

## 2012 Gold Coast Open Teams by Richard Wallis

For this year's Open Teams Sue Lusk could not come due to family commitments, and Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber, Therese Tully and myself welcomed Stephen Lester to our team. Only joining our team in the last week, Stephen flew over especially from Christchurch for the teams, and left again on Thursday evening. This is the advantage of travelling 'stand-by'.

I played some matches with Stephen and Therese as well as Tony, Therese also played a few matches with Stephen, and Tony, Meta and Wynne formed a trio. We had a reasonable first day (3 moderate wins and a small loss), and a good third day (3 good wins and a draw), but lost 3 out of 4 on the second day, which pushed us too far down to recover.

Stephen was fun to play with, although his methods were different to what I am used to, and we were both amused after one hand when after I neglected to get the defence to take the contract another one off and he offered the following advice: "Remember to watch your partner's signals and do not try to work everything out by yourself". My comment was that Therese has also offered this good advice.

He had an uncanny knack of picking the right time to open 1NT (12-14) with a 5-card major. On the first occasion, with the opponents bidding, I bid a non-forcing 2H with my 5-card suit and got to play there, and was pleasantly surprised to get 5-card support, but still only had 8 tricks for +110. At the other table Stephen's hand opened a normal 1H, and was raised to game by his partner with 5-card support (as I mentioned to Stephen I would do). Since Tony and Meta were both in the auction, Tony doubled and got +300 for 9 Imps. On another occasion, South bid diamonds and spades over Stephen's 1NT opening, and North won the auction with 3H (for 3 off and +300 to us), to which Stephen led a low spade and declarer showed out! We had a 5-3 spade fit and the suit split 5-0, as EW at the other table found out to their cost.

Another successful GCC, with the Teams won by a youth team including Nabil Edgton (who also won the pairs) and Andy Hung, and Queensland players successful in Seniors and Intermediate teams and various consolation pairs events. Less than 11 months to the next GCC.

<b>M 1</b>	AKJ93			On board 2 in match 1, I had no good bid with the South cards after Therese overcalled 1S, and unfortunately I chose the weakest bid, albeit also showing 4-card support.
<b>Bd 2</b>	KT87			
<b>Dlr E</b>	9			
<b>Vul NS</b>	JT9			Thus when EW bid 5D over our spade game, Therese had no way of knowing I had potential tricks in a diamond contract. I could have saved the day by doubling 5D to show I had some values, but went quietly instead, hoping both 4S and 5D would go off.
Q7		42		
Q5		J964		
AKT6543		Q2		
84		AQ632		
	T865			The second part of my hope was fulfilled when we took the 5 inescapable tricks in 5D for a paltry +150, but thanks to the fortunate club position, 4S was cold.
	A32			
	J87			
	K75			Give West the CQ and East one of the major suit Queens and 5D still goes 3 off, but 4S is also 1 off unless EW miss-defend. If I had doubled, +500 would have held the loss to 3 Imps, but when 4S made 10 tricks for -620 at the other table, we lost 10 Imps.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			/	
1D	1S	/	3S	
4D	4S	5D	//	If 4S was going off we would have gained 6 Imps, but a double by me would made this 12 Imps.

<b>M 1</b>	KJT953			On board 7 in match 1, Therese was not strong enough to bid 2S directly, so she had to content herself with a negative double, possibly intending to bid spades later if the level was low enough.
<b>Bd 7</b>	T5			It was a pleasant surprise when I showed spade support, so she raised to game and then broke the rule of not bidding 5 over 5. I was planning to double 5D, and was a little surprised when she bid in front of me.
<b>Dir S</b>	4			
<b>Vul All</b>	K965			When dummy went down it looked like I had good chances, but it was obvious that 5D had no chance, especially if the long hand has short spades.
-		Q62		
Q32		A764		Accordingly, since it did not look like West had bid 5D with too many spade losers, I won the DA and led a spade towards dummy, exposing the finesse, and East obliged by covering the SJ, making my trumps high.
K9862		QJ5		
AQJT8		432		After ruffing a couple of clubs in my hand, East further obliged by saving me a guess in hearts when I led the HT, so I made 11 tricks for +650. At the other table, only 9 tricks for -140, and 11 Imps.
	A874			
	KJ98			
	AT73			
	7			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2D	X	3D	1H	
/	4S	/	3S	
5D	5S	//	/	

<b>M 1</b>	KJ			On board 9 in match 1 my 3433 distribution and only 4 points pointed towards a pass, in spite of my 4-card heart suit. and I expected Therese to have a good hand when 2S was passed out.
<b>Bd 9</b>	KT86			The lead of the H6 gave declarer a 10th trick, but probably enamoured by her good clubs, or disappointed by obviously missing 3NT, she immediately led 2 rounds of trumps, and then ducked the diamond switch to my DQ when Therese won the SK.
<b>Dir N</b>	AJ754			
<b>Vul EW</b>	53			The heart return and another trump gave us 5 tricks for -110, but even here declarer could have risen with the HA and discarded, the HQ on the clubs while I ruffed with the SQ.
AT9742		86		
AQ2		J7		At the other table Wynne and Meta had no trouble getting to 3NT, taking a solid 9 tricks after the diamond lead.
63		KT8		
AQ		KJT864		I do not know what system of balancing EW were playing, and obviously 2S shows an opening hand, but the West hand, in my view, is too strong for a 2S bid, and I would have doubled and then bid spades to describe this type of hand.
	Q53			
	9543			
	Q92			
	972			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2S	1D	/	/	
	//			

<b>M 2</b>	AJ9			On board 16 in match 2 Tony was motivated by my jump to 4H to look for slam, in spite of having just 3-card support, as it was unlikely that I only had a 4-card heart suit.
<b>Bd 16</b>	QT4			Slam is within the odds, but defeated by the 4-0 trump break, as long as West leads his diamond suit, but West did not fancy leading such a motley suit, and instead led the SQ. Now 6H is cold!
<b>Dir W</b>	A			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AKJ854			One of the problems I have developed during the last few years is making assumptions about the opponents bids, distribution, or the cards they play.
Q		876532		
A986		-		I won the spade lead in hand, led a trump to dummy, ruffed a club, bringing down the CQ, and then led another trump to dummy, claiming 12 tricks when West ducked again!
K87652		J93		
Q3		T762		West said "what about my 4 <sup>th</sup> trump" and called the Director. I had assumed that East would follow to the first round of trumps and had not even looked, to see the spade that she actually played! 11 Imps out instead of 11 imps in.
	KT4			
	KJ7532			
	QT4			
	9			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1D	X	/	4H	
/	4NT	/	5D	
/	6H	//		

<b>M 2</b>	KJT87			On board 19 in match 2 West had nothing much to go on, but did not lead his poor heart suit, instead trying to find diamonds in his partner's hand, since my 1D opening only promised 2, and my 1NT rebid showed 11-13 points.
<b>Bd 19</b>	K8			
<b>Dlr S</b>	KQ75			
<b>Vul EW</b>	KT			
A953			Q4	East won the DA at trick 1 and shifted to a club, but the lead had given me a finesse position in diamonds, so I won the CA and led the D9 setting up my 9 <sup>th</sup> trick.
J7542			QT	
JT			A643	
84			97632	In the course of the play EW gave me a spade trick so I emerged with 10 tricks for +430.
	62			As it turns out, the diamonds were always mine for the taking, so even a heart lead does not defeat 3NT, but the diamond lead sure made it easier.
	A963			
	982			
	AQJ5			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	I did not find out the bidding at the other table, but NS somehow stopped in their 4-3 diamond fit, and made 9 tricks for -110, but that was 8 Imps to us.
/	1S	/	1D!	
/	3NT	//	1NT	

<b>M 3</b>	9852			Board 2 in match 3 could have been a big pickup for us when East forgot their system, but since no suit was friendly, 3NT had no real chance, unless NS went to sleep.
<b>Bd 2</b>	AQ6			
<b>Dlr E</b>	9643			
<b>Vul NS</b>	76			
QJT4			K76	West meant 2NT as transfer to 3D, intending to bid a forcing 3S next, and infer a shortage in one of the other suits, but East forgot the systemic agreement and passed 2NT, thinking it was invitational.
K			T742	
AKQ85			72	I led the H5, and we took our 6 tricks for just 1 off and +50.
985			AKQ3	
	A3			At the other table, of course Therese and Stephen got to game, making the same number of tricks, so by their mistake at our table, EW had gained 2 Imps.
	J9853			
	JT			
	JT42			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	In a different match, West was declarer in 3NT and North, a NZ International, led the HA and thus this contract was doomed, but it is hard to see EW making 9 tricks unless NS are off their game, as even a small club lead from South gives NS time to take their 6 tricks.
2NT!	//	1NT	/	

<b>M 4</b>	J632			On board 17 in match 4 Stephen opened 1NT (12-14), I raised to game, and South led the C9, which may have had Journalistic overtones.
<b>Bd 17</b>	K9742			
<b>Dlr N</b>	J4			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	62			
KT4			A75	It was important on this occasion to have Stephen's hand as declarer, as the club lead ran around to the CJ, and now Stephen had 3 stoppers.
J3			AT85	
AT82			K973	He ducked a diamond to North, who led back a heart, won by South to return another heart, setting up the HT.
KQ75			J4	
	Q98			Having gained 2 heart tricks, Stephen cashed the DK in hand to verify the suit was going to yield 3 tricks, and led a club to dummy, South ducking, but now Stephen had his 9 <sup>th</sup> trick for +400.
	Q6			
	Q65			
	AT983			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	At the other table, a different system produced West as declarer in 3NT, and Tony hit upon the good lead of the C6. Deep Finesse suggests that 3NT is still makeable, but it proved too hard for declarer and they finished 1 down for another +50 and 10 Imps.
3NT	/	1NT	/	
	//			

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 23</b> <b>Dir S</b> <b>Vul All</b>	QT9 AT83 K743 T9		On board 23 in match 4 NS had a simple auction to 3NT after Stephen overcalled 1S. This solved a problem for me as I did not fancy leading any of my suits, so I led the SJ. The lead of a diamond by me gives away the 8 <sup>th</sup> trick immediately.
J Q652 QT95 J432		A86543 J9 82 KQ8	Stephen could see a double spade stop and too few entries for him to enjoy the spades, so he won the SA at trick 1 and led the CK, ducked by South, as was the CQ, although the suit would be blocked if he had won the first or second club.
	K72 K74 AJ6 A765		Now we had the contract beaten as soon as I got in, and I was soon in with the DQ to cash my club for our 5 <sup>th</sup> trick. I had an easy exit with a diamond, so we took another trick for 2 off and +200.
<b>W</b>  / / //	<b>N</b>  1H 2NT	<b>E</b>  1S /	<b>S</b>  1C 1NT 3NT
			At the other table Wynne opened 1NT (13-15), and with a maximum of 24 points, Tony did not invite game, and East did not compete, so 1NT was the final contract. Seven tricks are assured, and when the opening lead gave Wynne an 8 <sup>th</sup> tricks, +120 was worth 8 Imps.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 18</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AQT 74 KJ54 KT84		On board 18 in match 6, Stephen's 3H was bid pre-emptive after the double, showing 4 card support and maybe nothing else, so I was not interested in game.
KJ AQJT5 A86 QJ9		98654 K982 T973 -	South passed 3H and led the C8, which I ducked in dummy, discarding a diamond. After North's double, it is probable that he has one of the club honours, so I won the DA and led the CQ for a ruffing finesse. After that I played safe for 9 tricks and soon claimed +140.
	732 63 Q2 A76532		At the other table I did not get the bidding, but EW were more ambitious, bidding to the heart game. Meta and Tony made no mistake and this lost the obvious 4 tricks for +100 and 6 Imps.
<b>W</b>  1H	<b>N</b>  X	<b>E</b>  / 3H	<b>S</b>  / //
			This was a rare success in a match in which we got thrashed, and it was a match we should not have been having. On the previous match a scoring error in Bridgemates gave us a 21-9 win instead of 17-13, so we were higher in the Swiss than we deserved to be.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 26</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	AT4 5432 42 7643		On board 26 in match 6 Stephen could have bid 3S over my 3D to check on a spade stopper, but with a tenuous holding in hearts, he wisely decided that 3D was high enough.
K98 987 AK9853 J		Q6 Q6 J76 AKQ852	North led the SA in response to his partner's overcall, but this was discouraged by South and North switched to a heart, so I lost 3 tricks for +130, and a conviction that we had avoided the doomed 3NT.
	J7532 AKJT QT T9		At the other table, EW were not concerned about the heart suit, bidding 3NT to show the spade stopper, and the spotlight was on Meta.
<b>W</b>  2D 3D	<b>N</b>  / //	<b>E</b>  1C 3C	<b>S</b>  1S /
			She could have led the HK to get count, or the HA for attitude, but reasoned that these were her entries for enjoying the spade suit if it could be set up, so she led the S3. Tony was not psychic enough to rise with the SA and lead a heart, instead inserting the ST, and when both minors were very very friendly, declarer took all of the tricks for -720. 11 Imps out.

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 8</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	7 AKJ J62 KQJT74		Board 8 in match 7 was another board that looked like a gain when we played it but did not turn out that way in the replay. Tony had an absolute maximum for his 2C opening, and could have made a game try over my non-forcing raise to 3C, but chose to go quietly.
K8654 T6 Q73 532		AQT3 Q97543 A95 -	5C has 3 unavoidable losers, and we do not have a semblance of a spade stop, so it was right to stay in 3C, as I would have accepted any invitation.
	J92 82 KT84 A986		At the other table NS were apparently not worried about the spades, hearts being overcalled, and they did bid to 3NT, which has only 8 tricks, and 6 losers, but with 2 Aces for entries, Stephen led a low heart, giving declarer his 9 <sup>th</sup> trick and -400.
<b>W</b> / //	<b>N</b> 2C!	<b>E</b> X	<b>S</b> 3C
Thus we lost 7 Imps after all. In spite of the 6-card suit, if Stephen had doubled instead of bidding hearts, the spade response would have kept NS out of 3NT.			

<b>M 8</b> <b>Bd 27</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	KT9 KQ65 QJT82 J		On board 27 in match 8 my past pre-emptive bids, where I used to open on bad suits, appeared to come back to haunt me. Tony's 3S was forcing and my 3NT showed 0 or 1 spade, and Tony should have gone back to hearts, but inexplicably passed 3NT!
6 AJT9732 K4 832		A87432 8 A9 AK76	I had one chance in 3NT, South with K(x), Q(x), or KQ(x) in hearts, so I rose with the DA in dummy and took the heart finesse. When I won the next diamond and the hearts did not behave, I could do nothing else except claim 6 tricks and 3 off.
	QJ5 4 7653 QT954		Of course in 4H, with the spades 3-3, I can set them up to discard my club loser, and thus make 11 tricks, or at least 10, At the other table I believe that the opening bid and response were the same, but then West passed 3S, which made exactly 9 tricks for -140 and 7 Imps away.
<b>W</b> 3H 3NT	<b>N</b> / //	<b>E</b> 3S!	<b>S</b> / /
The ironic thing was I thought about opening 4H, but had too many losers at equal vulnerability.			