

## 2006 Gold Coast Teams

The Gold Coast Congress continues to grow and hit another record entry in 2006. It is hoped that the move to the Broadbeach Convention Centre for 2007 will be welcomed by all players as it will allow everyone to play at the same venue for the first time in many years. The format for next year has not been finalized, but it is unlikely to alter the current format for the Pairs.

The event attracts players from far and wide, and as well as the large contingent from New Zealand and the rest of Australia, teams from the UK, Indonesia, and Rumania took part. Some of the overseas visitors have been before, and a team consisting of 4 English players, 1 Irishman and 1 Australian/Kiwi won the Teams, which is the same winning team as 2004, except for the addition of the Irishman.

As usual, I played with Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber and Therese Tully, with Sue Lusk making the trip from Adelaide to make up the 6. After a good start but without large wins we were progressing nicely, until we were rocked in match 7 by a 25-5 loss that put us back in the pack. However, 25s in matches 8 and 9, including a 25-5 win against team 1 (Indonesia), put us in with a chance of qualifying with a big win in the last match.

Looking at the board I could see that our maximum score was 193, which did not appear to be enough to get to 2<sup>nd</sup>, but David Beachamp expressed the view that 193 could well be plenty, and how right he was! We at least improved our chances, when we drew the leaders, a team of mostly Rumanians/Germans, and we needed a 21-9 win to overtake them and then see how the other results went. Tony and I played with Wynne and Meta, and while we had a good match, our 17-13 win was not quite good enough and the Rumanian team held on to first place with the Wyer team (which we had also beaten 16-14) in second place. We finished the qualifying in 5<sup>th</sup> place, but 2 losses on the next day dropped us down to 22<sup>nd</sup> overall. Both of the teams from our pool lost their semi-final.

<b>M 2</b>	3			Having not played the first match, due to our 6-man team board 15 of match 2 was our first of the event.
<b>Bd 15</b>	AQT63			
<b>Dlr S</b>	AKT3			Some players overcall just because they can, and others overcall to suggest a lead. I am not sure what category the East player falls into, but his partner did not lead his suit, so you can make up your own mind. However, West may have been hoping that East could gain the lead early and lead a spade through my hand.
<b>Vul NS</b>	A87			
A52		KJT97		
J97		K42		
9542		J7		
953		J64		
	Q864			My 1NT overcall showed 5-8 (or 9+) and a stop, and I had nowhere to go over 3H so bid the obvious 3NT and West led the C5.
	86			
	Q86			With everything friendly, the lead did not matter as declarer always has 4 clubs, 4 diamonds and a heart. As it turned out, if West did lead spades and I won a trick with the SQ (ducking the SJ from East), that would have been 10 tricks.
	KQT2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/			/	
/	1C	1S	1NT	At the other table NS played in their 5-2 fit, and have 11 tricks on top.
2S	3H	/	3NT	When a spade was not cashed early on, that became 12 tricks and we lost 2 Imps.
//				

**M 2** Q  
**Bd 17** AQJT6  
**Dlr N** K3  
**Vul Nil** K7654  
 KT643 J8752  
 8 972  
 AQJ754 T92  
 8 Q2  
 A9  
 K543  
 86  
 AJT93  
**W N E S**  
 1H / 1NT  
 2D 3C / 4H  
 //

On board 17 in match 2 we were not able to diagnose our perfect fit and stayed out of the cold slam (if West has the DA). Note that 6C by North does not need to have the DA on-side as a diamond can be discarded on the 5<sup>th</sup> heart.

My 1NT was forcing, asking for further description from Tony, as I was not able to bid 2C in our system, which is a trump asking bid, and I was not strong enough to bid a natural 3C.

The 3C bid by Tony was natural, and was likely to show 14 or 15 HCPs, but there was too much to do on my hand to make 12 tricks, so I settled for the obvious game. While Tony now knew I had a good hand with hearts for my 1NT bid, he also knew that I had not used 2C, so he also passed.

There was nothing to the play after East led the D9, and we quickly chalked up +480. This was a 1Imp loss when our team-mates competed to the 5-level at the other table and conceded -500.

**M 2** QT54  
**Bd 23** 83  
**Dlr S** 874  
**Vul All** T976  
 AK6 87  
 AJ9 K5  
 AJT53 KQ9  
 A8 KJ5432  
 J932  
 QT7642  
 62  
 Q  
**W N E S**  
 2C / 3C /  
 3NT //

Board 23 in match 2 was a lucky hand for us when EW were ill-prepared for detailing with a positive response in a minor to a strong 2C opening, and East passed the 3NT rebid for lack of anything better to do.

This is probably a black mark against the increasing use of multi-twos, whereby many pairs cannot open a strong 2NT nowadays, after which I am sure that East would have driven to at least a small slam.

There was nothing in the play, and when the CQ dropped on the first round, West was able to take the heart finesse in safety for the overtrick.

At the other table Sue and Therese had no trouble getting to slam and we gained 12 Imps.

**M 2** Q52  
**Bd 28** AK5  
**Dlr W** KT9  
**Vul NS** AT73  
 AK843 JT976  
 T8 J2  
 42 A763  
 QJ54 K6  
 -  
 Q97643  
 QJ85  
 982  
**W N E S**  
 / 1C / 1D  
 1S 1NT 2S 3H  
 //

On board 28 in match 2 my first 1D was a negative response and Tony's 1NT rebid over the 1S overcall did not improve my hand. I knew that we had at least a 6-2 fit and were close to game, but I bid a non-forcing 3H over the 2S raise from East.

Tony was then in the spotlight, but even though he has little wasted in spades, he had a dead-minimum for his 1C opening, so he opted to pass, and the cold game was missed. Playing Pairs, pass is probably right, but playing teams, we should have been in game.

There were no challenges in the play, and I quickly conceded 3 tricks for +170 and 10 Imps away when NS got to game at the other table.

It is likely that we would have lost Imps anyway, as EW may have sacrificed in 4S for -500 if we had finished in 4H.

**M 3** AQ853  
**Bd 1** 987  
**Dlr N** K8  
**Vul Nil** K93  
 976 KJT4  
 AKQJ62 53  
 T AQJ93  
 J52 64  
 2  
 T4  
 76542  
 AQT87  
**W N E S**  
 1S // 2D /  
 2H //

On board 1 in match 3 Tony and I had a bidding sequence that I do not remember being discussed over the many years we have played together, and we were of different minds.

After his 2D overcall, I certainly play my 2H bid as at least a 1-round force, and I was totally surprized when it was passed out. NS were content to let me play there, and North led the H9, intent on not giving anything away on the opening lead.

On sight of dummy it was one of those hands where you hope that everything is wrong, since you are not in game, but it was not to be after the trump lead.

I won in hand and drew trumps, and led the DT, covered by North, which looks wrong seeing the D9 in dummy, but did not cost in practice. I was now able to discard all of my clubs and made 12 tricks by playing North for both spades honours.

This looked like a loss, but they played in 2H at the other table as well and Meta and Wynne took 4 tricks for a 3 Imp gain.

**M 3** 862  
**Bd 4** KQ532  
**Dlr W** J  
**Vul All** JT65  
 AT7 K93  
 974 AJ8  
 AKQ64 87  
 93 AKQ72  
 QJ54  
 T6  
 T9532  
 84  
**W N E S**  
 1NT / 2D /  
 2H / 3C /  
 4H / 5C /  
 5D / 6C //

A momentary lapse during some of our artificial bidding sequences can be fatal, and board 4 in match 3 caught me nodding off into some other system.

Tony's 3C rebid only showed a good hand for clubs with slam interest, and my correct response was 3D, denying any support for clubs, and 3NT would have been Tony's final bid.

My actual 4H response was based on thinking he had shown hearts and clubs via a normal transfer sequence, but luckily, there is no such response in our actual system so Tony knew I had got it wrong. I only woke up from my slumber when he bid 6C, to which South led the C8!

This lucky lead allowed Tony to enter dummy with the DA and repeat the club finesse, and now 6C was cold because South was squeezed as long as he ducks a heart before cashing the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond.

In fact, when he led a heart off the table North ducked, and now the HJ would have won the trick, but naturally Tony played the H9.

**M 3** KJ7652  
**Bd 11** T9  
**Dlr S** T  
**Vul Nil** Q963  
 AT84 3  
 KQ76 A84  
 AQ85 J632  
 8 AK752  
 Q9  
 J532  
 K974  
 JT4  
**W N E S**  
 2D / 4H //

On board 11 in match 3 my 2D opening showed at least 4 hearts and exactly 4 spades and 11-15 HCPs, so Tony made the practical bid if 4H, to which South led the SQ.

Looking at all 4 hands, 3NT is easy, thanks to the good spade pips, but 4H is a good contract, which can make 12 tricks according to Deep Finesse.

Anyone that got to 6H on the EW cards would be favourite to go down, but 4H was much easier and Tony emerged with 11 tricks for +450.

At the other table EW discovered their diamond fit, also cold for slam according to DF, but managed to go 1 off for another +50 and 11 Imps to us.

The line of play at the other table is not known, but 5D is an excellent contract, and even 6D would have looked a possibility, so this was a big pick-up for Wynne and Meta.

**M 3** Q84  
**Bd 13** QT97653  
**Dir N** T  
**Vul All** T6  
 76 A9  
 KJ 2  
 AQ3 K98742  
 KQ8732 AJ54  
  
 KJT532  
 A84  
 J65  
 9  
  
**W N E S**  
 3H / 4H  
 5C / 6C //

On board 13 in match 3 North was probably daunted by the red spots and only opened with 3H instead of a full-blooded 4H which would have made it harder for us.

Tony was not prepared to stick his neck out at the 4-level on such a modest suit, so passed at his first turn to bid, and South raised to game.

My instinctive action is to bid in these auctions with a reasonable hand (sometimes to my distress), so I bid 5C, and now Tony came to life. He had shortage in the opponents suit, 4-card support to the Ace, and another Ace, so he felt pretty confident in raising to 6C.

North led the DT, looking for a ruff for a quick 1 off, so I was able to draw trumps and discard my 3 losers on the diamonds for 13 tricks and +1390.

At the other table it was East who bid 5D over 4H, and now West's heart holding does not look so good, and the slam was missed for 13 Imps to us.

**M 4** K9  
**Bd 19** QJ74  
**Dir S** J632  
**Vul EW** Q72  
 Q753 8  
 T95 AK32  
 A Q8754  
 A9653 KJT  
  
 AJT642  
 86  
 KT9  
 84  
  
**W N E S**  
 / 2H / 2D  
 X / 3D! //

On board 19 in match 4 against the Wyer team, Michael Courtney demonstrated why it is important to keep your cool no matter how bad the contract is.

I was playing this match with Sue and over her 2D opening (Multi) Paul Wyer passed on the first round but backed in with a double when her weak 2 in spades was known, and Michael's 3D! closed the auction.

I led the SK and another, forcing a ruff in dummy, and Michael then proceeded cash the top cards in clubs and diamonds and led another spade to ruff in dummy, on which I had to discard a winning heart.

Now I was thrown in with a heart and could cash a club and was surprized at partner discarding, but did not count out the hand so was still non-the wiser, before being finally forced to exit with a trump.

When Sue turned up with a diamond, instead of the expected void, and I had a count and realized that something was wrong, but Michael had only gone 1 off for +100. It turned out that he had a mental lapse and bid 3D instead on his intended 3C (inadvertent?). At the other table Meta and Wynne played in a normal 3C for +110 and 5 Imps.

**M 4** 4  
**Bd 20** AQ85  
**Dir W** 9872  
**Vul All** J863  
 KQJ7 AT963  
 764 K2  
 AT4 QJ65  
 AT4 72  
  
 852  
 JT93  
 K3  
 KQ95  
  
**W N E S**  
 3NT //

Board 20 in match 4 was another 'oops' from Michael Courtney when he opened 3NT instead of 1S and of course this became the final contract.

I led the HA and continued the suit, quietly confident of taking this 3NT off, as the only solid minor he could have was clubs, and I had a stopper in this suit.

However, when he cashed the top spades from his hand it threw all the established theories about the gambling 3NT (which is what he was supposed to have) out the window and he ended up with 11 tricks for -660.

So a potentially big pick-up for us turned out to be flat as Meta and Wynne played in 4S for +650. How about opening 3NT by mistake and finding that dummy on the table after the opening lead?

**M 4** J432  
**Bd 24** AT  
**Dlr W** AQ62  
**Vul Nil** 763  
 KQ87 6  
 KQ74 J852  
 T84 KJ9753  
 J9 K4

AT95  
 963  
 -  
 AQT852

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1H	X	4H	X
/	4S	/	5S
//			

After a couple of earlier disasters, on board 24 of match 4 Michael Courtney opened 1H with the East cards, and I made a take-out double.

Over Paul's 4H bid, Sue made a responsive double, the meaning of which was unclear but maybe looking for a penalty, and I should have passed this with such a weak hand and 2 defensive tricks to see what was available in defence.

However, I bid 4S and Sue made a slam try with 5S that I quickly passed. At other tables hearts were not bid and East led a diamond to 4S, allowing for 2 heart discards which allows 4S to make.

East tried to be clever with the opening lead of the CK, which also allows 4S to make, but I still had 3 losers in 5S. At the other table Meta and Wynne found their heart fit, but NS took 5HX for 500 and we lost 11 Imps. If I had passed 4HX, the loss would have only been 5 Imps.

**M 5** QT  
**Bd 1** J72  
**Dlr N** KJT5  
**Vul Nil** AJT6  
 A984 J72  
 KT6 A985  
 92 A83  
 Q985 K74

K653  
 Q43  
 Q764  
 32

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1D	/	1S
	1NT	//	

Board 1 in match 5 shows the advantage of competing for the part score in teams, although it is with some risk.

Tony's 1S response in Precision was bottom of the range for a response, and my 1NT rebid showed a flat 11-12 or possibly 11-13, and West, with 4 spades, the suit bid on her right, had nowhere to go.

The opening lead was the H5, which set up my 6<sup>th</sup> trick, and when a heart was returned, by finessing clubs twice it was easy enough to develop a 7<sup>th</sup> for +90.

Double-dummy, if West wins the HK and switches to a spade, EW can set up enough spade and heart tricks to defeat 1NT. If I duck the first spade, West ducks the second, forcing me to win with the SQ, and can take 3 spade tricks when East wins the DA.

At the other table Therese and Sue were in the bidding and bought the contract in 2S, which according to Deep Finesse can be held to 7 tricks, but they made 10! Thus we gained 6 Imps.

**M 5** AJT  
**Bd 6** 762  
**Dlr E** 987  
**Vul EW** 9862  
 965 872  
 AT983 KQJ54  
 AQ52 J63  
 4 A3

KQ43  
 -  
 KT4  
 KQJT75

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	/	2H	2C
3H	//		2S

On board 6 in match 5 after Tony passed my 2C opening it was not clear to us whose hand it was, and when EW stopped in just 3H, we were content.

This contract was the limit of the hand because of the duplication in spades, as long as South covers the lead of the DJ.

However, when it became apparent that 4H only went off because of the 3-3 spade break, we were concerned about a possible loss on the hand.

At the other table it was likely that South would open 1C and Therese would overcall 1H as West, and then Sue would routinely raise to game with 5-card support.

This is what happened, but NS were not finished yet and bid to 5C, over which our pair took out insurance by bidding 5H, which had to go down 2. Thus we lost 8 Imps instead of the expected 6.

**M 5** K62  
**Bd 10** K76  
**Dlr E** AT3  
**Vul All** AJ54  
 QT98 J74  
 AJ952 QT8  
 QJ 876  
 K6 Q873  
  
 A53  
 43  
 K9542  
 T92  
  

W	N	E	S
1H	1NT	2H	3D
/	3NT	//	

On board 10 in match 5 we had a bit of luck when we both overbid and ended up in 3NT. After the 1NT overcall, I play Tony's 3D as natural and forcing, so despite my misgivings, I thought that 3NT was a better prospect than 5D.

When the HQ was led and dummy went down 3NT was obviously a bad contract, with only 1 obvious chance, but that chance looked better when I cashed the DA and West placed the DQ on the table, looking like a lady with a singleton!

While I would normally follow the rule of restricted choice in these situations, without the D8 or D7 in dummy, this was of no use here, so I led to the DK and was pleased to see the DJ appear.

9 tricks were now set up and +600 against -130 at the other table was worth a useful 10 Imps in a match that we lost 12-18, which was our first loss.

**M 7** 432  
**Bd 1** QJ82  
**Dlr N** 8432  
**Vul Nil** J9  
 KJ8 AQ9  
 A74 KT3  
 9 AJT5  
 AKQ643 T75  
  
 T765  
 965  
 KQ76  
 82  
  

W	N	E	S
2D	/	1NT	/
3C	/	2H	/
4NT	/	3H	/
5NT	/	5H	/
6NT	//	6D	/

On board 1 in match 7 I had a chance to make up for an earlier system lapse when Tony once again trotted out the artificial 2D response to my 1NT opening bid.

My 2H is forced, and his 3C rebid shows a good hand with clubs and slam interest. My 3H rebid showed some club support, but not good, and then Tony asked for Key Cards and went looking for a grand slam. If I had 2 Kings, he could count 13 tricks if the clubs behaved, but when I only admitted to 1 King, he signed off in 6NT.

When the clubs behaved, 12 tricks in notrumps were easy, so I tried a little subterfuge to try and get an overtrick if NS were not giving accurate count!

My first discards on the clubs were the D5 and DJ, followed by the H3. In case I did not have 12 tricks, South was anxious not to give me any clues in the other suits and took the bait by discarding all of his diamonds. Thus the overtrick came in for a measly 1 Imp gain in a match that we were otherwise soundly beaten.

**M 7** -  
**Bd 6** Q8632  
**Dlr E** J95  
**Vul EW** J9875  
 AK983 QJT42  
 A T54  
 AT2 743  
 Q642 KT  
  
 765  
 KJ97  
 KQ86  
 A3  
  

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

On board 6 in match 7 we gained a useful swing when North forgot that transfers were off when the opponents bid. He meant his 2D as transfer, but South knew it was natural, and was probably glad to have escaped from 1NTX, so took the opportunity to pass.

Tony's double of the weak notrump showed at least 15HCPs, so I was able to compete for the part-score with 2S, and raised his invitational 3S to game. There was nothing challenging in the play, in spite of the 3-0 break, and I quickly wrote down +620.

If North had bid a natural 2H, South would likely have competed to the 3-level, and NS may well have sacrificed in 5H, which can make 9 or 10 tricks.

At the other table EW found their spade fit, but only at the 2-level, so we gained 10 Imps out of our total of 17 for the match.

**M 7** 43  
**Bd 11** KT62  
**Dlr S** K95  
**Vul Nil** AJ75  
 J987 KQT62  
 A95 QJ873  
 7 Q2  
 T9432 K

A5  
 4  
 AJT8643  
 Q86

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

On board 11 in match 7 we were lucky that South could not see through the back of the cards and went of in a contract that could have made an overtrick.

After a spade lead South drew trumps and played a heart up, and Tony rose Ace to cash a spade, before switching to the C3.

After realizing that he could not throw both of his clubs away, he took the losing finesse for 1 down and +50 to us. At the other table the contract was only 4D, but 11 tricks were made for +150 and 5 Imps.

Deep Finesse suggests that 12 tricks can be made in both diamonds and notrumps, and one way is a squeeze without the count.

South wins the SA, draws trumps, cashes the CA, and runs all of the trumps reducing dummy to 3 clubs and KT in hearts. West is squeezed in 3 suits on the last diamond, and must discard his last spade to keep the clubs guarded. South then discards a club from dummy and leads a heart up and claims the rest of the tricks.

**M 7** 53  
**Bd 12** KQ3  
**Dlr W** AKT98  
**Vul NS** J53  
 Q9862 KJT74  
 A52 J98  
 43 652  
 K76 AQ

A  
 T764  
 QJ7  
 T9842

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1NT	/	2C!
/	2D	//	

I do not know what South's contingency plan for a 2S response was when he bid 2C, but luck was certainly with him when his partner responded 2D and he passed contentedly.

I led a trump, but with everything friendly to NS, this contract made an overtrick for -110 and some consternation on our part. Maybe NS had a systemic agreement that we did not ask about, and maybe we should have asked about the plan if North had responded 2S.

The 2C response seemed to rule out spade shortage in the South hand, so it was far too dangerous for either of us to venture into the bidding, but we knew that we had missed our part-score.

At the other table 1NT was passed out and the obvious spade lead took this contract 1 off for -100 and 5 Imps away.

**M 9** 652  
**Bd 2** AT  
**Dlr E** A943  
**Vul NS** KT83  
 QJ3 K94  
 J54 KQ987  
 KQ7 8  
 AQ54 J962

AT87  
 632  
 JT652  
 7

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

The opening lead is often the point at which the contract hangs in the balance and board 2 in match 9 against Team 1 (Indonesia) was a classic example.

My 2H response was natural and invitational, and Tony accepted, but decided his balanced hand was more suited to notrumps.

North had nothing to guide him in selecting the opening lead and fortunately led the C3, won by Tony with the CQ.

North won the second round of hearts and now tried the S6, but it was too late and Tony now had 9 tricks for +400.

At the other table I did not find out the Indonesian's bidding, but the final contract was the same, but now the opening lead was the D3, and West had no chance at all in 3NT and went 3 down for +150 and 11 Imps to us. This was the start of a 25-5 win over the top ranked team in our section.

**M 9** AKJ7  
**Bd 8** J3  
**Dlr W** KQ83  
**Vul Nil** 643  
 8632 4  
 T86 KQ7542  
 AT2 964  
 KJ2 QT9  
 QT95  
 A9  
 J75  
 A875  
**W N E S**  
 / 1NT 2D X  
 / / 2H X  
 / 2S / 4S  
 //

On board 8 in match 8 my 2D overcall showed a single-suiter, and South's negative double allowed me to identify it as hearts.

A second negative double allowed North to show his spade suit (presumably the pass over 2DX had showed diamond values), and with the double fit South went to game.

Even though I led the HK, which sets up our 4<sup>th</sup> trick, somehow North managed to make 10 tricks anyway, and we scored up -420 for what looked like a loss.

However, nothing is more certain in bridge except that you cannot assume any score is good or bad. At the other table EW got their wires crossed badly when they played in 3NTX instead of 4HX.

4HX is 2 off on top, so we should have lost 3 Imps against -420, but 3NTX only made 4 tricks for 5 off and +1100, so 12 Imps to us after all.

**M 9** 3  
**Bd 11** T54  
**Dlr S** AJ98  
**Vul Nil** J8753  
 972 KJT654  
 AQ96 KJ  
 KT 654  
 KQT2 64  
 AQ8  
 8732  
 Q732  
 A9  
**W N E S**  
 // 1NT

On board 11 in match 9 I was too timid when the weak notrump was passed around to me, but luckily South misplayed 1NT and went off so the damage was minimized.

Since there are at least 22 HCPs missing, and North has not made a game try, Tony should have a minimum of 12 HCPs, and I have the 6-card suit, so a 2D bid by me to show a single-suiter was worth the slight risk of a complete misfit.

Tony would know that I was just balancing, so should not raise, and 2S would have been easy.

In 1NT Tony led the CK and South won the CA and led the C9 to dummy's Jack, and led a diamond off the table to Tony's King.

Now we could cash 2 clubs, 1 diamonds and 4 hearts for 1 off.

Since Tony has most likely shown the CT, declarer could have run the C9 and then taken the diamond finesse in the normal way and even risked the spade finesse for an overtrick if he wanted to.

**M 10** Q64  
**Bd 15** T8  
**Dlr S** KQ  
**Vul NS** AT8432  
 J832 A75  
 KQJ3 75  
 5 AJ987643  
 KJ76 -  
 KT9  
 A642  
 T2  
 Q95  
**W N E S**  
 2D 3C 3D //

On board 15 in match 10 against the current leaders, I had a difficult hand to evaluate when Tony opened 2D to show 4+ hearts and 4 spades, and eventually decided to go slowly when North got into the action in my void suit.

It did not seem to be the time to try 3NT, even if Tony did have a good stopper in clubs, so I just bid 3D with an intention to bid again if given the chance, but North passed it out.

South led the C5, although after the artificial opening it should have North's lead, and when the CJ forced the Ace there were 10 tricks and a miss-defence allowed 11 tricks for +150.

At the other table EW did try 3NT and after a club lead declarer had no chance. When North won the diamond he was able to put South in with the SA to lead the C9 and NS were able to cash 5 clubs a diamond and a heart for 3 off and another +150 for 7 Imps.



**M 10** 43  
**Bd 22** AKQ943  
**Dir E** A7  
**Vul EW** A87  
 K987 AJ52  
 8 J75  
 QT5 K2  
 KQJT3 6542

QT6  
 T62  
 J98643  
 9

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

On board 22 in match 10 I knew from the bidding that North was strong, but the slow raise to game by South indicated that he was very weak, so I chanced my arm with the opening lead of the DK, won by North, who led the S4 towards dummy.

When the ST forced the King, declarer had 10 tricks, but if Tony led back a spade a third round of diamonds would promote my HJ to the setting trick.

However, to my consternation, he led back the CK!

Declarer, who did not envisage that I had led an unsupported honour in diamonds, now led a second spade, and I was able to win the Ace, put Tony in with the DQ and get my ruff after all.

At the other table Meta and Wynne stopped in 3H, but made 10 tricks after all for 7 Imps to us.

**M 10** QJ543  
**Bd 28** A3  
**Dir W** AK872  
**Vul NS** 9  
 72 AKT6  
 JT76 85  
 QJ4 T3  
 T652 AJ874

98  
 KQ942  
 965  
 KQ3

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

On board 28 in match 4 NS got too high on a misfit and then made the wrong choice of game contract. Since South had a solid club stopper, he could have bid 3NT rather than give North preference in spades, which left North nowhere to go except to 4S.

I knew that this contract was going off, but I was not so sure about 5D or even 4NT, even though it was highly that I had 3 tricks in the black suits in a diamond contract, so I did not double.

I cashed the CA at trick 1 and then could sit back and wait for 3 more spade tricks to go with Tony's diamond trick for 2 off and +200.

At the other table Meta and Wynne did get to 3NT and made 10 tricks for +630 and 13 Imps.

While 3NT looks good, if EW do not lead a club twice, South can only get 1 club trick and 8 in all, and then EW can lead spades through dummy to establish at least 5 tricks for the defence, so 3NT should fail.