

## 2015 Qld Mixed Pairs by Richard Wallis

As usual, Toowong hosted the Mixed Pairs in mid-May, and a modest entry of only 38 pairs entered this year, which made for a complete round-robin. However the quality was good, and each of the resulting 37 matches was hard-fought, with the result in doubt until the end stages.

Eileen Li and Watson Zhou hit the lead with a couple of matches to go and held on to win narrowly from Jill Broad and John Gough, who flew home over the final 5 matches to grab second. Therese Tully and I were always in the mix, without ever being in the lead, but managed to finish third.

Alan Gibson handled the Director's role without major problems, and the TBC looked after us very well, supplying copious amounts of food during the two days, even sandwiches and fruit for lunch.

<b>M 1</b>	J7			<p>On board 3 in the first match I was preparing to pass as North when Therese made a take-out double of the 1D overcall, but it never came! It was going to be even better when East raised to 2D, but Therese's hand, being a weak distributional opening, was not suitable for a take-out double at the 2-level, so she passed.</p> <p>When West rebid an optimistic 2NT, I should have doubled for penalties, but could not guess that West had such a tenuous holding in clubs. If East had reverted to 3D, as I would have done with the East hand, I would have doubled for penalties.</p> <p>Since I had nothing more promising, I led the CJ, although Therese's 1C opening only showed at least 2 clubs, and this should have led to a 4 trick defeat.</p> <p>However, it was difficult for us to diagnose just how bad the contract was, and a trick got lost in the wash, thus we only took it 3 off, but still +300, good enough for 89%.</p>
<b>Bd 3</b>	A9			
<b>Dir S</b>	KJ754			
<b>Vul EW</b>	JT64			
A93			KT86	
863			J7542	
A9862			QT3	
A2			Q	
	Q542			
	KQT			
	-			
	K98753			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1D	/	2D	1C	
2NT	//		/	

<b>M 2</b>	K4			<p>On board 6 in the second match my 1NT response was almost forcing, and Therese had a choice between showing the 6-card suit, or bidding her second suit, and chose the latter, rebidding 2C.</p> <p>I was tempted to show my heart suit, but thought that 2S with K4 in support was a safer option, and Therese had no reason to make another move.</p> <p>If Therese had instead chosen to show the 6-card suit by rebidding 2S, it is likely that, with my good side suit, I would have invited game with 3S and she would have accepted.</p> <p>West led the D5, and game in spades looked good when dummy went down, so a poor score was looming</p> <p>However, the opponents are there to help, and after West won the SA at trick 3 and led the DQ, ruffed by Therese, they failed to cover the HJ at trick 5, allowing 12 tricks. Only 6 of the 19 NS pairs got to game, so +230 was still worth 64% to us.</p>
<b>Bd 6</b>	AQT84			
<b>Dir E</b>	T32			
<b>Vul EW</b>	743			
A83			96	
K5			9632	
Q7654			KJ98	
KJ2			T86	
	QJT752			
	J7			
	A			
	AQ95			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1NT!	/	1S	
/	2S	//	2C	

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 12</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	963 3 J82 AKQJ85		I borrowed a club on board 11 in the fourth match, and in spite of the adverse Vulnerability I opened with a gambling 3NT, and this was doubled by East, in my opinion, without any good reason.
T85 T987542 K74 -		KQJ KJ6 A653 T94	Therese could have stood the double, as 3NT is certain to make with her stoppers, especially if I have my expected 7-card suit, but she played safe by bidding 5C.
	A742 AQ QT9 7632		As it turned out, after East's double West was always planning to bid 4H over 3NTX, and this conviction was carried on to the 5-level, when they bid 5H over 5C, which Therese was happy to double.
			This was not a success for EW, and we easily took it 2 off, for +300, and an 86% score.
<b>W</b> / 5H //	<b>N</b> 3NT! /	<b>E</b> X /	<b>S</b> 5C X
			I do not think East has a stand-out take-out double of 3NT, but the safe spade lead may have influenced their decision. Almost half the EW pairs played in hearts, and only 2 NS pairs played in 3NT, the others playing in clubs, with only one making 10 for 130.

<b>M 8</b> <b>Bd 23</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul All</b>	Q965 97 Q2 AJ864		On board 23 in the eighth match I got both the bidding and play wrong, and we got near a bottom score.
AJ874 8 KT853 KT		K3 A62 AJ764 952	Therese could have bid 4H, as a form of Michaels, but chose to double for take-out, as her conversion of a 4C response by me to 4D would be an equal-level conversion, and thus not show extras.
	T2 KQJT543 9 Q73		I had an easy 5D bid after the take-out double, but we were playing MP Pairs, and if 3NT is a logical contract, then it should be considered. I had Axx in hearts, thus I could duck until the 3 <sup>rd</sup> round, so I hoped for 9 easy tricks and opted for 3NT.
			In 3NT by East, a club lead from South will give declarer no chance, but naturally South led the HK and continued the suit when I ducked.
<b>W</b> X	<b>N</b> /	<b>E</b> 3NT!	<b>S</b> 3H //
			Now I can run the diamonds and take the losing spade finesse, end-playing North to give me the 9 <sup>th</sup> trick, but South discarded hearts on the run of the diamonds, and I got it wrong and went 1 off.

<b>M 14</b> <b>Bd 12</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	KT94 962 T4 9642		On board 12 in the fourteenth match we were not going to win whatever we did!
J62 743 A965 QT3		8 A8 KQJ832 AJ75	South showed both majors with the 2D cue-bid, and she showed some interest with 3S, but North declined.
	AQ753 KQJT5 7 K8		For some unknown reason, South decided to go again when Therese competed with 4D, and then doubled the final contract of 5D. Maybe she could see I was prepared to sacrifice, and hauled me in!
			South was correct on both counts! Since the CK was over the CA, 4S is cold, and 5D is 1 off. Swap the black Kings between N and S, and 4S goes off and 5D is cold!
<b>W</b> / / 4D / //	<b>N</b> / 2S / /	<b>E</b> 1D 3D / 5D	<b>S</b> 2D 3S 4S X
			We were not going to win either way, as only 4 NS pairs, played in spades, 2 in 3S, making 170, 1 in 4S making 620, and 1 in 5S going 1 off. The rest were in diamonds, but only 1 other pair were doubled in 5D, so while -100 was better than -170 (by passing 3S), and much better than -620, it was still a poor 22% score.

<b>M 19</b>	743			On board 26 in the nineteenth match we had game values, but a misfit and no spade stop, and 5D seemed way too high, so we settled for our 6-1 heart fit.
<b>Bd 26</b>	952			
<b>Dlr E</b>	AKT9			
<b>Vul All</b>	743			South led the top spades and to my dismay, shifted to the D6. We were threatened with 2 diamond losers, so I tried my only ploy of dropping the D8!
Q5			T6	
A			KQT743	
QJ7542			83	North considered his next play for some time before finally switching to a club, and I was still in with a chance.
KT65			AQ9	Firstly I needed hearts 3-3 or Jx in either hand, and then I needed a favourable lie of the club suit.
	AKJ982			When everything was favourable, I had 10 tricks for +620, and a healthy 86%.
	J86			
	6			
	J82			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1H	1S	Four EW pairs bid and made 4H, but many others went down, and the top score for EW was +800 in 3SSX, making only 6 tricks, although of the 2 other NS pairs in 3SSX, 1 made 7 tricks and the other made 8!
2D	2S	2H	/	
3C	/	3H	/	
4H	//			

<b>M 21</b>	JT83			On board 6 in the twenty-first match East baulked at opening with 3C at adverse vulnerability, but safely doubled my Stayman response to Therese's 1NT opening to ask for the lead.
<b>Bd 6</b>	Q762			
<b>Dlr E</b>	AK53			
<b>Vul EW</b>	9			Therese's 2D response is two-fold. Firstly, it denies a major suit, and secondly, it shows a club stopper, so I was able to raise to 3NT. After the double, if Therese did not have a club stopper, she would pass, and if she wanted to play in clubs, she would redouble.
A964			52	
AT53			98	
T76			98	
J5			KQ87643	Thus when dummy hit the table 3NT looked to be a dicey contract, and Therese took her best chance for 9 tricks by ducking the first 2 clubs, and hoping that West had both outstanding Aces.
	KQ7			Her wish was granted, and she made 9 tricks for +400. However, since East had 7 clubs, she only needed to duck once, and could have thus made 10 tricks for +430.
	KJ4			
	QJ42			
	AT2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		/	1NT	One pair went off and another did not get to game which helped, but +400 was worth only 31%.
2C	/	X	2D!	
3NT	//			

<b>M 25</b>	QT87653			On board 17 in the twenty-fifth match North took the bit between her teeth when South showed some belated spade support, and sacrificed over our 3NT, and I thought that I could do no more than double.
<b>Bd 17</b>	-			
<b>Dlr N</b>	K7543			I did give some thought to bidding 4H when Therese bid 3NT, as since I had the short spades, the Moysian fit may play well, but the 4S by North took that option away.
<b>Vul Nil</b>	K			The possible heart bid was on my mind as I chose my lead, and while the CA almost slipped out, it was the H2 that hit the table, and declarer was home, discarding the CK on the HA and giving up the top spades and the DA.
AK9			2	3NT has no chance if North leads her second suit, and is still heavily favoured to go down on a spade lead, and no EW pair played in 3NT.
Q876			K52	As it happens, 5C is a good sacrifice, scoring above average if not doubled, and 4SNX was a second bottom, only beaten by a 3SNX making an overtrick!
A9			T62	
T873			AJ6542	
	J4			
	AJT943			
	QJ8			
	Q9			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	2S	/	/	
X	/	3C	3S	
3NT	4S	X	//	

<b>M 26</b> <b>Bd 19</b> <b>Dir S</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	K63 KJ953 93 Q83		On board 19 in the twenty-sixth match Therese's 1S response after the 1H overcall showed at least a 5-card suit, or else she would have made a negative double, so I was able to raise with just 3-card support.
QT5 86 AQT72 A97		AJ982 AQ72 8 642	Since her heart tenace over the overcaller was worth more than 6 HCPs, she quickly raised herself to game, and South dutifully led the HT, as suggested by the overcall.
	74 T4 KJ654 KJT5		The first 2 hearts held up and Therese next ruffed a heart on the table to advance the SQ, which North mistakenly covered, giving Therese complete control.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1D 2S	1H /	1S! 4S	/ //
			Holding 2 club losers, the diamond finesse was completely free now, and when it held, a club loser could be immediately discarded on the DA. Then a diamond could be ruffed to hand to ruff the last heart. The CA and the top spades added up to 12 tricks for +680, and 94%.

<b>M 27</b> <b>Bd 26</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	KQ3 A953 A AT654		On board 26 in the twenty-seventh match I had visions of slam when Therese opened 1S, but the announced two-suiter by West made this less of a chance due to likely bad splits.
6 QJT742 3 KQ983		T754 6 KJ9765 72	My double showed values and was looking for penalties, depending on our fit. Therese's double of East's non-systemic 3D (bid 3C correctible to find West's second suit) suggested that our only fit was in spades, so when West bid 3H, I was happy to double for penalties.
	AJ982 K8 QT842 J		Having trump length and a good suit to force declarer with, I did not lead my shortage, instead leading the SK, followed by the SQ, ruffed by declarer to lead the CK, which I won to give Therese a ruff, but we lost a trick and only got it 2 off for +500 and 50%.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2S 3H	X X	3D //	1S X
			When dummy tracked after the lead of the SK, the defence should have been obvious to me after the Michaels Cue-Bid and removal of 3DX to 3H, but I failed to think it through. CA and a ruff, diamond return for another club ruff, then a second diamond promotes the H9 for 3 off and +800!

<b>M 29</b> <b>Bd 2</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	J964 AT74 K5 T94		On board 2 in the twenty-ninth match I wanted to bid 3 and a half hearts, since I was a passed hand, but was not prepared to go to game on my own.
2 J852 AQT2 AK53		875 KQ93 J976 Q7	Therese had a fair hand in support of hearts, and probably considered raising to 4H, especially in view of the NS silence, but played it safe.
	AKQT3 6 843 J862		The real puzzle when I looked at the hands was North's silence! Four card support for spades and an outside Ace and King should be enough to bid 3S, especially after passing the first time.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
X	/	/	2S
	!	3H	//
			South led the SA and switched to the D4, which made my work easier, and I won the next diamond on the table to lead a trump to hand and another to dummy, revealing the marked finesse, and 10 tricks were then easy for +170, and 78%. A few EW pairs made 4H, one doubled, but it is beaten by an initial diamond lead, which leaves the SA intact to give North a diamond ruff.

<b>M 32</b> <b>Bd 10</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	A9853 - KQ632 KJT		On board 10 in the thirty-second match I thought that I had a difficult bid when 3H came around to me, since we had not had a chance to agree a suit as yet.
JT7 KQJ94 84 Q86		Q642 A8763 7 754	If 4D was forcing, that is what I would have chosen, but since Therese is obviously minimum, I was not going to take the chance on her passing, so I leapt to game.
	K T52 AJT95 A932		West led the HK and when dummy went down it was obvious from Therese's look of wonderment that we had missed slam!
<b>W</b> 1H /	<b>N</b> 1S 5D!	<b>E</b> 3H //	The trouble with using Keycard is that the HA is of no use to me, and while I could have bid 5H as Exclusion Blackwood, that is committing us to slam, and was too big a punt.
		<b>S</b> 1D /	Therese drew trumps ruffing hearts along the way and also cashed the SK, so when she divined the correct way to finesse clubs, there were 13 tricks and +640. Only 4 pairs bid the slam so this was still worth just over average.

<b>M 33</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	JT 987 AJT76 A75		On board 13 in the thirty-third match South opened with a frisky 2H in third seat, and Therese started with a take-out double rather than bidding spades herself, and was pleasantly surprized when I bid spades freely.
AQ965 K5 K92 KQ4		K742 A3 84 T9832	North raised the ante by bidding 3H, but this gave my 3S response more meaning as it was a free-bid!
	83 QJT642 Q53 J6		Obviously most (if not all) Norths would raise to 3H holding 2 Aces and 3-car support, but it is not clear if Therese would raise a forced 3S to game if North was silent.
<b>W</b> X 4S	<b>N</b> / 3H //	<b>E</b> / 3S	Lucky for us, and virtually all other Easts, South has a standard sequence lead of the HQ, because a diamond lead from the South hand would hold the contract to just 10 tricks.
		<b>S</b> 2H /	I was able to draw trumps, clear the hearts, and lead the CT, and when South covered, that was 11 tricks for +650, 61%. A good hand for West to overcall 2S and protect both the HK and DK.

<b>M 34</b> <b>Bd 18</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AK953 853 T3 K63		On board 18 in the thirty-fourth match I was too ready to settle for the obvious 3NT, since Therese did not have spade support. My 2S was only forcing for 1 more round, so Therese could not rebid 2NT in case I passed, but if she had I would have shown my club support.
T872 QT4 J9876 9		QJ6 976 542 JT72	Since 3NT by Therese showed more than the minimum reverse values, I should have set clubs instead of passing 3NT. Two pairs bid to slam, one even making 7C, probably after West led the C9.
	4 AKJ2 AKQ AQ854		West lead the D7, and set up the clubs for 11 sure tricks. After cashing the clubs (West discarded a heart) and diamonds, Therese went to dummy to cash the top spades and led a heart from the table and paused to consider the finesse.
<b>W</b> / /	<b>N</b> 1S 2S	<b>E</b> / / //	After due thought she decided to accept the 11 tricks as at least that would beat those NS pairs in 5C. To her surprize the HQ dropped so she made 12 tricks after all!
		<b>S</b> 1C 2H 3NT	The tragedy was that I input the contract as 3SS, making 12 tricks for +230, and the checker missed it, so we were deprived of 12 MPs.

<b>M 37</b>	6			On board 22 in the thirty-seventh match I broke the 'Rule of Fifteen' when I opened 1D in the 4 <sup>th</sup> seat, in spite of not having the recommended total of 15, obtained by adding the HCPs to the number of spades.
<b>Bd 22</b>	A84			
<b>Dir E</b>	T9532			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AK73			
J983			KT74	I did this because I had 3 quick-tricks and an easy rebid of 2C. Mind you, I was not alone in bidding, as only 5 pairs passed the hand in. It is likely that some Wests opened 1D in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat as they have both majors.
KJT6		Q95		
KQJ		A64		
T9		542		
	AQ52			East, warned by Therese's marked preference for clubs, led a trump, which I won on the table to lead a diamond, won by West, who led another trump.
	732			
	87			
	QJ86			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	Now West led a heart, and I won in hand to trump a diamond, setting up my 9 <sup>th</sup> trick. A trump to hand and I cashed my winners, and West seemed to be having difficulty finding discards, letting go 2 hearts, and holding onto 2 spades. It looked to me like they were guarding the SK, so I exited with a heart and West had to lead into the spade tenace for 10 tricks, +130 and a fortunate 89%.
	/	/	/	
1D!!	/	1S	/	
2C	/	/	X	
/	2H	3C	//	

<b>M 38</b>	AJT76			On board 26 in the thirty-eighth and final match, I had 2 chances to rescue the board, and failed on both!
<b>Bd 26</b>	Q542			
<b>Dir E</b>	8			
<b>Vul All</b>	Q83			
K			8542	In our system a 1D opening shows at least a 4-card suit, so, as a passed hand, I had more than enough to bid 3D over the 1S overcall. Then when Therese made a game-try by bidding 3C, while 5D may be too much, I should have at least bid 4D instead of meekly surrendering with 3D.
AJ8			T9	
KQJ76			A942	
K752			AJ6	
	Q93			A few Wests, relying on North having the SA and not being psychic enough to lead it, bid and made 3NT, and some even made 11 tricks, but even 5D would have given us another 16 MPs and pushed us up to second!
	K763			
	T53			
	T94			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	North led the SA, and with both the double heart finesse working, as well as the club finesse, Therese was untroubled to make 11 tricks for +150, and a mere 33%. In fact, with the club finesse working and clubs 3-3, 6D would make if trumps broke evenly.
		/	/	
1D	1S	2D!	2S	
3C	/	3D!	//	