

## 2016 Gold Coast Seniors Teams by Richard Wallis

This year our normal 5-person team was disrupted by Wynne Webber having to pull out due to family issues, so we were down to only 4, and since Therese Tully is too busy with convening to play every match, we had to augment.

Accordingly we had to add 2 new members to our team, and John Craig and Anne Lamport agreed to join Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman, Therese Tully and myself. We started out well, but a maximum loss against team 2 in the second match put us in our place and we never recovered, finishing with 6 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses for 16<sup>th</sup> place out of 34 teams.

The 12<sup>th</sup> match was my biggest disappointment, as on paper it should have been a win to move us up the ladder, although not close enough for the finals, but a smallish loss moved us further down.

<b>M 1</b>	T872			On board 11 in the first match I resisted the temptation to make an
<b>Bd 11</b>	K92			odd 3C opening bid and bid a non-forcing 2C following John's
<b>Dir S</b>	J			opening in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat.
<b>Vul Nil</b>	KJT52			The 2D rebid was ostensibly a 4-card suit, and showed extras, so I
-		AK643		raised initially since I did not want to suggest spade tolerance by
A85		QJ4		bidding 2NT.
Q943		KT7		However, when John bid the 4 <sup>th</sup> suit I was able to bid 3NT confident
Q87643		A9		we had reached the final contract.
	QJ95			Even though, as a passed hand my 2C was not forcing and therefore
	T763			showed at least a 5-card suit, North led the CJ, which I was surprised
	A8652			to win in hand as South showed out.
	-			Another surprize occurred when I next led the D3, North played the DJ
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	and South won the DA and returned a diamond to dummy. The heart
/	/	1S	/	finesse was now safe, and even though it lost I had 9 tricks in 2
2C	/	2D	/	spades, hearts and clubs, to go with 3 diamonds for +400.
3D	/	3H	/	This looked like a flat board as a spade lead is unlikely, but at the
3NT	//			other table even after the same lead 3NT went 1 off for +10 Imps
<b>M 2</b>	5			On board 28 in the second match North demonstrated that generally
<b>Bd 28</b>	A987652			when you have a 7-card suit, especially if it is a major suit, you should
<b>Dir W</b>	82			strive to make that suit trumps.
<b>Vul NS</b>	K93			After the 2NT rebid, I did not find out why North bid 3H instead of 4H
J87642		Q3		immediately, but it may have been to suggest slam potential.
KJ		QT4		Anne led the SQ and when dummy tracked our prospects did not look
76		JT954		good, and so they proved. North won the SA and immediately played
J86		A72		2 rounds of trumps.
	AKT9			We eventually won 2 trumps and a club for -620.
	3			At the other table the contract was 3NT played by South, and West led
	AKQ3			the S6, which helps declarer's cause, but when they miss-guessed the
	QT54			clubs the contract finished 1 down for -100 and 12 Imps away
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	This hand illustrates how it is much easier to play in 4H with the 7-
/	/	/	1C	card spade suit, as in a NT contract, the north hand will contribute
/	1H	/	2NT	very few tricks.
/	3H	/	3NT	
/	4H	//		

<b>M 3</b>	KQJ982			
<b>Bd 6</b>	3			
<b>Dir E</b>	65			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AJ98			
T53		A		
KQJ85		A976		
T73		AKJ2		
73		KT64		
	764			
	T42			
	Q984			
	Q52			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1C	/	
1H	1S	2S	/	
3H	3S	4H	/	
/	4S	X	//	

On board 6 in the third match the vulnerability was favourable for a sacrifice, and East sounded fairly confident when he bid 4H and I believed him so I bid 4S all on my own!

The dummy was a big bonus for me as it looked like 4H was cold, even 5H was makeable if East had the CK.

After the lead of the DA and HA, I ruffed the second heart and led the SK won by East, who led another heart.

East kindly discarded a club on the second spade, which confirmed that 4H was making, and made it more likely that I could bring the clubs in for 3 tricks, and so it proved, finishing 2 off for -300.

At the other table Therese and Anne competed to 5H, which makes, and NS took the plunge by bidding 5S, doubled by Therese, also only making 8 tricks, but this time +500, so we gained 5 Imps.

Luckily I was not put to the test, as it is unlikely I would have bid my hand a fourth time, though John may have done it for me after passing 3 times.

<b>M 4</b>	KT8632			
<b>Bd 21</b>	98			
<b>Dir N</b>	AKT			
<b>Vul NS</b>	64			
AQ9		J75		
K7		AQ432		
9543		Q86		
KT93		J8		
	4			
	JT65			
	J72			
	AQ752			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	1S!	2H	/	
2NT	/	/	X	
//				

On board 21 in the fourth match North opened a little light, and the opening bid may have influenced South when he doubled my 2NT in the pass-out seat.

His heart holding was crucial, and he probably thought we had no chance of 8 tricks, but he was wrong as long as my hand is declarer to protect against an initial spade lead.

North must have guessed the double indicated hearts were not breaking and led the H9, which I won on the table to run the C8, followed by the CJ when this held.

I had poor prospects for 8 tricks, so won the HK at trick 4 and led a diamond up as North figures to have the remaining HCPs and so it proved, and I eventually made 2 clubs, 2 diamonds 3 hearts and 2 spades for 9 tricks and +590.

At the other table Tony opened with a reasonable weak 2S, ran into a roadblock and went 3 off for -800 and 5 Imps out.

<b>M 5</b>	984			
<b>Bd 3</b>	AQ843			
<b>Dir S</b>	Q42			
<b>Vul EW</b>	82			
J5		AKT32		
KJ9		75		
T853		AKJ		
QJT9		A75		
	Q76			
	T52			
	976			
	K643			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			/	
/	/	1S	/	
1NT	/	3D	/	
3NT	//			

On board 3 in the fifth match John opened 1S as East and forced to game over my 1NT by rebidding 3D, normally natural and probably denying a 6-card spade suit.

I bid the obvious 3NT and North led the H4, which I won in hand to consider my options.

If the hearts are 4-4, I can take a finesse in both black suits, but clubs offers the best chance for the contract as if North has Kx or covers the CQ at trick 2 or 3, I have 9 tricks immediately.

When South won the CQ at trick 2 and returned a heart, I was 1 off in a matter of seconds, but I was thankful he did not take the second club, as the club suit would then be blocked, and that would hold me to only 7 tricks.

At the other table EW also finished in game, but this time in the 5-2 spade fit, and a trick got lost in the wash and they finished 2 off for +200 and 3 Imps to us.

**M 6** T643  
**Bd 16** A62  
**Dir W** K75  
**Vul EW** QJ3  
 AKQJ98752  
 J -  
 T8 KQ9743  
 2 AJ2  
 T974  
 -  
 T85  
 Q9643  
 AK865

W	N	E	S
2C!	/	2S!	2NT!
4S	5C	/	/
5S	6C	6S	/
/	7C	x	//

Board 16 in the sixth match was very unusual in that everyone was bidding even though I opened with a strong 2C!

I did not really have a 2C opening in terms of defensive tricks, but I thought my hand had too much potential to open 1S and risk playing there, or to open 4S.

Therese's 2S response unfortunately would have put my hand on the table, but showed a positive response with a good 5-card heart suit.

South overcalled 2NT to show the minors, and then there was no stopping North, who held a completely balanced hand, from competing all the way to 7C.

The joke appeared to be on North however, as we have 2 Aces to lose and nowhere to park then so slam had no chance. On a diamond lead, even 5S goes down.

Alas we slipped a trick in the defence and only got 3 tricks for +500, which was 4 Imps out versus -650 at the other table.

**M 7** J7532  
**Bd 6** Q5  
**Dir E** AT762  
**Vul EW** 6  
 Q8 AKT  
 KJ2 9763  
 Q8 54  
 AKQ974 T832  
 964  
 AT84  
 KJ83  
 J5

W	N	E	S
		/	/
1C	1S!	X	/
2S	/	2NT	/
3NT	//		

On board 6 in the seventh match the value in bidding a suit that you want led was clearly demonstrated when North overcalled 1S, and South made the mistake of leading the suit to John's 3NT contract! South's normal lead was the D3, which gives 3NT no chance.

Over the 1S overcall, John's double was negative showing 4 hearts, and when I cuebid 2S, John dutifully bid 2NT, which I raised to game. On the expected spade lead from South, John wrapped up an easy 9 tricks for +600.

If North had overcalled a suit he wanted led, such as diamonds, we would likely have stayed out of Notrump, and our best fit is clubs, for 10 tricks.

More importantly, if North stays out of the bidding on his poor hand, John will respond 1H, and no matter which of us becomes declarer in 2 or 3NT, a diamond is certain to be led, and 7 tricks is the limit.

At the other table EW tried their luck in 4H on the 4-3 fit, and their luck was out, making just 8 tricks for +200 and 13 Imps.

**M 8** 2  
**Bd 19** 85  
**Dir S** AQ7432  
**Vul EW** J843  
 QT9764 A85  
 AQT64 J9732  
 K 965  
 A 92  
 KJ3  
 K  
 JT8  
 KQT765

W	N	E	S
		/	1C
1S	3C	/	/
3H	/	4H	5C
5H	//		

On board 19 in the eighth match I could have used a Michael's cuebid to show both majors, but with a good hand and 6 spades I decided to bid my suits naturally.

North got in the auction with a weak 3C and South passed, allowing me to easily show my other suit, which John raised to game.

North led the C3 and I won perforce, and went across to dummy with the SA to lead a heart, feeling a lot better when South produced the HK.

Now a second heart to dummy and a spade off the table and there was nothing South could do to prevent 11 tricks. A club back now would enable me to pitch all of dummy's diamonds and rack up 12 tricks, but North asked for a diamond which South duly obliged, so it was +650.

At the other table EW did not compete over 5C and this contract only went 1 off for -100 and 11 Imps.

**M 9** KQ84  
**Bd 8** 975  
**Dir W** QT6  
**Vul Nil** QJ4  
 T976 A  
 AKQ82 T64  
 9752 J843  
 - T7652  
 J532  
 J3  
 AK  
 AK983  
**W N E S**  
 1H! / 2H X  
 / 3S / 4S  
 //

On board 8 in the ninth match I made a tactical opening bid of 1H, because of the good suit, and good shape, and suddenly NS were in 4S, to which John led a heart. North certainly got good value out of his modest hand, but 4S is a reasonable contract.

A club lead would have been inspired, but when North ruffed the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart and led a spade to hand, the appearance of the top 2 spades gave me a certain trump tricks anyway, so 4S was doomed.

At the other table I assume that West neither opened nor overcalled hearts, as the final contract was 1NT by Tony, and East led the D3. 3NT still has no real chance, but 5 rounds of clubs and 5 discards were too much for West to survive, and the final tally was 10 tricks for +430.

So that was 10 Imps to us in a match that was mostly the other way, losing it 20-0.

**M 10** 942  
**Bd 18** J643  
**Dir E** A843  
**Vul NS** 83  
 5 AQT863  
 A7 K98  
 KT6 Q75  
 KQT7652 4  
 KJ7  
 QT52  
 J92  
 AJ9  
**W N E S**  
 3C / 2S /  
 3NT // 3S /

On board 18 in the tenth match, with limited entries to the West hand, the key card was the CJ in the South hand. I was off to a good start when North led the D3 and South produced the DJ, giving me another potential entry to hand.

While we play a natural weak two, it is a constructive bid, showing 9-11 HCPs and a good suit, so the 2S opening from John was encouraging, since I had an opening hand and a 7-card suit.

However, when dummy tracked, the singleton club was a disappointment, as my chances for 9 tricks were greatly reduced. Basically I needed South to hold the CJ doubleton or trebleton, or less likely North to have the CJ doubleton. so I led a club off the table intending to finesse the CT.

I led a heart to dummy and ed the C4, and South made it easy for me by rising with the CA at trick 2, so game was now easy. At the other table declarer got it completely wrong and only made 6 tricks in 2NT, so we gained 11 Imps.

**M 10** J876  
**Bd 22** 6  
**Dir E** AK95  
**Vul EW** KQT9  
 T AK9543  
 J97542 KQ83  
 Q3 64  
 8654 A  
 Q2  
 AT  
 JT872  
 J732  
**W N E S**  
 / 1S /  
 // 2C 2S! 3C

On board 22 in the tenth match I passed John's 1S opening and North, with a singleton heart and 4 spades, decided to balance by bidding 2C, although if balancing is right, you could argue equally for 2D.

John rebid his good 6-card spade suit over 2C, although in my view, it is imperative to mention the heart suit first.

South bid 3C, and if ever I was going to bid my heart suit this was the time, but I wilted and 3C became the final contract.

John led the top spades and then a third spade forcing North to ruff with the CJ. When John won the CA, another spade allowed me to over-ruff dummy, but that was 9 tricks for -110.

At the other table EW did find their heart fit, and South did not find the diamond lead, resulting in 12 tricks for -680, which amounted to -790 in total and 13 Imps away.

<b>M 11</b>	JT93			On board 3 in the eleventh match South made an aggressive penalty double of Therese's intermediate jump overcall, but luckily for us, the defence was not up to it.
<b>Bd 3</b>	AK763			
<b>Dlr S</b>	52			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AT			Of course South led the H2 and North was easily able to recognize this as a singleton, and rather than setting up dummy's suit, made the mistake of returning a small heart for South to ruff.
AK5		76		
JT854		Q9		However this swapped the HK for the D7, and instead of the defence getting both 2 hearts and 2 diamonds, they only got 1 heart and 2 diamonds. When North won the CA and led another heart, Therese could ruff high, and lead a trump to dummy, eventually forcing out the DA for 9 tricks and +670.
T		KQJ643		
J854		KQ6		
	Q842			
	2			
	A987			
	9732			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1H	3D	/	If North cashed the HA at trick 2 and continued with a third heart, Therese will ruff with the DK, and South discards, setting up 2 diamond tricks. After ducking the first diamond, North wins the CA to lead another heart, setting up the another trump trick for 2 off.
//			X	

<b>M 12</b>	AQT			On board 24 in the twelfth and final match I had a memory lapse and we got to a silly contract.
<b>Bd 24</b>	Q3			
<b>Dlr W</b>	A63			Even though I was relatively short in spades, I thought 4S was Voidwood, and responded accordingly, and eventually we finished up in 6H, going an inglorious 5 off for -250.
<b>Vul Nil</b>	J7652			Of course as I confirmed later in our system notes, any jump response to game is always to play, so I should have passed 4S, and be thankful of having 2-card support, since my hand is pretty weak otherwise.
76		KJ985432		
KJ6542		8		South was remarkably silent considering his long diamond suit, probably because of his good hearts, but NS can in fact make 5D, by setting up the club suit, since West cannot lead a heart, and on a non-club lead a club can be discarded on the SA.
K4		7		
AT3		KQ8		At the other table the final contract was 4SX, and a defensive slip allowed this to make, so we lost 13 Imps.
	-			
	AT97			
	QJT9852			
	94			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1H	/	4S!	/	
5D!	/	5S	/	
6D	/	6H	//	