

2015 ANC Seniors Teams by Richard Wallis

Our team of Therese Tully and myself, John Gough and Mike Pemberton, and Kerry Wood and Charlie Howard, with Terry O'Dempsey as NPC, started off the ANC Seniors Teams in Fremantle with high hopes of making the final. However, we were close all the time, but just dipped out at the end to finish 3rd, with the final between NSW (top qualifier) and VIC, won narrowly by NSW thanks to their carry-over.

The first match was against SA, whom we considered our strongest opponents, and a 27 Imp win got us off to a good start. Wins against ACT and WA1 followed to put us at the top, but a large loss to NSW in match 4 dropped us off the top of the heap, never to return.

Wins against TAS and WA2 followed, before another large loss to VIC completed the first round-robin. To allow WA1 and WA2 to play each other first up as per the conditions of play, our first match in the second RR was again NSW, and we had another moderate loss to consolidate their position at the top.

A big win against WA1 was followed by our repeat match against SA, who underperformed on the first day and were fifth after the first RR, but they got their revenge to push us back again. Big wins against WA2 and TAS brought us up to second again, before a small loss to VIC in the penultimate match pushed us down to 3rd.

Things were still in our favour however, as we were playing ACT in the last match and VIC were playing the high-flyers NSW, but it was not to be. Assured of the final, NSW rested their top ranked pair and VIC won by enough to ensure that our modest 1Imp win against ACT was only enough for us to stay 3rd.

A great event, and a very convivial team, and maybe next year when it is at home, we can do better. Our thanks go to Terry, who tried his best, examining opposition systems in advance and trying to pit us for best advantage in matches where we had the choice. In the long run, we missed out by a mere 11 Imps, and if any of the unlucky results had not happened we would have been in the final, let alone eliminating just one of the costly mistakes.

M 1	AK63			On board 12 in the first match against SA, NS were playing a version of Precision Club, hence the 1C opening by North (presumably upgraded because of the good controls and 6-card suit), and this worked against them in the bidding.
Bd 12	K7			
Dir W	AJT843			
Vul NS	7			
T94			QJ8	North felt compelled to double when 2H came back to him, but the 3C response was most unwelcome, as the 3D rebid was to South, who then tried for a spade contract.
632			AQJ85	
Q6			K972	
KJ543			Q	
	752			Having supported hearts, I led the H6, to deny an honour, and immediately North's hand was devalued. Therese won the HJ cashed the HA and forced dummy with a heart.
	T94			
	5			After the CA, DA and a diamond ruff, NS quickly ran out of options and the ungainly contract went 3 off for +300.
	AT9862			
W	N	E	S	At the other table Charlie and Kerry did not compete over 2H, in spite of them also playing Precision, and this contract went 2 off for another +100, so we gained 9 Imps.
/	1C!	1H	/	
2H	X	/	3C	
/	3D	/	3S	
//				

M 1	5			On board 17 in the first match against SA, Therese's 1D opening showed at least 4 cards in the suit, and her 2NT rebid showed 18-19 balanced, without 4 spades.
Bd 17	K964			
Dlr N	T854			
Vul Nil	9543			My 3D rebid was game forcing, and the 3NT response denied both 4 hearts and 3 spades, so I bid the obvious 6NT, although I knew that with the right cards 7NT could be cold!
AKJ93			QT	South led the H2 and I am sure that dummy looked good to Therese when it hit the table as we had a perfect fit, even down to the probably unnecessary ST!
A8			J53	
QJ6			AK73	
876			AKJ2	
	87642			Winning in dummy with the HA at trick 1, Therese proceeded to cash her top tricks, getting a surprize along the way at the 5-1 spade break, and seemed to be giving some thought to maybe a double squeeze producing 13 tricks, but cashed out anyway, getting 13 tricks when the CQ came down without a squeeze.
	QT72			
	92			
	QT			This seemed like the surest flat board you would ever see unless EW got overboard and bid 7NT, but they inexplicably stopped in 3NT!
W	N	E	S	
	/	1D	/	
1S	/	2NT	/	
3D!	/	3NT	/	
6NT	//			

M 2	Q			On board 3 in the second match against ACT we were disadvantaged by having South open with a multi-meaning 2D, and we had to wait until it was defined before acting on our minimum hands.
Bd 3	JT652			
Dlr S	Q2			
Vul EW	K5432			The 2S rebid by South showed a weak hand with 5-5 in the black suits, and now Therese could show her heart suit, which prompted me to look for a spade stop for 3NT by cue-bidding 3S.
9875			A64	However when Therese rebid 4D, even though I had good support, I thought it was a likely 2 or even 3 spade losers, since North did not support spades, so against my better judgement I passed.
Q3			AK984	
AKT83			J764	
A7			J	
	KJT32			This was not a success, as the heart position was such that given the announced distribution, when South showed 2 diamonds, it was easy for Therese to set up the hearts with 1 loser and discard the spades in dummy for 12 tricks and +170.
	7			
	95			
	QT986			Not only had we missed a Vulnerable game as 3NT was also cold, but we had missed a Vulnerable slam! However, at the other table the final contract was 4H, which went 1 off, so we gained 7 Imps!
W	N	E	S	
/	2H	/	2D	
/	3C	3H	2S	
3S	/	4D	//	

M 2	A98			On board 15 in the second match against ACT South opened with a weak 1NT, and I showed both majors with a 2C overcall.
Bd 15	62			
Dlr S	KQ76532			If I had North's hand I would have shown a spade stop and asked South for a heart stop, but she made a unilateral decision and jumped to 5D, which was passed out.
Vul NS	Q			Therese led the H4, and I cashed the HA and led to the HK for her to lead a spade, but that was it for us other than the CA. North drew trumps and led a club off the table to establish a discard for their spade loser, 1 off for +100.
QJ54			T62	
AQT8			K9543	
T			9	
A632			T854	
	K73			Opposite a weak 1NT, it looks easy enough to stay out of game with the NS cards, and 3D, or even 4D is likely, so we were expecting a modest pick-up, but John and Mike exceeded our expectations by getting to 3NT and making it! In fact, on the lead of the C2, they made 10 tricks for +630.
	J7			
	AJ84			
	KJ97			
W	N	E	S	
2C	5D	//	1NT	

M 4	QJ62			<p>On board 6 in the fourth match against NSW I opened with a strong 2C since I had 3 Aces and a likely 10 tricks in my hand and Therese showed at least 1 King with her 2D response.</p> <p>South, having previously passed, now bid 2S, and rather than signing off in 4H, I bid a forcing 3H, to see if Therese had anything more than a King.</p> <p>North now got involved with 3S, and Therese showed extras by bidding 5S (Exclusion Blackwood), so I bid the Grand slam over South's 6S rebid.</p> <p>South now went into the tank and sometime later bid 7S, apologizing to his partner if it was wrong!</p> <p>But he was not wrong, and the cost was only -500, even a good save against 4H!</p> <p>The Grand slam was bid at 4 tables in the Seniors, and only 2 NS pairs bid 7S over 7H, and likewise, a small slam bid at the other 4 tables only had 2 NS in 6S, so we lost 17 Imps.</p>
Bd 6	J			
Dlr E	KT743			
Vul EW	Q98			
A53		-		
AQT96542		K873		
A6		QJ92		
-		AT543		
	KT9874			
	-			
	85			
	KJ762			
W	N	E	S	
2C!	/	/	/	
3H	3S	2D	2S	
7H	/	5S	6S	
X	//	/	7S	

M 4	J6543			<p>On board 16 in the fourth match against NSW we had a rare bit of good fortune in a large defeat.</p> <p>My 1NT rebid showed 11-14, and Therese raised this rebid to game after first showing her 4-card heart suit.</p> <p>North led the S4, and I won on the table to lead the DT, which held the trick. The hand was as good as over now as North discarded the C3 on this trick and 3NT could no longer be defeated.</p> <p>I led another diamond and South rose with the DA and switched to a club, but NS could only cash 3 clubs now, so we scored +600.</p> <p>At the other table the HT was led and a low spade was discarded on the first diamond, not a club, so John and Mike were able to cash 4 club tricks in addition to the DA for 1 off and +100 and 12 Imps.</p>
Bd 16	T987			
Dlr W	-			
Vul EW	K743			
A72		KQ		
K4		AQJ2		
KJ732		T965		
J42		T96		
	T98			
	653			
	AQ84			
	AQ5			
W	N	E	S	
1D	/	1H	/	
1NT	/	3NT	//	

M 5	-			<p>On board 13 in the fifth match against TAS, I did not know what the potential of the hand was when Therese rebid 2H after opening 1S, but I thought I would take the pressure off by bidding game and leave the defence to work it out for themselves.</p> <p>My dilemma was that a void is generally an asset in a suit contract with a good fit, but not necessarily if partner has wasted honours, and that is a real possibility when partner has at least 5 cards in it. However, we were Vulnerable so I took the plunge and hoped for a favourable result since I had good hearts and a fair side suit.</p> <p>Therese had some wasted values in spades, but a good card in diamonds and a fifth heart, so 10 tricks were easy and we scored up +620.</p> <p>At the other table NS stopped in just 2H, not even making a game try, so we gained 10 Imps.</p>
Bd 13	KQ42			
Dlr N	KT752			
Vul All	8632			
AT97		K862		
83		T7		
J843		Q96		
AKJ		QT75		
	QJ543			
	AJ965			
	A			
	94			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/	1S	
/	1NT	/	2H	
/	4H	//		

M 5	AQT2			On board 16 in the fifth match against TAS I decided to get into the action early on, which could be dangerous, but at least it was at favourable Vulnerability.
Bd 16	T984			My 2C overcall showed the majors (general at least 5/4), and Therese invited with 3H, which I obviously rejected, and she was off to a good start when West led the C5!
Dlr W	T3			East could have saved a trick by inserting the C7, but instead gave Therese 3 club tricks by playing the CJ at trick 1.
Vul EW	AT4			If trumps break, there now looks to be 9 tricks, by way of 3 clubs, 3 spades, 2 top hearts and a diamond ruff, so Therese led a heart to dummy and continued hearts when the HT won.
764		J98		
AK65		2		
AJ2		KQ864		
K65		J873		
	K53			
	QJ73			
	975			
	Q92			
W	N	E	S	West now played 3 more rounds of hearts, and the total was possibly only 8, until the spades broke. So we gained +140 to go with +120 from the other table, for 6 Imps.
1NT	2C!	/	3H	
//				

M 7	KQT9862			On board 6 in the seventh match against VIC I opened with a 15-17 1NT in third seat, and North bid a natural 4S.
Bd 6	AQ75			Therese bid 4NT for the minors, and South doubled, though the reason was not obvious. He said later he was hoping to entice North to double our final contract so declarer would misplace the key honours!
Dlr E	86			I was surprized when 5C was passed out and North led the SK, until I saw dummy and realized it was cold, and I even had a finesse for slam! That is, it was cold until North showed out on the first round of clubs.
Vul EW	-			After the initial shock of the 3-0 club break, I was still able to claim 11 tricks when the diamond finesse worked, so we scored up +600.
AJ5		4		At the other table Charlie and Kerry competed to 5S over 5C, which was doubled, but only went 1 off for -100 and 11 Imps to us.
9432		8		
AQ		JT753		
A932		KJ8754		
	73			
	KJT6			
	K942			
	QT6			
W	N	E	S	
1NT	4S	/	/	
5C	//	4NT	X	

M 7	AT92			On board 18 in the fifth match against VIC South opened 1C, at least a 3-card suit, and Therese's 2C bid showed the majors. However, while I knew that 2C from me showed the majors (Michaels), I was not certain 2C from her side of the table also showed the majors!
Bd 18	-			When South doubled, and I had both majors, I could leave it to Therese to bid her best major, and I was very pleasantly surprized when she bid 2H.
Dlr E	QT987			South unwisely doubled a second time, and North, holding a void in hearts, had no reason to think it should be taken out, so 2HX became the final contract.
Vul NS	J952			South led the CA, and eventually got a spade ruff, but that was 8 tricks to us and +470.
J87		KQ543		Unfortunately this big result at our table was negated partly by a big result at the other table from Charlie and Kerry when they bid to 6C with the NS cards and scored +1370. Thus the 2 scores combined in the upper Imp range for a total of 18 Imps.
Q9763		T8542		
5432		A		
Q		T6		
	6			
	AKJ			
	KJ6			
	AK8743			
W	N	E	S	
/	1D	2C!	1C	
/	/	2H	X	
//			X	

M 8	KJ9			On board 13 in the eighth match against NSW at the start of the second round-robin I decided to force to game in one of my suits, even though I had a void in Therese's first-bid suit.
Bd 13	AQJ8			
Dir N	76			
Vul All	8643			The 2S rebid was natural and showed reversing values, but reduced our chance of a good fit. However, my diamond suit could play opposite a void.
T6		AQ52		
-		K7643		
KQJT53		A		I completed showing my shape and Therese jumped to slam, to which North led the HA.
AT752		KJ9		
	8743			The lead of the ace of dummy's first-bid suit was very suspicious, and I was sure that North had 4 trumps, so I ruffed and led to the CT in dummy, knowing that even if it lost, 6C was now cold, as long as South had at least 1 club.
	T952			
	9842			
	Q			
W	N	E	S	
	/	1H	/	I won the heart return on the table, discarding a spade, cashed the CA, DA and overtook the C9 to draw trumps and claim 12 tricks for +1370. That was +13 Imps when EW played in just 5C at the other table.
2D	/	2S	/	
3C	/	3NT	/	
4C	/	6C	//	

M 8	Q7642			On board 19 in the eighth match against NSW at the start of the second round-robin Therese used 4 th suit 2C to force to game, and when she showed a minimum of a 6-card heart suit, I valued my singleton HK highly enough to look for slam. Her 5S response showed 2 Key Cards and the HQ, so it had to be slam.
Bd 19	4			
Dir S	Q52			
Vul EW	QJ97			South led the C3, and Therese won on the table, cashed the HK, and ruffed a diamond to hand, expecting to be able to take the spade finesse for 13 tricks!
KJT3		A95		
K		AQJ873		
AJT94		-		When North showed out on the second heart, slam could not be made and we scored up a disappointing -100.
AKT		8654		At the other table EW did not get too excited on their mis-fitting hands, and stopped in just 4H, making the same 11 tricks for -650 and 13 Imps away.
	8			
	T9652			
	K8763			
	32			
W	N	E	S	
	/	1H	/	No EW pair made 12 tricks in the Seniors, even though South led the S8 on 2 occasions, making 12 tricks cold. 6NT went off twice.
1D	/	1H	/	
1S	/	2C!	/	6HE was made twice in the Open, and once in the Womens, each time on the lead of the S8, although why any sane defender would lead a singleton against a slam holding 5 trumps baffles me!
2D	/	2H	/	
2NT	/	3H	/	
4NT	/	5S	/	
6H	//			

M 10	J9864			On board 7 in the tenth match against SA I back-pedalled when Therese responded in my singleton and did not show the full value of my hand.
Bd 7	5			
Dir S	T843			Although it is only 13 HCPs, I have a 5-loser hand, and if partner can dredge up even a minimum response, then I should jump to 4H on my hand.
Vul All	K84			Having whimpered out in rebidding just 2H, I should then have come to life when Therese showed enough for game, but let the chance go by.
2		AQ75		
AQT9832		J64		North led the D8 and when dummy tracked, I knew I had missed a Vulnerable slam, with the Grand slam depending on the finesse, so I won in hand and played the HA hoping to see the HK fall offside.
Q		AKJ6		
AJT2		75		
	KT3			
	K7			
	9752			
	Q963			
W	N	E	S	When nothing bad happened, we scored up +680 and since they bid the slam at the other table, we had dropped 13 Imps.
	/	1S	/	If I had entered dummy with a spade and took the heart finesse, at least I would have made 13 tricks and restricted the loss to 12 Imps.
1H	/	1S	/	
2H!	/	4H	//	

M 10	Q43			On board 20 in the tenth match against SA I was in relaxed mood when the opponents bid and supported diamonds, as holding zero HCPs I did not expect to play much of a part in the play, let alone expect to be playing the hand in 2S!
Bd 20	Q72			
Dlr W	Q86			
Vul All	QT85			
9765 843 T9 6432		AJ82 AT95 K32 AK		Therese had too good a hand to meekly pass out 2D, and thus doubled for penalties, which forced me to bid my 4-card spade suit, which is just as well as we did not have a club fit.
	KT KJ6 AJ754 J97			North led the D6, and dummy's DK was immediately rendered useless when South put in the DJ when I played low from dummy, winning the first trick.
W	N	E	S	South led a club and I led a small heart off the table, won by North, who led the DQ, settling that suit for the defence. I ruffed the next diamond and led 2 rounds of hearts, setting up the 4 th heart.
/	/	1C	1D	
/	2D	X	/	South led another club, and now it was time to play 2 rounds of spades, conceding 1 off for -100, flat against +90 at the other table.
2S	//			

M 12	J863			On board 13 in the twelfth match against TAS a part-score battle was settled in our favour. Part-score hands such as this can make a big difference in a close match.
Bd 13	KQ865			
Dlr N	A			
Vul All	A32			
A742 A73 765 875		K JT KQT983 KJT6		Therese has a reasonable hand, but too many values outside her 2 long suits, so declined to compete any further when East bid 4D over 3H.
	QT95 942 J42 Q94			I led the H2 (we are now leading low from 3 small in a suit that has been supported), and Therese won the HQ and returned the HK, pinning the HJ in East's hand.
W	N	E	S	There was nowhere for East to get rid of his 2 club losers, and the contract finished 1 off for +100.
	1H	2D	2H	
3D	3H	4D	//	At the other table Mike and John passed over 3H, and led a top diamond. While double-dummy EW can make 8 tricks in a heart contract, the contract went 2 off for another +200, and 7 Imps to us.

M 12	KT932			On board 16 in the twelfth match against TAS I got the system wrong and we got lucky. However, if I had got the system right, we would have played in 6D, which is cold.
Bd 16	AQ6			
Dlr W	K87			
Vul EW	A8			
Q754 JT95432 6 3		AJ86 87 A42 T542		Over a 2NT opening 3S is minor suit Stayman, and I confused this with a 3S response to a 1NT opening which shows a shortage in spades (my correct response is 3D), so we stopped in 5C instead of getting to our fit and bidding 6D.
	- K QJT953 KQJ976			West did something I rarely do, he led a singleton unbid suit when he only had a singleton trump, and he got lucky when his partner gave him a ruff to hold the contract to 11 tricks.
W	N	E	S	Since I knew correct bidding would have got us to 6D, this looked like 10 Imps away, but you can never be certain.
/	1NT	/	3S!	
/	3NT	/	4C	At the other table they did get to slam, but to 6C, not 6D, and our West also led a diamond, taking the slam 1 off for 10 Imps to us.
/	5C	//		

M 13	AJT			On board 8 in the thirteenth match against VIC, I had some thoughts about slam until EW got involved, and then I contented myself with a 5 over 5 bid of 5S. It did not occur to me to pass and take a penalty, which could be as little as +300.
Bd 8	AQ84			
Dlr W	J7			
Vul Nil	A985			
73		5		East led the DK, and I won the next diamond and drew trumps, plus many more to see if some sort of squeeze would eventuate.
JT		7632		Nothing good appeared to be happening, but when I cashed the hearts, the magic distribution that was already there gave me 12 tricks after all, and we score up +480.
AT963		KQ542		At the other table NS had a major disaster when they did not even get to game, subsiding in a mere 2S, also making 12 tricks, but only -230, for 6 Imps.
KQT6	KQ98642	742		
	K95			
	8			
	J3			
W	N	E	S	I did not check out the bidding with John and Mike, but assume that NS must have had a hiccup in the bidding to stop below game.
/	1NT	/	4D!	
X	4S	5D	5S	
//				

M 13	Q52			On board 20 in the thirteenth match against VIC EW were playing Precision. Therese could not double the artificial 2D response on the first round as that would have been for take-out, but on the second round it was purely lead-directing.
Bd 20	J8762			
Dlr W	982			
Vul EW	84			
A4		KT96		EW did not take the hint and carried on to 3NT anyway, to which I led a dutiful D9.
AQ		KT43		Therese knew that with 6 clubs West could not have more than 4 diamonds, and likely only 3, so overtook with the DT, won perforce by West,
Q63		54		West had no option but to take the club finesse, as that was much better odds than a singleton CK in Therese's hand, and Therese was able to cash 5 tricks for +100.
Q97653	J873	AJ2		At the other table Charlie and Kerry were also playing Precision, and the 2D bid was doubled for the lead, and Charlie and Kerry retreated to 3C, making 10 tricks for +130 and 6 Imps.
	95			
	AKJT7			
	KT			
W	N	E	S	
2C!	/	2D	/	
2NT	/	3D	X	
3H	/	3NT	//	