

2012 Qld Seniors Pairs by Richard Wallis

In danger of being cancelled due to lack of participation, the Seniors Pairs rebounded this year with 24 pairs, many of whom were realistic chances of taking out the prize. John Gough and Mike Pemberton were always prominent and had a good win, with Ian Afflick and Paul Collins in second place and Tony Jackman and myself coming from the clouds to gather in third place.

12 tables were tantalizingly close to being able to run a Howell movement where everybody plays everybody else, but that would have involved 36 boards in the morning and 33 boards in the afternoon, obviously too many. Thus the format had to be a Swiss movement.

The standard format for a 1-day Swiss event is 11 matches of 5 boards. This works fine for 24 tables or more, but had a tendency to over-swiss an event with only 24 pairs. Computers are useful for working out match-ups in the final rounds, but we will look into adjustments to the regulations for next year and beyond to cater for small fields.

I would like to see this event grow as more and more of our regular tournament players join the ranks of the Seniors, so come along next year, let's make it a proper Swiss, not an almost Howell.

S 1	KQ743			Board 4 in the first session sent us on a path to oblivion that continued until the 4 th match. A 2NT rebid after a positive response is forcing and shows extras, but I got nervous that as a passed hand Tony might pass this, so I made sure of game as I had no slam interest opposite a passed hand. This took away his ability to show his shape below 3NT, so, playing matchpoints, he passed. Unluckily for us I was prepared for a heart lead, but the 5-5 diamond fit made this the normal lead from either hand, and our goose was cooked. Playing Imps, it would have much more attractive for Tony's hand to bid 4C over 3NT, and then while we would probably have missed slam, at least we would have a positive score. I compounded the problem for us by setting up a spade trick for East before leading a club, and -200 was a bottom!
Bd 4	T76			
Dlr W	-			
Vul All	QJT76			
85			T962	
J43			Q95	
QJ973			KT865	
432			A	
	AJ			
	AK82			
	A42			
	K985			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/	1C	
/	1S	/	1NT	
/	2C	/	3NT	
//				

S 1	T7652			Board 6 in the first session was one of our few lucky ones, but it required a little help from EW and a very friendly secondary break. Tony's 1NT was forcing for 1 round and my 2D rebid denied 6 spades and may have only 3 diamonds. Tony's 2S rebid was either a doubleton, or a weaker hand with 3 trumps, so I rebid diamonds to try to get to the best fit. I had still only shown 11-13 points, but with his honours well placed, Tony optimistically leapt to game. Game is not good, but improved markedly when South led the CA and a second club. The odds dropped off again when South contributed the SK at trick 3, an obvious singleton. I took the spade finesse but was resigned to going off since if the spades were 5-1, the chances of a 3-3 diamond break were poor, but to my surprize the diamonds were friendly, and I lost just a trump, a club and a heart for +420. If South had started the heart force at trick 2 I had no chance.
Bd 6	AJ6			
Dlr E	JT8			
Vul EW	J8			
A4			QJ983	
QT953			7	
K9			AQ432	
T942			K3	
	K			
	K842			
	765			
	AQ765			
W	N	E	S	
		1S	/	
1NT	/	2D	/	
2S	/	3D	/	
4S!	//			

S 1	964			<p>On board 9 in the first session I had my best hand for a long time, and got an unexpected response from Tony.</p> <p>I got such a shock when Tony bid 2S over the forcing 2H that I acted instinctively and jumped to slam without any further thought.</p> <p>Obviously the scientific bid is 5NT from me, Grand Slam Force, and Tony would have had an easy 7S bid.</p> <p>I think Tony must have also been in shock at my 6S bid, because he could see that I had bid slam missing the trump KQ and he was looking at them! Surely that must make 7S seem a stand-out.</p> <p>If Tony had bid the grand slam and it was wrong, at least he was on very firm ground in the post mortem.</p>
Bd 9	5			
Dlr N	T(*&3			
Vul EW	T843			
AJ532		KQT87		
AKQJ9		83		
AKQ		J2		
-		J762		
	-			
	T7642			
	654			
	AKQ95			
W	N	E	S	
	/	/	/	
1C	/	1D	/	
2H!	/	2S	/	
6S!	//			

S 1	KQ983			<p>Board 18 in the first session had a happy ending for us instead of being a disaster. A void in your partner's long suit is often not an asset, and this was the case most definitely on this board.</p> <p>Since I had 3 Aces, but a void in Tony's diamonds, I chose to make a game try over Tony's minimum opening, so bid just 2NT. His diamond suit looked excellent, so he raised to 3NT.</p> <p>If North had led the SK there would have been no story, and the SJ was an entry, and the short spades had the DK.</p> <p>However, North led a normal S3, and I had to pick the right card from dummy or else it was 5 tricks instead of 12!</p> <p>It seems likely that North does not have KQT, or she would have led the SK, and in isolation there is twice the chance the South's singleton is not the ST, but after much agonized though I called for the SJ from the table and was able to set up dummy's diamonds for 11 tricks. A pseudo squeeze gave me 12 tricks for +490.</p>
Bd 18	Q972			
Dlr E	98			
Vul NS	J9			
A764		J52		
A*643		J		
-		AQJT654		
A743		K2		
	T			
	KT5			
	K732			
	QT865			
W	N	E	S	
		1D	/	
1H	1S	2D	/	
2NT	/	3NT	//	

S 1	K95			<p>Board 22 in the first session was a difficult hand when playing pairs, where every trick is important.</p> <p>I led the D6, an obvious shortage, and declarer tried to coax Tony into covering by playing the DJ! Best is to win the lead in hand and play 2 rounds of trumps, hoping I have all the entries, or only 2 trumps.</p> <p>The latter line works so declarer comes to 10 tricks because every card is well placed except the SK.</p> <p>Of course Tony did not cover the DJ and declarer wanted to be hand to take the spades finesse for a possible 11 tricks, so at trick 2 she led another diamond and I ruffed and cashed out my 2 Aces hoping Tony had a trump trick.</p> <p>One off was probably a normal result playing MPs, as to play 2 rounds of spades would lead to a very poor score if I had the SK, but the real damage was done at trick 1, which should have been won in hand to take the spade finesse at trick 2.</p>
Bd 22	763			
Dlr E	Q743			
Vul EW	QT3			
AJ43		QT86		
KT		QJ		
JT5		AK982		
K965		J4		
	72			
	A98542			
	6			
	A872			
W	N	E	S	
		1D	1H	
X	/	1S	/	
4S	//			

S 1 Bd 25 Dir N Vul EW	AK97 T AK43 Q653		It is a good idea to ask for an explanation of the opponent's systemic bids instead of blundering about in the dark, as illustrated by board 25 in the first session.
JT532 A J762 KJ7		8 QJ762 QT AT942	Tony opened 1D (artificial) although it may have been 1C, and when East overcalled 2NT I incorrectly assumed that it was for the minors. I was not strong enough to bid immediately, but when 3C came back to me I bid my modest 6-card suit.
	Q64 K98543 985 8		Luckily Tony was not bidding with the lights off and asked for an explanation of the 2NT bid and found out it showed clubs and hearts! His bid of 3S closed out the auction and East led the CA followed by the HQ.
W 3C /	N 1D! / 3S	E 2NT / //	S / 3H!
Tony did not cover in dummy and West won the bare HA and led the CK, setting up Tony's CQ, but he could not effectively use it. He ruffed a club in dummy and led the HK, forcing West to ruff, and eventually made all 4 trumps in hand, 2 diamonds, and 3 club ruffs for +140.			

S 1 Bd 27 Dir S Vul Nil	94 QT T752 AK875		On board 27 in the first session we did not know whose hand it was and sold out too early.
KJ765 J6542 AK 4		T832 A873 Q94 T6	My 2C was standard Michael's, although maybe with an opening bid I should have overcalled 1S, intending to bid hearts next if I did not get support. This may have sparked a jump to 3S out of Tony (weak), and led to a sacrifice that makes!
	AQ K9 J863 QJ932		I preferred to show both suits at once with the 2C bid, but maybe then I could have doubled 4C, since I had 3 potential tricks and may have had none for the Michael's cue-bid.
W 2C! //	N 3C	E 3H	S 1C 4C
We can make game in either major, for at least +170, so 2 off in 4C for +100 was scant compensation.			

S 1 Bd 28 Dir W Vul NS	K 5 AT85 AKJT952		If pre-emptive bids did not have their occasional success, players would stop doing them, and on board 28 in the first session I was in good company when I opened 3S as dealer at favourable vulnerability. Maybe some opened 4S?
QJT8753 J2 2 Q64		Q2 AKQ7 KQ974 73	North was under pressure and bid an aggressive but reasonable 5C, but it was Tony who had the good hand, not South, and he doubled.
	964 T98643 J63 8		He led the HK asking for count and must not have noticed that the only missing card was the HJ and I either had it or could ruff the H7 anyway.
W 3S	N 5C	E X	S //
Declarer could do nothing and eventually lost a trick in each major, a trump and 2 diamonds, so we scored up + 800 along with a number of other pairs.			

S 2	987432			On board 12 in the second session we were fooled by our own pre-empt and conceded the score to NS.
Bd 12	5			South could not double when the 3H opening came around, and the best option pass, was not obvious, so they bid 3NT with the singleton spade.
Dlr W	8753			North knew they were in trouble in 3NT and took refuge in what he thought was at least a 6-2 fit by bidding 4S.
Vul NS	85			I had a potential 4 tricks in spades, but did not consider doubling for very long, and 4S was passed out.
QJ		AKT5		Tony had a very good hand for his 3H opening, and we had no trouble taking 4S 3 off, for +300.
QJT9843		K		
-		QJ642		
KT93		Q62		
	6			
	A762			
	AKT9			
	AJ74			
W	N	E	S	This was better than if South had passed 3H, but not as good as the 10 or 11 tricks in the heart game.
3H	/	/	3NT	
/	4S	//		

S 2	KJ982			Board 20 in the second session was a bad board for MPs in that the best contract is 5C, unless West can be maneuvered as declarer in 3NT.
Bd 20	QJ87			Since Tony was already a passed hand I bid a practical 3NT after his positive response to my artificial 1C opening, and left it up to South to find the best lead.
Dlr W	T2			Luckily South led his best major and not his worst, and since hearts were 4-4, I lost just 3 hearts and a club for +600.
Vul All	A7			If West was declarer and North led 4 th of his longest and strongest, West has no choice except to run the spades lead to hand and now will make 12 tricks!
Q3		A6		
52		AT4		
AJ		KQ753		
KT96532		QJ		
	T754			
	K963			
	986			
	84			
W	N	E	S	These types of hands are where the luck factor is most obvious.
/	/	1C!	/	
2C	/	3NT	//	

S2	T764			On board 24 in the second session and the last match my 2D bid showed a single-suited hand, and when South bid a natural and non-forcing 2H, I decided to bid my suit, but not without some apprehension as North was an aggressive player.
Bd 24	AQ			I thought that I had stepped into it when North doubled, but brightened up somewhat when South led the DQ and North cashed the DA, and the top hearts and CA before returning a diamond.
Dlr W	AT65			When the diamond was not ruffed, I cashed the SK and ruffed a heart to hand to draw the remaining trumps and conceded a club for 8 tricks and +470.
Vul Nil	AK4			As it turns out even 1 off (keeping the entries and continuing diamonds promotes a trump trick) is better than the easy 9 tricks available to South in 2H.
K		AQJ832		
T642		83		
KJ832		97		
T82		QJ7		
	95			
	KJ975			
	Q4			
	9653			
W	N	E	S	
/	1NT	2D	2H	
/	/	2S	/	
/	X	//		