

2012 QLD OPEN TEAMS by Richard Wallis

A grand total of 32 teams played in this year's Open Teams under the direction of Jan Peach, and Nathan Van Jole, Kamal Sanmugaras, Neville Francis and Peter Hainsworth got to the lead after the first couple of matches, and were never headed, winning all 8 matches to finish in a clear first position. Second were Janine Solomon, Pele Rankin and David and Paula McLeash, with my team of Therese Tully, Lindy Vincent and Richard Ward a close third. The plate winners were Murray Perrin, Alison Dawson, Tony Treloar, Peter Evans and Tim Runting.

8 matches of 14 boards is a good contest, where one bad board may decide a close match, but not lead to a rout. As usual Toowong did a first class job of hosting, with copious amounts of food available throughout both days, and I did not notice any trouble or problem of any significance.

M 1	AQ9			On board 4 in the first match I did not notice at the time how weak South was for the 2H response, so did not find out if NS were playing negative free bids, but I do not remember the 2H bid being alerted.
Bd 4	AK75			Nobody could blame North for leaping to 6H over Therese's jump to 5C, and the slam looked cold to me as soon as dummy hit the table.
Dlr W	AQJ62			
Vul All	6			It looked cold to South too, who claimed 12 tricks at trick 2, with the proviso: as long as trumps were not 3-0!
KJ73		8654		It is well against the odds to take the double trump finesse, but when South leads trumps with this holding, they should always lead the HJ, intending to play the HK from dummy anyway, as sometimes West will cover.
QT2		-		
7		T94		It is not relevant on this hand as there is only one entry to the South hand, and thus the trump finesse cannot be repeated.
QT732		AKJ954		
	T2			At the other table Lindy was not able to freely bid 2H, so supported diamonds, and the final contract was 5D, for 12 Imps to us.
	J98643			
	K853			
	8			
W	N	E	S	
/	1D	2C	2H!	
5C	6H	//		

M 1	A8			On board 12 in the first match Therese showed a weak hand with at least 55 in the minors, and expecting to make 5 club tricks most of the time and a couple of spades, I thought the heart pips should give enough protection to make 3NT a good shot.
Bd 12	Q85432			North led the H4, and South won the HJ as Therese showed out. South led back a surprising Spade, and North won the SA and led another heart, giving Therese a finesse she cannot take herself, and 9 tricks were easy when the clubs behaved.
Dlr W	Q8			
Vul NS	JT4			Since the diamonds were 2-2, there were always 9 tricks by ducking a diamond, thus it was always going to be +400.
2		KQJ9		At the other table EW managed to get to 5D, and the same 2-2 diamond break made this an easy contract, so there was no swing on the board.
-		KT97		
AT96542		J3		
Q9632		AK5		
	T76543			
	AJ6			
	K7			
	87			
W	N	E	S	
2NT	/	3NT	//	

M 2 Bd 19 Dir S Vul EW	KJT76 Q T8 AK983		On board 19 in the second match North use a Michael's sue-bid to show the spades/minor 2-suiter, and when South showed spades, she took a reasonable shot at game and was rewarded by getting a suitable hand from partner, or almost rewarded!
A984 JT87654 A3 -		3 K2 KQ742 76542	Therese led the HJ and could see when I played the HK at trick 1 that 4H was a possible make, as I had a likely singleton spade. Therese's problem was firstly could she put me in, and if so, could she get me to lead a club for her to ruff?
	Q52 A93 J965 QJT		Therese ducked the first spade towards dummy, but won the SQ as I showed out, discarding an encouraging D2. At least that looked like we could take 3 tricks, but what about a club ruff to defeat the contract?
W 1H	N 2H 4S	E / //	S / 2S
Actually, playing teams, it was easy for me, as the only chance that I could see to defeat the contract was for Therese to have a club void, and was pleased to see my C2 ruffed. At the other table, there was ny club ruff, so we gained 10 Imps.			

M 2 Bd 20 Dir W Vul All	J AQ2 K75 AQJ654		Board 20 in the second match was the most surprising of the weekend. NS were playing Precision, and normally the 1S response was game-forcing, and South was definitely surprised that North passed his 3H bid.
T64 KT5 QJ9862 K		9532 983 AT T732	!S showed a 5-card suit and 8+, and the 2D rebid just showed less than 4 controls, (hence North's pessimism) and 3H was natural.
	AKQ87 J764 43 98		Therese led the DQ and South made it easy for us by covering in dummy and Therese led the D9 at trick 2, reducing South to just 3 trumps while I pitched a spade.
W / / / //	N 1C! 2C! 3C	E / / / //	S 1S! 2D! 3H?
A club towards dummy saw Therese pop up with the CK, an ominous sign for declarer, and he overtook the SJ to lead a heart, winning with the HQ. Now he was starting to lose steam, so led a hopeful CQ, which Therese ruffed small to lead the D8.			
I ruffed with the H8 and declarer over-ruffed with the HJ to cash 2 more spades, but I was able to ruff the 4 th round of spades and lead a club for Therese to ruff for 1 off. At the other table, a normal 3NT made 10 tricks, so we gained a lucky 12 Imps.			

M 2 Bd 24 Dir W Vul Nil	9432 KT3 2 AQJ63		On board 24 in the second match the bidding at our table followed a normal pattern to finish in 4SE, and although North got a diamond ruff, 10 tricks were easy, and I finished with +420.
K876 AQ52 QT875 -		AQJT5 J86 K4 T82	The action was at the other table where confusion about whether a double was for penalty or take-out led to a double game swing to our side.
	- 974 AJ963 K9754		West thought that after the points showing redouble (I preferred to show my excellent 5-card suit), all subsequent doubles were for penalty, hence the pass of 2CX, They must have been surprised by their own 3-card club holding, but maybe they thought that the double was based on power.
W 1D X	N X //	E X	S 2X
Not only is 5C a good contract over 4SE, but it is can be made, so Lindy had no trouble making 10 tricks for +480, and 15 Imps. Clubs were not mentioned at our table.			

M 3 Bd 4 Dir W Vul All	4 K8753 9762 542				On board 4 in the third match everyone was very surprised when I bid to the 3NT game, but then passed out the 4S bid by South that could have been made as a sacrifice. However, when we only took 3 tricks and later wrote down -620, it seemed like a good pass.
653 AJT2 KJ54 K9				QJ Q94 T AQJT876	Since my 2NT had shown clubs, Therese led the CK, and knowing we had only 1 club trick at the most, I overtook with the CA and led the DT, hoping for a ruff.
	AKT9872 6 AQ83 3				Declarer knew Therese had the DK by the bidding and my lead, so rose with the DA and drew trumps to lead the H6, which Therese unfortunately ducked, giving declarer her 10 th trick.
W 1NT 3C //	N /	E 2NT! 3NT	S / 4S		Of course looking at all 4 hands, if Therese rises with the HA she has an easy exit of a club and comes to 2 diamond tricks as 1 discard on the HK is not enough. At the other table Lindy and Richard also reached 4S, this time doubled, so that was 13 Imps out.

M 3 Bd 13 Dir N Vul All	95 K5 KT63 J9852				On board 13 in match 3 South's 2D showed diamonds and a major, and Therese's 3D was a transfer to hearts, with at least invitational values.
KQ42 AQJ76 J5 74				63 T94 A92 AKQT3	The 3S rebid was game forcing and showed a stopper, and I made a poor decision to play in 3NT rather than the obvious 4H.
	AJT87 832 Q874 6				Everything would have been okay if South had led their 5-card suit, but they unkindly led the D4, and when the heart finesse lost, I was one down.
W 3D 3S	N / / /	E 1NT 3H 3NT	S 2D! / //		South's second suit was obviously spades, and counting on 5 club tricks and leading towards the spades twice would lead to 9 tricks without needing to take the heart finesse, but the heart finesse appeared to be the best chance, as clubs did not seem likely to give 5 tricks. A routine 4H at the other table led to 10 tricks and 10 Imps away.

M 4 Bd 19 Dir S Vul EW	J K874 AKJ7 J975				On board 19 in match 4 we got lucky when declarer picked the wrong finesse to make 9 tricks in 3NT.
A95 A953 654 642				8743 QJT Q82 KT8	Miss-fits are always harder, but at least NS had the spade pips and 3NT can be made as long as North is declarer, although it can be defeated by an unlikely club lead if South is declarer.
	KQT62 62 654 AQ3				I led a normal HQ and North held up for 2 rounds before winning and leading the SJ, overtaking in dummy as Therese ducked. Next was an unsuccessful diamond finesse, and we ended with 6 tricks for 2 off and +100.
W / /	N 2D 3NT	E / //	S 1S 3D		To make 9 tricks declarer must hope the CQ is well placed, so wins the HK and passes the SJ, which holds. Now a club finesse and the SK sets up the suit for 4 tricks and 9 tricks in all, without needing the diamond finesse. At the other table 9 tricks led to +400 and 11 Imps in.

M 4 Bd 28 Dlr W Vul NS	4 KJ763 J65 KJ74		On board 28 in match 4, South was in a common dilemma with a good trump holding. Do I double and warn declarer, and if I do, what do I lead, or do I leave the contract undoubled?
92 T852 T AQ9653		AKJ75 AQ9 A8743 -	At the other table the contract was not doubled, and unwarned, declarer went 1 off for +50 to us. South did double, but then went looking for a ruff by leading a heart, whereas a trump lead gives me no chance, even knowing about the bad break.
	QT863 4 KQ92 T82		Since I knew trumps were not breaking, I resolved to make as many trumps as I could by ruffing, so I won the HA at trick 1, and ruffed a diamond on the table.
W / 1NT 3S //	N / / / //	E 1S 3D 4S	S / / X
CA and a club ruff allowed another diamond ruff and then another club ruff, for the first 7 tricks, and then I cashed the SA and could exit with the HA and South was end-played, forced to lead into my spade tenace for the 9 th and 10 th tricks. A lucky 12 Imps.			

M 5 Bd 1 Dlr N Vul Nil	T97 Q72 QT QJ763		Board 1 in match 5 was the lucky result that won us the match, but could have seen us suffer a bad loss if the cards had not been perfectly placed.
AJ82 43 AKJ85 A8		Q643 AT985 4 K92	I was bidding in the full knowledge that as a passed hand I could not be much stronger, but looking at Therese's hand later I was surprised we got to slam knowing there was a Key Card missing. It turns out that Therese forgot I was a passed hand.
	K5 KJ6 97632 T54		Mt 4 th suit 2C was game forcing, and then I could safely show spade support at a low level and invite cue-bids. We bid first or second, and over 3S, showing likely xx in hearts, I showed my HA next rather than the CK, as I knew that this was vital.
W 1D 1S 2D 3C 3S 4NT 6S	N / / / / / / //	E / 1H 2C! 2S 3D 4H 5D	S / / / / / / /
When dummy went down after the lead of the CQ Therese was initially a little puzzled as to how we arrived in this bad contract, then she remembered that I had passed on the first round. After she won the CK on the table and led the SJ, getting the good news when the second spade was cashed, she ducked a heart, leaving the decision on which red suit to set up until later. Since the hearts were 3-3, 12 tricks were easy, and we scored up +980, and a fortunate +11 Imps.			

M 5 Bd 14 Dlr E Vul Nil	8542 J54 Q9 Q542		On board 14 in match 5 I did not give enough credence to Therese's belated 4D bid, and since I did not expect her to be short in clubs as well, I did not repeat my hearts to complete my shape and thus at least get to game in either of my suits.
73 86 AJT76542 3		AQT96 AKQ93 K8 7	Double dummy 6H is cold, and 5S can be made, but a major suit game should not have been a problem. Even single dummy Therese had no trouble making 12 tricks in 4D, but +170 was a poor score.
	KJ T72 3 AKJT986		At the other table EW got carried away on their partially-fitting hands, but luckily for us finished in the worst slam of 6S and went 1 down, so we actually gained 6 Imps for the poor contract.
W / 4D	N / //	E 1S 3H	S 3C 4C
It is hard to bid the hand scientifically, unless playing negative free bids, where West would have an easy 3D over 3C, but even then EW would likely only get to game.			

M 6 Bd 17 Dlr N Vul Nil	AQ987 J AQJ863 8		On board 17 in match 6 we had the dreaded double game swing, but at least we did not double at either table. I felt I was too good to simply bid 4H over the 1D opening, and I am sure that North would have bid 4S over that anyway. He had no hesitation in bidding 5S after South responded 1S and probably wondered if he should be bidding 6S! Therese has no way of knowing whose hand it is, and having pushed NS to the 5-level, it would generally not be good tactics to bid 6H on such a hand, inspite of the trump support. Therese led the H5, consistent with a 3-card holding, and when the CK won trick 2, I knew that declarer, without an entry, would have no option on the hand but to lay down the SA. Even if South had a singleton diamond I could ruff in front of him At the other table Lindy did not respond 1S on such a sub-minimum hand, and thus 5H became the final contract, for 14 Imps away.
43 Q52 KT42 AJ95		K AKT9843 5 KQ32	
	JT652 76 97 T764		
W / /	N 1D 4S 5S	E X 5H //	S 1S /

M 6 Bd 18 Dlr E Vul NS	986542 J642 65 4		On board 18 in match 6 we missed a golden opportunity to take advantage of wayward bidding by NS. My 1C opening showed at least a 4-card suit, with the 1NT overall a balanced 15-18, and North's 2S was to play in the minimum 6-2 fit. It seemed likely that 2S would fail, but the 2C by Therese did not show much, except that we were unlikely to take many club tricks, so I bid another club, and was delighted when South raised spades. Of course Therese could not know my spades were so good and bid the obvious 4C, passed out. South was in on the act too, and rather than having a look at dummy with the HA, leading to just 10 tricks, led the ST, allowing me to discard all of dummy's hearts for 12 tricks, but only +170. Alas EW bid to the mundane 3NT at the other table for an easy 10 tricks, so we lost 6 Imps
- Q987 AT83 97652		AKQJ T5 K7 AJT83	
	T73 AK3 QJ942 KQ		
W 2C 4C	N 2S //	E 1C 3C	S 1NT 3S

M 8 Bd 21 Dlr N Vul NS	Q974 J3 K963 532		On board 21 in match 8 we bid to what should have been a flat slam. A conventional DJ lead would have given me losing and winning options, but South got clever by leading the H9, possibly because Therese confirmed all of the Key cards with 5NT and went looking for a grand slam. However, with the CQ coming down after 1 ruff, and the ruffing finesse showing up if I try that line, 12 tricks were there on any lead. A pity we could not have made Therese declarer, as North cannot safely lead a diamond. After the trump lead I was able to draw trumps and take the spade finesse to a possible 13 tricks. At the other table I do not know if East was trying to be cute or missed a heart, but they denied a 4-card major and finished in 6NT, which went an inglorious 6 down, for +250, and +15 Imps, which was most of our winning margin.
AKT52 KT42 Q2 AK		J6 AQ65 A7 JT976	
	83 987 JT854 Q84		
W 2C 4NT 5NT	N / / / /	E 1NT 2H 5S 6H	S / / / //

M 8	AQT75432			On board 28 in the final match, the unthinkable happened, and 8-card Major suit was placed on the table in a 3NT contract.
Bd 28	6			The bidding was straight-forward, and North, perhaps unwisely considering the result, accepted his partner's decision to play in 3NT.
Dlr W	T54			
Vul NS	6			
986		K		If I wanted to play guessing games, I could ask how many spade tricks did declarer take? The answer is one, and it was the SA at tricks 13, the other 7 spades all being discarded.
T982		73		
97		AQJ32		
KQ83		A9752		
	J			Therese could have put the issue beyond doubt by leading the CK, but chose a passive HT instead.
	AKQJ54			Sometimes it pays to play against an imaginative declarer, as South won the opening heart lead and rattled off 5 more hearts before exiting with the CJ!
	K86			
	JT4			
W	N	E	S	We had only 5 tricks to cash by now and declarer took the last 2 tricks with the DK and SA for +100 and 13 Imps to us as a normal 4S at the other table made 11 tricks.
/	3S	/	3NT	
//				