

## 2011 Barrier Reef Teams by Richard Wallis

This year was Townsville's turn to host the BRC, and sadly, in spite of initially including a Pairs event, it was dropped after I had organized my team, so my Friday was wasted. The start on Saturday morning is too early to be sure on flying the long distance in the morning, so most of the players went on Friday.

As usual I played with John Brockwell, and we were joined this year by Neville Francis and Annette Malluish, and started on Saturday morning with high hopes of a good finish, not tempered by a tough winning draw in the first match. We got back into the groove with a big win in the second match, and by the time we started on Monday morning with 2 matches left to play, we were a handy 4<sup>th</sup>. However, we lost our next match against team 2 (the eventual winners) and our final match against team 1 (who finished 3<sup>rd</sup>), so we slipped down to 7<sup>th</sup>.

The winning team was Andy Braithwaite and Joan Butts, playing with David Beachamp and Nathan Van Jole, from Barbara Travis, Jill Travis, Peter Gill and John Gill in second, and Peter Fordham, Ross Moore, Bruce Neill and David Lusk in third place. It was a great event, and Townsville BC plied us lots of things to nibble on during the day, the city had many good places to eat at night.

<b>M 1</b>	9				On board 9 in the first match I missed my chance to shine in a lousy fit, because I was convinced that if East had 6 spades, the hearts were not going to break, and also when I saw dummy, it looked like 3NT was easier.
<b>Bd 13</b>	Q853				
<b>Dlr N</b>	AQ32				
<b>Vul All</b>	9653				
T4		A87652			However, Neville and Annette showed that 3NT was no piece of cake by taking it 2 off for +200 to us.
A42		JT7			
JT854		76			East led the SA and continued spades, so I discarded a club and led a third top spade to make West, the presumed trump length, ruff. This was successful when West ruffed in with the H2 and I could have discarded another club, but I over-ruffed.
KQ2		84			
	KQJ3				Now if I knew the hearts were 3-3, I could have gone to dummy with the DK and led a heart off the table, winning with the HQ if West ducks, and then ducking a heart to the now bare Ace.
	K96				
	K9				
	AJT7				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
	/	2D!	/		
2H	/	2S	X		Now trumps can be drawn and I lose a diamond at the end for 10 tricks. I played safe for 9 tricks, was disappointed when I realized the 3-3 break would let me make is but was happy to gain 3 Imps.
//	3H	/	4H		

<b>M 2</b>	4				It is often a good idea not to tell your partner the same thing twice, as West found out to her cost on board 22 in the second match.
<b>Bd 22</b>	QJT87				
<b>Dlr E</b>	AK83				
<b>Vul EW</b>	Q62				The club suit is good enough to bid at the 2-level at the unfavourable vulnerability, but should you bid it again just because you have 5 certain trump tricks? Where are your other 4 tricks coming from if both opponents appear to be strong?
8		KQ75			My double of 3C was clearly for penalties, so John had no need to think about bidding again, and I led the S4, King from the table, and won by John with the SA to return the SJ.
K5		9643			
J652		QT9			
AKJT98		43			
	AJT9632				
	A2				
	74				
	75				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
	/	/	1S		Declarer discarded what could have been a heart loser, and I ruffed low and dutifully led back a heart, so declarer's King dropped under John's HA, and now he did not promote my CQ with another spade, instead leading the D7, which I concluded had to be shortage, so I returned the D8 for him to ruff and return a spade, to promote my CQ after all. Declarer could have saved a trick by discarding her diamond winner, but she ruffed so John took our 8 <sup>th</sup> trick by ruffing the D3, to garner +1100 against -140 for 3S making 9 tricks at the other table.
2C	2H	/	2S		
3C	X	//			

**M 3** A2  
**Bd 14** 98732  
**Dlr E** J962  
**Vul Nil** T5  
- JT86  
AK654 QT  
QT84 A5  
AQ97 KJ864

KQ97543  
J  
K73  
32

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
4H	4S	1C	3S
		X	//

It is not often you get to defend on a double-dummy basis, and board 14 in the third match was no exception.

When West bid 4H over John's 3S bid, I was tempted to pass, expecting to take the contract off with my 5-card suit, but I did not think East was certain to pass 4H, so took the obvious sacrifice.

East doubled, and West led the HA. When the HJ and HT fell at trick one, West cannot lose by continuing with a low heart, because either East or declarer is going to ruff. Instead our intrepid West led the HK, and John had 3 tricks in dummy and a chance to make the contract on a 2-2 trump break.

Of course trumps did not break 2-2 and East ruffed the heart from the table at trick 5, and John had a blind spot and over-ruffed instead of throwing a loser, thus he still finished 3 off for -500.

At the other table Annette and Neville did well to get to 6C, but a miscounting of trumps led to one off and 11 Imps out.

**M 4** Q74  
**Bd 16** AKQ95  
**Dlr W** KT  
**Vul EW** AKQ  
T86 AK52  
87 J63  
A42 J9763  
97652 T

J93  
T42  
Q85  
J843

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	2C	/	2NT!
/	3H	/	4H
/	6H	//	

An inadequate system discussion on the Friday evening came back to haunt me on board 16 in the fourth match.

I was in automatic mode when John bid 2NT, crediting him with a balanced hand and an Ace and a King, or better, but we always play that this shows 4-7 balanced.

If he had what I thought, as well as some heart support, while not cold, 6H must have very good chances, so I did not ask him about Key Cards, although I should in case 7H is cold.

Luckily if I had bid 4NT and got the disappointing 5C response, 5H is off anyway, and it would have only save 1 Imp, -50 instead of -100 at our table.

At the other table a mundane 3NT garnered 10 tricks for -430 and 11 Imps away.

**M 4** AKJT7432  
**Bd 22** AK  
**Dlr E** -  
**Vul EW** J43  
6 85  
T872 Q43  
AKJ73 Q864  
T85 A762

Q9  
J965  
T952  
KQ9

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	2C	/	2D
/	3S	/	4S
//			

Board 22 in the fourth match was another flat board, but we missed out chance to pick up 11 Imps when we were not on the same wave length.

John's 2D response shows 8+ HCP, something I forgot at the time, so he probably thought he had nothing to spare for his bid when he signed off in 4S.

I play my 3S bid as setting trumps, and inviting cue-bids, and I was surprised to see the club honours when dummy went down, but this was based on my incorrect belief that John had made a negative response to my 2C opening.

In spite of my void, this would not have been a good hand for exclusion blackwood, as the CA alone is not enough, it is the combination of honours that makes it a good slam.

**M 5**  
**Bd 10**  
**Dir E**  
**Vul All**  
 3  
 9  
 AKQT4  
 987643

AQ654  
 AK8743  
 6  
 K

72  
 J65  
 J873  
 AJ52

KJT98  
 QT2  
 952  
 QT

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

On board 10 in the fifth match my 2D was for the majors, and I was delighted when John freely bid my 6-card suit, so had no hesitation in bidding 5 over 5.

The opening lead was the DA, and with just the CA to lose, there was nothing in the play and we quickly scored up +650.

The fun was at the other table, as it is very nearly a double game swing hand, and when Annette and Neville called out +600 to go with our +650, I thought that was what had happened!

However, it was much more interesting that that because NS at the other table got very mixed up in the bidding, especially South, as they passed North's bid of 3C, a contract neither Annette nor Neville were unhappy with.

So this little windfall went 6 off for +600 the hard way, and a gain of 15 Imps, our equal largest for the weekend.