

## 2014 Coffs Harbour Swiss Pairs by Richard Wallis

I ventured to the Coffs Coast Congress in August, my second time at the event, this time playing in the Pairs and Teams with Therese Tully. We played in the warm-up MP Pairs event on the Tuesday night, and came away with a narrow win as NS, but that was our best result.

In the Swiss Pairs, played Wednesday and Thursday over 8/14-board matches, we had good wins in the first three matches to jump to the lead, but then a massive loss in match 4 to Tony Hutton and Malcolm Carter, the eventual runaway winners, dropped us back to 27<sup>th</sup> place!

This is a very popular event, with limited space, and while there is still some room in the Pairs (63 tables), the teams is nearly always closed off well before the starting date, so late entries are rarely able to be accepted. Next year the organizers are looking into getting more space, but fragmenting the movement by using a number of smaller rooms is not ideal, so if you want to play, get in early.

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday have morning and afternoon sessions, with lunch supplied, but Friday is afternoon only, so get your own lunch. Lunch is also supplied after the final Teams session Sunday morning, just before prize giving and the mass exodus.

<b>M 1</b>	Q54			On board 11 in the first match we had a small tussle with NS in the bidding, but NS wisely conceded the contract to me in 4D, as 4H can be taken out for +300.
<b>Bd 11</b>	KQ943			
<b>Dlr S</b>	Q9			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	A97			I had a number of ways to try for 10 tricks, but first I needed South to have the CJ, so I won the HA at trick 1 and led the C2, with the CT forcing the CA from North.
62		A973		
8		A65		
AJ7654		KT2		First hurdle over, but where is the DQ? Playing for a 2-2 break is slightly with the odds, but a 3-1 break is also reasonably likely, but which way to finesse?
QT85		642		
	KJT8			I ruffed the heart return and ducked a spade to maintain control and see what NS would do next, and when I ruffed the next heart I got the impression the hearts were 5-4. I won the SA on the table and led another club, South rising to lead a third spade.
	JT72			
	83			
	KJ3			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2D	2H	2NT	3H	
/	/	4D	//	When South did not try to give North a club ruff, and North followed to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> spade I counted North for a 3523 distribution, so cashed the diamonds from the top for +130.

<b>M 2</b>	A9763			On board 20 in the second match North was very conservative in his choice of opening bid. The 2H opening showed both majors and less than an opening bid in terms of HCPs.
<b>Bd 20</b>	K9862			
<b>Dlr W</b>	A			
<b>Vul All</b>	J2			South had a reasonable hand, but did not think game was on opposite a weak 2-suiter, especially when she had only 3 trumps, even though she had a singleton spade, so 2H became the final contract.
K842		JT5		
J4		T75		
QT86		KJ72		In my view, the North hand is definitely worth an opening bid of 1S. Nowadays, many players would open 1S with even less HCPs when holding 5/5 in the majors.
T96		Q43		
	Q			Therese led the D2 and North won in hand and ruffed the clubs good, then the top hearts in dummy before cashing the clubs and Therese could ruff, but the spade ruff with dummy's last trump brought the tally to 12 and -230. Nobody bid the slam, but most were in game.
	AQ3			
	9543			
	AK875			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	2H!	//		

<b>M 3</b>	7432			On board 9 in the third match we were in guesswork territory when Therese made a negative double over the 2S rebid and I had 2 courses of action.
<b>Bd 9</b>	K5			
<b>Dir N</b>	KJT9			
<b>Vul EW</b>	A95			2NT had some appeal, as I had a possible double-stop, but since I had 6 hearts and it was likely that North, as the opening bidder, had 1 of the spade honours, I played safe by rebidding 3H, and Therese raised to game.
KJ6		9		
AQT862		43		
864		AQ75		
2		KQJT43		
	AQT85			North led the S3, which looked like it may have been from an honour, and I expected South to next lead a trump, but instead she played the D3 into the AQ in dummy. It did not look likely that South had a singleton diamond after North opened 1C, but it was time to get the clubs going, so I won on the table and led the CK.
	J97			
	32			
	876			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	A spade got ruffed in dummy, and a diamond got pitched, so now I had to lead a trump myself, and when the HT forced the HK, I was able to win the return and cash out for 10 tricks and +620.
	1C	/	1S	
2H	2S	X	/	
3H	/	4H	//	

<b>M 4</b>	KQ764			Board 20 in the fourth match was my worst of the tournament, and it resulted in a large defeat for us when we were leading the event.
<b>Bd 20</b>	AQ942			
<b>Dir W</b>	-			I read more into Therese's 3S bid than she intended, and when I cue-bid 4D, I optimistically placed her with the HK for her 4H cue-bid, rather than the other possibility of a singleton.
<b>Vul All</b>	A93			My 5D was now Voidwood, and Therese confirmed 1 Keycard with her 5S response, so I raised to slam.
532		JT		Dummy was a not what I was expecting which caused me to take my eye off the ball and I did not make the most of what I was given.
J863		KT7		A little more thought would have shown me that there was a play for 12 tricks, however unlikely, and that involved the club finesse, the HK coming down in three, AND the 3-2 trump break.
T64		AKQ932		After ruffing the DA, and cashing the HA, at trick 3 I should have ruffed a heart and led the CQ for a finesse. Another heart ruff, and the SA before ruffing a diamond back to hand to draw the last trumps, would have garnered 12 tricks, for +13 IMPs instead of -12.
KT8		65		
	A98			
	5			
	J875			
	QJ742			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1S	3D	3S	
/	4D	/	4H	
/	5D	/	5S	
/	6S	//		

<b>M 5</b>	K8			On board 4 in the fifth match, a bit of system came up that Therese and I had only gone over on the previous evening.
<b>Bd 4</b>	876			
<b>Dir W</b>	A9832			My 1NT shows 14+-17, and it can have a 5-card major (14+), and my 2NT response to the transfer shows exactly 3-card support for spades, and a maximum hand with good controls.
<b>Vul All</b>	986			Therese decided to investigate slam and hit the jackpot with her Voidwood rebid of 5D when I showed 3 Keycards outside of diamonds, so she transferred again by bidding 6H.
AQ6		JT5432		North solved my immediate problem by leading the C8, and the CQ in dummy held the trick, so I was able to take the trump finesse for an overtrick.
AJT42		KQ		
J64		-		
A3		QJ752		
	97			
	953			
	KQT75			
	KT4			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	I found out later that North had not led away from the CK, South just declined to cover, so it was about a 75% slam, requiring just one of two finesses.
1NT	/	2H!	/	
2NT!	/	5D!	/	
5H	/	6H!	/	
6S	//			5 Pairs made 6S. 6H also makes, but requires careful play, and the only pair to bid it went 2 off, so we gained 12 Imps.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 24</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	AKQ65 4 Q954 A82		On board 24 in the sixth match North gave the 2S bid some thought before passing, and Therese was a little wary about balancing, in case she pushed them into game. South, possibly influenced by North's slow pass of 2S, as she had already shown her hand and the heart holding looked more suitable for defence than attack, rebid 3S, and there was now no stopping North, who bid the cold game. Game is cold, but not the way North played it! Therese led the C3, and North took the second round, cashed a top spade, and ruffed a club at trick 4. Now North led a diamond away from the table and I saw my chance to beat this contract if Therese had any spade honour. Thus I rose with the DA, cashed the HA, and led another club. North knew he was in trouble, and made the gain-nothing play of ruffing with the SK, so my ST took the setting trick for 9 Imps.
T92 A75 A8 KQT54		J8 QT9632 32 J93	
	743 KJ8 KJT76 76		
<b>W</b> 1C / / /	<b>N</b> 1S !/ 4S	<b>E</b> / 3H //	<b>S</b> 2S 3S!

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 10</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	T86 T94 J7653 T2		On board 7 in the seventh match, East, a very promising youngish player named John Newman, who has only been playing for 1.5 years, picked a good time to open 1NT, in spite of it showing 15-17 balanced! Therese's 2C showed both majors, and 3D by West (Michael Wilkinson) was natural and forcing, and East bid the obvious 3NT. Therese led the S5 from South, but there was no way to defeat 3NT when played by East, and we duly conceded -630. At many tables West was declarer in 3NT, and now a spade lead by North, the ST being the most helpful, normally defeated 3NT, and with the board average being -330, we only lost 7 Imps. The EW pair went on to finish a good second, although well behind the leaders, and it is certain we will see more of John Newman in the near future.
Q72 KJ6 AKQ842 Q		K4 Q75 T9 AKJ873	
	AJ953 A832 - 9654		
<b>W</b> 3D	<b>N</b> 2C!	<b>E</b> 1NT! 3NT	<b>S</b> / //

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	53 AKT65 9 AK964		On board 13 in the seventh match West started with a double intending to bid diamonds if East bid clubs, which shows a good hand, but when 4H came around to him he elected to go quietly. It is one of those not too rare hands where both sides can make 10 tricks in a major suit, but spades did not get a mention by EW. Since he had such a weak hand it is virtually certain that East would bid over another double by West, and if he chose his 4-card spade suit he would have lucked in! East led the DJ, and when West overtook and tried to cash a second diamond, I was able to draw trumps and discard 2 of dummy's spades on the long clubs for 11 tricks and +650. The board average was -360, because while most NS pairs played in hearts, 19 EW pairs played in 4S, one doubled, and 2 in 5S and 2 in 5DX. One EW even played in 3S.
AK64 J7 AKQ84 T7		Q987 Q JT732 853	
	JT2 98432 65 QJ2		
<b>W</b> X	<b>N</b> 1H 4H	<b>E</b> / //	<b>S</b> 2H

<b>M 8</b>	K6			<p>On board 27 in the eighth match I did not want to splinter in support of spades with a singleton Ace, so I made a very encouraging jump raise to 3S, and Therese followed a 4C cue-bid (we cue first or second round controls) as an obvious slam try.</p> <p>I then cued with 4D, and Therese signed off with 4S. Therese was obviously showing at least 2 losers in hearts by the sign-off, but since I had the top two in hearts, and no diamond losers, I checked up on Key Cards with 4NT and jumped to 6S when Therese showed 2.</p> <p>The opening lead was the D3, and the contract looked so good that Therese cashed the SA before leading another spade and claiming 12 tricks for +980.</p> <p>The overtrick was irrelevant, as the board average was -700, so it was 7 Imps for both 12 or 13 tricks in 6S. 19 pairs bid the slam, but 41 stopped in game.</p> <p>At some tables NS found their diamond fit, and quickly wished that it had remained hidden, as 5DX went for -1100 twice and -1400 once.</p>
<b>Bd 27</b>	872			
<b>Dlr S</b>	KJ984			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	T54			
Q754		AJ982		
AKT5		J4		
A		52		
QJ62		AK83		
	T3			
	Q963			
	QT763			
	97			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1C	/	1S	/	
3S	/	4C	/	
4D	/	4S	/	
4NT	/	5H	/	
6S	//			