

## 2006 Toowoomba Swiss Teams

The first congress in Australia is still going well in Toowoomba, even if the attendance does not equal some of the other congresses in SE Queensland. Sadly, this was the first congress without Ivy Dahler, who passed away in March. The 26 teams participating this year represented a good roll-up, but it was a one-horse race from the beginning.

David Appleton, Gary Malinas, Magnus Moren and long-time Dahler team-mate Neville Francis hit the front early on and were never headed, winning by 32 VPs! My team of Therese Tully, Meta Goodman and Tony Jackman met them in the last round, and we had the mammoth task of beating them by 67 Imps over 14 boards to take the title. Not only did we not achieve this Herculean task, but they added us to their list of victories to finish undefeated, with an average winning margin of over 30 Imps per match.

|                |          |          |          |  |   |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|--|---|
| <b>M 1</b>     | KJ964    |          |          |  | The old adage that balanced hands belong in notrumps was proven true once again on board 13 in the first match.   |
| <b>Bd 13</b>   | AKQ      |          |          |  |   |
| <b>Dlr N</b>   | A43      |          |          |  | Unfortunately I succumbed to the temptation to look for a major suit fit and when Therese showed a 5-card spade suit I raised to game.  |
| <b>Vul All</b> | K7       |          |          |  |   |
| AQT3           |          |          | 8        |  |   |
| 76542          |          |          | 9        |  | Even if the defence gets off to the best lead of a low diamond, 3NT only requires a good guess in spades for 9 tricks, and with the actual layout it is not possible to guess wrong!  |
| KQ9            |          |          | T876     |  |   |
| 5              |          |          | JT98432  |  |   |
|                | 752      |          |          |  | In 4S East led the H9, and of course Therese tried to get rid of a losing diamond by playing 3 rounds of clubs, and when West ruffed the second round, the only entry to dummy was gone, and worse still, East got a heart ruff with her singleton trump. |
|                | JT83     |          |          |  |   |
|                | J52      |          |          |  |   |
|                | AQ6      |          |          |  |   |
| <b>W</b>       | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |  | 2 off was a flat board, but I should have just raised 2NT to 3NT and forgot about a possible major suit fit. 3NT is very easy since the spade honours are all on side.  |
| /              | 2C       | /        | 2D       |  |   |
| /              | 2NT      | /        | 3C       |  |   |
| /              | 3S       | /        | 4S       |  |   |
| //             |          |          |          |  |   |

|               |          |          |          |  |   |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|--|---|
| <b>M 2</b>    | QJT7     |          |          |  | Board 18 in the second match was a double game swing when we were allowed to play in 5C at our table and Meta and Tony played in 5D at the other table and NS slipped a trick in the defense. |
| <b>Bd 18</b>  | T42      |          |          |  |   |
| <b>Dlr E</b>  | T2       |          |          |  | While we do play negative doubles, a double of the 1D overcall shows either both or neither major, so the 1S response by Therese only promised a 4-card suit.                                 |
| <b>Vul NS</b> | K762     |          |          |  | I bid 3C with the intention of showing 3-card spade support on the next round if it seemed prudent, but when Therese raised, I bid game our best fit.   |
| A642          |          |          | 85       |  |   |
| QJ            |          |          | A9753    |  | At the vulnerability, I was surprized when neither opponent chose to bid an obvious 5D, presumably because they had hopes of defeating 5C.  |
| K98765        |          |          | AQJ43    |  | As it was, even the opening lead of the HQ could not defeat 5C, due to the lucky position of the heart honours, and we gained 14 Imps.  |
| 3             |          |          | T        |  |   |
|               | K93      |          |          |  |   |
|               | K86      |          |          |  |   |
|               | -        |          |          |  |   |
|               | AQJ9854  |          |          |  |   |
| <b>W</b>      | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |  |   |
| 1D            | 1S       | 2D       | 1C       |  |   |
| 3D            | 4C       | 4D       | 3C       |  |   |
| //            |          |          | 5C       |  |   |

**M 3** -  
**Bd 1** KQ986  
**Dlr N** AKT652  
**Vul Nil** Q6  
A98532  
-  
Q94  
J954

KJT8  
AT54  
J87  
A3

| W | N  | E  | S   |
|---|----|----|-----|
| / | 1D | /  | 1S  |
| / | 2H | /  | 3H  |
| / | 4H | /  | 4NT |
| / | 5S | /  | 5NT |
| / | 7H | // | 6H  |

On board 1 in the third match I was half asleep during the bidding and it proved costly in the end.

Therese opened 1D, and my first little slip occurred when I bid 1S instead of 1H, because I was thinking of the next round of bidding. The next more costly mistake was when I miscounted the combined number of controls, and asked for Kings, implying that we had all 5 Key Cards.

Since Therese had an extra heart, and knew that she could discard her club loser on my SA! She bid one more.

In fact 6H would still have lost us 11 Imps, because NS at the other table got to 7H with North as dealer without mentioning spades, and Tony was unwilling to lead a trumps, so led the S5, which made 7H easy when the diamond finesse worked.

Therese got the friendly lead of the D3, and could now make 7H if she could guess the spade position, or if West rose with the SA when she led a spade from dummy, but when neither of these things happened, had to concede 1 off.

To make 7H declarer leads the SK, which West has to cover, and now East is squeezed on the run of the diamonds.

**M 4** QT  
**Bd 25** T84  
**Dlr N** 6543  
**Vul EW** AQ63  
AJ98765  
J52  
Q2  
K

2  
KQ7  
T9  
J987542

| W  | N  | E | S  |
|----|----|---|----|
| 4S | 5C | X | // |

There seemed to be a large number of singleton Kings lurking around at Toowoomba, and the majority of them appeared to be hovering over the AQ.

On board 25 in the fourth match I was fortunate enough to find the singleton King in front of the AQ, but I still lost a trick to it when West led the DQ and the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the suit promoted the CK into the 3<sup>rd</sup> down-trick for -500.

My hand appeared to offer very little defence, but too much to jump to 5C, and 3C was too wimpy, so I compromised with 4C hoping to make it harder for West to enter the bidding.

However, the 7-card suit was impossible to keep out and Therese chose well when she elected to sacrifice in 5C over 4S, which East was happy to double.

At the other table NS did not venture to the 5-level, and also did not lead a club, so Meta made all 13 tricks for +710 and 5 Imps.

**M 5** AJ  
**Bd 9** 764  
**Dlr N** Q74  
**Vul EW** KQ852  
K7653  
K832  
JT6  
3

QT9842  
5  
AK3  
T76

| W  | N   | E  | S  |
|----|-----|----|----|
| /  | 1NT | 2D | 3H |
| // | 3S  | /  | 4S |

On board 9 in the fifth match Therese had to contend with yet another diabolical trump split, and finished 2 down for -100.

The 2D overcall of 1NT by East showed the red suits, and my 3H response was transfer to spades, which West should have doubled to bring the fit to light. However 4H had at least 3 losers, so there was nothing for EW to do over 4S except possibly to double for penalties.

However, an over-cautious West chose not to double, and when my hand went down I am sure that Therese must have fancied her chances after the lead of the D9 if either black honour was well placed. The SJ won, but with East showing out, and there was no way to achieve success.

At the other table Tony was allowed to play in 4H, which made exactly 10 tricks for +620 and 11 Imps.

**M 6** K742  
**Bd 20** T  
**Dlr W** AJ5  
**Vul All** KJ632  
986 AT53  
Q97652 A4  
T832 KQ74  
- Q85

QJ  
KJ83  
96  
AT974

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>W</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |
|          | 1C       | 1NT      | X        |
| 2D       | /        | 2H       | X        |
| //       |          |          |          |

Someone once said that if the opponents do not occasionally make a doubled contract you are not doubling enough, and Board 20 in the sixth match was a case in point.

After Therese opened 1C and East overcalled 1NT, my first double was for penalties, as was my second double, which appeared to be clear-cut.

EW still used transfers over the double, so 2D was transfer to hearts, and West had done about all they could. Over 2D or 2S I would not have doubled with so many clubs, but it looked like I had 3 tricks and partner had opened.

On a small club lead declarer may have a chance to go wrong, but on the diamond lead there was never a problem, and we had to write down a disappointing -670.

The auction was duplicated at the other table, so Tony and Meta were disappointed to find their good board was flat.

**M 7** KJT  
**Bd 13** AQ54  
**Dlr N** JT65  
**Vul All** T8  
985 2  
KJT87 632  
Q8 73  
J76 AK95432

AQ7643  
9  
AK942  
Q

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>W</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |
|          | /        | 3C       | 3S       |
| /        | 4S       | //       |          |

On board 13 in the seventh match I had a good hand with game prospects, but needed a fit to have a chance of game, so tested the waters with a simple 3S bid and was glad to be raised to game by Therese.

However, we had missed a good slam because after the fit was found my hand was so much better.

The cuebid gets my playing strength over to partner, and when I bid 4S over 4H, I am also known to have a spade/diamond two-suiter. The double fit may prompt the North hand to raise 4S to 5S, asking for second-round club control, which will result in slam.

After the obvious club lead, slam is worse than 50%, so no thing of beauty, but if North had the DQ, slam would be cold.

**M 8** 85  
**Bd 15** AKJ53  
**Dlr S** KT943  
**Vul NS** K  
AQT96 42  
QT987 642  
Q52 6  
- AT76543

KJ73  
-  
AJ87  
QJ982

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>W</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |
|          | 2H       | /        | 1C       |
| 2C       | 3D       | /        | 3NT      |
| /        |          |          |          |
| //       |          |          |          |

Two-suited overcalls can be potent attacking weapons, but they can be a dead giveaway when defending, and this should have proved to be the case for board 15 in the eighth match. Therese's 2C overcall showed spades and another suit, at least 5-5, but a normally competent declarer did not take advantage of this information and went down in a cold 3NT when he could have made 10 tricks.

Therese led the ST, which declarer allowed to hold, and then led a deceptive HT, so declarer went up with the HK and led the CK which I won (revealing the bad break) and led another spade.

Therese followed up her earlier ploy and led the H9, so declarer went up with the HA and played to the DA to cash 2 clubs discarding hearts and then played a diamond to the King and another diamond!

Therese had been forced to discard a heart and 2 spades on the clubs, but when declarer now discarded a spade on the run of the hearts, he was 3 off for +300. At the other table EW found their heart fit, but were -300 in 3HX for 12 Imps.

There are only 4 diamonds missing so the West hand is known to have both majors, and declarer should have finessed the DT for 9 tricks, 10 if they had taken the first spade or finessed the HJ.

**M 8** QT8  
**Bd 17** T965  
**Dlr N** JT  
**Vul Nil** T876  
 K7 AJ965432  
 Q84 3  
 KQ8762 -  
 A3 Q942  
 -  
 AKJ72  
 A9543  
 KJ5

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>W</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> |
| /        | 5C       | /        | 4NT      |
| /        | 5H       | //       | 5D       |

Board 17 in the eighth match was too hard for us and we lost a game swing.

My opening 4S was clear-cut and was duplicated at the other table, as was the 4NT overcall showing 2 suits.

However, at the other table the West hand bid 5S, which South felt at liberty to double, but since he was end-played at trick 1 he was soon regretting it as he chalked up -650!

Therese did not know whose hand it was, as my 4S is undefined, and rather than be pushed to the 5-level, allowed NS to play in a contract she thought she had chances against. Her confidence was not high enough to double though and I led the SA.

Declarer had no chance and eventually finished up 3 off, but that was only +150 and 11 Imps away.