

2010 Seres McMahon Mixed Teams by Richard Wallis

This 1-day event started in 2008 and my team including Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman and Wyn Webber, were the first winners. Circumstances forced me to miss last year's event, but we were back in 2010 to try and repeat our 2008 win, but were never in the hunt, plodding into 10th place.

We started well enough with a maximum win, but thereafter had a series of average wins and average losses, and losing a few more VPs by being on the wrong side of the cut-off. I do not agree with the penchant for converting Imps to VPs over short matches, much preferring a total Imps result, even if there was a cut-off to limit the size of large wins. At least a win by 1 Imp would still have the advantage over an opposing team who lost by 1 Imp.

M 1	A32			On board 3 in the 1 st match we were able to discover our heart fit after Tony's 1NT rebid showed 16-19 HCPs, and I went searching via a Stayman enquiry.
Bd 3	A4			
Dlr S	A9876			
Vul EW	J54			If a fit in one of my majors was not located, my hand was still worth an invitation, which I am sure Tony would have accepted with his near maximum and intermediates, but once the heart fit was found, my hand should have a play for game, so I did not invite.
QT84			KJ9	
8732			KQT9	
5			KQ	
KQ73			AT96	
	765			Game in hearts is slightly better than a 50% chance of the HA on side, as North or South could have Jx.
	J65			
	JT432			North won the diamond lead with the DA, and played SA and another, Tony winning the 2 nd round on the table to lead a trump.
	82			
W	N	E	S	Upon winning the HK, Tony went back to the table with the C6 for another trump and was quickly claiming 10 tricks for +620.
/	/	1C	/	
1D	/	1NT	/	At the other table EW had an accident allowing Wyn to play in 2DX for 8 tricks and +180, and a total of 13 Imps.
2C	/	2H	/	
4H	//			

M 1	QT83			I had sympathy for both North and South on board 8 in the 1 st match, but South was a little shell-shocked after the play.
Bd 8	QT872			
Dlr W	9			Holding both majors, North has a reasonable hand for a take-out double over my 2D minimum bid, and South has an opening hand with 3 Aces, but both decisions turned out badly for them.
Vul Nil	K53			At the other table Wyn overcalled in hearts and was allowed to play in 2H for 8 tricks for +110.
62			KJ75	
AK9			63	
KQJ864			532	
QJ			T942	
	A94			I led the DK to 2NT and Tony started to give me count with the D2, while declarer ducked. However, when Tony played the D5 on the next round I knew that my suit was running, so I won the heart lead at trick 4 and cashed out my diamonds, causing declarer discard pain, especially in dummy.
	J54			
	AT7			
	A876			
W	N	E	S	Tony signalled for a spade so I exited with the S6 and won the next heart to lead another spade. Discards had now made Tony's spades good, so declarer just made her 3 Aces for +250 and 8 Imps.
1C!	/	1D	/	
2D	X	/	2NT	
//				

M 2 Q4
Bd 11 AKQ532
Dlr S 9
Vul Nil 9842
 865 AJT
 J874 T
 AKQ7 T8643
 53 QJ76

K9732
 96
 J52
 AKT

W	N	E	S
/	1H	/	/
/	2H	/	1S
/	4H	//	3H

Tony had nothing to guide him on board 11 in the 2nd match, so fell back onto the old standby of top of a sequence, and much to his horror, found the dreaded CT on the table.

This was not fatal, as we still have 4 tricks, but having 4 tricks and cashing them is another matter.

Declarer won the CA and drew 3 rounds of trumps before taking the marked club finesse and leading to the SQ and Tony's SA.

Ducking this, or better still winning and leading another spade eliminates the threat of a squeeze, but Tony won the SA and led another club.

This looked good to me momentarily, as I ruffed the club and was intending to cash at least 2 diamonds until declarer rudely ruffed the 2nd diamond and then more trumps squeezed Tony in the black suits for 10 tricks and 7 Imps away when Wyn and Meta sensibly stopped in a part score for +140.

M 2 93
Bd 12 T87
Dlr W Q83
Vul NS QJT62
 854 JT7
 A95 62
 A942 JT7
 A43 K9875

AKQ62
 KQJ43
 K65
 -

W	N	E	S
1D	/	/	2D
/	2H	/	3H
//			

We were lucky on board 12 in the 2nd match when South gave North an impossible problem by inviting game instead of just bidding it.

Even though my 1D opening does not show diamonds, South's 2D bid was Michaels (for the majors) and thus a major suit response was forced from North, but he has a 4-loser hand and should have bid game after getting a major suit preference from North.

Tony led the DJ and I should have ducked this, which would have given us a chance of 3 tricks, but instead I won and led 2 rounds of trumps for no good reason except hope that North was 1-2 in the majors.

This was a futile effort and NS scored up +200 for 11 tricks, but this was 10 Imps to us when Wyn did get to 4H and made the same 11 tricks for +650.

M 3 AKQT
Bd 24 Q8
Dlr W J54
Vul Nil J852
 93 7542
 K63 JT975
 K986 A
 T974 KQ6

J86
 A42
 QT732
 A3

W	N	E	S
/	1C	/	1D
/	1NT	/	2NT
//			

On board 24 in the 3rd match both N & S looked at their minimum hands and stayed out of game, although Wyn and Meta bid and made 3NT at the other table for +400.

Tony led the HJ and I encouraged, but allowed North to take the first trick, and then she made a losing play when she led the DJ at trick 2, converting 3 tricks into just 2. Far better with this combination is to play a low card from one hand at trick 2, and the North hand is the most convenient, just in case the next hand to play has a singleton honour.

Tony surprised me by winning the DA at trick 2, but I saw later why he rose, and we cleared the hearts, dummy winning trick 4 to lead the DT.

Declarer next led the DQ from dummy and I should have ducked to kill the suit (or so I thought), but even worse, I missed Tony's signal, and fell back on the more likely probability that Tony had a spade honour.

Declarer let this run around to dummy to establish the 5th diamond for the 9th trick and -150, but we had 6 Imps.

M 4 T53
Bd 1 Q6432
Dlr N J54
Vul Nil T2
 Q6 K874
 J7 T8
 KQ76 T82
 87643 AQJ5
 AJ92
 AK95
 A93
 K9
W N E S
 // 1C

On board 1 in the 4th match NS were playing a short club, but without the diamond bust response, and Tony's club holding warned him off competing, so 1C was passed out.

I did not have a good lead, so fell back on top of a sequence, which look bad when dummy came down, but declarer ducked!

Tony discouraged with the D8, so I switched to the HJ, won by declarer, who had nowhere to go for 7 tricks, and after ducking the first diamond was lucky to get back to 6 tricks at the end for 1 off and +50 to us.

At the other table after a Precision 1C opening and 1NT rebid, Wyn transferred to 2H and that became the final contract, making 10 tricks for +170 and 6 Imps.

At another table South showed 19-21 after opening 2C and when North transferred, thought for some time before bidding 3H (probably about whether to super-accept), and then when North rebid 3NT (??), South of course corrected to 4H, but on appeal that was corrected back to 3H making 10.

M 4 -
Bd 5 J
Dlr N KT98754
Vul NS KQ987
 T843 AKQJ9
 Q97 AK62
 QJ3 A2
 643 AT
 7652
 T8543
 6
 J52
W N E S
 / / 1C /
 1D 2NT X /
 / 3D X //

We were too intent on looking for a penalty against vulnerable opponents on board 5 in the 4th match and paid a heavy price.

When North bid 2NT after passing initially, it was obvious to us that it was for the minors, but NS had discussed the auction over an artificial 1C opening, so South was not sure.

My weak 4333 hand looked more suitable for defence than offence, so when Tony offered a second take-out double, I decided to 'take the money', and passed for penalties. However, the money was all to NS!

We would have beaten 3D by force if declarer only had a 6-card suit, but the 7-card suit withstood the force, thanks to J52 in clubs on the table, and we conceded 9 tricks and -670 to go with -430 from the other table and 15 Imps out.

The 5-3 club fit would have succumbed very quickly to the force, so declarer was lucky that South did not understand the bid of 2NT and give club preference.

Ace and another club will beat 3DX, as Tony can win the DA and underlead his top hearts for me to give him a club ruff.

M 5 AJT953
Bd 18 Q87
Dlr E Q
Vul NS J74
 K2 Q8
 42 AKJ
 AKJ532 T9864
 T53 K98
 764
 T9653
 7
 AQ62
W N E S
 3NT // 1NT /

On board 18 in the 5th match we had a straight-forward auction to the best game, with NS silent. This shows the advantage of being dealer, as North would likely have opened 2S (or Multi) as dealer, but the suit was never mentioned, and 4S is even a profitable sacrifice against our 3NT contract..

Tony won the lead of the HT and rattled of 6 diamond tricks, subjecting NS to discarding pressure, and came to a spade trick at the end for 10 tricks and +430.

At the other table EW made a game-try, but stopped in 4D, just making 10 tricks for -130 and 7 Imps to us.

M 6	KJ8		
Bd 20	A832		
Dir W	AK92		
Vul All	KJ		
AQ9		74	
QJ95		KT764	
8653		QJT4	
65		T8	
	T8532		
	-		
	7		
	AQ97432		
W	N	E	S
/	1D	/	2C!
/	2H	/	2S
/	2NT	/	3S
/	4S	/	6S!!
X	//		

Board 20 in the 6th match was easily the most bizarre of the whole day, and South got full value out of his mere 6 HCPs, albeit with good distribution.

The 2C bid by South in response to his partner's opening bid in his singleton was very pushy, but after his partner's 2H reverse bid and spade support, he went all the way to slam!

I led the HQ, and was devastated when dummy went down with KJx in trumps and my second trump trick vanished into thin air.

Declarer has very little play for slam in spades except the actual layout, so he ditched a club on the HA, and ruffed a heart to lead the first spade, putting in the SJ, then overtook the CK to lead another spade.

Now I could rise with the SA and force declarer with another heart, but he had an entry to the table via the DA to draw my last trump, and then an entry to his hand by overtaking the CJ and 12 tricks were there when the clubs were 2-2.

-1660 was only 1 extra Imp as sensibly Meta played in just 4S for +680.

M 6	8652		
Bd 23	9754		
Dir S	AJ		
Vul All	Q92		
K9		QT74	
KJ83		Q	
K43		QT875	
K864		AJT	
	AJ3		
	AT62		
	962		
	753		
W	N	E	S
1NT	/	2C	/
2H	/	3NT	//

On board 23 in the 6th match we had a simple auction to 3NT on minimal values, but with a little help from NS.

North led through Tony's advertised spade suit, which suited me very well. South played the SJ and I won with the SK and led a heart to dummy, and South conveniently took his HA and led a diamond!

North won the DA and increased my tricks even further by leading a club!

Now I had 4 tricks in both clubs and diamonds, plus 2 more hearts and the initial spade trick for 11 tricks and +660. South never did get a spade trick.

At the other table EW were not as aggressive as Tony, and game was not reached, making 10 tricks and -180 for 10 Imps to us.

We were lucky to get to game, as I had an uninteresting hand, but Tony had a reasonable 5-card suit, some intermediates, and knew we had at least 24 HCPs.

M 6	Q764		
Bd 26	J72		
Dir E	84		
Vul All	Q853		
AKJT		832	
KQ		8654	
AT76		K95	
T96		K42	
	95		
	AT93		
	QJ32		
	AJ7		
W	N	E	S
X	2C	/	1NT
X	//	/	/

Board 26 in the 6th match was not a good one for opening with the weak 1NT on the South cards.

My doubles were both for penalty, and Tony led the H6, ducked by declarer, and since this confirmed Tony's hearts were bad, I went looking for a heart ruff by returning the HK.

Declarer led a spade off the board, and I went in with the SK and led a diamond to Tony for my heart ruff.

Now I cashed my side winners and led a diamond to dummy, on which declarer shed a spade, but now she had to lead trumps from the table, and lost another trick for 2 off and +500.

At the other table Meta opened with the nebulous 1D, and West overcalled 1NT which closed the auction, making exactly for -90.

Thus a simple little hand had netted us 9 Imps.