

## 2007 Gold Coast Open Teams

The first Gold Coast Congress at the Broadbeach Convention Centre was a great success, as was the revised format for the Open Teams. For 2007, with all teams in one section, the new format was for places 3 to 6 to qualify for the quarter-finals, with first and second having direct passage to the semi-finals. The English visitors once again proved victorious, though a different team to the 2006 winners who were bundled out in the semi-finals, and the final had a Queensland flavour this year, with Neville Francis and Magnus Moren part of the losing team in the final.

The usual sextet of myself (Richard Wallis) and Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman and Wynne Webber and Therese Tully and Sue Lusk were back again, and once again we were a chance that went unfulfilled. After 8 matches we had only recorded 1 loss (12-18), although some of the wins were narrow, and we were lying in 9<sup>th</sup> place with only 2 matches to go. Alas that was the height of our achievement, as losses in the last 2 matches pushed us down to 35<sup>th</sup> place.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> match we were playing at table 236 and someone passing our table commented that we must have been doing badly, without realizing that team 236 could (and was) doing well. This was the match we lost. In the report that follows, Tony and I did not play every match, and the records of a few others have been lost to antiquity.

<b>M 2</b>	AQ872			Balancing is a two-edged sword, as board 18 in match 2 illustrated.
<b>Bd 18</b>	J5			North had the chance to bid over Tony's 2D, but our system made her wary. This was because Tony has many possible hands for the 2D bid, some of which have slam interest, but he also could have a non-invitational hand with 5 cards in either major!
<b>Dlr E</b>	T4			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AK64			When North balanced with 2S after Tony showed just a 5-card heart suit, South was mindful that she had not bid directly, so assumed that she had made a normal balancing bid on a minimum hand.
T		43		
T9842		AQ6		None-the-less, when I showed heart support, South could have chanced a 3S bid, and there is a chance that North may have raised to game, but 4S should go down 1.
QJ76		AK853		
Q72		J85		
	KJ965			
	K73			
	92			
	T93			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	The singleton spade in dummy was a surprise, but I only had 4 losers so scored up +140 to go with the +620 from the other room where game was bid and allowed to make, although it is not readily apparent how 4 losers were avoided.
		1NT	/	
2D	/	2H	/	
	2S	3H	//	

<b>M 2</b>	9			When South opened 4S on board 23 in match 2 I had no hesitation in doubling for penalties. A double of 4H on the other hand is often for take-out.
<b>Bd 23</b>	T8753			I was surprised that Tony bid 5C over the double, as this should not show weakness, so I had a think about whether to go on to slam. If he had bid either red-suit, I may have bid slam, but decided to go quietly as clubs was my worst suit.
<b>Dlr S</b>	Q964			South overtook the opening spade lead and led back a small spade, upon which Tony had no good discard, so ruffed and was over-ruffed.
<b>Vul All</b>	J96			Luckily, this over-ruff was with a natural trump trick, so Tony was able to take the rest of the tricks for +600. As expected, he did have a good hand, but the lack of club support in my hand was decisive. Note though that if his hand was 3, 94, xxx, KJTxxxx, then 6C is cold.
3		K86		At the other table they had the same start to the auction as at our table, but here East did go on to 6C, which was easily defeated for 12 Imps to us.
94		AKQJ		
KJ3		AT82		
KT87432		A5		
	AQJT7542			
	62			
	75			
	Q			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			4S	
/	/	X	/	
5C	//			

**M 5** 864  
**Bd 2** QT64  
**Dir E** -  
**Vul NS** KJ8765  
 KQ732  
 3  
 AK74  
 AQT  
  
 T95  
 KJ72  
 T632  
 92  
  

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

On board 2 in match 5 our timidity contributed heavily to our only loss in the first 8 matches when we missed an easy slam that was bid at the other table.

My 1D opening does not promise any more than 2 diamonds, so it was not a real stretch to rebid my 5-card suit when North interposed a light 2C overcall.

The overcall should have made it very easy for us to get to slam, as now there is a pivot bid of 3C available, so Tony can find out about 3-card spade support, or bid a forcing 4D, exploring slam in diamonds or Notrumps.

However, he just bid 3NT, a fairly safe contract, making 13 tricks on a club lead and 12 tricks otherwise. At the other table they bid to 6D, and we lost 10 Imps, in a match we lost by 11.

**M 5** T9  
**Bd 4** J865  
**Dir W** 8642  
**Vul All** T32  
 KQJ43  
 73  
 KJ3  
 AQ6  
  
 A875  
 AT42  
 9  
 J874  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1C	/	2D	/
2S	/	2NT	/
3D	/	4NT	/
5H	/	5S	//

A costly misunderstanding on board 4 in match 5 was the other disaster that cost us defeat in the match.

After the 1C opening 2D was forcing to game, so my 2NT was still forcing and Tony was able to show his diamond support, enticing me to look for slam in diamonds by using RKCB.

The 5H response showed that 2 key-cards were missing, so I wanted to sign off in 5NT, but a direct 5NT would have been asking for Kings!

Accordingly, I bid 5S requesting Tony to bid 5NT, but he passed, thinking that I was offering a choice, and his suit was pretty good.

Alas, his suit was not good enough when it split 4-2, and he had to go 1 off for -50.

At the other table they played in 4S for -620 and 11 Imps away.

**M 6** Q53  
**Bd 22** T9872  
**Dir E** A982  
**Vul EW** -  
 64  
 AKQ  
 K5  
 KQJ763  
  
 AKJT972  
 3  
 QT63  
 A  
  
 8  
 J654  
 J74  
 T9852  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
		1C	/
2C	/	2S	/
3C	/	4S	/
4NT	/	5C	/
6NT	//		

On board 22 in match 6 I upgraded my hand with a good suit and good controls to a 1C opening, and we were never going to stop short of slam.

I tried to back-pedal with 4S after Tony rebid his clubs, but obviously there was going to be no denying him with his excellent hand and good suit.

The hand is a classic example of how important fit is to the quality of contracts. If I had a diamond less and a club or heart more there would have been no story, but the obvious heart lead from North took away a vital entry before Tony knew enough about the hand.

He cashed the CA and elected to play for the DA to be on-side and when that was wrong, he was 1 down very quickly on the diamond return. Luckily South did not lock him on the table with a diamond, or even a spade, so he was able to take the spade finesse for 1 off and a flat board. Looking at all 4 hands, the slam is an easy make by cashing 2 hearts to jettison the CA, cashing all outside winners and then taking the spade finesse.

**M 6**           AJT  
**Bd 26**         4  
**Dir E**         AT98542  
**Vul All**       A9  
-                         76432  
J853                 AQT62  
J                         KQ7  
KQJ87652             -  
  
                       KQ985  
                       K97  
                       63  
                       T43  
  
**W**           **N**           **E**           **S**  
                       1S           /  
1NT           2D           2H           /  
5C           //           //           /

Board 26 in match 6 caused problems around the room, and we picked up an unlikely 11 Imps.

Tony's 1NT was forcing after my 1S opening, and my 2H was natural, as was Tony's rebid of 5C! The final contract did not fill me with any warm feelings of security, especially since I had a 5<sup>th</sup> heart not yet mentioned, but I was not being asked my opinion, so had to pass.

The sight of dummy must have made Tony a little uncertain, but he still had a chance if the clubs were not too bad and the heart finesse worked. Of course, that meant that 4H was also cold, but this was teams, so the extra points for 4H were not crucial.

As it turned out, the heart finesse lost, so we finished up with -100 instead of a likely +620 from 4H, and were prepared for a loss on the board.

However, Sue and Therese got to 4S, and when East ruffed the lead of the CK, they naturally exited with the DK, which cost them their extra trick and Sue was able to make 10 tricks for 11 Imps to us!

**M 7**           94  
**Bd 22**         QT8742  
**Dir E**         AK3  
**Vul EW**       64  
KJT5                 8  
AK96                 53  
9742                 QJT86  
7                         KQJT9  
  
                       AQ7632  
                       J  
                       5  
                       A8532  
  
**W**           **N**           **E**           **S**  
                       /           /  
/           2H           X           1S  
3D           X           //           /

On board 22 in match 8, NS appeared to have a misfit, and North made what turned out to be an ill-judged decision to double for penalties when I showed the minor suits.

I elected to double instead of bidding 2NT, since I had already passed as Dealer showing less than 11 HCPs, so the normal distinction between the 2 bids was not necessary.

As I was putting down the dummy I thought to myself that there are times when it pays to have reasonable suits, and North may regret the double. So it proved, when Tony had no trouble making 9 tricks in 3DX for +470.

At the other table EW got too high and conceded 200, so we picked up 13 Imps for nothing.

**M 8**           K8642  
**Bd 28**         85  
**Dir W**         543  
**Vul NS**       KQ9  
AQT973                 J  
K                         AJT3  
KQ9                         J86  
T76                         J8543  
  
                       5  
                       Q97642  
                       AT72  
                       A2  
  
**W**           **N**           **E**           **S**  
1S           /           /           1H  
2S           /           /           X  
//           //           //           /

The concept of safety in a good suit came to the fore again in board 28 of match 8.

Tony opened 1S as West, and I passed as East as it is almost certain that we have no game on with a likely misfit facing at most 15HCPs.

South balanced with 2H, and to my trepidation, Tony rebid 2S. When 2S was passed around to South he made what many would consider to be a mandatory double, and North elected to pass for penalties.

As it turned out I had the crown jewels, which explained Tony's pleasure when he saw the dummy! Tony won the heart lead in hand and led a small spade towards dummy, won by North, who now shifted to a diamond.

Tony unblocked the DQ under the DA and won the next diamond to draw trumps, followed by the carefully preserved D9 to dummy to discard a club, making 3! +570 was worth 10 Imps when EW were allowed to play unmolested in 2S at the other table.

**M 9** J95  
**Bd 3** AKJT953  
**Dir S** Q  
**Vul EW** 42  
 Q832 KT764  
 742 -  
 K963 AJT4  
 75 AKT8

A  
 Q86  
 8752  
 QJ963

W	N	E	S
/	4H	X	/
4S	/	/	5H
/	/	5S	//

On board 3 in match 9 North opened 4H and I made a takeout double rather than bid a broken 5-card suit. When Tony bid a pleasing 4S, this prompted me to bid '5 over 5' when South raised the ante with 5H. I even had thoughts of a possible slam!

To avoid a nasty guess, it is important with these suits to try and lead from the correct hand on the first round of trumps. Tony timed the hand well when he ruffed the opening heart lead on the table and led a small spade, picking up the stiff SA with South.

After drawing trumps it was important for Tony to work out where the DQ was most likely to be, so he ruffed a club. North was now know to have at least 7 hearts, 3 spades and 2 clubs, so had at most 1 diamond, so he led a diamond towards dummy intending to finesse South for the DQ and his troubles were over.

At the other table NS were allowed to play in 5HX, which only went 1 off for 11 Imps.

**M 10** A852  
**Bd 20** KT52  
**Dir W** A743  
**Vul All** J  
 943 Q6  
 A J874  
 KJ8 QT962  
 AKQ752 93

KJT7  
 Q963  
 5  
 T864

W	N	E	S
1C	X	/	3H
4C	4H	//	

On board 20 in match 10 North's double over the Precision 1C showed the majors, so South knew he had a double fit, and jumped to 3H!

It is not clear if NS were going to bid 4H on their own, but the disadvantage of opening with an artificial bid is that Tony had not shown his good suit yet, so he bid 4C.

NS had missed their best game of 4S, and we can defeat 4H by forcing declarer by switching to the DK after leading the CA, but this is not clear, and my C3 at trick 1 was only McKenny asking for a diamond in my mind.

Declarer ruffed the club and led a spade to lead a heart up, but it is now too late to start the force and 10 tricks were made by careful declarer play for -620.

At the other table EW played in a club part-score for -130 and 13 Imps away.

**M 10** 6  
**Bd 25** T83  
**Dir N** T6532  
**Vul EW** T972  
 982 AQ7543  
 KQ76 AJ  
 AJ4 Q9  
 QJ5 AK3

KJT  
 9542  
 K87  
 864

W	N	E	S
	/	1C	/
1NT	/	2S	/
3S	/	4C	/
4D	/	4H	/
5H	/	6S	//

Board 25 in match 10 was a good hand for the system. The 1NT response shows at least 11 HCPs, and 3S was stronger than 4S, so we had a cue-bidding auction to end up in a good contract. It looked so good that I won the HA and cashed the SA before going to dummy to pull a trump, just in case South had a singleton trump honour.

When I pulled the trump off the dummy and North paused to think, South said a mocking "Oh partner do not show out".

This was extremely unlucky, but maybe I was even more unlucky that South did not double. At another table South did double, and then showed her hand to declarer more as a quick means to curtail the play then a boast, but did state that she bet declarer could not make 12 tricks.

Of course, warned that the spades sat over him, declarer was easily able to make 12 tricks by not leading trumps until he had first cashed all of his side tricks and ruffed 3 times in his own hand, South following each time. Then with just 3 cards left in each hand East ducked a spade from either hand and South has to win and lead into the tenace.