Tony ditches his blocking club winners on his remaining diamonds and with eight tricks won is able to lead a spade to dummy keeping KH on table and QS in hand. South makes his two aces but has to give up the last trick to declarer. Well played Tony.

Anyone for second and fourth?

And the hand is also remarkable for the fact that all nine tricks are taken by the East Hand! Quite an achievement holding only eight points.

Matthew Covill  
OBA Captain