

## Yeh Bros Cup at the Gold Coast by Richard Wallis

This year, thanks to the enterprise of David Stern and Therese Tully, the Yeh Bros Cup came to Jupiters Casino on the Gold Coast. 6 years after its inception, this is the first time out of Asia for this invitation-only event, and represents a major coup for Australian bridge in general, and Queensland bridge in particular.

The event is sponsored heavily by the Yeh Chen, and is normally held in China, and only 24 teams are invited to take part. Winners of major championships around the world receive invitations, as well as teams specially invited by Mr Yeh Chen, and very generous prize money is available. The winners took home a cheque for US\$70,000, while the runners-up took a mere US\$30,000.

As teams are knocked out of the main event they join a consolation Swiss Teams event, comprising 8 10-board matches, played over Saturday and Sunday before the Gold Coast Congress, and 4 additional teams were invited to play in this event, to make up 12 initial starters, building to 20 teams for the final 2 rounds. Magnus Moren/Neville Francis, Meta Goodman/Tony Jackman, and Richard Wallis/John Brockwell, were included as one of the 4 invited teams.

It was very exciting to play against present and past world champions, and in our last match we played against last year's Bermuda Bowl Champions, Norway, where, in spite of me going off in a makeable vulnerable slam at our table (not bid by Norway) and not cashing the first 2 tricks in a vulnerable slam that was bid by Norway at the other table, we ran out winners by 1 Imp! We won 6 matches, and lost 2 (Lithuania who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and China Taipai), and finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place, making us the highest placed Australian team, so a very satisfying weekend.

As a team of 6, John and I played in 5 of the 8 matches, so I will restrict my report to just the matches we played in.

<b>M 3</b>	32			Board 25 in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> match against China Taipai looked pretty routine at the time, and Deep Finesse confirms that 3NT is cold, but to our surprise we picked up a game swing when EW at the other table stopped short of game.
<b>Bd 25</b>	KJ95			
<b>Dlr N</b>	K9			
<b>Vul EW</b>	J7652			
Q8		KJ75		Playing ACOL, my 2C was forcing for one round, showing at least 8 HCPs, and John's 2NT rebid was not forcing in my view, although a 2NT rebid without opposition bidding shows 15-19. However, with my help in spades I pushed on to game.
A43		QT75		
J843		AQT75		
AT93		-		
	AT964			South led the S6, which was won cheaply on the table by John to take a successful diamond finesse, and then he set up his 9 <sup>th</sup> trick by leading towards the SQ in dummy. When South took the SQ at once, he had 10 tricks for +630 and a 10 IMP gain against -150 for a diamond part-score at the other table.
	87			
	62			
	KQ84			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	1D	1S	
2C	/	2NT	/	While we had minimal values, the intermediate cards are what made 3NT a good bet. Take away the C9 and things may not have looked so rosy on a club lead.
3NT	//			

<b>M 3</b>	762			
<b>Bd 27</b>	T7			
<b>Dlr S</b>	Q54			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	QJ853			
AKT853		J4		
AKQ3		J92		
32		AK97		
2		A974		
	Q9			
	8654			
	JT86			
	KT6			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	/	/	
1S	/	2C	/	
2H	/	3NT	//	

Board 27 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match against China Taipei was a slam swing against us when we stopped in game, but EW at the other table went to slam. On a bad day for EW the spades would be all with North, and we would have picked up a swing, but 13 tricks were made when the SQ was in the pocket.

When John responded 2C, I had 2 obvious choices, and I chose the one that maximized our chances of finding a fit by bidding my other suit. However, when John bid 3NT (2NT would not have been forcing), I had nowhere to go with any certainty, and with no fit for his suit (clubs), I did not want to blast 6NT on spec, so I meekly passed and the chance was gone.

John has perfect cards for my hand, but no way to gauge that I have such playing strength. After the match we decided that it was probably best if I showed my strength on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by bidding 3S, and forgot about the heart suit, but opposite 4, J972, AK97, A974 6H/7H could be cold, so I put it down to bad luck.

<b>M 3</b>	J74			
<b>Bd 29</b>	K42			
<b>Dlr N</b>	854			
<b>Vul All</b>	8543			
AQT95		862		
Q96		A53		
QJ2		9		
K7		QJT962		
	K3			
	JT87			
	AKT763			
	A			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	3C	3D	
3S	/	4S	//	

On board 29 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match against China Taipei we got a little carried away and reached game on a combined 21 HCPs.

At the other table EW stayed safely in a part-score in spades, and Magnus switched to the HJ after winning the opening lead with the DK, after which declarer had 4 losers and finished up with -140.

At our table, South could not resist the lure of stopping diamond ruffs on the table, so switched to a trump at trick 2, and even though I mis-guessed by ducking, North won the SJ and had no safe return, so led another trump.

I next led the CK and was pleasantly surprised when South did not routinely duck, although the hand-record showed why, and then South had no recourse, as when he led the HJ I could put up the HQ, win in dummy, draw trumps and enter dummy with the C7 to discard all of my losers for 10 tricks and +630.

With the favourable club position, even forcing the last trump with the DA is no good as I can still discard 2 hearts on clubs while North follows suit and return to hand with a heart ruff to draw the last trump.

<b>M 4</b>	A654			
<b>Bd 2</b>	A73			
<b>Dlr E</b>	QJ97			
<b>Vul NS</b>	J4			
T872		J3		
J52		KQT98		
K42		53		
952		AT63		
	KQ9			
	64			
	AT86			
	KQ87			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	/	1NT	
/	2C	/	2D	
/	3NT	//		

On board 2 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match against China Shanghai we were lucky when the defense lapsed in our 3NT contract after John missed the best line for 9 tricks.

After John denied a major suit, West led the S2, but when John rose with the SA at trick 1 and led the DQ it was obvious that he was not worried about the spade lead, so West won the DK and led the H2, ducked in dummy and won by East with the HQ.

East now returned the HK, and inexplicably, West failed to unblock, so 3NT was now cold. John could now have attacked clubs safely, but understandably ran his diamonds first, which gave West another chance to unblock, but East discarded the H8! – 9 tricks for +600.

On a non-heart lead, 3NT is cold, as at trick 2 John should have attacked clubs just in case the CA was with the long hearts, and then he could duck hearts twice and take the diamond finesse into the safe hand. At the other table NS played in 4S, 1 off and 12 lmps to us.

**M 4** AK4  
**Bd 7** AJ3  
**Dir S** AT943  
**Vul ALL** A2  
 92 J75  
 K2 QT8765  
 J2 K75  
 QJT9654 7  
  
 QT863  
 94  
 Q86  
 K83  
  
**W N E S**  
 / / / /  
 / 1D / 1S  
 / 2H / 3D  
 / 3S / 4S  
 / 6S //

We were lucky on board 7 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match against China Shanghai, when I drove all the way to slam, and the killing heart lead was impossible for West to find, holding a perfectly respectable honour sequence in an unbid suit.

I manufactured a forcing 2H bid on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, as if John had a 4-card heart suit, he will have 5 or more spades, and his 3D rebid was very encouraging. Now 3S was forcing, and 4S confirmed a 5-card suit.

I could have bid 4NT and then 5D over the 5C response to check up on the SQ, but in many partnerships, that is forcing to slam, so I took a chance that he would have some play and just bid 6S directly.

John won the club lead in dummy, drew 2 rounds of trumps confirming the break, and then stopped to consider the many lines available.

Since he had the D8 as well, he eventually chose the double-finesse in diamonds, and quickly scored up +1430 for 13 Imps. The other line for 12 tricks of a small diamond away from the table would also have worked.

**M 4** QT953  
**Bd 9** KT83  
**Dir N** 8  
**Vul EW** 865  
 6 KJ  
 J742 AQ5  
 KT5 AQ7632  
 KQJ94 32  
  
 A8742  
 96  
 J94  
 AT7  
  
**W N E S**  
 / / 1NT /  
 2C / 2D /  
 3C / 3D /  
 3H / 4H //

On board 9 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match against China Shanghai, we wisely stayed out of the auction as NS, and EW had a free go and wound up in the precarious contract of 4H.

Holding 4 trumps I did not go looking for diamond ruffs, and instead led the ST, hoping to force declarer with my long suit. However, because of our inaction in the auction John was not aware of our fit, and won the SA and exited with the C7.

However, in the fullness of time the 4-2 trump break proved too much for declarer in spite of the finesse working, and my pips in trumps guaranteed 2 tricks for 1 off and +100.

John could have made a speculative overcall of 2D at our table, to show a single-suiter, but this should be a better suit or a 6-carder, so he kept out of the auction. At the other table NS did get involved, and found their way to 4SX, which went 3 off for +500 and 12 Imps.

I am not in favour of suppressing a good 6-card suit by opening 1NT, but East did get a chance to show his diamonds, and West did not support them, instead bidding a poor second suit of his own. Both 5D and 3NT are cold.

**M 5** AQT96  
**Bd 12** AJ6  
**Dir W** AJ932  
**Vul NS** -  
 8732 J  
 T2 KQ9854  
 K76 T8  
 T987 A532  
  
 K54  
 73  
 Q54  
 KQJ64  
  
**W N E S**  
 / 1S 2H 3H  
 / 4C / 4S  
 / 6S //

On board 12 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match against Bruce Neill's team, we were booked for a 13 IMP loss when NS reached a makeable slam, but actually gained 13 Imps when North had a blind spot and went 1 off.

John led the HK and North won this just in case I had a singleton, cashed the SA, and even though John's SJ made his trumps all better than mine, then led a spade to dummy to lead the DQ, which I covered.

He next ducked a heart, but I was able to over-ruff dummy on the next heart lead for 1 off. It may have been 2 off if I had existed with a diamond, but I was sure that declarer did not have a club, and wanted to let John in on it as well, so I exited with a club, ruffed by declarer.

Thus when declarer drew my trumps, he could do nothing except cash the DJ and was pleasantly surprised to see the DT drop.

At the other table the poor slam was not reached, so we gained 13 Imps.

**M 5** 3  
**Bd 13** AT97532  
**Dir N** JT75  
**Vul All** 5  
 J6542 KQT8  
 KJ84 Q  
 AKQ9 84  
 - QJ6432  
 A97  
 6  
 632  
 AKT987  
**W N E S**  
 3H / /  
 3S / 4S X  
 //

On the first board of the 5<sup>th</sup> match against Bruce Neill's team I had made a weak-weak jump overcall and got hammered for 1100 in 4SX. This had the potential to be only a 3 Imps loss, as 6H was cold, but it was too hard to bid, However, we squared up the ledger on board 13.

When 3H came around to me I could not bring myself to pass, although that is what happened at the other table, nor could I double for takeout, so I bid a very unpalatable 3S.

When John raised me to game and South doubled, I had a sense of doom, and 'I told you so', but North led the HA and the sight of dummy was much more pleasant.

I ruffed the club switch and led a trump, expecting to have to plot 10 tricks on a 4-0 break, but when North followed I was cold for 10 tricks so I could draw trumps.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> trump, North had seen me ruff a club, and South follow to hearts once, so I was marked with at least 4 diamonds, but he discarded a diamond, so 11 tricks for +990 and 13 Imps against -200 at the other table.

**M 7** 98753  
**Bd 2** 732  
**Dir E** J985  
**Vul NS** 8  
 A42 6  
 T65 AKQ4  
 Q7 A632  
 AQT75 K965  
 KQJT  
 J98  
 KT4  
 J42  
**W N E S**  
 2C 3S 1D 1S  
 4NT / 4S /  
 7C // 5D /

On board 7 in the 7<sup>th</sup> match against the Women's team, the vulnerability was too daunting for me to jump to 4S after John overcalled with 1S, so I compromised with just 3S. I immediately regretted this decision when East's cuebid prompted West to Blackwood and then bid the grand slam.

7C is cold on a 2-2 club break, but not so easy on the actual 3-1 break, and is always off on a trump lead, but I led the S9, which gave West a chance. West cashed 2 trumps, and when the trumps failed to break, could no longer make the hand.

The winning double-dummy play is to win the SA and ruff a club, then enter hand with a trump and ruff the last spade with the CK, and then return to hand by finessing the CT to draw trumps and discard the losing diamond on the 4<sup>th</sup> heart.

At the other table a misunderstanding led to the final contract being only 5C making 13 tricks for +440, so 6C was going to gain 10 or 11 Imps, and once again there was little to gain and everything to lose by bidding an iffy grand slam.

**M 7** 6  
**Bd 3** Q6  
**Dir S** A965  
**Vul EW** AKT953  
 A94 QJ5  
 KT9732 4  
 87 KQJT432  
 J8 42  
 KT8732  
 AJ85  
 -  
 Q76  
**W N E S**  
 / 2C 3D 1S  
 / 3NT 3H  
 // 4S

On board 3 in the 7<sup>th</sup> match against the Women's team I was not confident about my 3NT bid, but hoped that the D9 would provide a second stopper. It didn't, but 9 tricks would not have been a problem.

John's hand, with a broken spade suit, was not attractive in 3NT, so he removed to 4S, as the least number of spades I was likely to have was 1!

4S was not going to be an easy contract, and is off on a heart lead if played by North. The only line I can think of is to win the DA and ruff a diamond, lead the CQ and a club to dummy, and then, having stripped West of exit cards, lead a spade, covering and honour from East or inserting the ST. West is then endplayed.

West neatly avoided the endplay by leading the SA at trick 1, but now John was able to ruff a diamond to hand and play SK and another, making 11 tricks when the clubs behaved for +450.

At the other table NS found their 9-card fit and played in 5C, which appears to be makeable, but went 1 down after the lead of the H4, so we gained 11 Imps.

**M 8** QT92  
**Bd 11** J84  
**Dir S** A65  
**Vul Nil** 864  
 75 86  
 AKQT53 62  
 K4 QJT9873  
 K32 T9  
  
 AKJ43  
 97  
 2  
 AQJ75  
  
**W N E S**

On board 11 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match against Norway I was in a better position than normal after West overcalled 1NT in that I knew that John had at least 4 clubs, so I gave him a courtesy raise.

When John next bid 2S, I had a full-blooded raise to 3S over 3H, with some thought about 4S, but John wasted no time in bidding game.

West cashed the first 2 hearts and led the DK, but John was able to draw trumps and give up a club for +420.

The action was really at the other table where South opened 1S, and Magnus doubled to show a good hand while North jumped to 3S.

Neville bid the obvious 4D, and when South went on the 4S, Magnus was looking at a fitting diamond card as well as a 6-card solid suit, so took the push to 5H!

Neither North or South felt they had enough to double, but Magnus only got the 6 trump tricks he started with as NS engineered 1 diamond ruff for 5 off but 5 Imps to us.

**M 8** AK  
**Bd 13** AKQJ87  
**Dir N** Q3  
**Vul All** AJ9  
 QJT3 87542  
 - T95  
 KJ96 AT54  
 T7654 2  
  
 96  
 6432  
 872  
 KQ83  
  
**W N E S**  
 / 2C / 2NT  
 // 3H / 4H

Having 2 top cashable losers in a contract does not mean that you cannot make a slam, as board 13 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match against Norway illustrated.

John's response showed 4-7 and balanced, and I gave slam a lot of thought before passing 4H. I finally concluded that slam seemed risky as it was not likely we could have all bases covered, especially if John only had 4 points.

West led the C2, and when dummy went down I could see 12 top tricks, but 2 diamond losers if that suit was led, so was contented that I had made the right decision, even though if the DK had been on lead it may have been difficult to lead from.

However, having 2 losers on this hand only applied if they were cashed at tricks 1 and 2, and Neville had no reason to lead the DA (Harold Hiley, where are you) against 6H, so the contract made for 13 Imps out instead on 13 Imps in.

**M 8** KT98  
**Bd 15** K62  
**Dir S** 84  
**Vul NS** T943  
 J753 64  
 Q7 AJ3  
 KJT65 AQ972  
 82 AQJ  
  
 AQ2  
 T9854  
 3  
 K765  
  
**W N E S**  
 1S / / 1D  
 3NT // 2NT

Both defenses had a chance on board 15 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match against Norway, but neither South rose to the occasion.

John led the HT to 3NT after a revealing auction, covered all around, and then declarer led to the DJ in dummy, seemingly marking him with the AQ in that suit also.

The diamond entry was used to take the club finesse, and that is when a little counting was in order. Declarer's 2NT rebid had shown 17-19, and thus far he had shown up with A, AQ, and Q, for a total of 12, so he had only 5-7 left, and that must include either the CA or CT. If the CA, which seems likely since West did not run his diamonds before attacking clubs, I must have the SK.

The card of interest to John was the HJ, as he has the tricks to beat 3NT if I have the HJ. However, in retrospect (my best method of playing), if I have the SK we may be able to take 4 spades tricks immediately, so it seemed cost-free to cash the SA and check my response. Declarer claimed after another heart lead for -400, with identical defense at the other table for a flat board.

**M 8** 7  
**Bd 18** AJT9  
**Dir E** AQT632  
**Vul NS** K4  
 3 A96542  
 KQ875 3  
 KJ987 -  
 J6 AT9872  
 KQJT8  
 642  
 54  
 Q53  
**W N E S**  
 4S //

On board 18 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match against Norway, Norway had the rare distinction of playing in 4S in both rooms!

John could have doubled 4S for penalties, but knew it was going off and was not sure about alternative contracts, so accepted the 50s.

The opening lead was the C3 and declarer won and led a heart to dummy and my Ace. Anxious to protect John's club tricks(!), I led a trump back, and declarer played 2 rounds of trumps and got the bad news. Declarer was probably happy to get out for only 4 off in the end, lucky that we had unknowingly led his other 6-card suit.

At the other table holding 2 long suits and 2 Aces, Neville did not put all of his eggs in one basket and opened 1H, which showed a limited hand and 4+ spades. Since he has a reasonably robust suit, this did not deter South and after a bit more bidding he arrived in 4S.

This was 3 off for another +300 and 12 Imps.

**M 8** AKT6  
**Bd 20** A  
**Dir W** JT854  
**Vul All** T94  
 Q43 J872  
 54 JT72  
 Q73 96  
 96 KJ6  
 95  
 KQ9863  
 AK2  
 A3  
**W N E S**  
 / 1D / 1H  
 / 1S / 2C!  
 / 2D / 6D  
 //

The competition finished on a sour note for me when I went off in a makeable slam on board 20 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match against Norway, to lose 13 Imps instead on picking up 12!

All I could do over the 4<sup>th</sup> suit was to rebid my motley diamond suit, but that was all John needed to bid the very good slam.

The club lead was marked by the bidding, and very quickly the C6 was placed on the table, exposing a loser unless they could be disposed on the hearts.

The slam looked hopeless unless trumps behaved, so I unblocked the HA and cashed the top trumps, but while I could throw both of my club losers while West ruffed the HQ with his winning trump, I still had a spade to lose so went 1 off.

Once the trumps break my line works on 3-3 hearts, or if the spade or heart honours are short, but not on the actual layout.

The winning play is to win the CA, unblock the HA and lead to the DA to run the hearts. When West ruffs, I can ruff the next club and lead to the DK drawing trumps and enabling the hearts to be set up with a ruff. The spade ruff allows entry to the established heart to pitch my last spade.