

2015 Gold Coast Seniors Teams by Richard Wallis

Our usual team of Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber, Therese Tully and myself fronted up for the Seniors Teams at the GC Congress, and while we were in contention on the first day, 4 losses on day 2 put us out of contention and we finished out of the money in 11th place. As usual Therese played with me whenever her schedule permitted, otherwise I played with Tony.

We had our chances, climbing to 2nd after 3 wins and a draw on day 1, but could not recover from the 4 successive losses on day 2, the worst being against the winning team, and many of our bad results were self-inflicted. We were okay against the lower-ranked teams, but struggled against those ranked above us, mostly from lack of concentration. Maybe we are getting old!

After the bad Wednesday, it was the matches against the lower-ranked teams on the final day ensuing from those losses that enabled us to climb up to 11th place, but even then there were a few hiccups.

The final was contested on Friday between 1st (M. Bloom, N. Rosendorf, S. Bock and L. Grewcock) and 2nd (A. Robb, A. Janisz, P. Walters, L. Geursen and A. Geursen), with Robb coming out on top.

M 1	T52			Board 2 in the first match presented Therese with a number of choices for the opening bid. I am sure that many opened with a 5D bid, and that would have likely ended the auction, but Therese put the cat among the pigeons by opening with just 1D, which allowed South to make a Michael's Cue-Bid. I jumped to the obvious 5D, and North bid the equally obvious 5H, which put the ball firmly back in Therese's court, and she hit a winner by bidding 6D! Nobody knows what is making on these types of hands, so one more for the road is like taking out insurance, and neither North nor South knew what was up so neither sacrificed in 6H. At least they did not make the mistake of doubling! There was nothing to the play and we scored up +920 for just another flat board!
Bd 2	KQJ84			
Dlr E	-			
Vul NS	A9654			
A74 962 AJ8762 J		KJ - KQT9543 K832		
	Q9863 AT753 - QT7			
W	N	E	S	
5D	5H	1D 6D	2D! //	

M 1	J532			On board 14 in the first match it was touch and go whether I responded to Therese's 1S opening, as with my void, the last thing I wanted to see was a 2S rebid. The 1NT response was almost, but not fully forcing, and I mainly bid it in the hope that Therese would pass, or by a miracle, rebid 2H, but her 4S rebid took the wind out of my sails. South led the D6 and Therese won this in hand to pass the SQ at trick 2, followed by the SK at trick 3, taken by the SA. Now South made the fatal mistake of switching to the H2, so Therese won the HJ and gave North their trump trick. Upon winning the club return, Therese drew the last trump, cashed the HA, and took the marked heart finesse for 11 tricks and +450. At the other table an initial club lead established the extra trick for the defence, and now a heart ruff took it 1 off for +50 and 11 lmps.
Bd 14	T			
Dlr E	J832			
Vul Nil	KJ74			
- K9865 Q954 8532		KQT9874 AJ4 A A9		
	A6 Q732 KT76 QT6			
W	N	E	S	
1NT!	/	1S 4S	/ //	

M 2 Bd 25 Dlr N Vul EW	A9 Q9752 764 T76		On board 25 in the second match it was the battle of the good hands in a misfit! My 2C was any game-forcing hand, so I showed my club suit for the first time by rebidding 3C, over which Therese confirmed a 6-card heart suit with 3H, as 2H was just waiting.
KQT5 8 AT AKQJ98		72 AKJ643 K832 4	I tried again for a fit with 3S, but over 3NT I rebid clubs for the third time and now it was Key-Card in clubs.
	J8643 T QJ95 532		The extent of the misfit was obvious now, but I had too good a hand to sign off in game, so with an Ace missing, I signed off in 6C, which I thought was the safest contract, and with the most options.
W	N	E	S
2C!	/	1H	/
3C	/	2H	/
3S	/	3H	/
4C	/	3NT	/
6C	//	4H	/
			North gave nothing away by leading the D6, and I could see many good chances for 12 tricks, the most obvious 3-3 hearts, or the HQ falling in 2, so I won in hand, drew trumps, and cashed the top hearts hoping for the best. When South showed out on the second heart, I was down to the simple spade finesse, so I closed my eyes and finessed the ST and when this forced the SA, I had 12 tricks for +1370, equal to 16 Imps when 6NT went 1 off at the other table.

M 3 Bd 3 Dlr S Vul EW	- KQ974 KJ65 Q543		On board 3 in the third match, there was a potential double-game swing available, but really only on a double-dummy basis. Tony bided his time after I opened a weak 2S, expecting there to be more bidding, and there was!
QJT863 A T982 86		AK74 T32 43 KJ92	Nobody doubled the final contract, although they must have thought it was not going to make, otherwise they had an easy save in 5H. Played by East, a trump lead and continuation will beat 4S, but when my hand is declarer, North does not have a trump to lead.
	952 J865 AQ7 AT7		Thus I was able to win the HK in hand and lead a diamond, eventually being able to ruff 2 diamonds on the table, and then when I guessed the clubs, I had 10 tricks for +620.
W	N	E	S
2S	3H	/	/
/	/	4S	4H
			//
			Double-dummy, 5H can also make, as declarer can play a club to the South hand, and if East does not split, play the CT, which will win. Thus declarer loses just 1 club and 1 trump. This is not the natural play however, and 5H at the other table went 1 off, but 11 Imps to us.

M 3 Bd 7 Dlr S Vul All	QT76 J93 K973 Q6		On board 7 in the third match we were stymied by South opening 2S, showing spades and another suit, which made it difficult for Tony to read the layout.
- KQ87 AQJT85 AK4		J952 AT542 4 873	When 3S came around to me, I did not want to double again and have it passed out, so I showed my strong hand by a jump to 5D. Now it may look easy for Tony to correct this to 5H, but what if hearts is South's other suit?
	AK843 6 62 JT952		The sight of dummy was very disappointing, and I immediately wished that I had doubled again, as over 4H by Tony I would have cue-bid 4S, which could have propelled us to slam.
W	N	E	S
X	3S	/	2S!
5D	//		/
			My diamonds were good enough to make 12 tricks, but that was only +620, and EW played in 5H at the other table for -710, so we lost 3 Imps. We were never likely to get to 7H, but the small slam should be bid.

M 4	T98			On board 19 in the fourth match, South could not open the bidding, but came alive when his partner overcalled 2D, and saved us from a distributional nightmare!
Bd 19	K			If South was going to sacrifice over our game contract, they should have bid it first, not allow us to have 2 bites at the cherry. If they wanted to give us a chance to stop below game, then just bid 3D at their first turn, but 4D almost forces us to bid game.
Dir S	QJT96			
Vul EW	T542			Therese's 2NT over the 2D overcall was not natural, just showing at least a limit raise in spades with 4-card support. A cue-bid of 3D would show 3-card support.
J7653		AQ42		Therese led the D2 to 5DX, and declarer thought long and hard about this before rising with the DA, eventually going 4 off for +800.
AQT64		752		
3		K42		When we saw the layout, with two singleton Kings behind the AQs, we knew it was going to be hard for any declarer to get it right, and that is how it turned out, with 4S failing by a trick at the other table, so we gained 14 Imps.
QJ		A86		
	K			
	J983			
	A875			
	K973			
W	N	E	S	
1S	2D	2NT!	/	
/	/	4S	4D	
X	//		5D!	

M 4	JT85			On board 26 in the fourth match we had yet another misfit, but enough points for game.
Bd 26	96			South overcalled his good diamond suit, even though only a 4-card suit, and North supported it once, but kept quiet after that.
Dir E	98652			
Vul All	K3			Obviously, without a diamond stopper, neither of us bid 3NT, and although Therese rebid clubs twice, I decided to try 4H with my reasonable suit, rather than bid 5C with a singleton.
KQ62		A97		4H is actually cold, but only by taking the heart and club finesse, and I am not sure if I was up to that, but North came to my rescue by leading the SJ!
AKJ732		T		
74		J3		Now, thanks to the S9 on the table, I led to the CA to take the heart finesse, confident that even if it loses, I have 10 tricks. I could finesse the spade later much more confidently, and scored up 10 tricks for +620.
9		AQJ8754		
	43			5C also makes thanks to the friendly club position, but at the other table they did not get to game, playing in 3H for -170 and 10 Imps in.
	Q854			
	AKQT			
	T62			
W	N	E	S	
1H	2D	1C	1D	
3S	/	3C	3D	
4H	//	4C	/	