

2005 Noosa Teams

The July teams event at Noosa this year attracted 38 teams, which is close to or at the capacity of the Noosa Bridge Club premises. The Perry team, (Richard Perry, Mavis Dakin, Camille Fludder and Jo Drake) hit the front early and were never headed. Their lead was so great going in to the last round that even a 21-9 loss to Halford (Ian Halford, Michell Radke, Verna Brookes and Steve Brooks) did not prevent them winning by a comfortable margin. Halford were 2nd and my team (Tony Jackman, Betty Lee and Mike Robson) were 3rd. Plate winners were E. Gilliam, P. Kline, M. Schmidt and P. Carpenter, with W. Coman, R. Somerville, J. Parker and B. Holehouse winning the Consolation.

Like the first 2 teams, we only had one loss on the day (to a team that finished out of a place), but our wins, while solid, were not big enough to get us to the lead at any time. Reg and Joan gave us trouble free bridge as usual, and it was a very enjoyable day none the less.

M 1	AK74		
Bd 1	AKT73		
Dlr N	Q		
Vul Nil	KJ3		
J		QT985	
QJ862		94	
J853		-	
Q87		AT9654	
	632		
	5		
	AKT97642		
	2		
W	N	E	S
/	1C	1S	X
/	2H	/	5D
/	6D	//	

On the first board in match 1 Tony could have bid 2D over 2S to show 5-8, but rightly thought that his hand was a little better than that so elected to double, which showed either 5-8 and no 5-card suit or a 8+.

When he bid 5D over my 2H I knew that he did not have a straight positive response, as he would have bid 3D. Whatever he had, I expected that my DQ and good controls must give him a play for 12 tricks, so I bid the slam, to which West led the SJ.

6D appears to be 100% until East shows out on the first round of diamonds, and Tony was resigned to 1 off, especially when the hearts also spilt badly and there was no chance of setting up the 12th trick.

However, when Tony threw West in with her trump, she made an error typical of relatively inexperienced players when she exited with the CQ! This did not even give Tony a guess (as the C7 would have) and he did make 12 tricks, having discarded his C2 earlier on the HK. Of course West should have led the HQ and then Tony was 1 off.

At the other table NS must have thought that they were playing pairs as they tried 3NT which finished 4 off and we gained 15 Imps.

M 1	AKJ4		
Bd 4	84		
Dlr W	KJ43		
Vul All	AQ7		
QT9852		76	
AQ9		J765	
Q52		T986	
T		J85	
	3		
	KT43		
	A7		
	K96432		
W	N	E	S
2D	/	2S	3C
/	3H	/	4H
/	5C	//	

On board 4 in match 4 West opened with a Multi-2D and Tony bided his time on the first round to find out the hand on his left, since he did not have both majors stopped.

The 2S by East showed a preference for hearts, but I would still have bid 2H as the way I play the Multi, a 2S bid invites game if partner has a good weak two in hearts.

When I bid 3C and West passed, Tony still did not know which major was on his left (neither did East), so he bid 3H asking for a stop but I took this as natural and raised to 4H which gave Tony no choice but to bid 5C.

West led the ST and I won the Ace on the table, cashed the CA and led to the HT, won by West with the HQ. West now led another spade and I had a free finesse of the SJ which won, so I now did not need to ruff a heart for my 11th trick so I drew trumps and on the last trump West was squeezed so I made 12 tricks for +620.

At the other table NS played in Notrumps and also made 12 tricks by way of the squeeze, but they were only in 2NT so we gained 9 Imps.

M 1 KT932
Bd 8 -
Dlr W AK92
Vul Nil Q742
 J64 87
 AJT762 K8543
 T4 J8
 85 AT96
 AQ5
 Q9
 Q7653
 KJ3

W **N** **E** **S**
 2D / 2H /
 / 2S 3H 3S
 //

On board 8 in match 1 West also opened with a multi-2D and when Tony passed, East curiously this time bid 2H. Earlier on board 4 with a weaker hand and heart preference, East had bid 2S.

Tony balanced with 2S when this was passed around to him, and East, no doubt surprized that West had hearts, made a well judged bid of only 3H.

If East had passed, I would have invited game with 3S and I am sure that Tony would have accepted, but with my soft Queens, I did not want to punish Tony for balancing by bidding 4S, so I still bid 3S which was passed out.

Tony had no trouble making 12 tricks, but that was 6 Imps out as NS got to 4S making 11 tricks at the other table.

M 2 K94
Bd 11 7
Dlr S KQ872
Vul Nil KQJ4
 763 AQT5
 AJT9863 K2
 - T4
 A75 T9862
 J82
 Q54
 AJ9653
 3

W **N** **E** **S**
 4H 4S X 3D
 / 5D X //

Board 11 in match 2 was a chance for a pick-up on paper, but very difficult to achieve in practice.

I opened 3D over which West bid 4H, and Tony tried to sew some confusion by bidding 4S, doubled by East. Unfortunately this just made what would have been relatively easy defence to 5DX a certainty when West switched to a spade after winning the CA and we went down 2 for -300.

This is a good save as 4H can make 11 tricks, but after a similar start at the other table (without the 4S bid), Betty preferred 5H instead of doubling 5D. Mike was not able to pick the pre-emptor for 3 hearts so he finished 1 down for 8 Imps away.

M 2 A9742
Bd 13 KJ9
Dlr N 972
Vul All K5
 QJ3 T65
 Q32 5
 T543 AKQ86
 T86 QJ73
 K8
 AT8764
 J
 A942

W **N** **E** **S**
 / 1S 2D 2H
 // 3H / 4H

Board 13 in match 2 was a lucky gain for us when Tony was forced to raise my forcing bid of 2H and we reached the excellent game. Playing Standard at the other table they probably did not open the North hand, and NS finished in only 3H, also making 11 tricks, but 10 Imps to us.

West led the DT to 4H and while 12 tricks can be made via a successful heart finesse and the 3-3 break in spades, I played safe for at least 10 tricks by ruffing 2 clubs in dummy.

M 2 A4
Bd 16 Q52
Dir W AQ2
Vul EW T8632
 KQ6532 JT97
 K874 T93
 T 9843
 54 K7

8
 AJ6
 KJ765
 AQJ9

W	N	E	S
/	1D	/	2D
2S	/	/	3C
/	/	3S	X
//			

Board 16 in match 2 was a good slam to NS, requiring either the club finesse, or Kx in hearts on side, but neither table got there.

At our table, Tony opened 1D, which could have been as few as a doubleton, and my 2D was forcing, and denied a major suit. When West came to life with 2S, Tony could have shown his stopper in both majors by bidding 2NT, but passed on his minimum hand and poor long suit.

I showed my second suit with 3C and I was very surprized to see Tony pass this, and wished that I had made a negative double over 2S. Luckily East decided to finally show his support, so I was able to double this time. Tony led a small club and we had no trouble taking our 6 tricks for +500.

At the other table NS bid to 5C making 12 tricks for -420 and 2 Imps to us.

M 3 AQ85
Bd 21 KT963
Dir N 32
Vul NS KT
 JT643 72
 Q7 J842
 AQ8 JT976
 AQ9 J6

K9
 A5
 K54
 875432

W	N	E	S
/	2D	/	2NT
//	3D	/	3NT

On board 21 of match 3 I was either the victim of excellent defence, or West did what many inexperienced players have been known to do, play a high honour to force out a higher honour.

Tony showed 11-15 and 4522 shape with his 3D rebid, so, assured of 2-card support for my 6-card suit, I chanced my arm in 3NT, to which West led the S4.

I won the S9 in hand and led a club to dummy, and that is when the brilliant defence came into being, as West inserted the CQ! I could no longer make the contract as when East won the CJ a diamond return skittled me. I ducked the first diamond and played my DK on the next, hoping for a 6-2 break, but alas 1 off was 6 Imps away when NS at the other table made 10 tricks in 3C.

If West plays low on the club lead, they win the next club and now I have 9 tricks as I can duck the DQ if it is offered.

M 3 A72
Bd 23 64
Dir S T972
Vul All 7632
 943 KQ8
 T98 K53
 J85 KQ43
 AJ98 QT4

JT85
 AQJ72
 A6
 K5

W	N	E	S
/	2S	//	2D

On board 23 in match 3 we trotted out our 2D bid again, but since this shows 4 spades and 4+ hearts, Tony opted for the known 4-3 fit and signed off in 2S, to which East led the DK.

This was not a good contract, with poor transportation, and though he struggled valiantly, he eventually finished 1 off for -100.

At the other table Betty and Mike played in 1NT and made it exactly for a flat board.

M 4 AT6
Bd 5 J872
Dlr N 4
Vul NS Q6532
 Q2 87
 K Q653
 AKJT5 Q9862
 KJT97 84
 KJ9543
 AT94
 73
 A
W N E S
 2D 2S 4D 1S
 5D // 4S

On board 5 in match 3 we had our biggest loss of the day. When Tony showed spade support on the first round, I tried for a vulnerable game when East bid 4D, but the vulnerability was with EW and West bid 5D.

Since my 4S bid was speculative, I did not know whose contract it was so 5S did not occur to me, and I was not sure enough about defeating 5D to double that, so it was passed out. Holding an Ace opposite a partner who had bid game Tony may have doubled, or bid 5S, but our chance was lost.

Tony made the normal lead of the SA and we took our 4 tricks for +100. On a club or heart lead, I can get a club ruff in addition, but that is of little importance in an undoubled contract.

At the other table NS did press on to 5S and a mix-up in defence allowed them to make 12 tricks.

M 4 AT8
Bd 6 J842
Dlr E AJ4
Vul EW T74
 K643 J5
 KQT53 7
 763 K85
 K J986532
 Q972
 A96
 QT92
 AQ
W N E S
 2H / 2S 1NT
 //

On board 6 in match 4 West picked a bad time to get into the action with 2H showing both majors. East had no good action, although he considered bidding his own 7-card suit, and 2S became the final contract.

I led the D2 and took the HA on the first round to cash another diamond before cashing the CA and leading a 4th diamond on which Tony threw the C7.

Declarer ruffed a club in dummy and then cashed the top hearts followed by a 4th heart which he ruffed with the SJ, over-ruffed by me to lead a spade. Unfortunately I forgot to count out the hand and led the D2, which Tony had to win and give dummy the last trick for 3 off and +300. If I had led the S9, it would have either held the trick or Tony would have been high for 4 off.

At the other table NS were left alone in 1NT making just 7 tricks and 5 Imps to us.

M 5 43
Bd 11 4
Dlr S AJ973
Vul Nil 98752
 J T75
 AQJT52 K8763
 Q8 T6
 KQJ4 AT6
 AKQ9862
 9
 K542
 3
W N E S
 5H // 4S

On board 11 in match 5 we let an opportunity slip when we allowed West to play in 5H, and then allowed it to make.

The bidding is fairly normal, Tony can hardly raise to 5S on such minimal values when my 4S could have been much worse, but the defense should have prevailed.

Tony led the S4 and I won the Ace and considered leading a diamond, but thought that it was more likely that Tony had led a singleton than that he had the DA so the chance was gone when I tried to cash another spade.

Opposite a partner who has pre-empted, it is unlikely that you are going to achieve a 3rd round ruff in defence, so holding length in partner's suit there is a strong case for cashing an Ace to look at dummy, and then 5H would have been defeated.

This was a flat board as the bidding and play was similar at the other table.

M 5 8
Bd 12 AKQJT
Dlr W 942
Vul NS Q875
AKT76 Q953
- 9742
AKQJ8765 T
- JT94

J42
8653
3
AK632

W	N	E	S
1D	1H	/	4D
6D	/	/	X

On board 12 in match 5 I knew that a heart lead was unlikely to trouble declarer in 6D, so I asked for another lead by doubling. Tony duly obliged, but with a spade lead and not a club, however both 7D and 7S are cold, so no lead does any good.

The loss was only 4 Imps as declarer must have lost the spade pips as he gave me a spade that he didn't have to and only made 12 tricks.

At the other table Betty and Mike also played in 6D, as the SQ proved impossible to find. The problem is that with an 8-card solid suit it does not look right to bid any other suit, but if spades were agreed, the SQ is easy to locate via RKCB.

The grand slam is cold unless NS get a ruff in the non-trump suit, and the spades can be played for no loser by cashing the SA first.

M 5 T7
Bd 15 73
Dlr S QJ765
Vul NS A654
AKJ543 62
T92 KJ4
A83 K92
3 KQT72

Q98
AQ865
T4
J98

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

On board 15 in match 5 a heart opening lead to 4S by West would lead to instant defeat, although at the other table this did not happen and Betty and Mike made 11 tricks for +450.

At our table, East bid to the cold 3NT, to which I led the H6, won on the table with the HT. To make 9 tricks, the spades have to yield most of the tricks, so declarer came to hand with the DK and finessed the SJ, which held.

When he next cashed the SA he had 9 tricks, but either he forgot it was teams or miscounted his total winners, because he next pulled the C3 from dummy and when Tony played low, he won with the CK and now had 10 tricks for -430.

However, if Tony had risen with the CA to lead a heart, he would have only had 8 tricks and 11 Imps to us instead of only 1.

M 6 42
Bd 19 QT532
Dlr S 73
Vul EW AJT2
KQ65 T873
AJ 7
K86 T954
K654 Q987

AJ9
K9864
AQJ2
3

W	N	E	S
X	1S!	/	1H
/	3H	/	2S
//			4H

On board 19 in match 6 Tony found the perfect opportunity to psyche a 1S response after the take-out double by West over my 1H opening, which denied 4 spades. I would open 2D if I had 4 spades and at least 4 hearts.

In our system 1S by Tony shows at least 5, so I have a raise, but the take-out double suggested that game was not likely unless Tony bid again. When he next bid hearts, I was happy to bid game in hearts and give him a choice of games, if he really had spades.

There was nothing to the play, when West led the HA and followed up with the HJ and I was bale to take the diamond finesse to set up a discard for dummy's losing spade.

When the opening lead exposed the psyche, West could have led the SK and held me to just 10 tricks. This turned out to be just another flat board.

M 6 K93
Bd 21 A974
Dir N 32
Vul NS AKJ2
 Q82 J7
 K6 QJ532
 KQT7 8
 9854 QT763
 AT654
 T8
 AJ9654
 -

W	N	E	S
/	1NT	2C	3D
X	3NT	/	4S
	//		

On board 21 in match 6 East got into the auction with a shapely hand of few points and this may have prompted West to double out final contract of 4S.

Unfortunately, expecting West to have 4 trumps, I mistimed the hand and finished 1 off for -200. At the other table EW were silent and NS went slamming, eventually stopping in 5S, which EW had no reason to double. This contract went 3 off for +300, so we actually gained 3 Imps on the board.

To have a chance to make 4S on the lead of the HK, I have to win in dummy, pitch my heart on a club, and duck a diamond.

If West leads another diamond and East ruffs, he is ruffing a loser and I can draw his last trump and ruff my diamond good, losing just 2 trumps and a diamond. If West leads a heart, I ruff, lead to dummy's SK and lead a diamond to give East another chance to ruff.

M 7 AKT843
Bd 25 K
Dir N AKT987
Vul EW -
 76 J
 QJ863 AT7
 5 Q432
 QJT64 A9732
 Q952
 9542
 J6
 K85

W	N	E	S
/	1C	/	1D
/	2S	/	4S
//	5S	/	6S

On board 25 in match 7 Tony had to start off with an artificial 1C, but his 2S rebid was natural and forcing. Unsure whether it was GF or a one-round force, I jumped to 4S on the next round and Tony's 5S was a slam invite that I was happy to accept. Now that we have clarified that the jump shift is GF, I could bid a forcing 3S and Tony could bid slam with some confidence.

12 tricks were not a problem although from my seat it was worrying when East led the HA and then the CA.

East did well on our bidding not to double, which would have given away 6 Imps, as the slam was also bid at the other table.

M 7 T
Bd 26 92
Dir E KQT97632
Vul All A5
 AKJ83 Q9764
 K8 753
 A4 8
 QJ83 KT96
 52
 AQJT64
 J5
 742

W	N	E	S
2S	5D	/	2H
X	//		/

On board 26 in match 7 I opened with a weak 2H, West bid a conservative 2S, and Tony bid an obvious 5D, which ended the auction when West doubled.

East led the S6 and West led a second spade which Tony ruffed and led a diamond to dummy. A club switch is now required, but West led another diamond, so Tony escaped for 1 off and -200.

At the other table, North also got to 5D, but now Betty and Mike had a better reading on their strengths and bid to 5S, which made for +650.

He net gain was 450 points for 10 Imps to us.

M 7
Bd 29
Dlr N
Vul All
 Q9873
 AK
 A2
 KJ62

AKT6
 Q972
 J965
 9

52
 T864
 K843
 T53

J4
 J53
 QT7
 AQ987

W	N	E	S
	/	/	/
1C	X	/	1H
//			

On board 29 in match 7 Tony's double over the Precision 1C showed both the majors, so I was forced to bid my best major when East passed.

West led the top trumps and then switched to a club, and I was in complete control, setting up the diamonds, taking the spade finesse, and drawing East's trumps for 9 tricks and +140

At the other table Mike played in 1S as West, and careful play allowed him to make 7 tricks for +80 and a total of 6 Imps to us.