

## 2011 Qld Open Teams by Richard Wallis

Another disappointing entry of only 22 teams for one of our premier state titles, and that included 8 subsidized teams from out of Brisbane Zone. Nonetheless, the quality was still there and the matches were hard fought. Ralph Parker/Paul Hooykaas and Betty Lee/Mike Robson won their first 7 matches and established a good lead coming in the last match, but a severe loss could have seen them knocked off the top by any of the next 3 teams.

I played with Therese Tully and Lindy Vincent/Richard Ward, and we had a big win on our first match to put us in the lead for the first and only time. By chance, our last match was against the leaders, which did give us a chance to overtake them, but a monumental 25-2 win was required. This was not to be, but the 22-8 win was enough to push us into second place, when the 2 teams above us had a draw and a loss. For the Butts team, (Joan Butts/Andy Braithewaite and Paul Wyer/Baris Salt/Pranjal Chakradeo) the draw was still enough to keep them in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Our results were up and down, and my lack of practice at playing the system that Therese plays with both Sue Lusk and Pele Rankin showed up on a number of occasions, so second place was a bonus.

It is hard to fathom why a 1-day teams event can attract capacity entries, often being closed off due to lack of space, and yet a state title only attracts 14 local teams. Surely it cannot be a preference for 1-day events over 2-day events, but that is one explanation. If this is the case, there is not much we can do, as I believe that it is devaluing a state title to have it contested only over 1 day, even though that is what has happened to the Seniors Teams due to lack of entries.

<b>M 1</b>	A5			We should have got off to a good start when we reached game on board in the first match, but in a moment of madness I squandered the chance and went 1 off.
<b>Bd 2</b>	K542			
<b>Dlr E</b>	QJ98			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AT8			When East led the S2 (4 <sup>th</sup> highest) I won on the table and led the C3, inserting the C8 when West played low. When this won I was very surprised, but did not follow it up for some reason that eludes me even now.
QT86		J732		
J98		AQ76		
65		T32		
KQ94		52		I should have gone across to dummy with the DA and led another club, and this time West will split and I can lead back the CT to set up the CJ in dummy for my 9 <sup>th</sup> trick.
	K94			Thanks to the HT in dummy and West's heart pips, a heart switch from West after winning the CK will not beat the contract, as if the HJ is led I can either cover and led West block the suit, or duck, and EW can only take 3 heart tricks.
	T3			
	AK74			
	J763			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1NT	/	/	
/	2H	/	2C	Alas another one that got away after it was in my grasp. At the other table Lindy and Richard stole the hand in 2S, and deserved to have gained 11 Imps instead of losing 4.
/	3NT	//	2NT	

**M 1** KJT95  
**Bd 8** AQ943  
**Dlr W** T5  
**Vul Nil** A  
 A86 432  
 T72 K86  
 AQ7643 K82  
 8 J753  
 Q7  
 J5  
 J9  
 KQT9642  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / 1S / 2C  
 2D 2H 3D /  
 / 3H / 3S  
 //

On board 8 in the first match I had a good hand with good distribution, and partner had bid at the 2-level, but the 2 losing diamonds and lack of fit for Therese's clubs (the singleton Ace does not give me an entry) persuaded me to be conservative and pass her 3S preference.

Note how much better my hand would have played with a singleton or void diamond and Ax in clubs, but then I would have bid game.

In addition, it was obvious by her pass over 3D that she did not have 3-card spade support, and her preference for spades denied 3-card heart support as well.

The honours in spades and hearts in Therese's hand and even breaks made 3S a simple contract, even with only the 1 club trick, and after a diamond lead there was no entry to take the heart finesse even if it was on side.

At the other table NS did reach game in spades, and this was an easy 1 off for 5 Imps to us.

**M 2** 96  
**Bd 16** 9854  
**Dlr W** K3  
**Vul EW** AQ853  
 A32 KQ4  
 AKQ3 JT762  
 J9865 742  
 9 KJ  
 JT875  
 -  
 AQT  
 T7642  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 1D / 1H 2D  
 4H 5C X

On board 16 in the second match I was uncertain whether or not to sacrifice holding 4 hearts (albeit small ones), but the 5-5 fit in clubs persuaded me to play it safe as 5C should be cheap!

And cheap it was, as East has to make the unusual lead of the SK to beat 5C, and when he instead led a normal HJ, I was able to discard a spade on the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond and make 11 tricks. Firstly I cashed the CA as a safety play in case the CK was singleton, and to guard against East or West ruffing the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond cheaply.

5C was a phantom save after all, as EW have 4 unavoidable losers, but luck was with us and +550 was the score.

At the other table Richard and Lindy were goaded into bidding 5H, and even though 2 down for -200, that was 8 Imps to us in an otherwise disappointing match.

**M 2** A876  
**Bd 22** Q82  
**Dlr E** AT82  
**Vul EW** 98  
 3 KJ952  
 J974 KT  
 Q97543 J  
 62 QJT54  
 QT4  
 A653  
 K6  
 AK73  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / 3NT // 1S 1NT

East made a light opening bid on board 22 in the second match, possibly because of the two 5-card suits and intermediates, but if that is the case a better opening bid is 1C, allowing spades to be bid later.

West had poor support for partner, but no likelihood of setting up and enjoying his long suit, so probably should have led spades after all, but that would have made 3NT easy.

Instead of the S3, West led the D5 which Therese won and ducked a heart to East, who then led the CQ which held followed by the CJ.

Therese now successfully finessed the DT and cashed the DA discarding a heart, (East discarding a spade and a club) which pinpointed East as having a maximum of 12 HCPs, and led a spade off the table, and when East played low she won with the SQ.

After the opening bid East must have the HK, so there are 2 lines of play for the 9<sup>th</sup> trick, either endplay him with a spade to lead away from the HK at the end, or play for the HK to drop. Alas she guessed wrong to go 1 off and lose 11 Imps.

**M 3** Q8  
**Bd 2** QJ7642  
**Dir E** Q5  
**Vul NS** K73  
 93 KJT754  
 AT985 3  
 AT3 J964  
 642 A9

A62  
 K  
 K872  
 QJT85

**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / 3H 2S 3C  
 3NT

Board 2 in the third match was a minefield for us that we stepped boldly through instead of being cautious. Luckily, EW did not punish us for our sins and we only lost 6 Imps.

At the other table Lindy and Richard were allowed to play unmolested in 2S, making 9 tricks for +140, but at our table there was more action, firstly Therese overcalling 2S with 3C, my response of 3H, and finally Therese bidding 3NT as the final bid.

My 3H was forcing as a non-passed hand, and from my point of view 4H may have been cold, but Therese had nowhere to go, although 3S asking me to bid 3NT could have worked out better if I had valued Q8 as a stopper.

After the lead of the S9 there were mostly losers, and we finished 4 off for -400. Luckily we were not doubled. 3NT by North suffers the same fate on a red suit lead by East, but has good chances after a spade lead, only requiring a club at trick 2 to take away East's entry, and this is the natural thing to do anyway.

**M 3** QT6  
**Bd 5** T6  
**Dir N** KQT92  
**Vul NS** T76  
 AJ5 K9832  
 K95 7  
 AJ43 875  
 A53 QJ94

74  
 AQJ8432  
 6  
 K82

**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 X / / 3H  
 4S // 3S

Board 5 in the third match proved that many contracts that are destined to be defeated according to Deep Finesse make anyway.

Therese led the D6 to 4S, which should smell like a singleton to East, but he played low from dummy regardless of the risk, and I won the D9 and returned a diamond, but which one?

If the lead is a singleton, I would love to return the D2, to force Therese to ruff, as I had a sure trump trick and with her presumed HA, that would be 1 off.

But East concealed the D5, so I did not know the lead was a singleton, and returned a normal DK, hoping that Therese would ruff anyway, which she did, for 1 off.

At the other table Lindy got to 3NT by West instead of 4S after the same opening bid. She ducked the HT, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart and led the SA and SJ, ducking when North covered. North switched to the DK, also ducked and the club switch next was covered by South, setting North up for a squeeze on the run of the spades for +400 and 10 Imps.

**M 4** T83  
**Bd 20** 9  
**Dir W** AJT873  
**Vul All** K75  
 K4 95  
 AKQ653 T742  
 KQ5 964  
 A8 QT92

AQJ762  
 J8  
 2  
 J643

**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 2C 2D / /  
 2H / 4H //

On board 20 in the fourth match I made a lead-directional overcall after the strong opening bid by West, which kept Therese out of the bidding because of a possible misfit.

EW sailed into 4H, and I led a 'MUD' S8 rather than away from my honours. This was a lucky lead as Therese won the SA and led the D2, which was not hard to diagnose as a singleton, and the diamond ruff plus my CK meant the contract was 1 off for +100.

At the other table, South did get a spade bid in, and this was conducive for NS to 'sacrifice' in 4S, which according to Deep Finesse, can be made.

However, making 4S is a double-dummy play requiring the diamond honours as they were, that South did not find, and the contract went 2 off for +500 and 12 Imps.

<b>M 4</b>	J		
<b>Bd 21</b>	AKQ96		
<b>Dlr N</b>	A		
<b>Vul NS</b>	KQT962		
Q832		AKT64	
T5		J74	
KJ54		Q9732	
543		-	
	975		
	832		
	T86		
	AJ87		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1C	2C	/
2S	3H	3S	4C
4S	5C	/	/
5S	/!	/	/

On board 21 in the fourth match I only had a 2-loser hand, but with 2 good suits, I did not want to open with an artificial 2C and see the bidding get away from me before I had described my hand, hence a simple 1C opening bid.

The bidding went well up to the 4-level, and with Therese making a free bid of 4C, I was well placed to use 4NT to see if she had one Ace, but I was resigned to their being no slam so just bid 5C.

When East bid 5S in the pass-out position, I had one more chance, so I passed to show interest in going on to 6C if Therese had an Ace, but she did not see it like that and passed!

This was my best hand of the weekend and it was disappointing to do so badly with it, not even doubling the final contract.

Having got the bit between their teeth, it is likely that we were going to lose on the board anyway, as if we bid to 6C, EW had a good save in 6S, only going 2 down for -300 (this would have been doubled). At the other table NS played in 5C, making 12 tricks for 12 Imps out.

<b>M 4</b>	KJ8		
<b>Bd 24</b>	Q7		
<b>Dlr W</b>	A875		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	QT65		
AQ6542		T973	
JT3		8542	
QT		J96	
73		A8	
	-		
	AK96		
	K432		
	KJ942		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2D	/	2H	/
2S	2NT	/	X
/	/	3S	//

Board 24 in the fourth match was during my time for a sleep. I cannot act over the 2D opening, and nor can Therese over the 2H response, but when West defined his hand and Therese doubled 2S for takeout, I bid just 2NT, which was to play!

However, Therese alerted 2NT as being for the minors, and then when East bid 3S I had nowhere to go. A 3NT rebid now may have been viewed unfavourably, and a double, clearly the best call, may also have led to protests from East that they would not have bid 3S if they were told my 2NT was natural.

If I had bid 3NT initially instead of a potentially miss-leading 2NT on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, there would have been no problem. I may be a little light for 3NT, but the spade holding is likely to be a double-stopper, so it will win in the long run.

I led the HQ, and we took all of our tricks for 4 off and +200, which was a poor result compared with 3NT making 11 tricks at the other table, and 6 Imps away.

<b>M 5</b>	K7542		
<b>Bd 1</b>	Q		
<b>Dlr N</b>	AQ		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	Q9765		
J8		AT6	
T976		AJ8432	
K42		76	
AJT3		84	
	Q93		
	K5		
	JT9853		
	K2		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1S	2H	3D
3H	/	/	3S!
//			

There is a good case for opening my hand on board 1 in the fifth match with 2S, showing spades and a minor and less than an opening hand, but I opened it 1S anyway. Another way to approach it is to open 1C, intending to bid spades twice, but that may suggest 6 or more clubs.

Therese upgraded her hand to bid 3D after East overcalled 2H, and she bid 3S over 3H expecting it to be forcing.

However, I did not like the way the bidding had progressed, so I passed, much to her surprise. Passing could have been completely wrong, but when I saw dummy I was afraid that even 3S may have been too high.

East led two rounds of hearts, and I pitched the DQ on the HK and led the CK, losing to the CA for the SJ return, ducked to dummy. A club to hand for a club ruff, East discarding a diamond, and return to hand with the DA for another club ruff, losing just 4 tricks for +140.

At the other table 4S went 1 off for 5 Imps to us.

**M 5** AQ3  
**Bd 2** J87  
**Dir E** KQJ  
**Vul NS** AKJ8  
 K97642 T  
 95 AQT62  
 8653 942  
 Q 9632

J85  
 K43  
 AT7  
 T754

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
		/	/
2D	X	2H	X
2S	4H!	X	//

Board 2 in the fifth match was a nightmare result and the bidding as shown is a result of my miss-intrepretation of Therese's double of the 2H response.

Obviously I thought that it showed that she wanted to bid 2H herself, but it was just a responsive double, showing some values.

I wanted to bid 3NT, but even in a 4-3 fit 4H may have been safer, and we could have a 5-3 fit, or so I thought, so I bid 4H. The unwise double by East alerted me that I may have got the bidding wrong, and I nearly bid 4NT, but unwisely decided to stick it out. Since I had a double stopper, 4NT is likely to be at least as good a contract as 4H, even without the double by East.

East led the ST, and I won and led a trump, East rising with the HA to lead a diamond. When East had to follow to my 7 minor suit winners, he only made the 4 trump tricks so I was only 1 off for -200.

This was 13 Imps out compared to a normal 3NT making -630 at the other table.

**M 5** KQ8742  
**Bd 7** A8  
**Dir S** J5  
**Vul All** T83  
 63 T  
 JT6 K973  
 AK7 T98632  
 KQJ42 96

AJ95  
 Q542  
 Q4  
 A75

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	2H	X!	1NT
/	4S	//	3S

Board 7 in the fifth match was a part-score hand that we turned into a failed game hand.

I never did find out what East was thinking about when he doubled my 2H transfer bid, but it surely was not suggesting a heart lead?

West did not need to worry about what the double meant, as he had a perfectly good lead of the CK at his fingertips, or the DA followed by a switch to the CK, and he was able to cash 2 clubs and 2 diamonds before finally leading a heart for Therese to go 2 off for -200.

Going 2 off was actually good news, as we were never going to stop at 2S according to our system, with the 3S rebid being mandatory, so -100 or -200 are much the same. At least West did not double, as that would have been tragic.

At the other table NS did stop in 2S, making the same 8 tricks, so we lost 7 Imps.

**M 6** 9765  
**Bd 16** K7  
**Dir W** K854  
**Vul EW** AK6  
 KQ84 AJ32  
 Q65 T83  
 Q J72  
 QJ852 943

T  
 AJ942  
 AT963  
 T7

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

On board 16 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match I received what was probably one of the worst leads ever made in a reasonable competition.

With 2 reasonable 5-card suits headed by Aces, Therese showed her heart suit and took a shot at game and I chose to pass 3NT with my doubleton in hearts. Playing teams, a 3D rebid may have led to a better result, as this would point to short spades and my own weak spade holding would have suggested 5D.

The lead of the HT by East so surprised me that I never for a minute suspected that they were 3-3, but that is no excuse for failing to cover in dummy and at least make 3 heart tricks.

I miss-guessed the diamonds as well, so what could have 12 tricks after the opening lead finished up as just 8 for -50.

At the other table NS stopped in 3D, making 11 tricks, but that was 5 Imps away.

**M 6** 973  
**Bd 17** K84  
**Dlr N** K5  
**Vul Nil** AK732  
54 KQJ62  
Q J9532  
AT8762 J9  
Q864 9

AT8  
AT76  
Q43  
JT5

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

Board 17 in the sixth match was another in a number of hands I botched on this set. 2D showed the majors, and the pass after the double was supposed to show equal length, asking for the longest major, although I normally play it to show equal or 1 more spade as here.

Hoping for the SJ with West and thus a blocked suit, I foolishly won the first spade, whereas a duck would have guaranteed the contract, and led the CJ for a finesse.

East ducked first time, otherwise even I could not get it wrong, but covered the second club, but with the C9 falling singleton, I could enter dummy with the HA and finesse clubs again.

The fall of the HQ was a disappointment, but I was still okay if East had the DA as he would be squeezed on the run of the clubs.

My failure to duck the opening lead was now fatal as West won the DA and led back a spade to beat the contract by 1. At the other table NS did not get to game, but made 9 tricks for -150 and 5 Imps away.

**M 6** 75  
**Bd 19** QJ82  
**Dlr S** T863  
**Vul EW** Q85  
A43 9  
T K64  
AQ52 KJ94  
KT974 AJ632

KQJT862  
A9753  
7  
-

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2C	X	3S!	1S 4H
//			

On board 19 in the sixth match we were doubly lucky when firstly West did not understand East's 3S bid, so their cold game and possible club slam was missed, and secondly when EW did not find the relatively simple defence to beat 4H.

As it turns out, it was a mistake to find our 5-4 heart fit, as 4H should lose a diamond, heart, spade and spade ruff, since it is not possible to get to dummy for the heart finesse. However, the 7-2 fit in spades is cold for game, giving up a heart, diamond and spade.

Even a heart lead does not defeat 4S, as if East does not cover the HQ, South cuts communications by leading a diamond before trumps, and now if East give West a heart ruff, it is at the expense of EW's heart trick.

At the other table, NS persisted in spades over 6C by Richard and Lindy, and 6SX was 2 off for +300 and 12 Imps.

**M 7** KQ64  
**Bd 5** 6  
**Dlr N** KJT95  
**Vul NS** AKQ  
J9872 -  
54 Q932  
Q8642 73  
9 JT86432

AT53  
AKJT87  
A  
75

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1D	/	1H
/	1S	/	2C!
/	2NT	/	3S
/	4NT	/	5C
/	5NT	/	6H
/	7S	//	

Board 5 in the seventh match was a reasonable grand slam in spades, but as I was bidding it I was not sure if I should have just bid 6S, considering my heart shortage.

However, I was hoping to be able to put the heart shortage to good use by setting the hearts up by ruffing, and that was my plan when I saw dummy, even via a dummy reversal unless good things happened before it was necessary.

It was actually good news when I won the lead of the CJ (why not a trump?) and found the bad break in spades that doomed even 6S.

Due to inattention halfway through I lost an extra trick and finished 3 down for -300, instead of making my 11 tricks.

At the other table NS also bid the grand slam, but this time 7NT, going 2 off for a 3 Imps loss.

**M 7** -  
**Bd 10** AK9876  
**Dir E** AQ42  
**Vul All** AQT  
A9 J83  
Q532 JT  
9753 KJ86  
K43 9862  
  
KQT76542  
4  
T  
J75  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
/ 6S // 4S

On board 10 in the seventh match I was in the middle of evaluating my good hand when Therese opened 4S as South.  
I had no clear cut way to invite slam, although a suggestion after the fact was that 5H should be inviting slam with good trumps and some fit, so since I did not need much more than a spade suit headed by KQJT, I just potted slam.  
Therese did have a legitimate line for slam, involving one player with Jx in trumps, but to give her an extra chance she won the diamond opening lead on the table, ruffed a diamond back to hand, and tabled the SQ!  
West gave this a lot of thought, but had no good reason to duck as East cannot have the stiff SK, but duck they did, and the fall of the S9 gave Therese another chance that she took.  
Even then she still had to take the club finesse.

**M 8** J  
**Bd 21** A85  
**Dir N** QJ953  
**Vul NS** KJT7  
A42 KQ83  
QT764 K32  
64 K87  
Q65 A94  
  
T9765  
J9  
AT2  
832  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
/ / 1NT /  
2D! / / 2H /  
2NT / / 3H /  
4H //

On board 21 in the eighth match I elected to pass as North and East opened a 15-17 1NT.  
West then transferred to hearts and invited game with 2NT. Game appeared to have been declined by East when they bid 3H, but for some reason West had a punt at game when East showed some heart support.  
Therese led the ST, won on the table by East who then led a trump, which I ducked.  
I won the next trump lead and led the DQ, ducked, and another diamond to Therese who gave me my spade ruff, and East still had to lose a club for 2 off and +100. If I had won the first heart I could have got 2 spade ruffs for 3 off.  
At the other table Richard and Lindy bid sensibly to just 2H and made 9 tricks for +140 and 6 Imps.

**M 8** T  
**Bd 22** J98532  
**Dir E** 96  
**Vul EW** AQT7  
86 A4  
KQ764 AT  
AKQJ8 T7432  
K J954  
  
KQJ97532  
-  
5  
8632  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
X // / 4S

On board 22 in the eighth match West showed values with the double, and East elected to leave it in with 2 Aces.  
When dummy went down, Therese had visions of making 10 tricks, but this evaporated when East proved to have 2 club tricks, so she had to settle for 1 down and -100.  
This looked like a good board for us as it is only the heart ruff by South that defeats 6D, and 5D is cold.  
At the other table, South also opened 4S, but this time Lindy elected to overcall 4NT with her 2-suited hand, and Richard's 5D closed the auction.  
NS did get their heart ruff, but that was it and +600 was worth 11 Imps to us in a match that we had to win.