

## 2005 Treasury Qld Open and Novice Pairs

Rising costs forced BBC to abandon the Doomben Racecourse, our congress venue for many years, and our Sponsor, Conrad Treasury Hotel, offered us the use of their convention rooms for 2005 at a more competitive rate. While there were some teething problems (convention centres rarely appreciate what is required to run a bridge congress), they/we will learn from this and if it is held there again next year, the problems will be eliminated as best as we can.

A few of the seeded pairs, including Tony Jackman and myself failed to make the final, but the top fancies were there and had a see-sawing battle throughout Sunday before the old stager, Mike Robson, playing with his younger partner, Betty Lee, won out in the end. Peter Hainsworth and Ralph Parker were second, with Neville Francis and Magnus Moren in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. As was stated in the publicity leading up to the event, the first two pairs will form the Qld Team for next year's Commonwealth Nations Tournament in Melbourne prior to the Commonwealth Games. Neville and Magnus are already playing in the event courtesy of their 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in the Butler in the Sydney ANC.

Janine Solomon and Denis Croft won the Plate from Sue O'Brien and Paul Madigan, Sandy Dean and Bob Ashman won Consolation A from Eva and Tony Berger, and H. Glatter and B. Theodore won Consolation B from J. Gough and G Thomas.

The Novice Pairs was won by I Menan and P. Han with P. Gordon and K. Ward 2<sup>nd</sup> and P. Lang and G. Wardrop in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. G. & K. Twaddell won the Novice Plate from P. Van Eden and P. Whittaker.

<b>Q 1</b>	QT43			The difference between pairs and teams was clearly indicated by the first board of the weekend against Magnus and Neville.
<b>Bd 1</b>	Q8			
<b>Dlr N</b>	T86			My 2D response followed by 3D showed a diamond suit and slam interest, and Tony's 3S rebid was meant to show fair support for diamonds, but I took it as a cuebid, thereby denying the HA. Even if I had been on the same wavelength, I would still have signed off in 3NT as I need good support as with three heart losers, I was only interested if Tony went again.
<b>Vul Nil</b>	AT54			
K86		A75		
T73		AKJ4		
AKJ53		Q94		
KJ		982		
	J92			
	9652			
	72			
	Q763			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1NT	/	
2D	/	2H	/	
3D	/	3S	/	
3NT	//			

In teams the guess in clubs is not so critical as long as game is still made.

**Q 1** AJT943  
**Bd 3** 874  
**Dlr EW** K62  
**Vul S** T  
 72 KQ85  
 KT2 AQJ9  
 J74 A  
 A6432 QJ85  
 6  
 653  
 QT9853  
 K97

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	3D	X	2C
4C	/	5C	//

On board 3 in the first qualifying, also against Magnus and Neville, Neville opened 2C, which was multi-meaning, among them, a weak 2 in diamonds. The nature of the hand was confirmed by Neville's pass of 3DX, and we bid to 5C to which Magnus led the D2.

This was a lucky hand for us as I did not really expect the club finesse to work, and nearly made the teams-based play of Ace and another club, which would have enabled Neville to win and put Magnus in with the SA to get a ruff for 1 down.

However, since it was pairs, I took the club finesse after all, as if I was the only one not to take it and it worked, I was on a sure bottom.

Neville covered the CQ at trick 2 and when I won and saw the CT drop on my left, I led the S7 at trick 3. Magnus rose Ace and gave Neville a spade ruff, but that was with his natural trump trick, so I finished up with +600.

3NT by West was going to be an easy make at those table where South did not show his diamond suit, but not at our table.

**Q 1** AQT4  
**Bd 5** 82  
**Dlr N** KJ83  
**Vul NS** T83  
 6 KJ98  
 AT93 K54  
 QT652 A974  
 K65 AJ  
 7532  
 QJ76  
 -  
 Q9742

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2D	/	1C	/
3H	/	2NT	/
5D	X	4D	/
		//	

On board 5 in the first qualifying round we were booked for a poor score even when North gave the diamond position away with a double, but when North cashed the SA and generously led another spade, I was in with a chance.

Tony had his minimum 16HCPs for the 1C opening, and when I showed my second suit with 3H, would have been more advised to bid 3NT rather than 4D.

North should have been relieved that we were not in 3NT and taken whatever came his way in 5D, but could not resist the double. The lead of the SA was normal, but the second spade giving me a free finesse was ill-advised.

I won the spade cheaply in dummy, having played the S8 not thinking it likely that North had led away from the SQ, and led to my HA to advance the DQ, covered. The presence of the D9 in dummy was a real bonus and I made 11 tricks for +550.

**Q 1** QT  
**Bd 7** J95  
**Dlr S** A742  
**Vul All** K985  
 32 KJ98  
 K87432 AT  
 JT6 Q5  
 A2 QJT73  
 A7654  
 Q6  
 K983  
 64

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2H	/	/	2S
/	/	X	/
/	XX	3H	//

Sometimes you should leave well enough alone and board 7 in the first qualifying round was one such board.

My 2H opening was weak and Tony elected not to try for game and South balanced with 2S.

When 2S came back around to Tony he felt fairly confident of beating this, so doubled for penalty.

North's redouble was not clear opposite a passed partner, even with the sight of all 4 hands, but it achieved a good result when Tony had second thoughts upon being told it showed confidence that 2SX was going to make(??) and bid the obvious 3H.

North led the SQ and in the fullness of time I lost a spade, a trump and 2 diamonds for +140, but 2S was not even on the list of making contracts and appeared to had 7 top losers so we could have netted +200 even undoubled.

**Q 1** A876  
**Bd 11** -  
**Dlr S** K97653  
**Vul Nil** T72  
 K 5  
 A9642 JT8753  
 A J84  
 AQJ853 964  
 QJT9432  
 KQ  
 QT2  
 K  
**W N E S**  
 X 4S 5H 1S  
 6H // 5S

With my long suit poised over the opening bidder and good controls on board 11 in the first qualifying round, I had high expectations when I doubled on the first round. These expectations were raised considerably when Tony made a free bid of 5H over the raise to game by North.

Thus I bid 6H expecting it to be almost lay-down, and from Tony's reaction when I placed the dummy on the table my assessment was right.

However, when the hearts broke 2-0 we proved to have a loser in both majors and we were 1 off. Undoubled, this was only -50 against -450 if I had passed 5S since the 2-0 hearts break makes this contract cold.

An interesting hand in that both NS and EW have an 11-crad fit and both contracts are cold at the 5-level, but only because spades were 1-1 and hearts were not. If spades had also been 2-0, 6H may have been cold.

**Q 1** AJ952  
**Bd 14** AK8  
**Dlr E** KT92  
**Vul Nil** K  
 T74 863  
 J42 T9765  
 QJ87 6  
 T42 J753  
 KQ  
 Q3  
 A543  
 AQ986  
**W N E S**  
 / / / 1C  
 / 1S / 2D  
 / 4NT / 5H  
 / 6D //

We were lucky on board 14 in the first qualifying round when NS chose to play in 6D rather than 6S or 6NT or even the grand slam in these 2 denominations.

North's hand is more suited to notrump play rather than all of the chances on one suit coming in and after the reverse by South, North should have taken over and finished in 6NT. The key to making 13 tricks is the SQ and with good fitting cards in partner's first-bid suit, South may have been justified in pushing on to 7NT. For the same reason, South may have converted 6D to 6NT.

Our luck was further enhanced when South cashed the DA and did not take the safety play of the DT when I played low on the next round so she finished up 1 down for a likely top to us.

Interesting that in 7NT declarer only needs 2 tricks from diamonds, so the bad break is not a problem.

**Q 1** KQJ4  
**Bd 25** 52  
**Dlr N** T92  
**Vul EW** 7543  
 8763 AT  
 AJ7 KQ983  
 KQ4 AJ8  
 AQ8 KJT  
 952  
 T64  
 7653  
 962  
**W N E S**  
 / / 1C /  
 1NT / 2H /  
 4NT / 5C /  
 5D / 6C /  
 7NT //

Duplication is the cause of the failure of many contracts, and board 25 in the first qualifying round was no exception.

My 1NT response was really a waiting bid, showing 11+, and after Tony showed his suit, I took over. His 5C response showed 0 or 3 key cards, and it could hardly be 0, so my 5D firstly asked for the HQ, and holding that also give King responses.

Unfortunately I was expecting the number of Kings, (6C = 2), but Tony was responding with his lowest King. Sometimes a specific King is important in bidding a grand slam, but often it is the number of Kings.

Because of the duplication in the length of both minors, there was no way I could make 13 tricks no matter what the lead was. A great pity that AKQJ in diamonds was only worth 3 tricks, and AKQJT in clubs was also only worth 3 tricks.

**Q 1** A62  
**Bd 27** A9  
**Dlr S** QJ74  
**Vul Nil** KT63  
 987 KT  
 Q76 JT842  
 AKT92 85  
 95 J872  
 QJ543  
 K53  
 63  
 AQ4  
**W N E S**  
 2D 4S // 1S

On board 27 in the first qualifying round South had a certain trump loser in 4S and would have been better placed if she had drawn trumps at the first convenient opportunity.

I led the DA and followed up with the C9 which declarer won in hand to run the SQ. Tony won the SK and led another diamond, which I won with the DK to ponder my next move.

Not expecting anything good to happen, because I did not place declarer without the ST, I led another diamond so that Tony could ruff this and prevent 2 discards for declarer.

His unexpected ruff with the ST set up a 4<sup>th</sup> trick for my S9 and the contract went an unlikely 1 off.

As long as spades are reasonable, South has 10 tricks and should cash the SA at trick 3 (in case someone gets a ruff with a singleton trump) and then ruffs the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of hearts before leading a trump off the table.

**Q 2** 98  
**Bd 3** Q653  
**Dlr S** 43  
**Vul EW** K9764  
 KQ73 A5  
 T742 KJ  
 KT2 QJ765  
 J5 T832  
 JT642  
 A98  
 A98  
 AQ  
**W N E S**  
 // 1NT

Some people stick rigidly to the 5-card major theory and with them, an opening bid of 1NT denies any 5-card major. Tony and I are almost in that group, but he picked a good time on board 3 in the second qualifying round to discard the practice.

With no guidance from the bidding, West led the S3, 4<sup>th</sup> best from his strongest suit, and both East and myself mentally placed him with a 5-card suit when Tony followed with the S4 at trick 1. He followed up his earlier subterfuge with the S7 when East returned the suit at trick 2, and on winning this trick West knew there was no future in spades, and no hurry to cash his trick since East had 1 more, so switched to the H2.

Tony won the HA and led back a spade, and then the cat was out of the bag, but too late as he had 7 tricks and another appeared in the wash to give us +120 and a good start to the second round. It went down hill from there.

**Q 2** QJT987  
**Bd 5** AJ  
**Dlr N** 9  
**Vul NS** K643  
 542 K3  
 86 KT97532  
 AQJT75 K3  
 92 AQ  
 A6  
 Q4  
 8642  
 JT875  
**W N E S**  
 2D 2S 4H // /

A strong hand without many Aces is difficult to evaluate without a look at all of the side's assets. However, any reasonable 7-card suit offers some play for game if partner has a modest share of what is missing, so 4H would not be a bad opening bid with the East hand of board 5 in the second qualifying round.

This is not so clear cut when the bidding has already been opened on your right, but many would still overcall 4H and hope for the best.

When we played the board, East seemed to be in 2 minds, as she started with a double, but when her partner bid 2D, which could have been on nothing more than any 4-card holding, she bid 4H after all.

Unluckily for us Tony did not find the double-dummy defence of leading a diamond, and declarer made 10 tricks for -420 and a bad score for us.

On a diamond lead, I can rise with the HA and lead a spade, which Tony takes as necessary and gives me a diamond ruff, and a spade return allows him to get a ruff with his SQ for 2 off.

<b>Q 2</b>	97			
<b>Bd 9</b>	T542			
<b>Dlr N</b>	6543			
<b>Vul EW</b>	975			
KJT84			632	
-			763	
T72			AK98	
QJ432			AK6	
	AQ5			
	AKQJ98			
	QJ			
	T8			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1D	X	
1S	/	/	2H	
3D	3H	//		

Board 9 in the second qualifying round was very unusual in that EW are cold for slam in spades or clubs with only 21 HCPs between them. Even 5D can make.

Tony firstly doubled the 1D opening, and his 2H then showed his strong hand. Since we were playing intermediate jump overcalls, he was suggesting at least 16 HCPs.

West was not quite strong enough to show his second suit, but his belated diamond support did suggest a 5-card spade suit, so East was a little timid in not bidding 3S over my 3H. I was not tempted to raise the round before as although Tony had a strong hand, I was far too weak to raise immediately. Tony recognized this weakness which is why he did not go to game, although he may have been tempted if East had bid 3S.

West carefully avoided giving Tony his 9<sup>th</sup> trick with a spade lead, and Tony lost 5 tricks for -50, but a good score nonetheless.

<b>Q 2</b>	Q9542			
<b>Bd 13</b>	K			
<b>Dlr N</b>	QT52			
<b>Vul All</b>	742			
AK73			J	
T7543			QJ9862	
A			976	
K86			953	
	T86			
	A			
	KJ843			
	AQJT			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	/	1D	
/	1S	/	2C	
2H	2D	3H	3D	
4H	/	/	X	
//				

On board 13 in the second qualifying round West bided her time on the first round with her poor suit, and reaped the rewards when her balancing bid was raised to game by her partner and we were foolish enough to double.

Tony's 1D was artificial, which is what might have stopped West from doubling for takeout (as many would), but when he rebid 2C, he confirmed both clubs and diamonds, so West had nowhere else to go.

I led the D2 and it did not look good when dummy went down, although I was hopeful of making my HK when declarer took the finesse!

11 tricks meant -990, but it appears as if 4 other NS pairs succumbed to the same temptation, as we did not get a bottom.

<b>Q 2</b>	J2			
<b>Bd 15</b>	KQT742			
<b>Dlr S</b>	3			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AQJ6			
73			AK965	
AJ			93	
AK976			QJT84	
K975			T	
	QT84			
	865			
	52			
	8432			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			/	
1D	2H	2S	/	
3C	/	4D	/	
5D	//			

It appears that the 2S from East on board 15 in the second qualifying round was based on her good diamond fit. If so, her 4D rebid was a bit tentative, as it may have been passed if her partner was put off by her lack of spade support.

However, with a bit extra, a good suit and a heart control, West pushed on to 5D which was an easy make.

Surprisingly this was a poor score for us, since 3NT is also cold by way of 5 diamonds, 2 spades and 2 Aces, and 12 tricks can be made in diamonds by setting up the 5<sup>th</sup> spade for a heart discard.

<b>Q 2</b>	K85			
<b>Bd 25</b>	T43			
<b>Dir N</b>	6543			
<b>Vul EW</b>	J72			
QJ93			2	
KJ82			A96	
QJ			KT72	
KQ5			T9864	
	AT764			
	Q75			
	A98			
	A3			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	/	1S	
1NT	2S	3C	3S	
X	//			

Board 25 in the second qualifying round was our only absolute bottom, and it was brought about by our bad bidding, rather than bad luck as could be said of some of the other low scores.

Playing Precision, with Tony's hand limited to 15 HCPs, my 2S was ill-judged on a 4333 hand with only 1 King. This prompted Tony to put the bait in front of West with his 3S bid, again not likely to be safe after the 1NT overcall and East's subsequent show of strength.

Even though the defence slipped up and allowed Tony a trick with the CJ when West led the CK, he was still 3 off for -500.

This did not look to be a complete disaster at the time, but judging by the score of zero, no EW must have made the 9 tricks in 3NT that was available.

<b>F 1</b>	A874			
<b>Bd 2</b>	J2			
<b>Dir E</b>	K97			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AJ62			
J962			KQ53	
K54			Q973	
AQT85			J3	
9			Q85	
	T			
	AT86			
	642			
	KT743			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	/	/	
1D	/	1H	/	
1S	/	2S	//	

On board 2 in the first round of the Plate, I judged my good 5-card suit and major suit holding was good enough to open with a nebulous Precision 1D. While I was tempted to pass Tony's 1H (he had already passed as dealer), I was more inclined to show my shape if possible, so bid 1S, intending to support hearts on the next round if appropriate.

Of course Tony's raise to 2S silenced everyone, and we had stolen the contract.

North led the HJ and I thought that it was most likely from shortage rather than length through dummy's first-bid suit, so played the HQ to give me tempo.

South won the HA and led back the H6, suggesting a club entry, and I ran it around to dummy to lead a trump. North won the SA and led a club to South for his heart ruff, but I had 8 tricks for +110 and a top.

If I had passed 1H, as no doubt those Acol players who opened light in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat did, North could have doubled to show the black suits and NS would have found their club fit for at least -110.

<b>F 1</b>	KQT83			
<b>Bd 3</b>	K5			
<b>Dir S</b>	A4			
<b>Vul EW</b>	KQ43			
J654			9	
A842			JT963	
J62			KT85	
75			862	
	A72			
	Q7			
	Q973			
	AJT9			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1S	/	1D	
/	2H	/	2C	
/	4NT	/	2S	
/	6C	//	5H	

We were very lucky on board 3 in the first round of the Plate as NS got to 6C, which was the slam that at least offered a chance, but declarer did not find the right line and went 1 down after all for an equal top to us.

From the bidding it looked to me like South had a singleton heart, so rather than lead the HA, which gives 6C no chance, I led a trump! Now 6C was cold as long as the cards were played in correct sequence, and the DK was with East.

The play is fairly simple in that draw trumps, cash the SK and then the SA showing up the bad break, take the marked spade finesse, and discard both hearts on the spades before playing the DA and another. The DK is the only loser after the trump lead. If I cash the HA there is always still a diamond loser.

At our table, declarer played the SA after drawing trumps, and was not psychic enough to finesse the ST on the next round and could not thereafter recover.

**F 1** 876  
**Bd 8** J76  
**Dlr W** KQ532  
**Vul Nil** A7  
 AQ9 KT53  
 AQ2 854  
 AT6 97  
 5432 Q986  
  
 J42  
 KT93  
 J84  
 KJT  
  
**W N E S**  
 1C 1D 1S 2D  
 X / 2S /  
 3S //

On board 8 in the first round of the Plate West appeared to get caught up in 2 minds whether to bid 2NT to show the stopper and slightly overstate the values, or to double to show the 3-card support for spades.

She elected to do both by doubling and then inviting game with 3S, but East's minimum flat hand and West's 4333 minimum gave them no chance of 9 tricks against reasonable defense and the contract went 1 off for +50 to us and a top score.

West was in a bit of a dilemma with her moderate hand, but since she forced East to bid via the double, she should have accepted what was on offer in a part-score and passed.

The interesting rebid would have occurred if Tony had not raised my 1D overcall. Should she still double to show 3-card support, or bid 1NT to show 15-17 or thereabouts? I prefer 1NT as spade support may be able to be shown later, and it is important to limit your hand if possible.

**F 1** 9875  
**Bd 11** A  
**Dlr S** KJ65  
**Vul Nil** Q632  
 T62 AQ4  
 Q7 KJ864  
 QT9872 4  
 J9 A874  
  
 KJ3  
 T9532  
 A3  
 KT5  
  
**W N E S**  
 / / 1H /  
 2D 2S / /  
 3D 3S //

On board 11 in the first round of the Plate we had the most puzzling bidding of the weekend. I do not know whether South was distracted when she doubled Tony's 1H opening, or that was her style to show hearts as well as a passed hand, but North kept bidding on the assumption that South had 4 spades.

North's bid of 3S was a bid dubious anyway holding KJ65 in diamonds, but maybe he was trying to goad me to the 4-level.

Tony led the D4 and declarer appeared to have nowhere to go for 9 tricks and eventually finished with only 6 and 3 off for +150 to us.

Surprize! surprize! Deep Finesse suggests that 9 tricks can be made by NS in spades and clubs?

The line is not obvious and I have not tried to analyze such peculiar contracts.

**F 1** QT2  
**Bd 15** 96  
**Dlr S** K752  
**Vul NS** QJT2  
 AK964 -  
 KQ32 AJT7  
 T63 AJ984  
 6 AK83  
  
 J8753  
 854  
 Q  
 9754  
  
**W N E S**  
 1S / 1NT /  
 2H / 5H /  
 6H //

On board 15 in the first round of the Plate Tony's 1NT was forcing and my 2H natural and limited to 13 HCPs. I did not have a clear understanding as to the meaning of 5H other than it being a slam try.

However, I had good trumps and good controls, so gladly bid the slam, to which North led the CQ.

When dummy went down it was obvious that my spade holding was of not much use, and that the DK and CQ would have been more valuable.

Nonetheless the slam prospects looked good, and they soared to 100% when everyone followed to the first 2 trumps and the DQ dropped on the first round.

+980 was a second top, which was a mild surprize since every pair would be opening with my hand.

**F 1** 76  
**Bd 17** AK983  
**Dir N** A72  
**Vul Nil** J32  
 AQJ5 K432  
 J65 742  
 8 QT64  
 KT874 AQ  
  
 T98  
 QT  
 KJ953  
 965  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1H	/	1NT
2S	/	X	/
	//		

Board 17 in the first round of the Plate was a simple balancing auction that gained us a good score, but looked to be average at the time.

Both Tony and I had potential hands, but neither of us could act safely on the first round due to shape limitations.

In the pass-out seat, Tony had his last chance to get in the auction, and at least had 2 good honours if I happened to bid 2C. He was in luck when I bid 2S and that became the final contract.

North led the HA but there was nothing in the play and I finished up with 9 tricks for +140.

Interestingly, if Tony and I had the NS hands, and South decided to respond, it would be with a forcing 1NT. If North bid 2C (the most flexible), the 2H rebid by South may buy the contract, but if North 2D (the strongest minor) South would pass, and now West is able to balance.

**F 1** JT6  
**Bd 24** Q853  
**Dir W** Q9762  
**Vul Nil** 9  
 K932 875  
 T72 J4  
 43 KJ8  
 Q742 KJ863  
  
 AQ4  
 AK96  
 AT5  
 AT5  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	3C	/	2NT
/	3S	/	3D
//			4H

Board 24 in the first round of the Plate was decided in our favour when, with nothing to guide him, West led the D4, presumably looking for a ruff. This picked up the diamond suit for 1 loser and led to 11 easy tricks.

We were using the popular convention for strong 2NT openings where 3C firstly asks for a 5-card major. 3D denies a 5-car major, but shows at least 1 4-card major, and my 3S shows 4 hearts and denies 4 spades. (I would bid 4D with both majors) This makes the strong hand declarer and puts the weak hand on the table, which is often an advantage.

While 11 tricks are easy looking at all 4 hands, many declarers without a diamond lead would probably play the DA and a small one towards dummy, which would lead to 2 diamond losers. This is probably why +450 was worth above average.

**F 1** AJ8  
**Bd 26** J95  
**Dir E** K32  
**Vul All** QT82  
 T6 Q95432  
 AKQ7 86  
 Q86 AT5  
 KJ53 96  
  
 K7  
 T432  
 J974  
 A74  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1NT	/	2D	/
2H	/	2S	//

On board 26 in the first round of the Plate we did not get to game, but made 10 tricks in our 2S contract, thanks to a good guess in clubs and the opening lead of the D4. Yet another of the many examples I have seen over the years where the lead away from an unsupported Jack costs a trick.

Due to the scoring system in Pairs, we scored an equal top with 1 other pair, so it was not necessary to bid game. Mind you, 10 tricks were not easy as he had to have the trump finesse right, guess the clubs, and get a diamond lead.

Tony's 2D forced me to bid 2H and then his 2S was absolutely not encouraging. If he had wanted to invite game in spades he would have responded 2S immediately.

**F 2** KQT87  
**Bd 4** AQ972  
**Dlr W** Q  
**Vul All** Q7  
 J 94  
 543 JT86  
 K9632 T7  
 8432 KT965  
 A6532  
 K  
 AJ854  
 AJ

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1S	/	2C
/	2S	/	3D
/	3NT	/	4C
/	4H	/	4NT
/	5S	/	6S
//			

On board 4 in the second round of the Plate we had the gadgets to get to the grand slam but ran out of room.

Tony's 2C response was an asking bid in spades and I showed a 5-card suit to 2 top honours, making the suit solid. His next 2 bids were control asking bids, and I showed 2<sup>nd</sup> round control in diamonds (here a singleton) and 3<sup>rd</sup> round control on clubs (here both honour and shortage control).

If he had next bid 5H to ask in hearts, I could have bid 6H to show AK or AQ, and then he knows that his club loser will go away, but the grand may depend on the diamond finesse if I have Kxx.

His 4NT was RKCB, and my response showed 2 key cards with the SQ, so he knew that his club loser could be discarded, but still the grand slam was a stretch.

Oddly, we got a score slightly above average for +1460, so 1 pair must have stayed out of slam, since 13 tricks were easy.

**F 2** 8742  
**Bd 5** K3  
**Dlr N** AKJ6  
**Vul NS** AK8  
 63 AKJ5  
 Q642 AJ97  
 93 T542  
 T9643 5  
 QT9  
 T85  
 Q87  
 QJ72

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
3C	1C	X	/
	//		

On board 5 in the second round of the Plate we started off the board in good humour, and Tony was a little slow to alert 1C, by which time East had already doubled.

In the EW system, the double over the Precision 1C shows clubs, which explains West's jump to 3C. East felt that his side had been disadvantaged by the slow alert, as he had doubled a 'natural' 1C for takeout, but wisely said nothing before the hand was passed out.

I could not double as this would suggest takeout, and Tony's pass over the double had suggested less than 5 HCPS, and Tony had too many clubs to double, so 3C was the end of the auction.

This contract went 2 off for +100 to us and then the Director came to see if EW were damaged.

As it turned out, we were the ones that were damaged, as the system bid by East is 1H, showing both majors (or lie in wait), and Tony would be able to double to show 5-8. It was then certain that we would get to at least 2NT which has got 8 tricks on top, and another on a heart or spade lead, leading to +150. +100 was below average.

**F 2** AK95  
**Bd 14** -  
**Dlr E** T9542  
**Vul Nil** T987  
 QT32 J84  
 QT8 J732  
 J6 Q7  
 J542 AKQ6  
 76  
 AK9654  
 AK83  
 3

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	3C	/	2H
/	4D	/	3D
//			5D

On board 14 in the second round of the Plate we picked up a top by a combination of luck and aggressive bidding.

Tony's 2H showed hearts and a minor, so my 3C was asking for his other suit. I had an interest in game in clubs only if Tony showed some interest, since my void in his first suit was not as great an asset with only 4 trumps.

However, when his second suit turned out to be diamonds, my 5th trump heightened my game interest, so I invited and he accepted.

On the actual hand slam is cold, because of the 2-2 diamond break, but it is not a particularly good slam. When West led the S2, Tony was able to discard all of dummy's clubs on his hearts after ruffing them good, so he made 13 tricks for a top without bidding slam.

**F 2** KQ9  
**Bd 16** 54  
**Dlr W** T73  
**Vul Nil** Q9763  
 AT8762  
 A76  
 A6  
 K8

3  
 KQJ92  
 QJ982  
 JT

J54  
 T83  
 K54  
 A542

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1C	/	1H	/
2H	/	3C	/
3S	/	4D	/
5C	/	5H	/
5S	/	5NT	/
6H	//		

On board 16 in the second round of the Plate I judged that my hand was worth a 1C opening because of the 6-card major and 7 controls, and I was interested in slam when Tony made a positive response of 1H.

My asking bids showed that Tony had, in order, 5 hearts to 2 top honours, second-round control in spades, third-round control in clubs, and a singleton spade (5NT shows shortage control).

This last response was a disappointment as I was hoping for the SK to give me a chance of 6NT to protect my CK, but the slam had to be 6H. I knew that I was likely to be too high, and did not even know what Tony had in diamonds, but hoped his club holding included the Queen.

The opening lead was the CA (who would have been game to under lead the CA on that bidding?), and Tony did not look at dummy like a man about to claim. Nonetheless, with the spades 3-3, and the diamond finesse also working, as well as the backward diamond finesse for the Ten if the DJ had been covered, it was plain sailing for +1430 and an undeserved top.