

2015 Barrier Reef Teams by Richard Wallis

A record number of players came to Cairns this year for the Pairs and Teams, which pleased the organizers, and also caused some of the players to ask: "Why not Cairns all of the time?" It is convenient for anyone to fly in from all Australian States and NZ, but rotation is part of the set-up for this Congress, and this is likely to remain.

Next year the BRC will be held in Mackay, and it will be a month earlier, which will remove the clash with the VCC in Melbourne, but start a new clash with the ANOT in Adelaide. This has been brought about because of the reinstatement of the May Day Public Holiday and the abolition of the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday in June.

The Congress was held at the Hilton Hotel, just around the corner from the Reef Casino, which was an ideal location, with numerous restaurants around the area, as well as plenty of accommodation. Some stayed at the Hilton, others at the Casino, and others at one of the many apartment buildings within walking distance.

David Beachamp came up from Sydney for the 4th time, and made it 4 out of 4! His partner for this year, Fred Whittaker, completed his treble of wins, and has also been runner-up three times. The other pair in their teams was Jenny Millington and Barry Jones, who flew in from NZ. My team, Richard Ward, Lindy Vincent, Therese Tully and myself were in the lead twice, but had our only loss against Whittaker dropped us down to 3rd, but 2 modest wins at the end brought us back to 2nd, with Wyer (Paul Wyer, Nathan Van Jole, Tony Hutton and Malcolm Carter) in 3rd place.

M 1	Q8			On board 9 in the first match North's 2H opening showed hearts and another and I bid a practical 2NT, hoping for Therese to cover the minors, or for South to lead a major. It should not have been hard for South to deduce that North had the red suits, and he led the H7, setting up my 9 th trick. When I cashed the CQ, I had 10 tricks from the marked finesse, so after the CT was allowed to hold, I ducked a spade hoping to set up a squeeze. North won the SQ and led back to DK, which gave me 11 tricks, but after winning the DA on the table I carelessly led back the D7 before cashing my 2 club tricks, and now I only had 8 tricks! Luckily I was able to cash out and throw South in with a spade for him to lead a club to dummy as my 9 th trick. At the other table East finished up in 4C, and the 6-0 split was too much to handle and finished 2 off for +200 and 13 lmps.
Bd 9	J9852		AT76	
Dlr N	KQT643		AKQT	
Vul EW	-		J52 QT	
432				
43				
A87	KJ95			
AK984	76			
	9			
	J76532			
W	N	E	S	
3NT	2H! //	2NT	/	

M 1	KJ3			On board 13 in the first match I was a little light for an opening bid of 1C, but had a 5-card suit and a couple of Tens, as well as double-up of honours in 2 suits, often more valuable than a single honour in each of the 4 suits. When Therese cue-bid 3S, this would normally show support for my opening bid suit, but I could show a spade stop if I had one, so when I returned to 4C, Therese knew we had nothing wasted in spades. Two further cue-bids followed, first or second round controls, and Therese had heard enough to know that slam was a good bet. She must have even wondered about the Grand Slam. South led the S7, and slam depended on the HK, which I placed with South for the overcall, but the presence of the H9 in my hand made slam 100%. I eliminated the spades and diamonds by ruffing in dummy, and then led a heart to the H9, which forced South to lead back a heart, or give me a ruff and discard. I was disappointed to see that North had the HK after all, but still 13 lmps to us.
Bd 13	KT4		T5	
Dlr N	Q97642		AQ9	
Vul All	4		T53 KJ875	
A				
852	Q987642			
AK	J763			
AQT9632	J8			
	-			
W	N	E	S	
3S	X	1C	2S	
4D	/	4C	/	
6C	//	4H	/	

M 2 Bd 28 Dir W Vul Nil	Q942 5 T9875 654		On board 28 in the second match my 2C response showed at least 2 clubs and was forcing to game, and the 2H rebid was a waiting bid, but the 3H rebid definitely showed a 6-card suit, so I trotted out RKCB and bid only 6H when Therese had only 2 Key Cards.
KT8 AJ8743 3 AJ8		AJ5 Q9 AKJ6 KQ72	North led the S2, and after such a good lead, Therese looked for a safety play to guarantee the slam, but what is it? Therese elected to lead a heart to dummy, which South won and returned a heart, and not being blessed with second-sight, she rose with the HA and 12 tricks looked to have vanished.
	763 KT62 Q42 T93		On this hand a simple heart finessed would have ensured 12 tricks and that chance was gone, but what now. At least the long hearts were on her right, so maybe a trump coup would bring the total back to 12 again, so that is what Therese did!
W 1H 2H 3H 5H	N / / / /	E 2C 2NT 4NT 6H	S / / / //
			Therese entered dummy twice to ruff winners to reduce her trumps, then back to dummy on the second club, and with dummy good, she could discard winners until the J8 of trumps were poised over the T6 in South's hand and the slam was home. 14 well-earned Imps.

M 3 Bd 11 Dir S Vul Nil	95 KQT96 AJ8543 -		On board 11 in the third match North opened light in third suit, but with more than adequate distribution to cover the shortfall in HCPs. I doubled initially to start a sequence to show a good hand, but when South announced the heart fit, I gambled on a spade fit for us as well by bidding 4S.
K82 72 972 QJ872		AQT63 A4 KQ6 AT4	On a heart lead, I may make 4S, but if South elects to lead his singleton diamond, NS can take the first 5 tricks on a cross-ruff, and the heart loser will still be there for 3 off!
	JT4 J853 T K9653		The same distribution that tempted North to open also tempted him to bid 5H over my 4S, and I could do nothing else at this point except double for penalties.
W / / /	N 1H / 5H	E X 4S X	S / 4H / //
			Therese led the S2, and we cashed the top spades, but since South could set up the diamonds, the HA was our only other trick, so +100 was our limit. At the other table, the bidding was the similar, but EW did not cash both of their spades, so the Contract made for +650 and 13 Imps.

M 3 Bd 14 Dir E Vul Nil	A7 KT62 98 J9843		On board 14 in the third match Therese and I had a good auction to the slam that is more than 50%, so within the odds for a slam at teams. Even on my 12 HCPs, slam would be cold if the 3 points in hearts were the HK.
KQ A8753 K6 AKT6		82 QJ AQJT53 Q52	South led the C7, so the 36% chance of the 3-3 club break seemed unlikely, which made me fall back on the 50% chance of the heart finesse!
	JT96543 94 742 7		When the heart finesse lost, I was 1 down, which was a flat board as the contract and score was duplicated at the other table. However, Since North obviously has the club length I could have increased my chances by placing North worth the HK, still 50%, but now North could be squeezed in clubs and hearts!
W 1D 2D! 4NT 6D	N / / / //	E 1D 2D 3D 5D	S / / / /
			Thus win the CA on the table, draw trumps and play a spade, which North will win and return one. Now the HA (Vienna Coup), and return to hand with the CQ to run the diamonds, and North cannot control both clubs and hearts.

M 4	KJ			On board 3 in the fourth match the vulnerability coerced me into opening 3C as dealer, and South, with a reasonable hand but little options, doubled for take-out.
Bd 18	JT653			North bid 3H, and Therese went against her normal principles when she passed this contract out, in spite of her knowing it was not likely to succeed, and that double would have been for penalty.
Dir E	JT63			We have talked about this often, and I often do not double a contact I am sure of defeating if they may have a better place to play, but Therese normally doubles.
Vul NS	43			I did not find the double-dummy lead of the C5, but the contract made only 5 tricks for +400.
A986		7632		
AQ987		-		
74		982		
Q2		AK8765		
	QT4			
	K42			
	AKQ5			
	JT9			
W	N	E	S	At the other table there was a different auction, stopping in 3DS, which went 2 off for -200, but 5 Imps to us.
/	3H	3C	X	
		//		

M 4	T63			Board 21 in the fourth match was very unusual, in that Therese made a free-bid holding a genuine Yarborough!
Bd 21	K42			My hand was more suitable for a take-out double over the 1D response, but South was likely to have both majors for her double, and I wanted to confirm that I also had at least a 4-card club suit, which the 1H rebid did signify.
Dir N	QT864			South subsided quickly, and led the DA and another diamond which I ruffed, I had at least 5 losers if the clubs broke, so prospects looked bleak, but I led the SK hoping to limit my losses.
Vul NS	82			South won the SA and led another diamond to force the ruff, and now I cashed the SQ and led CA and CJ, expecting the heart switch to take me 1 off, but South led back the S2 and with the 3-3 break, a heart could be discarded from dummy for 9 tricks and +110,
984		KQJ7		At the other table West did not bid, so the final contract was 2DN, which made 9 tricks also, for another +110 and 6 Imps.
93		QJ86		
932		K		
76543		AJT9		
	A52			
	AT75			
	AJ75			
	KQ			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	1C	X	
3C!	1D	1H	2D	
	//			

M 4	97			On board 26 in the fourth match South got carried away with her good hand and mis-read the 2S rebid by North after the forcing 1NT response.
Bd 26	AJ652			Therese got us off to a good start with the H3, and reality dawned for South at the sight of dummy.
Dir E	62			We continued hearts at every opportunity after South discarded a diamond at trick 1 and took the losing diamond finesse at trick 2, and at trick 4 when declarer led a spade to dummy and my SQ.
Vul All	JT75			Eventually Therese was able to draw declarer's trumps and put me in with a diamond to cash our 9 th trick!
AJ83		Q2		Thus we scored up +600 against a freely bid game.
K843		QT97		At the other table the mis-fitting hands were again bid too much and finished in 5C, going 3 down, fortunately not doubled, so it was only -300. That was 7 Imps to us
K43		JT76		
43		986		
	KT654			
	-			
	AQ98			
	AKQ2			
W	N	E	S	
/	1NT!	/	1S	
/	2S	/	2C	
//		/	4S!	

M 5	AT8542		Board 2 in the fifth match was a routine strong 2NT opening bid, which could have contained a 5-card major, so I checked up with 3C, and the 3NT rebid denied any major suit, neither 4, nor 5 card.	
Bd 2	A5		Since North was silent, South had no reason to lead anything except the H4, and North won the HA and continued the suit, allowing South to win the HK and set her suit up.	
Dir E	J		3NT was now in the balance, depending on the diamond position, and who held the SA, but it was essential not to let South get on lead with a diamond. Thus Therese cashed the DA, and when the DJ dropped, she took the diamond finesse as a safety measure, hoping North had the SA if the finesse lost.	
Vul NS	8653		Anyone who followed the rule of Restricted Choice would always take the diamond finesse in this position, so 3NT is cold, and we duly scored up +430.	
6		KQ	At the other table Richard was inexplicably allowed to play in 2S, making 10 tricks for another +170 and 12 Imps.	
987		QJ3		
K9853		AT64		
JT92		AKQ7		
	J873			
	KT642			
	Q72			
	4			
W	N	E	S	
3C!	/	2NT	/	
	/	3NT	//	

M 5	AQT732		Board 3 in the fifth match had great potential if I could find a fit, so I initially doubled to show the other two suits, but since my clubs were so much better, I did not double again over North's 3S rebid.	
Bd 3	J5		Even though North's 3S rebid suggested a 6-card suit, South did not bid directly over my 4C, which allowed Therese to bid 4H, but when this came around to South he then took out insurance by bidding 4S after all.	
Dir S	763		When Therese showed heart preference, I assumed that it was real preference, rather than false preference, so I had no hesitation in bidding 5H over South's 4S.	
Vul EW	87		Not being psychic, North led the D7, and Therese ruffed in dummy then quickly wrapped up all 13 tricks for +710.	
985		J6	I do not have the bidding at the other table, but Richard was allowed to play in 4S, losing the obvious 4 tricks for -50, but 12 Imps to us.	
KT64		AQ973	Two NS pairs were allowed to make 11 tricks in 4S, I suppose because East played a third club trying to promote a trump trick.	
8542		-		
T9		AKQ643		
	K4			
	82			
	AKQJT9			
	J52			
W	N	E	S	
/	1S	X	1D	
/	3S	4C	3D	
4H	/	/	4S	
/	/	5H	//	

M 6	T98		On board 20 in the sixth match North took a flyer when his partner made an intermediate jump overcall over my 1D opening, and was spectacularly successful.	
Bd 20	J952		I led the DK, and North must have been delighted with his gamble when he saw dummy. as there were now 9 top tricks, and he did not have a spade stopper in either hand!	
Dir W	A9542		Therese was not really strong enough to bid over South's overcall, even as a passed hand, so a spade lead was not on the agenda, but even if I did lead a spade, leading 4 th highest will block the suit!	
Vul All	Q		At the other table EW contrived to play in 3S, making exactly 9 tricks for -140 and 12 Imps away.	
KQ543		A762	The results on the board varied across the room, with 3 NS pairs bidding and making 3NT, 1 making 5C, although 1 South went off in 3C, and many EW pairs made 10 tricks in spades, 5 of them in 4S.	
Q7		K843		
86		KQT7		
8743		T		
	J			
	AT6			
	J3			
	AKJ9762			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	1D	3C	
/	3NT	//		

M 6	J97		Board 25 in the sixth match was a difficult one for us to find a viable contract, and we finally settled on the 5-2 fit, when 3NT seemed out of the question and 5D was a little too high.	
Bd 25	AT753		After the 2D reverse by me, Therese's 2S rebid was a 1-round force, and showed a minimum of a 5-card suit. Her next bid of 3D confirmed only 5 spades and I offered the 5-2 fit, expecting a 3NT rebid with a heart stopper if her spades were only moderate.	
Dir N	KT8	A3	The return to diamonds denied a heart stopper, and since it looked like we had 2 heart losers, I again offered 4S and this time it was accepted.	
Vul EW	43	62	North led the C4, and with spades 3-3 and the diamond finesse right, even though EW switched to hearts, there were only 3 losers, so we scored up +620.	
KT854		AQ62	At the other table EW stayed out of game, and with the pressure off the defence, they made 11 tricks, but that was only -200, and we gained 9 Imps, which was very critical in what was our only losing match, to the eventual winners.	
Q4		AKJ82		
9753	Q62			
Q9	KJ98			
	J4			
	T765			
W	N	E	S	
	/	1C	/	
1S	/	2D	/	
2S	/	3C	/	
3D	/	3S	/	
4D	/	4S	//	

M 7	K87432		On board 7 in the seventh match if I had been dealer, after a 2NT opening we would have had an easy transfer sequence to make my hand declarer in 4H. 4HW can be taken off by the lead of the CQ.	
Bd 7	64		Alas I was in 4 th seat, and North opened with a Multi-2D in front of me. Thus I had to guess, and I guessed to bid 3NT and hope that South did not know what suit to lead.	
Dir S	432	A5	Therese gave some thought to bidding over 3NT, but elected to pass as we had no agreement for transfers in this specific sequence.	
Vul All	Q2	AJ8	South elected to lead her shortest suit, and pulled out the HK, face down, but then attempted to change her mind! North, a qualified Director, pointed out to her that she could not change her mind, so the HK was faced, and I had no trouble taking the first 12 tricks for +690.	
Q9		AKJT5	This was a flat board, as West made 12 tricks in 4H for -680 at the other table.	
QT9752		K83		
Q7	JT6			
964	K3			
	986			
	AJT75			
W	N	E	S	
/	2D!	3NT	//	

M 7	KJ9		On board 9 in the seventh match NS were missing three of the four Aces, but a good fit and great distribution negated the missing Aces, and made 4H on just 21 HCPs a good contract.	
Bd 9	JT965		However we had a bit of distribution of our own, and I led the S3, a likely singleton considering it was dummy's first-bid suit. Therese won, and expecting it to be a singleton, returned the S2, a McKenny signal suggesting a possible club entry for a second ruff.	
Dir N	KQ84	3	Here is where I got lucky as I was sorely tempted to cash the CA before sending back the C6, but resisted the temptation and just played back the C6 for a second ruff. When I tried to cash the CA after that, North ruffed and I was glad that I had followed Therese's suggestion.	
Vul EW	4	8743	At the other table 4H by North was also the contract, but this time it made, because the second ruff was not obtained, so we gained a lucky 10 Imps.	
A742		AJT95		
-		AT5		
7632	QT865			
KQJ87	AKQ2			
	-			
	9632			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/	1S	
/	2H	/	4H	
//				

M 8	75			<p>On board 17 in the eighth match North at our table started off the guessing game with a 3D pre-empt, and I had an easy 3S, which put the pressure on South.</p> <p>South must have hopes of defeating 4S if we bid it, but she took the optimistic view of raising to 5D, to get all the marbles.</p> <p>Therese was probably not going to raise to 4S, so definitely did not was to go again, and did have the trump Ace, so she doubled for penalties, without any great conviction.</p> <p>Luckily the spades were friendly, so we had 3 tricks and scored up +100, with even 3S easily defeated.</p> <p>At the other table EW did get to game in spades, and while Lindy did not double (who would?), the heart ruff and club trick added up to 2 off and another +100 for 5 Imps.</p>
Bd 17	54			
Dlr N	KQT6432			
Vul Nil	T2			
982			KQJT43	
Q93			J76	
AJ			7	
J9854			AQ3	
	A6			
	AKT82			
	985			
	K76			
W	N	E	S	
X	3D	3S	5D	
	//			

M 8	K765			<p>On board 25 in the eighth match the adverse Vulnerability tempered my enthusiasm, and I only opened with 3S as East, over which South had an easy take-out double.</p> <p>Therese redoubled to show a good hand,, but fancied our chances in 4S rather than accept the penalty from 4CX (only +300), so she raised to 4S with her singleton SJ and well-placed honours.</p> <p>South led the CQ (underleading), and I won on the table and led the SJ for a finesse. Even if North had the SK, I knew it was unlikely I could prevent North from getting the SK, so I overtook with the SQ and cashed the SA.</p> <p>North went into the tank on the lead of the SA, and after a lot of thought he placed the SK on the table by mistake.</p> <p>I had already decided to play South for the top two Diamond honours, and when this proved correct, I made 11 tricks for +650.</p> <p>At the other table, a competent declarer let the SJ win in dummy, and had to ruff a club to hand. When he also miss-guessed the diamonds, he lost control and went 1 off for 13 Imps.</p>
Bd 25	Q6			
Dlr N	T3			
Vul EW	J8652			
J			AQT9842	
AJ752			96	
AJ95			762	
A94			3	
	3			
	KT43			
	KQ84			
	KQT7			
W	N	E	S	
XX	/	3S	X	
4S	4C	/	/	
	//			