

2013 QLD Open Teams

A total of 32 teams entered for the Open teams this year, and while not a maximum number for the Toowong Bridge Club's premises, it was still up there close to the maximum entry for the event. Teams from Rockhampton, Townsville and Toowoomba performed admirably, taking prizes in the various categories, and in the case of the Rockhampton team, outright third place.

As usual I played in the team with Lindy Vincent and Richard Ward, and this year my partner was Pele Rankin, playing the same 2/1 system that I now play with Therese. We were always in the mix for a place, but small losses to Jackman (match 4) and Cupples (match 5) made it difficult to overtake the Jackman team at the end. Jackman (Tony Jackman, Tony Hutton, Mike Robson and Betty Lee) defied all of us and led for most of the way, only suffering two small losses in the final 2 matches to enable us to close the margin to a respectable value.

We finished in second place, ahead of Cupples (Ken Cupples, Malcolm Allan, Malcolm Saunders and William Renton-Power). Each of the three place-getters had 6 wins and 2 losses, but Jackman had the most number of large wins, finishing one match 85 Imps ahead, but still only 25 VPs.

Toowong BC did us all proud, with copious amounts of food all day, and even fruit and sandwiches supplied at lunch. While some people still put in orders for sandwiches at lunch, I did not see the need for it with what was on offer all day.

M 1	82				On board 2 in the first match South doubled on the first round, no doubt intending to bid hearts on the next and show a good hand. However, when 3S came back to him he was not inclined to bid his hearts after all, as his partner's strength is unknown. Pele's 1S bid is a bid light, but more than justified by her 6-card suit and 5 points, but after my encouraging double-raise, she had no hesitation in passing. On points and distribution alone, my hand is too strong for 2S, but not really strong enough for 3S, but I upgraded because of my good trumps and outside singleton and CA. There was nothing in the play, and we recorded +140 soon after the opening lead of the HT. At the other table South introduced the hearts at a lower level, and Lindy made 11 tricks in 4H for +650 and 13 Imps.
Bd 2	T642				
Dir E	AQ854				
Vul NS	T7				
QJ7543			AKT9		
93			8		
93			JT76		
Q84			AJ53		
	6				
	AKQJ75				
	K2				
	K962				
W	N	E	S		
1S	/	1C! 3S	X //		

M 1 Bd 7 Dir S Vul All	J852 J8 KT3 Q743		On board 7 in the first match NS had a simple auction to 1NT and I was on lead with no spades to lead following Pele's lead-directional overcall.	
AKT93 Q74 Q8 652		- T953 AJ9542 KJ8	Fourth highest of your longest and strongest is an oft quoted lead suggestion, but here, for some unknown reason, I elected to lead the HT, which set up 3 tricks for declarer.	
	Q764 AK62 76 AT9		Pele could see from dummy's spades and declarer's tenuous stopper that I had a void in spades, so switched to the DQ, covered by declarer, and I cashed the DJ and exited with the D2 to suggest a club entry.	
W 1S	N 1NT	E //	S 1C	Declarer won the DT unblocked the HJ and led a club towards dummy, and I put in the Jack, but declarer was able to cash the hearts and exit with a club, allowing me to cash 4 more diamond tricks for 1 off and +100. Pele's AK of spades took no tricks.
At the other table West overcalled 2S after a weak 1NT opening, and played there for 3 off and another +300 and 9 Imps.				

M 1 Bd 11 Dir S Vul Nil	A854 T65 AK92 A7		On board 11 in the first match I made a simple jump overcall in my long suit, which is the only way I can bid clubs in our system, and Pele made the obvious pass.	
KQ932 92 QT875 6		JT AJ43 - KJT9842	South led the HK, and, ever hopeful of getting a heart ruff in dummy, I ducked. This turned out even better than I hoped, when South next led the H7, and I won with the HJ!	
	76 KQ87 J643 Q53		There is no need for a ruff now, as the club in dummy will best serve as a lead towards my hand, so I led the SJ, won by North who tried to cash the DA.	
W /	N 1NT	E 3C	S / //	I overtook the ST and led the C6, with North rising with the CA to lead another spade, allowing South to ruff while I discarded my losing heart, and when I won the HA and cashed the CK, my hand was high.
At the other table, playing a weak 1NT, Richard opened 1D, and EW came to rest in 2S, which went 3 off for another +150 and 6 Imps.				

M 1 Bd 12 Dir W Vul NS	Q98 AQJT5 AKT 83		On board 12 in the first match NS bid to the excellent spade game on minimal values, and I had to decide at my second turn to call whether to sacrifice or not?	
A64 K83 94 AQT97		3 94 QJ8765 KJ64	This time North doubling first with the good hand worked out well, as a simple overcall in hearts at the other table consigned the spade suit to oblivion when Lindy was too weak to bid spades on her own.	
	KJT752 762 32 53		I elected to sacrifice, but since the 1C by Pele could have as little as 3 clubs, I showed my long diamonds and 4-card club suit via 4NT.	
W 1C / 5C	N X 4S X	E 1D 4NT! //	S 2S / /	North has to be careful to take all of her tricks quickly, as the diamonds set up for heart discards if she waits for a lead to her heart tenace.
Unfortunately she came out leading the HA and Pele had to go 1 off for -100.				
At the other table EW were able to buy the contract in 3D, making 9 tricks for -110, so while I was right to sacrifice, we still lost 5 Imps.				

M 2 Bd 17 Dir N Vul Nil	J9 AK JT97 QJT93		On board 17 in the second match I made a simple overcall of 1S, testing the waters and was pleasantly surprised when Pele gave me immediate support. I felt that I had more than enough to leap to game now, but when South doubled, maybe I was wrong! However, when trumps were 2-2, Pele had just enough to make South wrong for doubling. The opening lead was the CK, and I tested trumps first and got some good news, now I needed something good to happen in diamonds, and South obliged by rising with the DA on the first round, easing all of my troubles.	
543 JT863 Q4 542		AKQ872 - K652 A86		
	T6 Q97542 A83 K7			
W / //	N 1C 3H	E 1S 4S	S 2H X	It did not matter whether South rose with the DA or not, as I simply duck a diamond, and when the DA comes down on the next ruff, 10 tricks are there. At the other table East was not so optimistic, and stopped in 3S, so we gained 9 Imps.

M 2 Bd 24 Dir W Vul Nil	K74 AJ95 86 KQ62		The vagaries of system was never more evident than on board 24 in the second match. Playing a strong 1NT opening, North was forced to open 1C and rebid 1NT, which left the spade suit open to attack, and Pele duly led the SQ, setting up 5 spade tricks for the defence before we had even got started. Forced to find a number of discards, declarer was always under the pump, and when the diamonds failed to give any more than 2 tricks, finished up 3 down for +150. At the other table Richard and Lindy were playing ACOL, and Richard opened 1NT, which prompted West to show their spades suit, and EW stopped in 3S, which had no chance, finishing 2 down for +100 and 6 Imps. It would be a fairer test of skill if everyone played the same system, but how boring!	
QJT92 K872 T A73		A86 T3 A9543 T85		
	53 Q64 KQJ72 J94			
W / /	N 1C 1NT	E / //	S 1D	

M 2 Bd 28 Dir W Vul NS	97 T87 KT874 JT5		On board 28 in the second match my 3C response showed 4-card support and 7-10 points, and South was under the hammer with a good hand, electing to bid what was in front of their eyes, with 3S. Double was a better alternative, but may have been misconstrued as just showing clubs, and Pele would possibly have rebid 3H anyway. However, the double is the winner, as picking the diamonds allows 5D to be made. Declarer could have done better with a good guess in diamonds, but lost 2 clubs and a trick in each other suit to finish 1 off for +100. The heart force leaves declarer without much resource, but 9 tricks are there double-dummy. At the other table Lindy was able to show her good spade suit at a lower level, and allowed EW to play in 3H, undoubled and with only 8 tricks, this was another +100 for 5 Imps.	
84 AKQ64 Q2 Q873		K632 J953 965 K6		
	AQJT5 2 AJ3 A942			
W 1H //	N /	E 3C!	S 3S	

M 3 Bd 3 Dlr S Vul EW	JT532 K52 854 93		On board 3 in the third match, after South and Pele passed, I knew that Kamal in 3 rd suit would open on almost anything, I just did not know how bad or how good it would be. South bid a conservative 2S over my double, and eventually I settled in 3NT, to which South led the S6. After the simple raise of the opened suit, it looked like Kamal had some values, so I did not know which of the many lines available to adopt for 9 tricks. If I rely on the diamonds behaving (3-3 or short DJ), the simple line is to play 3 rounds of hearts to set up the 9 th trick with the HT, relying on my club holding for protection in that suit. If North has the values, there are other lines available, including the heart finesse, so I did not want to rely only on the diamond suit, but when I cashed the diamonds and found them to be 3-3, I had to fall back on the heart finesse after all! Luckily Kamal's meager values did include the HK, so I racked up 9 tricks for a flat board.
94 JT73 QT32 862		AK8 AQ8 AK6 QT54	
	Q76 964 J97 AKJ7		
W	N	E	S
/	1S!	X	/
/	/	X	2S
3H	/	3NT	//

M 3 Bd 13 Dlr N Vul All	8653 63 QT AQ862		On board 13 in the third match both Pele and I were restrained by our lack of fit for each other's major, and languished in game, when slam was cold. I have a good suit, but minimum points for my opening bid, so having shown at least 5-5 in the reds, I resisted the temptation to carry on over 3NT, hoping Pele had at least 2 hearts, so she could cash my 6 tricks. She has a good hand, with potential in spades for 5 tricks, but no certainty without a fit, so, knowing I was minimum, she signed off in the obvious game. Thanks to my singleton SJ, 6H is cold, as is 6NT provided Pele's hand is declarer to protect the CK. Maybe if I had leapt to 4H over 1S, stressing how good my hearts were, Pele may have had a crack at 6NT. The board was flat, so it was too hard for the other table also.
AKQT2 2 A98 K754		J AKQJT9 J7632 T	
	974 8754 K54 J93		
W	N	E	S
		1H	/
1S	/	2D	/
3C!	/	3D	/
3NT	//		

M 4 Bd 21 Dlr N Vul NS	AQ75 J8 986 9832		On board 21 in the fourth match Pele had a near perfect hand for a take-out double, and repeated the call when South rebid his suit, which prompted me to now show my heart suit. Knowing her SK may not be pulling its full value, she passed this out. Over the 1S response by North, I could have bid 2H, but preferred 1NT to show my point range, although 1NT is a disaster after a spade lead and diamond return, losing 2 spades and 7 diamonds! South did not lead their singleton spade to get a ruff, and I believe that if they did, it will make it easier for me to get 10 tricks. Instead South led the DA, and I had to fight to get just 9 tricks, although, seeing all 4 hands, 10 tricks are there against any defence. At the other table EW had a more spirited auction and did get to 4H, but only made 9 tricks for +100 and 9 Imps. 10 tricks looks difficult on a diamond lead, it probably entails leading away from the spades after ruffing the opening lead.
K864 KQ75 - AQJ76		JT32 AT42 Q75 54	
	9 963 AKJT432 KT		
W	N	E	S
	/	/	1D
X	1S	1NT	2D
X	/	2H	//

M 5 Bd 10 Dir E Vul All	QJT963 4 52 A852		On board 10 in the fifth match we had our chances to get it right when, after getting heart support, Pele showed her second suit with 3D, and I raised it.
K84 AKJ976 KJ87 -		A75 Q53 QT943 74	The double fit, club void and protected SK were almost enough to tempt Pele into bidding 5H over 5C, but the oft-quoted adage "do not bid 5 over 5" sprang to mind and she doubled instead.
	2 T82 A6 KQJT963		We were never getting to slam on such a magic fit, but bidding 5H is probably good insurance, as after all 5C will make on many layouts.
			In 5CX, we took our 3 tricks by switching to diamonds early enough, which is just as well as with 3 trump entries to dummy, declarer can easily set up the spades for a discard otherwise.
W 1H 3D X	N 1S / //	E / 2H 4D	S 1C 3C 5C
The same contract was reached at the other table, so the board was flat, and each NS pair no doubt lamenting the missed opportunity by their partners to gain 10 Imps, or even more.			

M 5 Bd 13 Dir N Vul All	AJ9642 Q KQ9864 -		Board 13 in the fifth match was the most bizarre I have encountered for a long time, and the bidding was even more bizarre, but who can argue with success?
T8 T73 2 KJ65432		- AKJ8652 753 A98	I did not know what was likely to make, since I had a spade void, so instead of 4H on my first turn to call, I temporized with a simple overcall of 2H!
	KQ753 94 AJT QT7		I assume that South was also temporizing with his 3D response, and was so delighted by the 5D rebid, that he leapt to slam.
			From my point of view, things appeared to have taken a turn for the better, but I refrained from doubling with my 2 Aces, and then wished I had when the HA held up!
W / //	N 1S 5D	E 2H /	S 3D! 6S!!
However, when I next tried to cash the CA, North ruffed and claimed a fast 12 tricks, for -1430.			
Things got worse, as at the other table, EW climbed to 6H, doubled, and Richard did not get his club ruff, so that was -1660, and 22 Imps away, surely a record for this event.			

M 7 Bd 12 Dir W Vul NS	KT54 JT864 J73 4		Board 12 in the seventh match was perfect for our 2 over 1 system. My 3D showed both minors and Pele's 3H agrees clubs, whereupon my 3S is a cue, showing first or second-round control, and 4C sets clubs, or it could have been Minorwood.
AJ6 AQ3 98 KQT93		- K2 KQT642 A7652	Not wanting to test the possible meanings for 4C, I bid what I thought we could make, namely 6C. If 4C was Minorwood, as I believed, then systemically I could have shown my odd number of Key Cards and a useful void, but we were in slam then anyway.
	Q98732 975 A5 J8		North rather strangely led the H4, and I was a little worried about my HK being exposed, but this worry was quickly eased when the HK won in dummy and Pele drew trumps and gave up the DK, her SA not being required.
W 1NT 3H 4C	N / / /	E 3D! 3S 6C	S / / //
Then I wished I had made the correct response, as if Pele had the DA and not the SA, 7C is cold! However, not to worry as they played only in 5C at the other table so we gained 11 Imps.			

M 7 Bd 14 Dir E Vul Nil	642 874 876 J943		On board 14 in the seventh match we put our system to good use and called on a bit of luck in the process. The duplication in diamonds was unfortunate, but the slam is just within the odds for a teams match because of the HT.			
Q87 AT532 KQ3 T2		AKT3 KQ AJT KQ65	Pele's 2D response showed at least 1 control, and my 2NT rebid showed 21-22 points and could have a 5-card major. In response to her transfer to hearts, by accepting the transfer I showed exactly 2 hearts, so slam in hearts was out of the question, although exactly the same odds.			
	J95 J96 9542 A87		Thanks to the vital HT, the hearts will be worth 5 tricks if the suit breaks 3-3, only about a 36% chance, but also a third of the more likely 4-2 breaks, where the HJ is short.			
W	N	E	S	When the hearts did break, 12 tricks were easy and we scored up +990, which gained 11 Imps against the -48 at the other table.		
2D!	/	2C	/	If I had a 4 th diamond and 1 less club, slam is also cold if the CA is on side, so it is a reasonable chance.		
3D	/	2NT	/			
6NT	//	3H!	/			

M 8 Bd 21 Dir N Vul NS	AT852 4 T97 J973		The eighth and last match was a low scoring affair, which did not give us the opportunity for a large win that would enable us to take the title, but board 21 has to go down as a missed opportunity through my lack of concentration.			
K AJ93 AQJ643 42		Q763 KT7 K2 AKQT	My 1C opening could be short, but the 1S rebid confirms both black suits, and Pele bid the obvious game. The opening lead was the S5, and she had no trouble making 12 tricks for +490 and a 2 Imp gain over 5D making 13 tricks at the other table.			
	J94 Q8652 85 865		Where was the opportunity for a pick-up? Well in our system I had a strong 1NT opening and my 1S rebid had denied that strength, or the shape, which is why Pele did not go looking for slam.			
W	N	E	S	Though not quite strong enough I could have even upgraded my hand and rebid 2NT instead of 1S, which would have seen us in slam for sure. After a 1NT opening Pele may have ended up in slam when I showed a maximum.		
1D	/	1C!	/			
3NT	//	1S	/			