

2014 Australian Seniors Teams by Richard Wallis

This year in Canberra I had the pleasure of playing in the Seniors Teams with David McLeish, and our team-mates were Tony Hutton and Malcolm Carter. David generously agreed to play the same system I play with Therese, which was easy for me but harder for him. We started off with a big win, and after 5 wins from 6 matches we were well placed to make the final 4 with just 3 matches to go. Alas, those last 3 matches were all losses, and we finished in a disappointing 18th place. Maybe next year!

It was a very enjoyable event, although somewhat tiring, made more so because of the amount of time sitting around waiting. 150 minutes were allowed to play 20 boards, which is more than generous even for the painfully slow players, but there was also an hour allowed after this time before the next match started, and of course a longer lunch break. With computer scoring, why is there so much waiting??

After 6 rounds the top seeds (Neill, Morrison, Hinge, Lilley, Nagy and De Livera) were well off the pace, but they came storming home, including a big win against us in match 8, to grab 4th spot and a place in the semis by a small margin. Another comfortable win in the semis moved them into the final where they built up a big lead with just 16 boards to play, but the fairy tale ended there when team 3 (Robinson, Ewart, Brightling, Quail, Hoffman and Braithwaite) over-ran them by 81-14 in the final set to win by 29 Imps. Congratulations to Andy Braithwaite.

Congratulations are also due to Therese Tully and Pele Rankin, who combined with 4 ACT players and they made the final of the Australian Womens Teams but lost by 35 Imps.

M 1	K762			The power of the trump Ace was demonstrated on board 3 of the first match, which was actually the first board that we played in the event. We were playing 2/1, and after opening my 5-card heart suit, my double of 2C showed 3-card spade support, David's 2D rebid confirming he only had a 4-card spade suit. I had an easy pass when East repeated his clubs, and now David made one more try with 3H, suggesting short clubs, so I had no hesitation in going to game. West dutifully led his C6, and East no doubt thought that he could promote a trump trick for West to go with his 3 top tricks by leading a third club and force dummy to ruff in with the trump Ace, but this caused me no pain at all, because West has to ruff to prevent the H3 from winning, and then I had no trouble drawing all of the trumps. On the run of the trumps West had no reason to keep his spades (?) and discarded 2 of them which allowed me to overtake with the SK and discard on the 4 th spade for +450. 3CEX only went for -200 at the other table, so we gained 6 Imps.
Bd 3	A3			
Dir S	Q8542			
Vul EW	Q7			
98543			Q	
842			T95	
T976			AKJ	
6			AKT952	
	AJT			
	KQJ76			
	3			
	J843			
W	N	E	S	
/	1S	2C	1H	
/	2D	3C	X	
/	3H	/	/	
//			4H	

M1	AQJ			On board 7 in the first match David and I had no trouble getting to a sound 3NT, investigating a major suit fit along the way. My 3S showed exactly 4 spades and 5 hearts, so David could have tried the 4-3 fit, but had no reason not to choose 3NT with his good Diamond suit. The diamond suit looked better when East led the DT, and West incorrectly (as it happens) rose with the DA. Now David had 9 top tricks and could look to the heart suit for extra tricks. There were no extras, and we duly recorded 9 tricks and wrote down +600. At least East avoided the lead of the CQ, which would have given David his 9 th trick by way of the marked club finesse, but the error, if any, by the defence came at trick 1 where West rose with the DA! To make 9 tricks now, David would have to play a small diamond, playing West initially for A3 precisely in diamonds, and that is unlikely. At the other table the defence was more accurate, resulting in a 1 trick defeat, and 12 Imps to us.
Bd 7	92			
Dir S	KQJ65			
Vul All	A96			
864			532	
AQT63			5	
A3			T9874	
753			QJ84	
	KT97			
	KJ874			
	2			
	KT2			
W	N	E	S	
/	1NT	/	/	
/	2D	/	2C	
/	3NT	//	3S!	

M 1	Q964			On board 9 in the first match I went completely to sleep when I failed to bid 2S (even 3S is reasonable) over the X by East. I was caught up with my void in hearts, and East's take-out double (?), more so when David rebid his hearts, and I failed to mention a reasonable 7-card spade suit!
Bd 9	AQJ982			
Dlr N	2			
Vul EW	A2			
-		A5		David led the HA, so I was able to get a heart ruff and take 3D off 2 for +100, but that was small consolation for the missed game in spades.
7653		KT4		East has a fairly normal 1NT overcall, and over 1NT I would have bid a non-forcing 2S, almost certainly raised to 3S by David and we would have reached game, but after the take-out double by East, I foolishly expected 4 spades in the East hand, not the North hand.
AJT984		KQ53		
T75	KJT8732			
	-			
	76			
	K643			
W	N	E	S	At the other table East did overcall 1NT, and after a spirited auction, in diamonds by EW and spades by NS, the final contract was 5SSX, and this was cold, so we lost 11 Imps.
2D	1H 2H	X 3D	/(!) //	

M 2	AQ6			Momentarily, confusion reigned supreme during the bidding on board 2 in the second match, as East doubled David's cue-bid to confirm a diamond suit, but West thought it was for take-out and bid 3H.
Bd 2	AT			
Dlr E	Q965			
Vul NS	A986			
983		4		A double of this contract may have forced East to show his other suit, but if the double was left in it would have been carnage. EW can escape to clubs, if East is not convinced (as we were) that West had a long heart suit, and then we are better off in 4S.
K532		764		
J4		AKT32		Against 4S West led the DJ, covered in dummy, and East led the top diamonds followed by a third diamond, but my spades were good enough to ruff high and draw trumps.
QT73	KJT752			
	QJ98			Since the AT was exposed in dummy, I did not put West to a test by leading the HQ, preferring to give up a heart and claim a fast 10 tricks for +620.
	87			At the other table Tony showed both of his suits, and the final contract was 5CEX, for 3 off, -500, and 3 Imps.
	4			
W	N	E	S	
/	2D	1D	1S	
3H!	4S	X	2S	
		//		

M 2	AK9			Board 8 in the second match was a simple end-play, but in the end-game East gave the layout a lot of thought and saved the over-trick, and an Imp. Using the current scoring method, every Imp counts, so this technique is now more important,
Bd 8	QT65			
Dlr W	J97			
Vul Nil	A94			
8732		QJT5		West led the S8, which I won on the table to take the heart finesse, and after drawing trumps, I ruffed the 3 rd spade to set up the endplay.
73		K8		
AT52		Q84		After ruffing the 3 rd spade I played 3 rounds of clubs and whoever won this had to give me a ruff and discard, or lead a diamond, ensuring my 10 th trick in that suit by running it around to my hand or the dummy.
JT8	64	Q732		
	AJ942			Terry Brown won the 3 rd club in the East seat, and realized that if he led a diamond, I would play low to guarantee a trick, and on the forced diamond return, I would then insert the D9, forcing his DQ and giving me 11 tricks.
	K63			Having thought this out, he gave me a ruff and discard, and I could not come to more than 10 tricks, for a 1 Imp loss on the board.
	K65			
W	N	E	S	
/	1C	/	1H	
/	2H	/	4H	
//				

M 2 Bd 11 Dir S Vul Nil	AJ96 6 98542 AT2		On board 11 in the second match, West was not to be denied with her 8-card suit, but she bid it slowly and reaped a reward. Since I had a good 7-card suit of my own, and Kings of the 2 suits David had shown by his negative double, I made a game try of 3H, but West went again, and obviously David had no recourse except to double with the miss-fitting hands. David led the H6 and I knew I could give him a ruff, but was hopeful of getting in again to give him another ruff, but which Ace will he have? Looking at the length in dummy I thought it was risky to ask for a spade back as this may set the suit up for declarer, so led back a low heart asking for a diamond return instead. Looking at the CA and SA, my suggestion is irrelevant, as David knows there are only 2 spades out, so he could cash the SA if possible first, and then lead a diamond after winning the CA. The actual diamond return set the suit up for no losers and we scored up -510, against -300 at the other table in 5CX, for 15 Imps out.	
- K4 AT6 KQ986543		QT87543 J87 QJ7 -		
	K2 AQT9532 K3 J7			
W 2C 4C	N X X	E / //	S 1H 3H	

M 3 Bd 2 Dir E Vul NS	AJ54 Q43 KJ63 A8		On board 2 in the third match, when it was David's turn to bid and both opponents were in the auction, it was obvious that I did not have a great deal, so with his good spade holding, he passed, instead of risking a 1NT overcall. At the vulnerability, I was not inclined to overcall 1H on the first round with poor points and a bad suit, and a 2H bid would show 10-12, so in the absence of some action from David, I did not even think about bidding 3H over 2S. David led the CA to 2S, and switched to a diamond at trick 2, giving us a total of 3 diamonds, 2 clubs and 2 spades for 2 off, but only a paltry +100. At the other table NS were not so mindfull of the merits of lead-directional overcalls, and finished in 4HS. Since every card was well placed for declarer, South emerged with 10 tricks for -620, and 11 Imps away.	
QT86 J8 QT2 J432		K732 AK 9875 KT9		
	9 T97652 A4 Q765			
W 1S	N /!	E 1D 2S	S / //	

M 3 Bd 4 Dir W Vul All	Q742 AJT852 Q5 T		On board 4 in the third match I did not have a safe course of action when David opened with a weak 2H, so firstly I asked about the strength and suit quality with 2NT. The 3C rebid showed a poor suit and minimum points, but undeterred, I soldiered on to 3NT, hoping that my diamonds could be brought in for the 9 tricks. West led the CQ, and the DQ on the table was a welcome sight, ensuring 9 tricks in my hand, and the HA made it up to 10 tricks for a score of +630. Since all of the key honours are well placed, 5D is also cold, but as is often the case, 3NT is the safest contract. At the other table South conservatively stopped in just 3D, making 11 tricks for -150 and 10 Imps to us. This would have been a harder problem if West had opened 3C, but the vulnerability probably put them off.	
KT6 94 3 QJ97432		J85 KQ73 972 A65		
	A93 6 AKJT864 K8			
W / / //	N 2H 3C	E / /	S 2NT! 3NT	

M 3 Bd 8 Dlr W Vul Nil	76 JT4 2 AKQ9874		Board 8 in the third match gave me a problem when David opened with a gambling 3NT, showing a solid minor (obviously clubs) and no outside tricks. However, hoping David had the SQ, or spades were not led, I passed.
AT8 Q965 K987 32		Q95432 K J543 J5	My other option was to bid 5C, which is likely make most of the time, especially if my hand is declarer.
	KJ A8732 AQT6 T6		The S4 was led, so David had a crucial guess at trick 1, and fortunately for us he guessed correctly.
W /	N 3NT	E /	S //
David won the second spade on the table, and as a matter of technique, played the CT next from the table. This was in case East shows out on the first round of clubs, as he could then finesse the C9 on the next round.			
There were no other problems and we scored up +430. At the other table North was in just 4C, and found a way to go down, so we gained another +50 and 10 Imps.			

M 3 Bd 17 Dlr N Vul Nil	AKJ3 86 K6 T8764		On board 17 in the third match I was a little surprized when David initially only wanted to be at the 2-level, but when EW got to game in hearts, he now wanted to be in 4S. This looked like a sacrifice to me, but neither East nor West doubled, so they were not sure.
Q AK532 AJ743 Q2		9642 T974 T82 AJ	Game in hearts is not a certainty, but has good chances, such as playing North, the opening bidder, for Kx or Qx in diamonds and leading towards the T82 in dummy. If North rises, a finesse can be taken against South and the diamond suit brought in, otherwise, playing the DA next will drop the honour in North's hand, again giving up the rest of the suit.
	T875 QJ Q95 K953		In 4S, West cashed 2 hearts and led a diamond, which I won on the table and cashed the SA. When the SQ appeared, I needed the club suit to behave, so I led a club up and duly notched up 9 tricks for -50.
W 2H 4H	N 1C 2S 4S	E / 3H //	S 1S
At the other table Malcolm made 10 tricks in 4H for +420 and 10 Imps to us.			

M 4 Bd 2 Dlr E Vul NS	8 AKJT94 AJ6 J62		Board 2 in the fourth match was difficult to judge for David when I opened with a weak 2S. He could have enquired as to my strength and suit quality, but then his heart suit may be lost, so he took the direct approach and bid a forcing 3H.
A64 Q52 KT95 875		J53 8 Q8743 AQ43	If I did not have support, I would revert to spades, but I had an easy raise to game, and East led the D3.
	KQT972 763 2 KT9		Looking at all of the hands, it would be easy to finesse the ST at trick 2, and the HJ at trick 3 and make an easy 11 tricks, but if the hearts behave, 10 tricks are there by ruffing 2 diamonds, so he ruffed a diamond at trick 2, returned to hand with a trump and ruffed his last diamond and exited with the SK.
W / //	N 3H	E /	S 2S 4H
West led another diamond and David ruffed, led another top trump and end-played West with the HQ for an easy 10 tricks and +620.			
At the other table North languished in 2S, making just 9 tricks for -140 and 10 Imps.			

M 4	KJ9		Board 12 in the fourth match was a little unusual in that West opened with a 15-17 1NT, and yet we got to a making 3NT as NS.	
Bd 12	A4		My double of the transfer bid of 2H showed the suit, and I showed my other suit over David's natural 2NT, which prompted him to go on to 3NT, to which East lead the C8. This seemed odd to me since his partner's freely bid 2S likely showed at least 3-card support.	
Dlr W	954		After the 1NT opening bid, David knew where every picture card was located, and his good club suit, and the helpful lead, enabled him to wrap up 9 tricks very easily.	
Vul NS	AQT94		During the course of the play West seemed confused and discarded a club on the run of the diamonds, giving David 10 tricks for +630.	
A52		T8743	Since everything is friendly, 10 tricks are always possible for South, but it is likely that an initial heart lead by East will hold North to just 9 tricks.	
QT86		32		
AJ7		63		
KJ6		8752	At the other table Malcolm went 2 off in 2S for -100, but 11 Imps to us.	
	Q6			
	KJ975			
	KQT82			
	3			
W	N	E	S	
1NT	/	2H!	X	
2S	2NT	/	3D	
/	3NT	//		

M 5	-		On board 2 in the fifth match I had one of those all too frequent 'seniors moments' and let 2SX slip through our fingers.	
Bd 2	J765		My double of the weak 1NT was for penalties, and David's double of 2S was for take-out, but also showed some values, so I was happy to pass. In light of what happened, 2NT or 3C by me would have been a better option.	
Dlr E	KJT93		David led the CJ, covered in dummy and I won the CA and led a diamond, declarer winning on the table with the DA to cash a club ditching his diamond loser, before exiting with a heart and ducking my HK.	
Vul NS	JT87		Declarer ruffed the next club cashed the HA and ruffed a heart on the table and another club in hand to lead his 4 th heart, but he mistakenly ruffed low in dummy and I was able to also ruff low and cash the SA, but I did not notice that David discarded, and next cashed the SQ!	
J98764		K32	If declarer ruffed with the SK, he is cold, and Tony made 8 tricks for +110 at the other table, but we were 8 Imps out instead of 6 in.	
A832		T4		
85		A642		
2		KQ65		
	AQT5			
	KQ9			
	Q7			
	A943			
W	N	E	S	
2S	X	1NT	X	
		//		

M 5	653		The auction was very simple on board 3 in the fifth match when East not want to risk a disastrous misfit and passed his partner's 1S opening bid.	
Bd 3	A53		We got off to a bad start for the defence when declarer won the opening club lead on the table with the CQ. He then led a heart off the table and played the HK, which David has to duck as I gave count, and David exited with the S6, whereas double-dummy the C5 would have given us more options.	
Dlr S	863		Since everything now sits well for declarer he could have made 10 tricks now, but gave us an extra trick to make the final result -140.	
Vul EW	KJ52		At the other table Malcolm opened 2NT and after major suit fits were investigated, the bidding subsided in 3NT.	
AKT94		8	It is difficult for North to find a good lead, and the contract made an overtrick, for +630 and 10 Imps.	
KJ		QT942		
AJ97		T54		
A9		Q874		
	QJ72			
	876			
	KQ3			
	763			
W	N	E	S	
1S	//		/	

M 5 Bd 14 Dir E Vul Nil	JT96 854 T4 KT62			Board 14 in the fifth match was a missed opportunity for both EW pairs. At our table West wanted to bid again over David's weak 3S bid, but could not bring himself to do it and reluctantly passed it out. West led the CJ, an obvious singleton, and I could see that EW were cold for 4H, so going off was not a disaster. As the cards lie, with the HK well placed, they are also cold for 5D. I won in hand and led a trump, and in due course lost 2 diamonds and 2 spades, and lost the heart finesse. However, when I next won the HA this set the stage for the endplay, as I drew the last trump with the ST in dummy and ruffed the last heart. Leading a club towards dummy, in case the CQ was singleton with West, and ducking led to 2 off for -100.
K KJ92 AJ86532 J		A74 T753 K9 Q984		
	Q8532 AQ Q7 A753			
W 2D	N 3S!	E / //	S 1S	At the other table Malcolm bid 3D over 1S, North bid 3S, and South went to 4S! Tony wanted to double but did not, and +150 was worth 2 Imps to our side.

M 5 Bd 20 Dir W Vul All	A7 K73 K72 J9652			On board 20 in the fifth match we missed an opportunity for a big pick-up when West opened with a weak 1NT holding a 5-card spade suit. I doubled East's 2D transfer to show diamonds and a willingness to compete, and David had a problem when West passed the double, denying heart support. He could go for broke, by bidding 3NT, knowing where most of the points were, or play safe by bidding just 3D. He played safe, and regretted it when dummy went down, as assuming that West had the DQ and SK, 3NT was a good bet and would have been cold. 3D made exactly for +110, while at the other table Malcolm opened 1S, Tony passed, and so did South! I would have balanced with 1NT on the South cards, showing 10-14 and maybe no stopper, and North will likely at least invite game. A flat board when 1S went 1 off for -100.
KT852 J9 Q83 AKT		943 QT865 94 Q84		
	QJ6 A42 AJT65 73			
W 1NT! /	N / 3D	E 2D //	S X	

M 6 Bd 15 Dir S Vul NS	QJ654 JT32 K Q92			On board 15 in the sixth match we were fortunate that the points were evenly split and we did not get doubled in 4H, and also East did not lead a trump to protect his spade holding. I should have just invited, but when David rebid 2H I did not consider that he had opened light, and just reacted to the vulnerability. East led the CK and must have been confused by his partner's signal at trick 1 as he next led a small club and David won in hand with the CQ. David next played the DK and a heart to dummy, and West, a very good player (we were playing team 3 who subsequently won the event) slipped when he played the SA and another spade, allowing David to ruff the SK to get to dummy and discard his club loser on the DA. This was still a bad contract and finished 4 off for -400, but imagine our surprize when at the score-up Tony and Malcolm had made 10 tricks in 3NT as EW so we gained 1 Imp!
AT9 AK95 T864 83		K873 6 Q973 AKT6		
	2 Q874 AJ52 J754			
W / / //	N 1S 2H	E / /	S / 1NT 4H	

M 6	T732			On board 16 in the sixth match, David supported my spades which made game attractive. However, opposite a passed hand I did not fancy game if David had wasted club values, so I made a short-suit game try with 2NT, confirmed as short clubs by the 3C asking bid.
Bd 16	T4			
Dlr W	AJ5			
Vul EW	QJT6			
984			K	West led the C7 and I was very surprized to find wasted club values on the table, but David thought his 4 trumps, DA and doubleton heart compensated for his clubs, and they were a sequence.
AJ983			Q75	
Q3	AQJ65		T862	East won the CA and switched to the H5, and EW took their hearts and forced me to ruff on the table (East playing the HQ), but then I got a nice surprize when I played a trump.
K97	K62		A8543	Drawing trumps I next took the diamond finesse successfully and led the CJ to see if the club suit was usefull after all, but when East did not cover I had already concluded that West had the CK, so I ruffed and led a diamond to dummy.
	K974			By then West had shown up with 3 spades, likely 5 hearts, 3 clubs inferentially, so when he played the DQ in front of the DA I finessed the D9 on the way back for 10 tricks and +420 – flat board.
	2			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/	1S	
/	2S	/	2NT!	
/	3C!	/	3D!	
/	4S!	//		

M 6	KQ5			On board 17 in the sixth match a very nice end-play came up that appeared to have been missed by the declarer at the other table.
Bd 17	KT53			
Dlr N	T63			
Vul Nil	965			
2			873	When West overcalled 2D, he pin-pointed most of the missing honour cards, so I knew the club finesse would fail. Double dummy I can actually duck a club and make 10 tricks by later dropping the CK.
Q872			J64	West led the top diamonds to 4S, and when the DT on the table came good, he had to lead a diamond for East to ruff, but this reduced East's 3-card trump holding and set up the end-play.
AK9542	AJT964		J7	I led the SA and then ruffed the third heart high before going over to dummy with another trump to lead the HT from the table, discarding the C2 when East had no more hearts.
K8	A9		JT743	West was now end-played into leading clubs into my AQ or giving a ruff and discard. If East had the last heart I would have to ruff and duck a club. The contract went off at the other table so we gained 10 lmps.
	Q8			
	AQ2			
W	N	E	S	
	/	/	1S	
2D	2S	/	3S	
/	4S	//		

M 7	754			Board 1 in the seventh match was a typical multi, but EW both pushed their luck on minimal hands and got to a poor game in their best fit.
Bd 1	752			
Dlr N	KJ432			
Vul Nil	97			
AKT32			J8	David led the C9, and after winning the CQ, I thought that our best chance to defeat 4H was via a diamond ruff, so I led 2 rounds of diamonds, David winning with the DK over West's DQ.
T4			AKJ963	He did not expect me to have the HQ, so now switched to a spade, which picked up that suit for declarer, but I still thought I had a chance to win the HQ, depending on how many hearts declarer had.
Q8	Q98		T976	Declarer could have concluded that David did not lead a diamond because he had the HQ himself, in which case the finesse is marked, but he unerringly plonked down the top hearts, picking up my honour and made 10 tricks for -420.
J854	Q8		2	At the other table West was more gung ho, and finished in 4CX, which went 3 off for +500, so we gained 2 lmps.
	A5			
	AKQT63			
W	N	E	S	
		2D!	3C	
3H	/	4H	//	

M 7 Bd 3 Dir S Vul EW	KJ2 J4 AK9632 AK		On board 3 in the seventh match if I had decided to open with my 10-count because of the 2 Aces and both majors, we would have sailed into slam. However, I chose to pass and David opened 2NT, showing 19+ to 21.
T4 Q9852 J54 QJ5		Q653 K7 8 T98632	Now if I could find a fit I would be in slam, but with 31 points maximum, I subsided when David did not have a major suit. Of course we had a fit, but diamonds were never mentioned, which is one of the disadvantages of opening the NT with a 6-card minor, as there is generally no system bid to uncover the fit.
	A987 AT63 QT7 74		It may not be safe for the North hand to bid 4D over 3C to show the good 6-card suit, because the South hand could be weak.
W / /	N 2NT 3NT	E / //	S / 3C
Double-dummy 7NT is cold, as the ST can be pinned in the West hand, but even single dummy slam is okay on an unlikely heart lead due to the HT on the table. At the other table a natural auction got them to 6D, so 10 Imps away.			

M 7 Bd 18 Dir E Vul NS	KQT6 J853 A532 J		On board 18 in the seventh match we got too high after East opened 1C, but luckily for us West took out insurance by bidding 5C, which David was happy to double.
53 T2 KJ987 KT52		AJ9 A64 T Q98763	I had a minimum hand for my take-out double, but I had both majors, and David's double of 1D was responsive, as he wanted to make sure we got to our 4-4 fit in a major.
	8742 KQ97 Q64 A4		Since I had both majors, I transferred the problem back to David with a cue-bid of 2D, but he still did not want to choose, so after 3D from David, I bid the suit I was strongest in. At least we ended up with the South hand as declarer which stopped the diamond suit from immediate attack by East.
W 1D X / 5C	N X 3D 4H X	E 1C 2C / / //	S X 2D 3H /
West did not want to risk us making a vulnerable game when he had a cheap save in 5C, but this save was not so cheap after all, as 4H has not chance at all, with 5 top losers! At the other table Tony and Malcolm were able to buy the contract in just 4C, undoubled, which made 8 tricks for -100, but that was 5 Imps to us as 5CEX went off 2 for +300.			

M 8 Bd 1 Dir N Vul Nil	AJ9852 KJ2 K A93		Board 1 in match 8 against the top ranked team was very difficult to judge for David, and unluckily he guessed wrong.
T7 A75 AQT76532 -		64 9864 84 QJT62	West started to ask about my 3D bid (10-12 points and 3-card spade support), then changed his mind and took advantage of the vulnerability by jumping to 5D.
	KQ3 QT3 J9 K8754		David chose to go again, and maybe if the DK had been the CQ he would have been right, but not this time.
W 5D	N 1S 5S	E / //	S 3D!
5S has 3 top losers, and the fact that West ruffed the opening lead of the CQ was inconsequential, as he was ruffing a loser anyway, but we had 4 unavoidable winners in a diamond contract. At the other table Malcolm also bid 5D, but North (Bruce Neill) made no mistake when he doubled and took the money, which happened to be +300 for 9 Imps to the bad guys.			

M 8	9874			On board 13 in the eighth match West made an off-shape overcall of 1NT after I opened 1H, but when David produced support, got cold feet and retreated to the safe haven of 3C.
Bd 13	943			
Dlr N	AKT8			
Vul All	43			We got a little frisky during the play of the hand and allowed declarer to make an overtrick, but that was only -130.
AKJ		Q653		Double dummy, North leads a top diamond and switches to a club, and South plays the CT, wins the next club and exits with a trump.
KJ5		T7		
2		Q9753		As long as NS do not broach the heart suit, and North does not discard a spade, declarer can be held to 9 tricks.
KJ9876		Q2		At the other table Tony and Malcolm were made of sterner stuff and Malcolm reached 3NT as West, and came home with 11 tricks for +660, and 11 Imps.
	T2			
	AQ862			
	J64			
	AT5			
W	N	E	S	
	/	/	1H	
1NT	/	/	/	3NT can actually be defeated, by the unlikely lead of the D8, or even the DT. This sets up 3 diamonds to go with the 2 Aces.
3C	//			

M 8	J9542			On board 17 in the eighth match when East opened 1H, I had no clear-cut bid, as I did not want to double 1H with a minimum hand and only 3 spades.
Bd 17	A			
Dlr N	J843			
Vul Nil	754			When EW used a Bergen sequence to get into 4H, I did not know what to lead, only what I did not want to lead, so I led the H5, with surprising results.
KQT83		-		David won the HA, and led a diamond, so we took the first 3 tricks with my trump Ace still to come.
T642		QJ973		
62		K97		At the other table Tony also arrived in 4H, but he got a club lead, and it appeared to him that North showed an odd number of clubs when he won the CK on the table.
KJ		AQ932		
	A76			
	K85			
	AQT5			
	T86			
W	N	E	S	Since the clubs appeared to be breaking, Tony overtook the CJ and led a third round to ditch a diamond, and a 4 th round to ditch yet another diamond, losing just 3 trump tricks for +420 and 10 Imps.
		1H	/	
3C	/	4H	//	

M 8	J			On board 20 in the eighth match when East opened 1D, I made a simple overcall of 1S, although 2S would have been in our range of system bids for the hand, and East rebid 1NT, showing a balanced hand with a stop and 18-19 points.
Bd 20	6432			
Dlr N	9832			
Vul Nil	A653			I elected to lead my 5 th highest spade, and was pleased to see the SJ from David, but promptly forgot about it when declarer won the SK after some thought, and led the CK.
65		K974		David put me in with the HA, and when I cashed the SA and David showed out I was convinced the declarer had the guarded SJ, so switched to a diamond!
97		KQJT		Declarer gratefully took his 9 tricks now for -150 to EW. It was only when declarer asked what happened to the spades, that I realized my error, and remembered that David had played the SJ at trick 1.
QT5		AK4		3NT will make by ducking the SJ, but this is double-dummy, and at the table Tony went 3 off in 3NTE and we lost 10 Imps instead of only 5.
QJT874		K9		
	AQT832			
	A85			
	J76			
	2			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	1D	1S	
		1NT	//	

M 9 Bd 7 Dir S Vul All	KT863 T3 - KQT752			The bidding by EW on board 7 in the ninth match was not optimal, but due to a fortunate singleton club and my sleepiness, they escaped with a good result.
J52 AQ964 KJ4 86		A9 J85 AQT9653 9		The 2H opening was known to be possibly a 5-card suit, and David put it to them by bidding 4C, which in our system showed a good 5/5 in clubs and spades.
	Q74 K72 872 AJ43			I thought that it showed 6/4, so bid 5C and not 4S, but West went again, which appears to be an overstatement, with spade and club losers.
W 2H 5H	N 4C //	E 4H	S / 5C	It was late in the afternoon and time for my nap (this was the Seniors after all), and so it happened that when David led the C2 to 5H and I won the CA I did not twig that it was unusual, let alone that he wanted a diamond ruff!
				5H now made an overtrick thanks to the fortunate lie of the cards, and we lost 2 Imps against 5D making 11 tricks at the other table.

M 9 Bd 9 Dir N Vul EW	AT3 J743 732 AJ5			On board 9 in the ninth match we were hampered by the EW bidding and failed to reach our optimum contract of 6C, instead arriving in the precarious contract of 4S on the 4/3 fit, with the 4-card suit being forced at trick 1!
K64 KQ986 JT5 97		875 AT52 984 T43		I ruffed the opening lead of the HK and decided I had to take the 18% chance of the SK onside and a 3-3 break, so immediately led the SQ, which was ducked.
	QJ92 - AKQ6 KQ862			A spade to the ST on the table and I ruffed another heart, then a club to dummy and the last trump, where my prayers were answered by an even break, thus I had completed a dummy reversal, and I took all 13 tricks for a lucky +510.
W 1H /	N / 1NT 4S	E / 3H //	S 1C 3S	Since a grand slam was available in 3 denominations, and NS Cn even make 8 tricks in hearts, I expected to lose 10 Imps as they were bound to get to 6C at the other table, but no, they also played in 4S and made 13 tricks for a flat board.

M 9 Bd 14 Dir E Vul Nil	J5 AKT73 AKQJ75 -			Board 14 in the ninth match was a minefield for NS and generated a lot of hope followed by disappointment.
A82 Q5 T8432 Q65		K76 J8642 6 9743		I clearly showed a 6/5 hand, and after David's 3H rebid, following his 2H 4 th suit, I thought we were cue-bidding with spades agreed.
	QT943 9 9 AKJT82			He quickly disillusioned me of that idea by jumping to 6NT, and I realized that he was 6/5 in the red suits and we were in danger.
W / / / /	N 1D 2H 3H 6NT!	E / / / //	S 1C 1S 2S 4C	Unluckily, if he just had a modest hand that included only HA, DA and one red King, he would have subsided in 4S and that would be cold on the 3-3 break.
				However with his hand he could not stop short of slam, in spite of the misfit, to which East was very proud of herself as she still led 4 th highest!
				Leading away from Jxxxx into declarer's 5-card suit on this bidding could so easily have given the contract to declarer, but luck was with East when their partner held the HQ.
				David could do nothing more than limit the damage when the diamonds and hearts failed to break, but 2 off for -100 was a flat board.