

## 2013 SWP Open Teams by Richard Wallis

This year for the first time for many years I played in a team of 4 over the 12 rounds and relished the opportunity to be involved all of the time instead of twiddling my thumbs for a third of the time. The team was Tony Jackman and myself playing with Elaine Leach and John Brockwell, and while not threatening the leaders at any stage we were well pleased with our 32<sup>nd</sup> place at the end of 12 matches.

We started out day 1 with no losses but no big wins either, and suffered our first loss on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day when we played our only team from the top 15. Moderate wins or draws followed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day which had 3 losses, putting us all the way down to 89<sup>th</sup> place. This gave us a final day against much more moderate opposition, and 3 good wins were enough to propel us to 32<sup>nd</sup> place, above our seeding, but it would have been more satisfying to be in the thick of the action more often.

The Otvosi team, imported from Poland, won the Swiss going away, but in a most surprising result was beaten in the quarter finals by the Brown team (T. Brown, A. Kanetkar, B. Neill, K. Morrison, P. Lavings, R. Krochmalik), who they had beaten comprehensively in the Swiss. Brown went on to win the semifinal against Beachamp, last year's winners, but lost to Thomson (M. Thomson, P. Newman, I. Del'monte, H. Melbourne) in the final.

Next year we also plan to play as a 4-person team, but as age takes over we may have to supplement our team again for future years. Out of 240 hands there were many of interest, both for good play and not so good and some involving the luck of the game, and a selection follows.

<b>M 1</b>	T74			On board 1 in the first match it was difficult for EW to evaluate the power of their club fit when subjected to a spade barrage by South but Elaine and John managed it at their table. However, while Deep Finesse has EW making 11 tricks in clubs, that is only when you can play double-dummy, and 5C went 1 off for -50. At our table EW were content to let me play in 4S, which should always be defeated by at least 1 trick, but again, it is much easier double-dummy. West chose to lead the HA instead of his partner's suit, and continued the suit at trick 2 enabling me to discard my club loser. The good spade support in dummy then enabled me to win the second round of trumps in dummy and discard 2 diamonds for 10 tricks and +620, gaining a lucky 11 Imps. Of course, if it had been East with the singleton heart, West would have been a hero, but then a club lead would have enabled East to lead a heart himself.
<b>Bd 5</b>	KQJ4			
<b>Dlr N</b>	Q62			
<b>Vul NS</b>	KT4			
92			5	
A98753			T6	
KJ			AT84	
Q76			AJ9832	
	AKQJ863			
	2			
	9753			
	5			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
//	/	1C	4S	

<b>M 1</b>	JT7			Board 7 in the first match was a good one for our system, but an unlucky distribution and too much information to the defenders led to defeat. 2C was a trump asking bid, and my 3C response showed my length, with 2 of the top 3 honours. Now was the clue for the defense, when Tony next asked about spade control, I showed either the SA or a spade void. If Tony had instead asked in diamonds (by 3D) I would have shown the same thing, easily identified by Tony as a void by his own diamond holding. Warned against a spade lead by the bidding, West led the C6, and when dummy went down 12 tricks looked relatively easy by setting up the diamonds. Alas, ruffing a diamond at trick 2 and winning the second trump in dummy to lead the top diamonds revealed the 5-2 break, and I could no longer make 12 tricks, so we lost 17 Imps!
<b>Bd 7</b>	Q52			
<b>Dlr S</b>	AK5432			
<b>Vul All</b>	A			
KQ62			983	
T9			J6	
87			QJT96	
QT762			K95	
	A54			
	AK8743			
	-			
	J843			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	2C!	/	1H	
/	3S!	/	3C!	
/	6H	//	4H!	

<b>M 1</b> <b>Bd 15</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	A752 KQ762 A2 T2		Often the opponent's bidding can be used to your advantage, but only if their bidding is reliable. On board 15 in the first match Tony was taken in by East's negative double, and so was West, judging by his 3S bid on such a minimum hand.
QJ98 J5 Q4 AK754		K4 T8 KT853 QJ93	My 3H bid showed nothing much more than 4-card support, so I was surprized when Tony went to game, but he had a good hand, and the 3S on his right, coupled with the negative double on his left, appeared to place me with a singleton spade at the most!
	T63 A943 J976 86		East seemed to double 4H more to stop West from bidding his 'spade' suit again rather than from any expectation of a large penalty, and he gained an unjust reward for such odd bidding.
<b>W</b> 1C 3S	<b>N</b> 1H 4H!	<b>E</b> X X	<b>S</b> / 3H //
There was nothing Tony could do to retrieve the situation, and he lost the obvious 5 tricks for -500, to lose 11 Imps against 4C by East going 1 off for -50.			

<b>M 2</b> <b>Bd 2</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AK963 Q KT93 754		On board 2 in the second match Tony's 3S bid showed 5 spades and offered a choice of game contracts.  I had a very flat distribution and honours in each suit, so I chose to play in 3NT, to which West led the D4, which was a very promising start.
8 T743 AJ54 A982		T754 A8652 2 QT6	After winning in hand with the D6 I finessed a diamond in dummy and led the HQ, which held the trick. A diamond off the table set up my 9 <sup>th</sup> trick, and then when East won the HA and led a club, a good guess led to 10 tricks and +630.
	QJ2 KJ9 Q876 KJ3		I was glad to be playing in 3NT instead of 4S, as even an unlikely low club lead by West will beat 4S, and the DA will lead to 2 or 3 off. If West had led a club to 3NT, that contract was likely to fail also
<b>W</b> / //	<b>N</b> 3S!	<b>E</b> / /	<b>S</b> 1NT 3NT
At the other table NS did not get to game, playing in just 2NT for 9 tricks and -150, but 10 Imps to us			

<b>M 2</b> <b>Bd 6</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	KQ7542 A QJ853 6		Board 6 in the second match showed differing hand valuations. Both sides can make 10 tricks in a minor, but EW at our table sold out to 3D, which was a comfortable make. Setting up the spades can lead to these 10 tricks, but playing teams, Tony was content to make 9 tricks via a cross-ruff.
J86 Q 762 AK7532		A3 JT9873 A4 QT4	At the other table NS climbed all the way to 5DX, going 1 down for a 5 Imp pick-up.
	T9 K6542 KT9 J98		Spades is a good contract for NS (I thought about converting 3D to 3S), since the T9 allow a finesse for the SJ, but on a double-dummy basis, or maybe by design, East can lead DA and D4 and get a diamond ruff to hold declarer to just 9 tricks.
<b>W</b> 2C /	<b>N</b> 2S 3D	<b>E</b> 1H 3C //	<b>S</b> / /
Even on a heart lead, declarer in 4S will have to lead towards dummy's diamonds to take the spade finesse, and East can rise and exit with a diamond and thus get a diamond ruff to defeat the spade game.			

<b>M 2</b> <b>Bd 19</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	865432 J9 J4 Q75		Board 19 in the second match initially looks like a straight-forward heart finesse for the 9 <sup>th</sup> trick. There are 8 tricks on top and a well-placed HK will yield the 9 <sup>th</sup> , but there is a danger!
KQ T5 A862 AKT98		AJT7 AQ643 5 432	Tony led my suit, and if the finesse lost West knew I had diamond tricks to cash for 2 off, so should she cash her 8 tricks and accept 1 off? No of course not there is a better line of play.
	9 K872 KQT973 J6		Maybe the club honours will be doubleton, giving 5 club tricks, or maybe my hand has a doubleton honour, allowing a club to be lost to North, the 'safe' hand, but how would declarer know that Tony had the CQ and not me. It would be pretty silly to give up a club to me when the heart finesse was working all the time.
<b>W</b>  3NT	<b>N</b>  //	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b> 3D
An avoidance play is required, ensuring that North wins any club tricks, and keeping me off the lead. Duck a diamond, and enter dummy by overtaking the second spade to lead a club off the table and cover my card. Now win the heart return on the table with the HA, discard a heart and diamond on the spades, and lead clubs off the table for 10 tricks, instead of just 7 with a losing heart finesse.			

<b>M 3</b> <b>Bd 7</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul All</b>	87632 J96 54 KT4		On board 7 in the third match Tony was not likely to get excited with his modest values as my 1D opening limits my hand to just 15 points.
KJ KT743 72 9632		QT954 AQ82 KQT Q	He has no need to bid on the first round, and when East made a balancing double and I rebid 3C, this shows a maximum hand with 5/4 in the minors, or possibly better shape and less points. If I had good shape as well as 15 HCPs I may have been inclined to open 1C.
	A 5 AJ9863 AJ875		Tony elected to pass 3C, as that was at least a 4-3 fit, whereas removing to 3D may put us in a 4-2 fit.
<b>W</b>  / //	<b>N</b>  / //	<b>E</b>  X	<b>S</b> 1D! 3C
West led the H4 and with everything friendly I was not hard-pressed to make 10 tricks for +130, losing a trump, a heart and a diamond. At the other table however, the stakes were much higher, as the contract climbed all the way up to 5CX by South, and somehow, 2 of declarer's tricks got away. 8 tricks to NS led to +800, and 14 unexpected Imps to us.			

<b>M 3</b> <b>Bd 8</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	AK 93 J762 AKQJ3		Board 8 in the third match was the luck of the system that made my hand declarer in 5D, as a heart lead from East dooms 5D if North is declarer.
Q9875 AQJ87 - 752		62 T64 AT94 9864	East explained the 2NT by his partner as showing the majors, he thinks, and yes Tony did make an insufficient bid, but East decided to accept it (??), giving me the chance to show my heart stopper.
	JT43 K52 KQ853 T		Tony still wisely decided to play in 5D, as 3NT has no chance at all, and West led the C7.
<b>W</b>  / 2NT! / / //	<b>N</b>  1C! X 3C 4D	<b>E</b>  / 3H / / /	<b>S</b> 2D! / 3NT 5D
I won in hand and not sensing any danger if West has the DA, I led the DK, and East ducked! Maybe he was not convinced that West had the majors afterall, although dummy should have confirmed it. I did not want to give East a second chance to lead a heart through my King, so I went to dummy with the SA and discarded my hearts and 1 spade on the clubs, cashed the SK, and led a diamond from the table for 11 tricks and +400. At the other table North was declarer, so the result was +50 and 10 Imps.			

<b>M 4</b>	952			I opened with the nebulous Precision 1D on board 10 in the fourth match, and West had no good call, so chose to start the bidding off with 1S, and there it quickly came to a stop.
<b>Bd 10</b>	J			
<b>Dir E</b>	94			
<b>Vul All</b>	QJ98532			Tony led the HJ, and I ducked, expecting a doubleton rather than a singleton, and assured of 2 heart tricks anyway, and declarer lost just 2 tricks in each of the majors for 9 tricks in total and -140.
AQJ76			4	West remarked that in a heart contract the only losers were in trumps, so a game had been missed, but could it be bid?
K962			Q7543	
AK72			QJ53	
-			KT7	
	KT93			At the other table I do not know the bidding, but John and Elaine did get to 4H, making 11 tricks for +650 and 11 Imps.
	AT8			
	T86			If the South hand bids 1C, West has an easy take-out double, and 4H should be easy to reach, but what if South passes. West opens 1S, East responds 1NT, and then raises a 3H by West to game?
	A64			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1S	//	/	1D!	

<b>M 4</b>	A42			On board 12 in the fourth match I was very disappointed that Tony did not re-open with a take-out double, but since he was obviously short in diamonds, his 4C rebid must have good shape so I raised to game.
<b>Bd 12</b>	KQJ74			
<b>Dir W</b>	-			
<b>Vul NS</b>	QJ953			I would have preferred to have taken my chances in 3DX, as although Deep Finesse suggests that there are 8 tricks for EW in diamonds, many of the results that were reported in the bulletins were making less tricks.
J863			KT5	
AT96			832	
T6			AQJ843	
A82			7	
	Q97			However, the contract is not hopeless and as with many hands, lots of Imps swing on the opening lead. In this case East selected the lead of the S5, probably to only lead to give Tony the contract.
	5			
	K9752			After winning on the table with the SQ, Tony led the H5 off the table and West took his HA, but along with the CA, that was the last trick for the defence, so we scored up +600. Maybe ducking the HA would have led to defeat, but a cross-ruff will loom.
	KT64			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1H	3D!	/	
/	4C	/	5C	
//				At the other table the contract was a modest 3C, making -130, so we had 10 Imps.

<b>M 5</b>	AKJ3			On board 4 in the fifth match Tony opened with an artificial 1C and made 2 moves towards slam, but I had a minimum hand for my 1H response without any Aces, so I signed off in game.
<b>Bd 4</b>	AT53			
<b>Dir W</b>	KJT			
<b>Vul All</b>	A3			2H was a trump ask and I showed a 5-card suit with 1 of the top 3 honours, and the 3H showed slam interest inviting cue-bids, and thus more than 18 points.
T5			982	
Q			J97	
Q9874			A632	
T9876			Q54	
	Q764			When dummy went down it looked like I had done the wrong thing as 6H has many chances, but the 3-1 break was the wrong way around, so 11 tricks were the limit.
	K8642			
	5			If East had the QJ doubleton in trumps, I still would have made only 11 tricks, as I am a firm believer in 'restricted choice' and thus if I led the HK, would have finessed on the second round of trumps.
	KJ2			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1C	/	1H	
/	2H!	/	2NT!	
/	3H!	/	4H	
//				At the other table NS did get to slam, although the 2 hands lack the normal number of points for a slam, and had yo go 1 off, so we gained 13 Imps.

<b>M 5</b> <b>Bd 15</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	Q6 Q3 K2 AKJ8642		On board 15 in the fifth match Tony could not bid 2C in our system as that was a trump asking bid, and he did not want to bid 3C, so he bid the catch-all forcing 1NT, to which I showed a maximum with a 4-card diamond suit.
A54 J 9843 Q9753		J9832 T962 QJ6 T	Tony's 4C was a bit of a puzzle to me as I did not believe it was forcing, as 3C would have been non-forcing if I had rebid 2D or 2H, but I decided to suggest an alternative contract by rebidding my heart suit, and with the apparent mis-fit (maybe Tony thought 4C was forcing after my 3D response) he elected to pass.
	KT7 AK8754 AT75 -		West led the SA solving one of my potential problems, and then 6H looked like a good bet, just relying on a favourable trump break as I could dispose of my diamonds on the clubs.
<b>W</b> / / //	<b>N</b> 1NT! 4C	<b>E</b> / /	<b>S</b> 1H 3D 4H However fortune smiled on us when the trumps broke 4-1 and 11 tricks were the limit of the hand. This time NS at the other table were more cautious and they also stopped in game so it was a flat board.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 8</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	K6 AKT862 QJ65 T		On board 8 in the sixth match East had one of those hands where it was easy for her to get carried away with the bidding and bid once too often.
843 53 432 98632		AT52 QJ9 A98 Q54	My redouble showed the balance of the points without a primary heart fit, and when West bid my best suit I was looking forward to doubling 2C for penalties.
	QJ97 74 KT7 AKJ7		Tony's announcement of a distributional minimum with his 2D rebid suggested 4H or 3NT as the likely destination, but then to my surprise, East ventured a 3C bid which I was delighted to double for penalties.
<b>W</b> / 2C //	<b>N</b> 1H 2D /	<b>E</b> X 3C!	<b>S</b> XX X Having already announced his hand fairly well, Tony was not inclined to remove the double, and he led the HK to find out that I had a singleton or doubleton. Poor West, with his Yarborough, had nowhere to hide, and only made 4 tricks for +1100 to us to go with the -420 from 4H making 10 tricks at the other table and 12 lmps to us.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 17</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	AKJ5 AJ74 A7 Q43		On board 17 in the sixth match I had shown very little except 4 spades when I bid 2S, so when Tony invited game by bidding 3S, I accepted, since not only did I have a 5-card suit, but also a singleton club.
83 KQ863 Q9 AKT9		97 T5 KJT3 87652	West led the CA and switched to a trump at the sight of dummy, but with trumps 2-2 I was not extended to make 10 tricks for +420.
	QT642 92 86542 J		An interesting hand to be able to make game with only 21 HCPs between the 2 hands, but the club shortage and 5 <sup>th</sup> trump made the difference. Even without the even trump break I think 10 tricks were available in a spade contract.
<b>W</b> 1H / //	<b>N</b> 1C! X 3S	<b>E</b> / / /	<b>S</b> 1D 2S 4S At the other table NS also played in spades, but only at the three-level, and even though North made 11 tricks on the lead of the HT, that was still worth 6 lmps to our team. 4S is the best game contract, as it would have to be very ordinary defence to allow 3NT to make, such as cashing the CA and CK after declarer ducked the HQ at trick 1.

<b>M 7</b>	J94			<p>On board 3 in the seventh match I had a very shapely hand, and since we were not playing two-suited opening bids at the 2-level, I decided to open the hand in my best suit, hearts. This is also the suit I want Tony to lead if West becomes declarer. Even with such a distributional hand I am not strong enough to open 1D and bid hearts twice to get my shape across.</p> <p>Tony made a pre-emptive jump to game and East bid a smooth 4S, so I bid 5H as a sacrifice over what I hoped was a making 4S contract. That part was correct, as even if I get a club ruff, there are only 3 tricks for NS in a spade contract as the spade finesse is then marked.</p> <p>West led the S2, and when East won the SK at trick 1 he was in a difficult position, and thought he was end-played. The endplay he solved by cashing the DA and exiting with a diamond, but here is where my hidden 6-card suit came in handy as when West covered the DQ I could ruff on the table, draw trumps, and claim 11 tricks for +650.</p>
<b>Bd 3</b>	A985			
<b>Dlr S</b>	2			
<b>Vul EW</b>	AT972			
762		AKT853		
T763		-		
K75		A64		
Q43		KJ85		
	Q			
	KQJ42			
	QJT983			
	6			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	4H	4S	1H	
/	/	X	5H	
			//	

<b>M 7</b>	KQ			<p>On board 8 in the seventh match East's 1C opening was alerted as it could be short, and 2D by West after my take-out double was alerted as a weak transfer to hearts.</p> <p>Tony bided his time, and when East only took the transfer, he bid his longest suit, fully expecting me to have at least 3-card support. East's penalty double must have shaken his confidence a little, but his mind was at rest when he saw dummy following the lead of the H7 by East.</p> <p>All roads lead to at least 9 tricks in diamonds, but Tony pitched his spades on the top hearts, and led a trump to hand, clarifying the distribution. He ruffed a heart, took the diamond finesse and the DQ, then played 2 rounds of clubs, establishing 10 tricks for +570.</p> <p>At the other table NS missed their best fit, and played in clubs instead, but also got too high, North going 2 off in 5C, for +100 and 12 Imps to our team.</p>
<b>Bd 8</b>	-			
<b>Dlr W</b>	KT9642			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	Q7652			
9542		AJ76		
QT8642		975		
-		AJ53		
843		KJ		
	T83			
	AKJ3			
	Q87			
	AT9			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	/	1C	X	
2D!	/	2H	/	
/	3D	X	//	

<b>M 7</b>	AJ96			<p>On board 18 in the seventh match East's 2S opening showed 5/4 in spades and a minor, and West wisely passed initially to await developments.</p> <p>Tony could have chanced a 2NT bid hoping East had diamonds, but naturally bid his heart suit and with 4 trumps, an Ace and a singleton spade, I raised to game.</p> <p>Now West correctly judged that 4H was a likely make, so they sacrificed in 4S, which Tony was happy to double.</p> <p>I led the H9 to 4SX and we collected all 6 of our tricks for +500, but it was obvious that with hearts 2-2 we could make at least 10 tricks in hearts, so it was a potential loss.</p> <p>We need not have worried, because at the other table NS stopped in 3H and made 11 tricks for -200. Thus we gained 7 Imps after all.</p>
<b>Bd 18</b>	AKT74			
<b>Dlr E</b>	A			
<b>Vul NS</b>	532			
K54		QT873		
J6		Q3		
KQ8654		J7		
J9		KQ84		
	2			
	9852			
	T932			
	AT76			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
//	3H	2S!	/	
4S	X	/	4H	
		//		

<b>M 8</b>	T5			On board 1 in the eighth match we had a lucky escape when Tony missed his opportunity to bid 3H on the way to 3NT. Having already shown his 5-card club suit, Tony could easily have shown his 4-card major with 3H and I would have likely raised to game in hearts.
<b>Bd 1</b>	KQ97			
<b>Dlr N</b>	75			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	KJT75			
K7		J98432		Against 3NT, West still led a diamond (DJ) which I won with the DQ to run the C9. East won but had no diamonds left, so they led a spade, which I ducked to dummy and West returned a spade, but now I was in control and finished with 10 tricks for +430.
T85		63		
KJ9862		T		
82		AQ64		
	AQ6			Game in hearts is apparently on if my hand is declarer, as West is end-played at trick 1, but if East is on lead a diamond lead leaves North with no recourse when the spade finesse also fails.
	AJ42			
	AQ43			
	93			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	However, South making 10 tricks is double-dummy, and maybe West did not bid diamonds at the other table, because while I did not get the details, there the contract was 4H by South, and they went 3 off giving us 11 Imps.
1D	/	/	1C	
/	2C	/	2NT	
/	3NT	//		

<b>M 8</b>	3			On board 5 in the eighth match we had a typical Precision auction to game, with the limited nature of the 1H opening precluding any thoughts of slam.
<b>Bd 5</b>	JT987			
<b>Dlr N</b>	KJ74			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AQ6			
AK5		J864		East has a number of unpalatable opening leads, all of which could be costly, but chose the S4, won by West with the SK, who then paused to consider the distributions.
Q652		-		
9865		AT32		If West had thought to ask about our system he would have been told that a 1H opening normally does not contain 4 spades, thus the opening lead had to be from precisely J864.
75		KJT93		
	QT972			However, he concluded that Tony played the ST from dummy to fool him, and tried to cash the SA. The club trick and ruff available to EW thus disappeared and Tony claimed 10 tricks for +620.
	AK43			
	Q			
	842			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	At the other table NS went 2 off in the same contract for +200 and 13 Imps.
//	1H	/	4H	

<b>M 8</b>	J8			Board 19 in the eighth match was a disaster for Tony and I when we played a cold grand slam in just game.
<b>Bd 19</b>	AKQ52			
<b>Dlr S</b>	AJT532			
<b>Vul EW</b>	-			
K432		765		After West's 3S bid (what was he on, or did it show clubs and not get alerted?) I discounted my spade suit, and this was reinforced by Tony's 4C bid, which I thought was possibly a natural slam try, unlikely to be a cue-bid, as why are the opponents silent with 12 clubs between them?
93		64		
4		Q6		However Tony is right (I wonder how long it has been since that happened?), a 4S cue is almost certainly safe and then he could be away to the grand based on his diamond suit and controls.
KQ9874		JT6532		
	AQT9			This would have been a good time to be using exclusion Blackwood, as if Tony had bid 5C, he would have found out about the SA, and then the DK as an extension.
	JT87			
	K987			
	A			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	At the other table NS had no trouble bidding to 7H, so we lost a massive 14 Imps.
/	1H	/	1D	
3S!!	4C!	/	3H	
//			4H	

<b>M 9</b>	KQT86				My plan on board 5 in the ninth match was to be gradually forced up to 4H if pushed, but play in a lower level if possible. Even before West had bid, I thought that a direct jump to 4H on the first round would be more likely to provoke a minor suit sacrifice by EW.
<b>Bd 5</b>	42				
<b>Dlr N</b>	QJ				
<b>Vul NS</b>	AK98				
AJ			9753		West was cooperating nicely, even to the extent of passing over my 4H rebid, but East now decided to get into the action by bidding 5D, possibly to the chagrin of West, sitting there with 3 Aces.
AT			8		
A85432			KT76		
543			T762		Unfortunately for us 5DX had 9 tricks available, so the best we could do was +300, and 4H was cold, so since 4H was left alone at the other table (who would sacrifice with 3 Aces?) we lost 8 Imps.
	42				Initially it appears as if we could get 5D 3 off by a small club lead to South, followed by 3 more rounds of clubs for South to ruff with the D9 to promote a diamond for North.
	KQJ98653				
	9				However, while the trump promotion would work if West was asleep, they could simply discard the spade loser instead of ruffing.
	QJ				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
	1S	/	2H		
3D	/	/	3H		
4D	/	/	4H		
/	/	5D	/		
/	X	//			

<b>M 9</b>	A3				On board 11 in the ninth match I had difficulty getting Tony to support one of my suits, but when he bid his clubs for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> time, I assumed my singleton honour would be enough to give slam a chance, so I jumped to 6C, hoping he would have at least 2 key cards.
<b>Bd 11</b>	83				
<b>Dlr S</b>	76				
<b>Vul Nil</b>	AT95432				
986			T52		As I had opened an artificial 1C, I was declarer, and West led the DK, a small complication. My first impression on seeing dummy was that 12 tricks were possible as long as West had Kx in trumps, or either defender had a singleton CJ.
9765			JT42		
KQJ52			98		Luckily, everyone followed to 3 rounds of hearts, so the diamond loser disappeared, and when West contributed the CJ on the first round of trumps I could cater for East ducking the CQ.
J			K876		
	KQJ74				After winning the CQ, a spade to dummy allowed me to play the CA and CT, and then a diamond ruff to dummy to draw the last trump.
	AKQ				At the other table NS also bid to slam, but the very reasonable 6S rather than 6C, and that contract had to go 1 down, so we gained a lucky 14 Imps.
	AT43				
	Q				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
			1C		
/	2C	/	2S		
/	3C	/	3D		
/	4C	/	6C		
//					

<b>M 9</b>	K764				On board 20 in the ninth match West opened with a somewhat light 1C, but surprisingly, both Tony and I missed this opening bid. East bid a forcing 1H, holding an 8/5 red suit hand.
<b>Bd 20</b>	9				
<b>Dlr W</b>	T54				
<b>Vul All</b>	Q9876				West was either distracted or inattentive when she made an insufficient bid of 2H over my intermediate jump to 2S.
Q52			-		After the Director explained her options, she was in a quandary with such a poor hand for the opening bid and thus passed, instead of bidding a potentially dangerous 3H, thus 2S became the final contract.
K65			AQJT8743		East was also subject to a lead penalty when he won the first trick with the HA, and when I asked for another heart the ruff-sluff eliminated one of my diamond losers.
Q7			AJ932		
KJ542			-		
	AJT983				I carelessly played the SK from dummy and lost a trump, so I still only made 9 tricks, but this seemed a good result since EW were cold for 6H.
	2				However, an accident at the other table resulted in 4SSX making 10 tricks for -790, so we lost 12 Imps after all.
	K86				
	AT3				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
1C	/	1H	2S		
2H!!	//				



<b>M 10</b>	KJ		On board 4 in the tenth match Tony's 1NT overcall seemed to stifle any ambition from EW, and the 2C rebid by West ended the bidding.	
<b>Bd 4</b>	Q942		I am sure if East had a 6-card spade suit they would have bid a non-forcing 2S over 1NT, but this was risky with only a 5-card suit.	
<b>Dir W</b>	AK74		Since clubs broke and the honours were where they were expected to be, 11 tricks were easy for -150.	
<b>Vul All</b>	Q52		The real action was at the other table, where Elaine bid her spades and was supported by John, rising all the way to game.	
A754		Q9863	North probably felt that as he had 15 HCPs, he had to double a high level contract, but this time there was no club loser, and Elaine made 12 tricks for an unusual score of +1190!	
A63		KJ8		
-		T965		
AKT763		4		
	T2			
	T75			
	QJ832			
	J98			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1C	1NT	/	/	
2C	//			

<b>M 10</b>	A6		On board 10 in the tenth match East opened with a weak two-suiter, and EW barraged us when they found their diamond fit, but we were not to be denied.	
<b>Bd 10</b>	AQJ43		Since I had a 5-card heart suit as well as spade and diamond control, I had no problem bidding 4H over 3D, and when Tony showed slam interest with his 4S cue, I leapt to slam.	
<b>Dir E</b>	A4		West led the SQ, which I took in hand to take the heart finesse, and then ruffed a diamond to hand to repeat the heart finesse and draw the last trump.	
<b>Vul All</b>	AQT3		Since it was likely that West had the CK, I next ruffed the DA to lead the C9, and when this held I could repeat the finesse as often as necessary by leading the CJ next, and finished up with 13 tricks for +1460.	
Q3		JT875	At the other table slam was not in the picture, so we gained 13 Imps.	
KT7		-		
K8653		QJT972		
K72		65		
	K942			
	98652			
	-			
	J984			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		2S	/	
3C	X	3D	4H	
/	4S	5D	6H	
//				

<b>M 10</b>	J62		On board 12 in the tenth match Tony made a normal overcall which I raised one level, and a few seconds later the contract was 2DX, with us Vul and EW not.	
<b>Bd 12</b>	K3		Luckily East had no clear lead, and chose the CA, setting up an extra trick for us, and upon winning the CK at trick 2 Tony could lead towards dummy to restrict his trump losers to just 2!	
<b>Dir W</b>	AT9532		Thus he finished only 1 off for a modest -200, which compared very well against the +490 that John made in 3NT at the other table.	
<b>VulINS</b>	K2		After being given a club trick, Tony even thought about taking the heart finesse in dummy to shed a spade loser and even make the contract, but common sense prevailed and he accepted -200 as a good result.	
K7		AQT85	That is often that hardest part about playing this game, accepting a negative score to prevent a larger negative score.	
Q82		T96		
KQJ6		-		
QJ93		AT864		
	943			
	AJ754			
	874			
	75			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1C	1D	1S	2D	
/	/	X	//	

<b>M 10</b> <b>Bd 14</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	AT742 A4 832 J84		My 1NT opening bid was standard Precision 13-15, but Tony's 2D forced me to bid 2H and then his 2S rebid was not even invitational, although looking at his 2 Aces, he might have invited game.
J3 Q532 T9764 A3		K965 J976 A Q965	East picked up the scent at this news and doubled for take-out, although it is not clear what they planned to do if West bid diamonds, and then they got carried away with the 3H response by West by raising to game.
	Q8 KT8 KQJ5 KT72		Holding 2 Aces, Tony then had an easy double of 4H, and he led the C4, getting us off to a good start.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	2D!	/	1NT
/	2S	X	2H
3H	/	4H	/
/	X	//	/
			Declarer always had to lose 3 hearts, a club, a spade, and another one in the wash, but he made the mistake of being in the dummy at the wrong time and led a spade from the table, allowing me to rise with the SQ and hold him to just 6 tricks for 4 off and +800.
			At the other table NS made a game try but finished in 3S by North, making 10 tricks, but 12 lmps to us.

<b>M 11</b> <b>Bd 2</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AK984 KJ 9 AJ862		On board 2 in the eleventh match I liked my 2 Aces and distribution so I borrowed a point to open 2D, which showed, among other things, 4 spades and at least 4 hearts.
J QT9 QJT85 KQ73		T76 7653 K74 T54	Tony's 2NT asked for clarification, and my 3C rebid showed a three suited hand, defined as a singleton club by the 3H response to the 3D asking bid.
	Q532 A842 A632 9		Tony now asked about key cards in hearts, and I admitted to 2, which was all Tony needed to have a shot at slam.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	2NT	/	2D!
/	3D	/	3C!
/	4NT	/	3H
/	6S	//	5H
			East led the C4 and Tony ruffed 2 clubs in dummy while drawing trumps and gave up a club for 12 tricks and +1430.
			Of course double dummy he could also have taken the heart finesse and made all 13 tricks, but that was a needless risk.
			At the other table slam was not reached, so it was imperative to make sure of the 12 tricks, and the overtrick would still have been worth the same 13 lmps.

<b>M 11</b> <b>Bd 10</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	K42 AQ7652 K5 86		On board 10 in the eleventh match my 2C rebid showed 5/4 either way in the minors, and Tony's 3H was strongly invitational to game.
975 K4 Q98 J5432		QJT8 JT93 642 AT	I won the second spade in dummy to preserve entries to my hand, and played 2 rounds of diamonds, finessing to West, who returned a spade.
	A63 8 AJT73 KQ97		Now I led the CQ and East won immediately to avoid being end-played and forced to lead a heart into dummy, and cashed the last spade, setting up a potential squeeze in hearts and clubs.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1H	/	1D
/	3H	/	2C
//			3NT
			I won the CT with the CK and when I ran my diamonds, West was squeezed, making it easy for me by discarding the H4, so the last 2 tricks were taken in dummy for +600.
			Of course West should have hoped his partner had the C9 and discarded his clubs and make me guess to take the heart finesse, but he could see all along that it was working, so was not vigilant in his discarding.

<b>M 12</b>	T62			<p>On board 7 in the twelfth match EW were using transfer responses to their 1C opening, so 1H by East actually showed spades, and the 2H rebid described the 55 major holding, but I suspect maybe not the points, as West signed off in 2S.</p> <p>Still, with the East hand I would have had one more try. It is not common for an opening hand opposite an opening hand not to at least invite game!</p> <p>This would have been a good time for things to break badly for West, and for the club finesse to fail, but when everything behaved, including hearts breaking 3-3, West had 10 tricks for -170.</p> <p>The spade lead by Tony, which foiled the heart ruff by West, at least stopped West from making 11 tricks and gained an Imp.</p> <p>At the other table, after a 12-14 1NT opening, Elaine transferred to spades at the 2-level, and jumped to 4H to describe her hand and John made the same 10 tricks in 4S for +620 and 10 Imps.</p>
<b>Bd 7</b>	A95		AQ753	
<b>Dlr S</b>	KT86		JT863	
<b>Vul EW</b>	KT7		9 A2	
KJ4				
72				
AJ5				
QJ853				
	98			
	KQ4			
	Q7432			
	964			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1C	/	1H!	/	
1S	/	2H	/	
2S	//			

<b>M 12</b>	K9			<p>On board 9 in the twelfth match West had the points to overcall 1NT, but not the spades stop, so he doubled for take-out instead.</p> <p>Now East had the dreaded 4333 distribution, with no outside 4-card suit to bid, and not enough points to bid 1NT, which is often played as constructive, showing 7-10 with a stop, so was forced to bid a 3-card suit, and chose the lowest of the three.</p> <p>I decided to have a look at dummy by cashing the SA, although the DQ was a good alternative lead, and I switched to this after Tony played the S9 at trick 1, which could be discouraging.</p> <p>Had I know the actual layout, I could have switched to trumps at trick 2 and put the issue beyond doubt very quickly. However, none of our tricks got away and the contract finished 3 off for +300.</p> <p>At the other table 1NT by North also went 1 off for another +50 so we gained 8 Imps.</p>
<b>Bd 9</b>	762		Q764	
<b>Dlr N</b>	T98		K84	
<b>Vul EW</b>	QT973		765 865	
J5				
QJ53				
AK43				
KJ2				
	AT832			
	AT9			
	QJ2			
	A4			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
X	/	2C!	1S //	

<b>M 12</b>	QJ7			<p>On board 15 in the twelfth match the 2C by West was a single suited hand, although showing both majors would have worked out better here, and Tony showed clubs with his double.</p> <p>East passed awaiting clarification and I showed my club support, whereupon West showed the spades, which did not excite East.</p> <p>Tony had suspect spades values for game in clubs, so contented himself to just raising clubs, and there the bidding stopped.</p> <p>West is end-played at trick 1 and chose to play the SA and another spade, which I won in hand to lead to the CK in dummy in case West was void in clubs.</p> <p>When West proved to have 3 clubs as well as 6 spades, I played the DQ from dummy to establish the distribution and allow me to finesse the D9 on the next round and thus make 11 tricks for +150.</p> <p>At the other table NS appeared to get to game, but played by North, where it was easily defeated, so we gained 6 Imps.</p>
<b>Bd 15</b>	-		83	
<b>Dlr S</b>	QJ643		QJ432	
<b>Vul NS</b>	KQ853		AT872 2	
A96542				
AT98				
-				
J97				
	KT			
	K765			
	K95			
	AT64			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2C!	X	/	1NT 3C	
3S	4C	//		

<b>M 12</b>	J			<p>On board 20 in the twelfth match East had one of those horror moments where she pulled out the wrong bid from the bidding box and placed it on the table. This would not have been a problem if she had pointed out her mistake at once, but she did not react until her partner had jumped to 4H and Tony had passed.</p> <p>The Director was called and it was obvious that East meant to bid 3H, transfer to spades, even though she went away from the table to talk to the Director.</p> <p>West was in an ethical dilemma, and since East did not mention her spades again he felt he had no recourse but to bid 6C over her 5NT as if it was some form of GSF, but I do not know what the 6C meant.</p> <p>I would have thought that East could have tried to clarify the situation ethically by bidding 6S instead of 6NT, but maybe this should also be taken as a GSF in a smooth flowing auction.</p> <p>The key point is that when you pull the wrong card out of the box or make the wrong bid call the Director as soon as possible. Of course we picked up 14 unearned Imps for this board</p>
<b>Bd 20</b>	J654			
<b>Dir W</b>	KQJ93			
<b>Vul All</b>	987			
AK72		QT965		
AKT7		983		
T2		A76		
AK6		Q3		
	843			
	Q2			
	854			
	JT542			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2NT	/	3D!	/	
4H	/	4S	/	
5C	/	5NT	/	
6C	//			