

## 2006 Qld Open Teams

The Qld Open and Restricted Teams this year clashed with the Gold Point event in Alice Springs, and a few potential entrants for the local event, including my regular partner Therese Tully, went to Alice Springs. Nonetheless, 28 teams of a reasonable depth contested the event at the Toowong Bridge Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September. After a terrific battle between my team (Tony Jackman, Richard Ward & Lindy Vincent), Robson (Mike Robson, Ralph Parker, Peter Hainsworth and Betty Lee), Francis (Neville Francis, Magnus Moren, David Appleton and Andy Braithwaite) and Kempthorne (Barry & Agnes Kempthorne, Greer Tucker and Margaret Millar), the teams finished in that order with my team ahead by a mere 2 VPs.

The lead changed hands a few times throughout Sunday, and a small win by our team against Kempthorne in match 7 allowed Francis, with a big win, to take back the lead, but this team then lost their last match to slip back to 3<sup>rd</sup>. We won 7 out of 8 matches, although some of the winning margins were not great, but the key to overall success was the 25-5 win against Francis and the 19-11 win against Robson.

<b>M 1</b>	KQJT4			On the first board in the competition it looked like we had lost Imps by not bidding a cold grand slam, but this hand illustrates why you should be absolutely certain that 13 tricks are cold before bidding a grand slam in teams.
<b>Bd 1</b>	J73			
<b>Dlr N</b>	Q3			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	963			
76		A2		The other team did not even get to 6H, so bidding the making grand slam would have only gained 3 Imps, but we would have lost 11 Imps if it had gone down (thus odds of about 4:1).
QT		AK96542		
A84		KT7		
AQJ742		K		Tony's 1C was strong and forcing and my 2C showed at least a 5-card suit and 8+ HCPs. Tony now showed his suit, and I indicated at least a 6 <sup>th</sup> club.
	9853			Now Tony felt he had only 17 HCPs, which was not much more than he had promised by opening 1C, so he limited his hand by jumping to game. When he showed 0 or 3 Key Cards, I jumped to slam as he could not have none.
	8			
	J9652			
	T85			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1C	/	
2C	/	2H	/	
3C	/	4H	/	However, in spite of the mere 17 HCPs, his hand is definitely not minimum, as he is rich in controls, and has the King of my 6-card suit.
4NT	/	5C	/	A 3H bid may have got us to 7H as I could now cue-bid the DA.
6H	//			

<b>M 1</b>	AJT			On board 7 in the 1 <sup>st</sup> match my 1NT showed a balanced 13-15 and Tony's 3C bid was natural and invitational.
<b>Bd 7</b>	9762			
<b>Dlr S</b>	983			I would have preferred a club honour to go on to game, but I was maximum and my diamond holding looked like a double stopper on only 3 points, so I took the plunge.
<b>Vul All</b>	K43			
K974		653		
AKQ		JT3		The opening lead was the D9, and prospects initially did not look all that good when dummy went down. However I realized optimistically that South appeared to have the top honours in diamonds and had passed as dealer, so it was likely that the club finesse would work and so it proved.
QJ62		-		
T8		AQJ9765		South played low on the first trick and when the C10 held and the CQ won the next trick I had 11 tricks for +660 and 11 Imps when EW played in 3C for -130 at the other table.
	Q82			
	865			
	AKT754			
	2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			/	
1NT	/	3C	3D	As it turned out if South had risen with the DA and switched to a spade I would have been 1 down. Of course, not seeing all 4 hands, South may have switched to a heart.
3NT	//			

<b>M 2</b>	AQT76			
<b>Bd 21</b>	QT752			
<b>Dir N</b>	T64			
<b>Vul NS</b>	-			
4		J92		
KJ6		4		
Q5		AKJ973		
987642		KT3		
	K853			
	A983			
	82			
	AQJ			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	/	1D	X	
2C	3S	4D	4S	
5D	5S	6C	X	
//				

Board 21 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match was a disaster that was a big part of our only loss.

My 2C bid was likely to be limited after the double by South, and Tony indicated a likely 6-card suit by his 4D bid, so I had no hesitation in sacrificing in 5D when NS got to game in my singleton.

This egged NS onto the 5-level, which should have won the board for us, but Tony had a rush of blood and bid an ill-advised 6C, at the same time repeating the often offered advice that the 6-level was not for sacrifice.

North gave me a chance for a relatively even board by leading the D6, but I was not aware that I had 3 unavoidable trump losers, so I won in hand and led a trump! – 4 off was –800, whereas if I had played 3 rounds of diamonds to discard my spade I would have been only –500.

At the other table (and a few others) 4H and 4S were proving hard to make, and many a declarer had a sorry tale to tell how a trump promotion had led to defeat.

The only certain way to defeat 4H is to lead the DA and switch to a spade, so West can win an early heart and put East in with a diamond for a spade ruff.

<b>M 2</b>	KJ7			
<b>Bd 26</b>	AKJT6			
<b>Dir E</b>	QT85			
<b>Vul All</b>	5			
AQ653		T		
3		874		
KJ		A942		
AT964		KQ873		
	9842			
	Q952			
	763			
	J2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		/	/	
1S	2H	/	/	
3C	/	4C	/	
5C	//			

Board 26 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match was another hand that was difficult to evaluate and looked like it may be a loss with a missed slam.

Tony could have made a negative double over 2H, which would have had a very positive response from me, but was wary of his singleton spade and pushing me into a corner, so chose to pass.

My hand was limited to 15 HCPs, and was likely to be at least 5-5, but from Tony's point of view, I could easily have 2 or 3 hearts since South did not appear to have support.

After my 3C therefore he merely invited game with his 4C bid, rather than bid game himself, as he would have likely done if South had shown heart support, thus pinpointing my singleton.

Having the necessary shape and points myself, I had no hesitation in accepting his invitation, and very quickly racked up 12 tricks for +620.

At the other table both Richard and Lindy were in the action, and bought the hand in 4HX, getting out for –300, so we actually picked up 8 Imps instead of losing.

**M 3** 6  
**Bd 4** A75  
**Dir W** AK8  
**Vul All** AQ9653  
AT4 Q983  
Q42 KT63  
J9763 4  
K4 JT83

KJ752  
J98  
QT52  
7

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

My conservative pass-out on board 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match allowed NS off the hook in the terrible contract of 5D. However, I expected that in spite of the bad position of the CK I was likely to be able to defeat 5D, especially if I did not tip my hand with a double.

NS were playing a strong club system, so the first natural bid by South was 2S, and he had already limited his hand to a maximum of 7 HCPs.

North got a little carried away when South showed his second suit, as without a fit it is often not wise to push for tight games, and they have a maximum of 24 HCPs.

I led the H4 and declarer ducked to Tony's HK and won the next heart in dummy with the HA over my Queen to lead a spade, his SK losing to my SA.

With nothing much going for him he finished 3 off for +300, to go with the +150 from the other table for 2NT making 9 tricks for NS, and 10 Imps to us.

**M 3** 98754  
**Bd 8** -  
**Dir W** T93  
**Vul Nil** T9765  
AK63 2  
K85 AQJ6  
A742 KQJ86  
J8 A42

QJT  
T97432  
5  
KQ3

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

On board 8 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match Tony could have easily found out about the diamond fit if he had treated his hand as a single-suiter, but he did not want to eschew a possible heart fit, so bid 2C to ask about majors, which missed the diamond fit altogether.

However, with at least 31 HCPs between the 2 hands slam was good if I was maximum, but now 4NT was RKCB in spades, and not quantitative.

I did not ask him his plan if I had shown only 1 Key Card by bidding 5D, which could have been the SK, but luckily my 5C response showed 0 or 3 Key Cards. With his hand, it is not possible for me to have 13 HCPs that do not include at least 1 Ace or the SK, so he knew I had 3 Key Cards and bid the slam.

The problem with a 5D response (I could not have 4 Key Cards) was that there was no way to sign off below slam as 5H asks for the SQ and 5NT asks for Kings.

There was no problem in the play and +990 was worth 2 Imps when EW played in 6D at the other table.

**M 4** AQ943  
**Bd 24** KJT2  
**Dir W** J832  
**Vul Nil** -  
875 JT62  
- 98743  
KQT9765 4  
KJ9 T43

K  
AQ65  
A  
AQ87652

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

Many a declarer has commented "bridge is a cruel game" after an unfortunate distribution led to their defeat, and board 24 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match prompted another exclamation.

At the equal vulnerability I did not want to be too unilateral by opening with 5D, so contented myself with the nuisance bid of only 3D. NS quickly brushed this aside, and I was contemplating the wisdom of opening 5D as Tony led the D4 to 6H.

At the other table West did open 5D, but Lindy and Richard still got to the correct slam and played carefully to make it.

When a contract looks too easy it is good practice to look for possible pitfalls, and in this contract a bad break in hearts, could be a problem as East will also be short in diamonds. It is therefore essential to either not lead trumps at all, or more normally, lead 1 round of trumps but cash a top trump in hand and then abandon trumps in favour of a cross-ruff.

Our declarer, not mindful of the threat, played a trump to the HQ in dummy and thereafter Tony was able to thwart the cross-ruff by ruffing with the H7 to set up 2 trumps higher than dummy.

<b>M 5</b>	T96		
<b>Bd 1</b>	86		
<b>Dir N</b>	A8654		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	AKJ		
K64		AJ8732	
QJ3		AT92	
KQ2		J7	
QT82		4	
	Q		
	K754		
	T93		
	97653		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1NT	2C	/
2D	/	2S	//

Many times I have been accused by my partners as being too optimistic, but on board 1 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match, for once I was too pessimistic.

Tony's 2C showed both majors and my 2D response showed no preference. When he showed longer spades I thought that my minor suit holding may not be pulling their full weight, so I did not even make a game try as there was no systemic way to make a game try with good diamonds.

Note that if you swap Tony's minor suits, game only makes against poor defence.

In retrospect, once responder asks overcaller to name their longest suit, 3C or 3D by responder should be a game try in the major with a good holding in the bid suit. Then East could bid 4S with more confidence.

At the other table EW did get to game so we lost 6 Imps.

<b>M 5</b>	Q6		
<b>Bd 7</b>	9642		
<b>Dir S</b>	KJ976		
<b>Vul All</b>	Q3		
KJ8752		A9	
T		AJ	
AQ3		T854	
A75		KJ982	
	T43		
	KQ8753		
	2		
	T64		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
			2H
2S	/	2NT	/
3D	/	3S	/
4S	//		

It is frustrating to make 12 tricks in a game contract when you could have made 13 because you lost to a doubleton honour offside, and then until score-up you have the potential for an adverse slam swing.

Board 7 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match was one such hand, although you should not be too concerned about missing a grand slam that relies on a finesse as well as dropping the trump Queen offside.

In just the game contract, I took the spade finesse to protect against South having QT43, and also to prevent South from gaining the lead to lead a diamond through before I had set up the clubs for my 11 tricks.

When the club finesse won, I had 12 tricks.

I need not have worried about potential slam swings, as at the other table EW found out about their 5-3 club fit before the 6-2 spades fit and played in 5CE, which went 2 off after South led the D2 and declarer picked everything wrong! 13 Imps to us after all.

<b>M 5</b>	T5		
<b>Bd 11</b>	Q743		
<b>Dir S</b>	AQ82		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	J85		
AQJ864		973	
85		6	
K		9763	
KQ97		AT632	
	K2		
	AKJT92		
	JT54		
	4		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
			1H
2S	3H	3S	4H
4S	//		

Whether to bid on to the 5-level is where many points are won and lost in a team game. Board 11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match was a gain for our side when our opponents left us to play in 4S while Lindy and Richard opted to go on to 5H, which was only 1 down, and they were not even doubled.

My 2S was intermediate style, and Tony's hand forced by the 3H bid, so may not have been as good as it was.

When South bid 4H, I had no hesitation in bidding 4S as it may make by virtue of my clubs, and 4H also may be cold, so at teams it was clear-cut.

Both North and South felt they had said enough, nor did either have spade shortage to suggest bidding on, so 4S became the final contract. This had no problems in the play and I scored up +450 to go with -50 from the other table for 9 Imps.

**M 6** AKJT9732  
**Bd 18** 9  
**Dir E** 6  
**Vul NS** Q74  
 86 Q  
 KT642 Q5  
 AJT 98743  
 AKJ T9865  
  
 54  
 AJ873  
 KQ52  
 32  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
		/	/
1H	4S	/	/
X	//		

Board 18 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match was a key board in the match against Robson. If 4SX had made, we would have lost 5 Imps instead of winning 13 Imps.

I opened 1H instead of the systemic 1C (16+) and this worked out well for our side when Tony led the HQ, which took out Ralph's entry to the potential diamond trick. My double was not strictly for penalties, as I am limited to 15 HCPs, and Tony could have bid 4NT for the minors.

With the entry gone Ralph's only hope was to ruff a club, so he led a club off the table which I won to lead a trump. However when I was able to lead another trump when I next gained the lead, he had no chance and graciously conceded 1 off. He knew it was very simple to count his hand out for 10 tricks if he has 2 diamonds or only 9 tricks on his actual distribution.

AT the other table a defensive slip allowed Richard to garner his club ruff for 10 tricks and +620.

**M 6** KJT84  
**Bd 25** 865  
**Dir N** QJ7  
**Vul EW** 64  
 7 AQ932  
 J AK94  
 AKT654 -  
 KJT92 AQ85  
  
 65  
 QT732  
 9832  
 73  
  

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

Board 25 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match was too hard for both tables, and our +1390 for 6C making 13 tricks was flat.

After Ralph's initial pass, he stuck his neck out with 2S in a live auction, but although Tony's double was for penalties, I could not sit the double with my big 2-suiter.

Some tables did play in 2SX, and it was relatively easy to get +1400 for a flat board.

However, after the top 2 hearts and a heart ruff, West cashes the top diamonds and gives East a diamond ruff, followed by the top clubs finishing with West.

Now another diamond either allows East to make the S9 immediately, or if North ruffs with the ST East discards and comes to 3 more spade tricks and 11 in all for +1700.

**M 7** AK93  
**Bd 9** JT  
**Dir N** JT63  
**Vul EW** K87  
 T65 742  
 AQ96 K43  
 A9 KQ84  
 Q642 AT5  
  
 QJ8  
 8752  
 752  
 J93  
  

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1D	/	/
1NT	/	2NT	/
3H	/	3NT	//

On board 9 in the 7<sup>th</sup> match my 1NT did not show a diamond stop, but would normally deny a 5-card major, so my 3H was investigating a 4-4 heart fit.

North did not lead his best suit, instead choosing to lead a dangerous DJ, and so it proved when I had the A9, and won in hand to lead the suit back for the marked finesse.

I still did not have 9 tricks but when the HJ & HT showed up short in North's hand, I now had an easy 9 tricks.

It looks like the normal lead of the S3 will defeat 3NT, as it did at Richard and Lindy's table, but not so!

When North cashes the 4th spade trick he is subject to a suicide squeeze on the run of the hearts, and after South shows up with the QJ in spades, it will be easy to read the cards.

**M 8**  
**Bd 26**  
**Dir E**  
**Vul All**  
 952  
 A97  
 T  
 AQT864

QJT876  
 KQJ32  
 J4

K  
 T864  
 985  
 J9732

A43  
 5  
 AKQ7632  
 K5

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

Board 26 in the last match was one of the biggest swings of the weekend, and one of the wildest hands.

It would have made a good story if North's double was the "stripe-tailed-ape", to stop us bidding a cold slam, but it is obvious from the bidding that we had stopped in game.

North doubled to get a lead through dummy's first-bid suit, but South, who still led a heart did not recognize this. It was a silly double anyway, as a club lead does not even stop 6D!

NS were not clear on their agreement, and at one stage South moved away from the table so that North could explain that he was showing both majors, but South had already worked this out.

After the heart lead Tony was able to draw trumps and take the marked club finesse for all 13 tricks and +1150.

The big pick-up occurred at the other table where EW had a complete stuff-up and stopped in 4C, making 12 tricks but only 170, so 14 Imps.