

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

MCOL match against Warwickshire 9th March 2025

Congratulations to all the OBA players playing against Warwickshire. Oxfordshire won all three of its matches.

Dawes League

The A Team left it to the last result on the last hand to win the match 11-9. How exciting! They won by 7 imps which also happens to be the minimum imp level which avoids a draw. My preliminary calculations suggest that the A Team have finished in second position to Gloucestershire. In a day of fine margins, this required Nottinghamshire to beat Leicestershire without having won a match all season, so thanks due to them!

Perhaps the most remarkable result of the day in the Dawes League was that two hands were passed out with Ian Angus at the table. My experience tells me that Ian doesn't need an opening hand to open, so this really is quite something.

Porter League

The B Team made easier work of their match, being over 200 imps up at the half way mark. The final margin was 313 imps which is 20-0 with room to spare. Congratulations to Graham and Jackie who topped the cross-imps across all OBA Leagues with over 2 imps per board.

The B Team have won all their matches this season and have won the division by a significant margin, so congratulations to all involved.

Markham League

The C Team won 17-3 after a slow start, so a highly satisfactory result. Although the C Team have only lost one match this season (to Gloucestershire), they finish in third position in the League.

If my early investigation is correct, it looks like Worcestershire beat Gloucestershire by 16-4 and this would be enough to win the League for Worcestershire.

Please note that we have been thanked by Warwickshire for such a good-spirited match. This is just as important as winning, so thank you to all those who played today.

Cross-imp Results

1	PORTER Oxfordshire	Graham Ormond & Jackie Fairclough	+2.13	+749 / 352	32
2	PORTER Oxfordshire	Matthew Covill & Chris Wilson	+1.94	+683 / 352	32
3	DAWES Warwickshire	John Collin & Mike Leese	+1.01	+356 / 352	32
4	MARKHAM Oxfords..	Martin Illingworth & Amr El-Kashef	+0.93	+327 / 352	32
5	MARKHAM Oxfords..	John Guilfoyle & Tony Guilfoyle	+0.80	+283 / 352	32
6	DAWES Warwickshire	George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley	+0.79	+278 / 352	32
7	PORTER Oxfordshire	Mary-Ann Sheehy & Christopher Whitehouse	+0.78	+274 / 352	32
8	DAWES Oxfordshire	Denis Talbot & Kathy Talbot	+0.61	+216 / 352	32
9	DAWES Oxfordshire	Jonathan Davis & Charles Bucknell	+0.61	+215 / 352	32
10	PORTER Oxfordshire	Finn Clark & Stuart Forsyth	+0.57	+201 / 352	32
11	MARKHAM Oxfords..	Sandra Nicholson & Krys Kazmierczak	+0.35	+124 / 352	32
12	MARKHAM Warwick..	Gabriel Ip & Michael Sallis	+0.26	+90 / 352	32
13	MARKHAM Warwick..	Peter Randall & Diana Thorne	+0.19	+66 / 352	32
14	MARKHAM Oxfords..	Nigel Wilkes & Gillian Lonsdale	-0.07	-23 / 352	32
15	DAWES Warwickshire	Adrian Knight & Dominic Connolly	-0.30	-104 / 352	32
16	DAWES Oxfordshire	Tom Rainforth & Ian Angus	-0.49	-171 / 352	32
17	DAWES Oxfordshire	Alan Wilson & Nick Smith	-0.56	-196 / 352	32
18	MARKHAM Warwick..	Sarah Jones & Andy Baruch	-0.60	-210 / 352	32
19	PORTER Warwicks..	Dodo Georgevic & Leslie Reece	-1.16	-409 / 352	32
20	PORTER Warwicks..	Val Cooper & Bob Foster	-1.24	-435 / 352	32
21	PORTER Warwicks..	Melanie Boynton & Denis Gough	-1.39	-490 / 352	32
22	PORTER Warwicks..	Alan Patel & Roger Harris	-1.63	-573 / 352	32
23	DAWES Warwickshire	Jon Downing & Mike Meakin	-1.69	-594 / 352	32
24	MARKHAM Warwick..	Prue Knight & David Hulston	-1.87	-657 / 352	32

Analysis of Boards

Board 1

Board 1	♠ A632			
Dealer N	♥ KQ1095			
None Vul	♦ AJ93			
	♣ -			
♠ 4		♠ QJ1085	NT	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
♥ A8643		♥ J7	N	10 10 10 10 10
♦ 1072		♦ 8654	S	10 10 10 10 10
♣ A754		♣ Q6	E	3 3 3 3 3
			W	3 3 3 3 3
	♠ K97			
	♥ 2			
	♦ KQ			
	♣ KJ109832			
			Par	+430 3NT+1 NS
			NS:	14 + 12 = 26 HCP
			EW:	6 + 8 = 14 HCP

Alan points out that it is an unusual hand which can make exactly ten tricks in all denominations. It is a mark of the digital age that we can actually know such things – who would have worked this out in a face to face game? It was a fairly flat hand with all pairs bar one making game, usually in no-trumps. I

think this slow start was a wake-up call to a certain pair who then bid more grand slams than any other pair!

Board 4

Board 4	♠ 742		
Dealer W	♥ J63		
All Vul	♦ J984		
	♣ Q53		
	♠ 6	♠ Q109	NT
	♥ K42	♥ AQ108	♠ 5 7 3 4 3
	♦ KQ1053	♦ 76	S 5 7 3 4 3
	♣ J1074	♣ A862	E 7 6 10 9 10
			W 5 5 9 9 10
	♠ AKJ853		Par -620 4♥= E
	♥ 975		NS: 4 + 15 = 19 HCP
	♦ A2		EW: 12 + 9 = 21 HCP
	♣ K9		

Nigel found the unusual winning action here by passing the East hand. South then opened 1S, North raised to 2S and South fairly naturally made a 3H game try. The final 3S contract drifted two off for 200 to E/W. Only Mary-Ann and Christopher played in hearts - at the 2 level. It is not so straightforward to make the par contract of 4H, far less to bid it.

Board 5

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> DDS 6 <p>♠ AK9</p> <p>Bd 5, Dir N</p> <p>4♠ = S</p> <p>W Leslie Reece</p> <p>♠ J1074</p> <p>♥ 1092</p> <p>♦ Q63</p> <p>♣ AQ6</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>Chris Wilson S</p> </div>	<p>♥ A8</p> <p>♦ 10852</p> <p>♣ 10954</p> <p>♠ 86532</p> <p>♥ KJ43</p> <p>♦ AJ4</p> <p>♣ 8</p>	<p>N Matthew Covill</p> <p>Other table</p> <p>2♠ +1 S</p> <p>E Dodo Georgevic</p> <p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ Q765</p> <p>♦ K97</p> <p>♣ KJ732</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♠*</td><td>P</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>4♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♠*	P	1♠	P	2♠	P	3♥	P	3NT	P	4♠	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																			
	1♠*	P	1♠																			
P	2♠	P	3♥																			
P	3NT	P	4♠																			
P	P	P																				

On this board fortune favoured the bold at our table. I opened 1C intending to rebid 1NT over the likely response from partner. When Chris bid 1S I decided to treat AKx as a four card suit and rebid 2S. I think if I were South I might have passed at this point. But Chris made a forward move by bidding 3H and obviously this made all the difference to my hand so I suggested an alternative game, corrected back to spades by Chris. You can see that the leads to beat this contract are all a bit unlikely. In the event West led a heart to the JH. Technically Chris should now lead a club, but as it happens West at some point led his JS crashing his partner's queen.

It's surprising how optimistic your bidding can be if you play the cards well! This was one of Ian's passed out hands – in fairness he was West with a flat 9-count in the pass out seat.

Board 10

DDS 6

Bd 10, Dir E
4♠ -1 W

W Roger Harris

Chris Wilson S

♠ K2
♥ 1054
♦ 952
♣ Q10982

♠ A10865
♥ 9862
♦ J104
♣ 4

♠ J97
♥ K73
♦ K763
♣ KJ3

N Matthew Covill

Other table
4♠ = W

Alan Patel E

♠ Q43
♥ AQJ
♦ AQ8
♣ A765

W	N	E	S
		1♣	P
1♠	P	2NT*	P
3♥	P	4♠	P
P	P		

It can be difficult to describe defences in match reports, but I'll try. Against 4S I led the 5D to the 8D and won by South with the KD. Chris found the inspired return of 3C, won by the AC in dummy. The 3S was led to AS, and from this point the contract is going off. Declarer led a spade to my KS, and I returned a low club, ruffed by declarer. He tries the heart finesse, which fails, and Chris

leads his final club, again ruffed by declarer. He now crosses to dummy with a diamond to ruff his final club, but Chris ruffs with the Jack which is now higher than declarers 10S. One down.

All other declarers made ten tricks, taking advantage of the thirteenth heart to discard a club, but being careful with the entries.

Board 11

The screenshot shows a bridge board interface for Board 11. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Top Left:** A small window with 'x', 'DDS', and a card icon. Below it, a yellow box contains 'Bd 11, Dir S' and '2♣+4 E'.
- Top Center:** A green box showing scores: ♠ 532, ♥ 542, ♦ Q9853, and ♣ Q9.
- Top Right:** A white box with 'N Finn Clark' and a yellow box with 'Other table' and '3NT+3 E'.
- Middle Left:** A white box with 'W Bob Foster' and a light blue box showing his hand: ♠ J74, ♥ 109873, ♦ A107, ♣ J4.
- Middle Right:** A white box with 'Val Cooper E' and a light green box showing his hand: ♠ AK, ♥ AKQ, ♦ J42, ♣ AK1053.
- Bottom Left:** A green box with a score display showing two red boxes with '0' and a 'Stuart Forsyth S' name box.
- Bottom Center:** A green box showing scores: ♠ Q10986, ♥ J6, ♦ K6, and ♣ 8762.
- Bottom Right:** A yellow box with a bidding table:

	W	N	E	S
P		1♦	X	1♠
P		P	2♣	P
P		P		

I wouldn't normally put a psyche into a match report, but this one from Finn does seem to have worked quite remarkably well. East must have been a bit surprised by the amount of bidding at the table, but her 2C bid does show a hand which is too strong to overcall 2C initially. West could perhaps have come to life with a 2H response over 1S or 2C...I might even have made the forcing bid of 2D if I were East to make sure my partner was on message.... I imagine Finn went home with a smile on his face.

Board 12

Board 12 Dealer W NS Vul	♠ AKQJ842 ♥ 1082 ♦ K96 ♣ —	♠ 9 ♥ K9 ♦ Q87 ♣ QJ109742	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>NT</td> <td>♠</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	13	13	12	9	8	S	13	13	12	9	8	E	0	0	1	4	5	W	0	0	1	4	4
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣																												
N	13	13	12	9	8																												
S	13	13	12	9	8																												
E	0	0	1	4	5																												
W	0	0	1	4	4																												
♠ 10763 ♥ J76 ♦ J10432 ♣ 5	♠ 5 ♥ AQ543 ♦ A5 ♣ AK863		Par +2220 7NT= NS NS: 13 + 17 = 30 HCP EW: 8 + 2 = 10 HCP																														

This hand had some interesting results. Two pairs declared a grand slam, 8 pairs a small slam, and 2 pairs played in game.

I opened 4S which was a minority view, most players opened 1S. The hand is ideal for South African Texas which uses opening bids of 4C and 4D to show very good 4H and 4S bids respectively, leaving 4H and 4S openers to show weaker hands. Alan was able to open 4D showing this hand, and after RKCB from Nick, he bid 7S. If a spade is led, it relies on the heart finesse. But a heart was not led and Alan chose to ruff his losing diamond in dummy to make the slam. Well done.

I missed an opportunity after the auction 4S – 5S which asks about spade quality. I bid 6S, but could have bid 6D to show the KD and good spades.

The pairs playing in game had to deal with a club pre-empt and South was put off going beyond game by the short spade holding.

But feel sorry for the Warwickshire pair who ended up in the Grand Slam, but in hearts, after North opened 2C (showing eight playing tricks) and raised the heart response rather than bidding spades. In truth, South has the opportunity to bid 7NT if he assumes that the eight playing tricks are in spades, which is not so unlikely!

Graham and Jackie will have guessed they were not about to lose the match when their opponents played in the wrong Grand Slam!

Board 16

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Top Left:** Board 16, Dealer West, Contract 4♥ X-4 N.
- Top Right:** Player Dodo Georgevic (North), Other table 1NT-1 N.
- Bottom Left:** Player Christopher Whitehouse (West), Leslie Reece (South).
- Bottom Right:** Player Mary-Ann Sheehy (East).
- Hand 1 (Top Left):** ♠ AQ, ♥ AQ1075, ♦ Q87, ♣ J74.
- Hand 2 (Middle Left):** ♠ K8765, ♥ —, ♦ J92, ♣ Q10632.
- Hand 3 (Middle Right):** ♠ J1093, ♥ KJ94, ♦ A64, ♣ A8.
- Hand 4 (Bottom Right):** ♠ 42, ♥ 8632, ♦ K1053, ♣ K95.
- Bottom Right Table:**

W	N	E	S
2♠*	3♥	3♠	4♥
P	P	X	P
P	P		

In the same vain, Mary-Ann was not so unhappy with netting 800 taking 4HX four off. Christopher's 2S showed 5 spades and (4)5 of a minor and a weak hand, so 3S was possibly conservative. But Christmas arrived early when South, not unreasonably, bid 4H and the top hearts were all with North.

Krys and Sandra had a similar auction, but over 3H Sandra bid 4S straightaway. The defence did well enough to lead a club and return a spade, but then North tried to cash the AH and the sky fell in. 4S making was a good result.

Board 17

Board 17 Dealer N None Vul	♠ AQ964 ♥ J1093 ♦ 743 ♣ 3	♠ 10 ♥ Q ♦ AJ10965 ♣ K10876	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>NT</td> <td>♠</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	8	10	11	6	7	S	8	10	11	6	7	E	3	3	2	7	5	W	3	3	1	7	5
NT	♠	♥	♦	♣																												
N	8	10	11	6	7																											
S	8	10	11	6	7																											
E	3	3	2	7	5																											
W	3	3	1	7	5																											
	♠ J8732 ♥ K654 ♦ Q8 ♣ J9	♠ K5 ♥ A872 ♦ K2 ♣ AQ542	Par +450 4♥+1 NS NS: 7 + 16 = 23 HCP EW: 10 + 7 = 17 HCP																													

Here is an instructive board. After a pass from North and 1D opening from East, what do you do as South? Partner Chris bid 1NT which I think is the correct bid. For us it shows 15-17 and a diamond stop. Just as significantly it allows North to investigate a major fit, so we ended up in the making 4H.

If South chooses to overcall 2C West doubles and East leaves the double in. Although double dummy you can make seven tricks, on the day the Souths playing in clubs made only five or six tricks.

Board 19

Board 19 Dealer S EW Vul	♠ 76 ♥ 953 ♦ 94 ♣ Q98532	♠ J82 ♥ KQJ8 ♦ J8653 ♣ 10	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>NT</td> <td>♠</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	6	8	4	11	8	S	6	8	4	11	8	E	7	4	9	2	4	W	7	2	9	2	3
NT	♠	♥	♦	♣																												
N	6	8	4	11	8																											
S	6	8	4	11	8																											
E	7	4	9	2	4																											
W	7	2	9	2	3																											
	♠ A54 ♥ A107642 ♦ – ♣ J764	♠ KQ1093 ♥ – ♦ AKQ1072 ♣ AK	Par +400 5♠= NS NS: 2 + 21 = 23 HCP EW: 8 + 9 = 17 HCP																													

I can't have been alone in not liking the way this board was going. Partner deals and bids 2C. Your instinct is to pass and this would indeed have been the winning action. You bid 2D and opener bids 3D. One Warwickshire North had had enough by this stage and passed, getting the only plus score!

As mentioned earlier, Alan and Nick had got off to a slightly sleepy start, and by board 19 were clearly stoked by shredded wheat. After a strong (2 way actually but strong on this occasion) 1C from South, West bid 1H and East raised to 3H. South now bid 4H which was alerted and provoked a 5C bid from North. South now bid 5H which seems to be a strong cue bid and now North really came alive and bid 7C.

I think that is all completely normal compared with West's final pass! Minus 5.

Board 25

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface for Board 25, Dealt North. The interface includes the following elements:

- Hand Information:**
 - North (Jonathan Davis): ♠ 875, ♥ 108, ♦ Q1085, ♣ A1092
 - South (Charles Bucknell): ♠ AQ, ♥ AKJ72, ♦ A, ♣ KQ764
- Bidding Sequence:**
 - West (Mike Meakin): 3♥ +1 W
 - North (Jonathan Davis): 3NT = W
 - East (Jon Downing): E
 - South (Charles Bucknell): S
- Score Table:**

	W	N	E	S
		P	P	1♠
X		2♠	P	P
3♥	P	P	P	P
- Other Elements:**
 - Top left: Close button (X), DDS, and a hand icon.
 - Bottom left: A score display showing two red bars with '0' next to them, and navigation buttons (<, >, refresh).

I've just spotted another one! This is out of the same play book which Finn has been reading. Charlie puts in a bid with the South cards just ahead of West's whopper. West has to double, North's raise to 2S is normal, but when West bids 3H East has to realise that West is very strong and bid either 3N or 4H. Well done Charlie! For readers at home, these types of bid don't always work!

Board 31

	♠ –		
	♥ AQ9876		
	♦ QJ975		
	♣ AK		
♠ KJ763		♠ A985	NT
♥ –		♥ 543	♠ ♡ ♢ ♣
♦ AK1084		♦ –	N 6 2 10 7 2
♣ 764		♣ QJ10932	S 8 2 10 7 2
	♠ Q1042		E 5 10 3 5 11
	♥ KJ102		W 5 10 3 5 11
	♦ 632		
	♣ 85		
			Par -200 5♥X-1 NS
			NS: 16 + 6 = 22 HCP
			EW: 7 + 11 = 18 HCP

Here is an interesting hand where East West can make game in either spades or clubs, and North South can make game in hearts. So the par result is for North South to bid 5H and since this is going off for it to be doubled.

Against Martin and Amr Sarah Jones doubled Amr's 1S bid so Martin bid 4S as East. This came round again and Sarah bid 4NT, presumably two places to play. South made the correct response of 5D and played there, vulnerable, for -500.

Jackie and Graham had the same auction against them, but instead of 5D South bid 5H, presumably calculating that North would have bid an unusual NT straightaway with the minors? So that was one off.

Nobody played in clubs, so all the other pairs played in 4S, 5S and 6S, or 5H or 6H the other way. A swingy board, as they say.

Board 32

And finally

Board 32	♠ K3		
Dealer W	♥ 10965		
EW Vul	♦ A10873		
	♣ AK		
♠ AQJ10954		♠ 62	NT
♥ 2		♥ A84	N 6 4 10 8 6
♦ 2		♦ KJ654	S 6 4 10 8 6
♣ Q1096		♣ J53	E 5 9 3 5 6
	♠ 87		W 5 9 3 4 6
	♥ KQJ73		Par +200 4♠X-1 EW
	♦ Q9		NS: 14+8=22 HCP
	♣ 8742		EW: 9+9=18 HCP

The crux of this board is not to let the opponents play in hearts. In truth the West hand doesn't look like it wants to defend against a heart contract. Chris found the easiest way to achieve this was to bid 4S and there he played, going one off. Kathy, Gillian and Ian did the same. Amr chose 3S and this worked well on this occasion. Jackie also kept the bidding low, opening 1S and eventually playing in 2S.

Luckily for OBA all the pairs playing in 4H were ours! Mary-Ann doubled the 3S opener and Christopher played in 4H. Jonathan and Charlie did the same.

Alan doubled the 1S opener, and Nick bid 3H over a diamond showing 2C bid from East. Alan raised to 4H and there they played. This hand neatly turned a negative number to a positive one for the A Team. Well done to them.