

## 2014 Coffs Harbour Swiss Teams by Richard Wallis

The venue limit of about 100 teams (72 in the Open Teams) contested Coffs Congress Swiss Teams this year, with entries closed well before the event. I am sure the event would attract many more teams if there was room, and while the organizers are looking into adding more space next year, it will probably involve playing in a number of smaller rooms and is therefore not favoured.

The event is played as a Swiss over 8/14 board matches, 2 on Friday afternoon, 2 Saturday morning and another 2 in the afternoon, and concluding with 2 matches on Sunday morning. Lunch is provided on Saturday, and also on Sunday in association with the prize giving.

This year, Therese Tully and I played with Marlene Watts and David Beachamp, and we reached our peak after just 2 matches when we hit the lead! Match 3 was against Toni Bardon's Team (Sandra Johnson and a pair of non-Queenslanders), and the losing draw did neither team any good.

Matches 4 and 5 were bad losses, which brought us back to earth with a thud, before we finished with 3 good wins to pull us into a respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place. The Reitzer team (Jeanette Reitzer, Terry Brown, Sue Ingham and Michael Courtney) swept all before them, winning all 8 matches comfortably, to finish over 13 VPs ahead of the Yule team in second place.

<b>M 1</b>	T86			Board 7 in the first match was lucky for us in a number of ways. I could have bid 2H (Michaels) instead of overcalling 1S, which shows spades and a minor, at least 5-5. If I had done that, it is likely that Therese would have been declarer, and South may have led their singleton club, leading to immediate defeat.
<b>Bd 7</b>	A32			
<b>Dlr S</b>	J72			
<b>Vul All</b>	A765			
AQ753			J942	
87			K	I picked the right time to conceal my club suit, and Therese's 3H showed support with at least a limit bid in support of spades, so I had no hesitation in bidding 4S.
9			KT854	
QT983			KJ4	
	K			North led the HA, and when dummy went down, he switched to the DJ, which held the trick, so as I was hoping, he continued with another diamond which I ruffed.
	QJT9654			
	AQ63			
	2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	I ruffed a heart to dummy and now knowing South had the SK, I had to decide which card to lead for the finesse. The SJ would cater for the singleton ST with North, and a small spade would cater for the singleton SK with South, and also for South to have Kx, so I led the S2, and made 10 tricks for +620.
1S!	2H	3H!	1H	
4S	//		4H	

<b>M 1</b>	J8762			On board 13 in the first match I got very lucky when I signed off in 3NT, giving up on slam, and the 6NT slam at the other table failed, although it could have been made.
<b>Bd 13</b>	96			
<b>Dlr N</b>	JT2			
<b>Vul All</b>	A97			
AQ93			-	The 2D response was inverted, and the 2H rebid showed 11-13 HCPs, so with only a maximum of 30 HCPs between the 2 hands, I signed off in 3NT.
A42			KQ85	Therese, with a void in spades and no Aces, took the sensible approach to convert to what she knew was a 5-4 fit.
AQ94			K7653	I should have rebid 2S over 2H, asking if she had a shortage, and her 3H response would have identified a spade shortage, which would have given me even less reason to go on. Now, when I bid 3NT
J5			KQ63	Therese knows I have the spades covered and could pass.
	KT54			In 6NT South will get squeezed in 3 suits by the run of the diamonds, but the other West missed this and went 1 off for +100. 6D does not need any squeezes, and while we actually gained 12 Imps in the match, we lost 5 Imps against the Datum.
	JT73			
	8			
	T842			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2D!	/	1D	/	
3NT!	/	2H!	/	
	/	5D	//	

<b>M 2</b>	J52			On board 16 in the second match I had a minimum in HCPs for my reverse, but good controls, and I was anxious to protect my Kx in clubs, so rebid 2NT to show my minimum for the reverse.
<b>Bd 16</b>	8542			
<b>Dlr W</b>	Q			
<b>Vul EW</b>	J7532			
A6		KQT943		The 2S rebid by Therese was forcing for 1 round, but her jump to 4D was now Minorwood, my 4H response showing 3 Key Cards, so she jumped to slam.
A976		3		
A9872		KT64		North led the C3, and I won the CQ on the table to leave the entry to set up the spades, if necessary, after drawing trumps.
K4		AQ		
	87			Technically, to guarantee 12 tricks in diamonds, I should lead a trump from either hand and cover whatever the defender plays. Even if it loses, trumps can definitely be drawn now, and this protects against a 4-0 break either way.
	KQJT			
	J53			
	T986			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1D	/	1S	/	In practice, I erred and played the DK from the table, and when North dropped the DQ, I finessed on the next round of trumps, using the Principle of Restricted Choice. This was 13 tricks and +1390, but 2 Imps away as EW got to 6S at the other table for -1460.
2H	/	2S!	/	
2NT	/	4D!	/	
4H	/	6D	//	

<b>M 2</b>	KJ872			On board 28 in the second match I would not recommend North's 2H bid to any budding bridge player. If Therese had supported spades, then South is known to be void, so it is likely that NS have a fit, but when Therese bid an almost forcing 1NT, it seems unlikely she has spade support, so the chance of NS having a fit has reduced.
<b>Bd 28</b>	QT963			
<b>Dlr W</b>	KJ3			
<b>Vul NS</b>	-			
AQ954		-		My 2C rebid showed either an unbalanced hand, or 15+ HCPs, and Therese was probably planning to invite game in clubs with 3C, but North offered a more attractive choice, so she doubled for penalties.
J		AK842		
AQ4		872		Therese led the C2 and North rose with the CA, pitching the D3, and led a spade from the table. I was so flabbergasted when Therese showed out that I made the mistake of giving her a spade ruff instead of forcing declarer with a club.
Q987		KT432		
	T63			However, the contract still went 3 off for +800. At the other table David did not bid as North, and EW were unlucky to go off in 5C due to the bad break in trumps, so we gained 14 Imps.
	75			
	T965			
	AJ65			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1S	/	1NT!	/	
2C	2H	X	/	

<b>M 3</b>	JT9852			On board 3 in the third match we paid more attention to South's opening bid and North's response than our own cards.
<b>Bd 3</b>	43			The 2S by North was weak, although I am not sure if as weak as this was expected, and Therese's 3D cuebid showed heart support.
<b>Dlr S</b>	42			
<b>Vul EW</b>	T95			
73		A		I had no inclination to bid game over South's 3S, and Therese's 4C rebid was showing a good suit, and she was hoping I would show a diamond control.
K9876		AJT52		
A97		53		However, I had a few spade losers and a very minimum overcall, so I just signed off in 4H.
763		AKQJ2		Therese could now afford to bid 4S as another slam try, and then I would have bid 5D, but she called it a day and 4H was passed out.
	KQ64			Dummy was a complete surprize, and I had no trouble racking up 13 tricks for +710 and a potentially big loss!
	Q			Only 10 pairs out of 72 bid the slam, and EW at the other table doubled David in 5S, for -500, so we gained 5 Imps after all.
	KQJT86			
	84			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1H	2S	3D	1D	
/	/	4C	3S	
4H	//		/	

<b>M 3</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	A4 9863 AK KJ864		On board 13 in the third match I was tempted to raise Therese's 2S overall of the 15-15 1NT opening bid, but with soft values and possibly the hearts not pulling their full weight, passed it out. 2S showed spades and a minor, and it was likely to be spades and diamonds.
QT97 KQJ2 8 Q732		KJ863 T5 J9762 A	There is a good case for simply bidding 4S and hoping for the best, as Therese's actual hand was probably the minimum point-count I could expect, and with either of South's honours, 4S is a good bet.
	52 A74 QT543 T95		Since she had such a minimum hand, Therese would not have accepted a game invitation, and give her Ax in clubs and a singleton heart, and 4S goes off on a club lead.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b> 1NT	<b>E</b> 2S!	<b>S</b> //
South led the S5 and 10 tricks were never in doubt for +170, and a flat board as the same contract was reached at the other table.			

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 22</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	QT75 T98754 K 83		On board 22 in the fourth match I did not get the chance to shine when NS had an easy sacrifice over my 5D contract.
94 - AQT9752 KQJT		J63 AQ 8643 A752	My 3D jump overcall showed 10-12 HCPs, although with my good suit and side club suit my hand is better than that, and over 4H Therese bid 5D, as with the HQ on side, 4H may make.
	AK82 KJ632 J 964		I do not know whether South bid 5H to make, or because they thought 5D was cold, but Therese had an easy double when 5H came around to her.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
3D /	4H /	5D X	1H 5H //
I led the CK and we duly cashed out 4 tricks for 2 off and +300. The DK, being singleton offside, suggested that 5D may fail, although that would require North to lead an unlikely spade.			
At the other table, Marlene and David did not compete over 5D, and West miss-guessed the diamonds, finessing rather than playing the DA. However Marlene did not divine to lead a spade, so that was still 11 tricks and -600, to lose 7 Imps.			

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 28</b> <b>Dir W</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	983 QT943 KQ87 Q		On board 28 in the fourth match I opened 3C at favourable vulnerability, which posed a problem for South when this was passed around to her.
72 A62 T9 KJ8652		AQT J875 A5432 9	The 5-card holding in clubs should have been a warning, but she bid 3S anyway, and North raises her to game. The sight of dummy must have been a big disappointment to declarer.
	KJ654 K J6 AT743		I led the DT and Therese won this and led the C9, won by declarer, who next led the HK.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
3C /	/ 4S	/ //	3S
I won the HA and led another diamond, won in hand by declarer, and the hand was very nearly over.			
South was lucky in the end to make 6 tricks, but that was 4 off and +400 to us on a nothing hand.			
At the other table, a sensible pass by Marlene gained another +100 for 3C, 2 off, and 11 Imps, a bright spot in a losing match.			

<b>M 5</b> <b>Bd 6</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	KJT96 A6 T974 Q7		On board 6 in the fifth match I believe that South opened 1C in preference to 1D to deter the lead, and it worked! He also suppressed 3-card support for his partner's major suit, in spite of at least a 5-card suit opposite.
8743 J853 J52 A6		A 9742 K6 K95432	North was the Client, which explains the prepared bids and responses, and I was completely taken in by the bidding and led the D2, in spite of my aversion to leading away for an unsupported Jack!
	Q52 KQT AQ83 JT8		South was not hard-pressed to make 3NT now, and the best we could do was cash 2 clubs and a spade for 10 tricks and -430.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1S	/	1C!
/	3S	/	1NT
//			3NT
At the other table, Marlene and David stopped in the sensible contract of 3S, making exactly for +140, but 8 Imps out.			

<b>M 5</b> <b>Bd 14</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	KJ9 J QT73 AQ873		On board 14 in the fifth match South was at it again when he bid 2NT over the negative double by Therese, without a stop in either major!
Q62 A976 KJ986 6		AT854 KQT2 - T542	I was not inclined to bid 3H over the 2NT bid, as from the bidding Therese figured to have a minimum hand, and I did not even lead a heart, preferring the S2 as the opening lead.
	73 8543 A542 KJ9		Therese won the SA over the SJ and led back a spade, won on the table, and declarer now cashed his 5 club tricks before leading a diamond off the table.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1D	2C	X	/
//			2NT
When Therese discarded on the diamond, declarer claimed 7 tricks for 1 off and +50. At the other table EW competed to the 3-level, buying the contract in 3H, and making 9 tricks for -140 and 3 Imps out. The 4-4 heart fit is better than the 5-3 spade fit, in spite of the 4-1 heart break, as spades can be held to 8 tricks.			

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 18</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AKJ976 85 AKQT7		On board 18 in the sixth match North lost interest in slam when South opened with a Multi-2D, almost certainly based on a 6-card heart suit, so they signed off in 4S.
Q2 Q4 J5 AJ87643		T85 T72 9862 KQ8	The opening weak 2 made it hard for North, but the North hand is pretty good, and after all, the doubleton is in partner's 6-card suit, so North should have got interested, and shown both of their suits, just in case there is a grand slam!
	43 AKJ963 43 T52		Since NS have a 6-2 fit, a simple approach of bidding 2NT to let South show their suit, and then jumping to 5H, asking South to bid slam with a good suit would have also worked.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
3C	4S	/	2D!
		//	
Therese led the CK, but North had no trouble making all 13 tricks, for -710. At the other table the simplistic approach was adopted, and Marlene played safe for 12 tricks, +1430 and 12 Imps.			

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 5</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	64 K95 AKT3 A765			On board 5 in the seventh match North's 1NT opening showed 13-15, and South's 2D was a transfer to hearts. I did not know who could make what, but the vulnerability was in our favour, so I bid the obvious spade game, doubled by North, which is the correct action, as 4H by NS has no real chance.
AKJT97 74 Q9874 -		Q82 Q32 652 QJT2		North led the DA, and when South played the DJ, he cashed another top diamond, and led the D3 for South to ruff. This was good news to me, as the D3 was almost certainly McKenny for a club return, and I knew that North was going to be disappointed.
	53 AJT86 J K9843			I ruffed the club return and drew trumps, before cashing my diamonds to discard 2 hearts, and a heart ruff meant only 1 off for -100. This was good news and bad, because it was obvious when dummy went down that even if North got the hearts right, 4H would fail. At least they did not cash their 5 tricks as they did at the other table, so we gained 5 Imps.
<b>W</b> 4S	<b>N</b> 1NT X	<b>E</b> / //	<b>S</b> 2D!	

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	62 86 QJ652 J853			On board 13 in the seventh match I had no good opening bid to show my hand, and instead chose to treat it as a strong balanced hand, so opened 2C and rebid 2NT (22-24). Therese's 2D response showed at least 1 Ace or King, and her 3C rebid asked for a 5-card major, my 3D showing at least one 4-card major.
Q AKQJ AK97 AT62		AKJ5 T9542 T3 Q4		The 4C rebid showed both majors and had slam interest, but I did not bid 4D, which would have been Key Card for Hearts, instead signing off in game.
	T98743 73 84 K97			However, with at least 32 HCPs and a 5-4 fit, Therese was not about to give up and simply bid 6H.
<b>W</b> 2C! 2NT 3D 4H	<b>N</b> / / / /	<b>E</b> / 2D! 3C 4C 6H	<b>S</b> / / / //	North led the DQ, and I had no trouble discarding 3 clubs on the spades and ruffed a club in hand for 13 tricks, and +1460. I confidently predicted to North that this would be a flat board, at least in the top half of the room, but EW at the other table had an accident, and stopped in game, so we gained 13 Imps.

<b>M 8</b> <b>Bd 16</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	T76 432 JT54 QJ4			On board 16 in the eighth match my 3S jump rebid after the 2H transfer showed a minimum hand with 4 spades. Therese has a great hand and made a slam try with a 4C cue-bid (first or second round control), and I cued 4D, which is obviously the DA, since Therese had the DK.
AQJ5 JT95 A9 K63		K9843 A K7632 AT		Since she had no need to cue hearts, and with a 5-card diamond suit as a potential source of tricks, Therese checked on Key Cards with 4NT, and bid the small slam, wisely giving up on a grand slam.
	2 KQ876 Q8 98752			North led the H3, and I could see 13 tricks if spades broke 2-2, but when they were 3-1, I settled for just 12 tricks, which would still have been 13 if the diamonds were 3-3.
<b>W</b> 1NT 3S 4D 5S	<b>N</b> / / / /	<b>E</b> 2H! 4C 4NT 6S	<b>S</b> / / / //	When I ruffed a diamond and they proved to be 4-2, I got to dummy and gave up a diamond for +1430. At the other table EW did not get to slam, although they made 13 tricks in 4S, but -710 was 12 Imps to us.

<b>M 8</b>	AT53			On board 19 in the eighth match South did not open with a Weak 2H (maybe her system did not allow it), but she came to life later and bid the spots off her hand, but not to good effect.
<b>Bd 19</b>	2			
<b>Dir S</b>	K85			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AK974			It looked like Therese had a short diamond, so I got off to the lead of the DA, and led another diamond to give Therese a ruff, also setting up the DQ when South did not read the situation and rose with the DK at trick 2!
Q4		KJ876		
A843		Q5		
AQ9642		7		
2		QJ863		
	92			I may have read it wrong in leading the DA, as Therese was probably doubling on the strength of her black suits being well positioned over the over-caller, but it turned out all right.
	KJT976			Therese led back the CQ, and eventually I got a club ruff and we also got a spade trick to take the silly contract 2 off for +300.
	JT3			
	T5			At the other table EW went right off the rails, finishing in the even sillier contract of 4SEX, making only 7 tricks for 3 off and +800.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1D	2C	/	/	
/	2S	/	2H	
/	/	X	3H	
			//	