

2015 Seniors Trials by Richard Wallis

The entry of 14 pairs for this year's Seniors Trials, played over just 2 weekends, reduced the length of matches to just 16 boards, and even then 64 boards were required to be played on the first day. The Womens Trials, played at the same time, only had 12 pairs, which allowed for 20-board matches, but this meant the schedules and the boards were different, a problem for the Director and the players.

Therese and I started well with a good win in the first match to jump to the lead, and continued in a similar vein over the remaining 12 matches, being effectively locked into the team for Fremantle with 2 matches to go. The action for the other 2 places was much more highly contested, with the result on the final match dropping 3rd back to 4th and out of the team. The final team was Wallis/Tully, Gough/Pemberton and Howard/Wood, with O'Dempsey/Moses as the reserve pair. After some discussion between the team, Terry O'Dempsey was asked to be non-playing captain, and he has subsequently been endorsed by the QBA.

Our worst result was -1.3 Imps (cross-Imped scoring) against Gough/Pemberton, and we won the other 12 matches. Not that we played well all of the time, but most of the time we were in sync, and we rode our luck and did not get any really bad results.

M 1	AT83			On board 1 in the first match East picked the wrong time to open with a 13-15 1NT, and I happily doubled for penalties, content to have a good lead and 2 suits wrapped up.
Bd 1	T873			
Dlr N	732			
Vul Nil	74			When East rescued himself to 2C, I was less confident, so I passed to see if Therese had anything to say, and her double was take-out, and I thought showing some values, so I passed for penalties again.
642		75		If I could have persuaded Therese to raise, a 2S bid by me now would have led to game and a better result, but since I did not have a 5-card suit, and I still had a safe lead, a penalty seemed the best option.
9432		AK6		
854		KJ9		
QJ6		KT952		Against 2CX I led the SA, and continued with the SQ when Therese encouraged with the S3, Declarer ruffing the 3 rd round to lead a trump to dummy.
	KQJ9			
	QJ			
	AQT6			
	A83			
W	N	E	S	Declarer could not engineer an end-play on me, so we took all 7 of our tricks for +300 and 5.33 Imps. Bidding and making 4S would have been better, but it is unlikely we would get there.
/	/	1NT	X	
/	/	2C	/	
/	X	//		

M 1	KJ9			On board 9 in the first match East was strangely silent over the 1C opening, so maybe they were not playing Michaels, but the pass was to come back to haunt them when I responded 1H, which made it very difficult for EW to attack hearts.
Bd 9	Q2			
Dlr N	K42			
Vul EW	Q9764			Instead of the normal 1NT rebid, Therese rebid 2C, usually showing a 6-card suit, and over my 3NT rebid West led the D5, her longest suit. If Therese had rebid 1NT, East is likely to have led a spade!
652		A8743		Obviously I could see 3NT at least 1 off when dummy went down, but if I could sneak a spade trick, I could then run for home, so I led the SQ, hoping to persuade whomever held the SA to duck, or at least lead back a diamond if they took the SA on the first round.
K9		AJT53		
T8653		J9		
J32		5		The SQ won and I ran for cover, scoring +400 and 5.83 Imps. It occurred to me later that a better play at trick 2 is to lead the ST, like a man looking to finesse the SQ, which makes it much more likely West will duck with the SA. If East had won the SA maybe they would have returned a 'safe' D9, rather than underlead their hearts after I bid 1H?
	QT			
	8764			
	AQ7			
	AKT8			
W	N	E	S	
/	1C	/(!)	1H	
//	2C	X	3NT	

M 1	9			On board 15 in the first match I picked a good time for an aggressive lead, after a Precision sequence in which West appeared very limited and East seemed to have extra values.
Bd 15	T842			
Dlr S	K875			
Vul NS	A762			
QJ63		AT8542		When dummy tracked, the West hand looked good enough for a 3S response after first limiting the hand to less than 8 HCPs by 1D, so our defeating 4S did not seem to be very likely.
QJ3		K9		
JT3		AQ		I led the C5, and to my delight Therese won the CA and returned the C2, which suggested a 4-card suit and thus my CQ was a winner even if East had played the CK!
T93		KJ4		
	K7			I won the CQ and cashed the HA, and returned the C8, then waited for the setting trick with the SK
	A765			
	9642			
	Q85			
W	N	E	S	One off for +50 was worth 6.67 Imps, as any other lead gives the tempo to Declarer and a correct guess in clubs leads to 10 tricks.
/	/	1C!	/	
1D	/	2S	/	A diamond lead is immediately fatal, especially if North plays the DK, and even the HA allows the entry to dummy (by unblocking) for the necessary finesses.
2S	/	4S	//	

M 2	QJT9742			On board 10 in the second match Therese could not bid over the 2S jump, as I could have a poor hand, but when I doubled for take-out, she had a choice of passing for penalties, or bidding 3NT, and chose the 'safer' option, as she has complete control in spades.
Bd 10	T54			
Dlr E	Q93			
Vul All	-			
5		AK63		South was on the horns of a dilemma, as it is unlikely that North's hand will be good enough to set up and enjoy the spades, even if she led the S8, so she led her best suit, as after all, the 1C opening from Therese only shows 2+ clubs.
QJ32		87		
AK76		JT2		
KJ42		A876		
	8			Luckily for us, the opening lead was the C5, which gave Therese 4 club tricks, to go with 3 diamonds and 2 spades, and there was no risk involved.
	AK96			
	854			
	QT953			
W	N	E	S	On winning with the C8, Therese immediately took the losing diamond finesse, but now there was adequate transport to finesse clubs again and cash out the spade and diamond tricks. Scoring +600 was worth 6.17 Imps.
1H	2S	1C	/	
X	/	/	/	
		3NT	//	

M 2	3			On board 12 in the second match my good major suit values persuaded me to open, but we would have got to game anyway, and even if Therese had opened 1NT in 3 rd seat, my automatic 3C enquiry would have unearthed the 5-3 heart fit.
Bd 12	J762			
Dlr W	J975			
Vul NS	T842			
AJ64		KT7		South made a normal overcall of 1S, and my double showed 3-card heart support, which was all Therese needed to hear to bid 4H.
KQ9		AT543		
T83		KQ		A suit good enough to bid is good enough to lead, or so the saying goes, but this time the lead of the S5 presented Therese with an easy 10 tricks.
963		KJ5		
	Q9852			Winning in hand with the ST, she led the top hearts from dummy to reveal the finesse, and after clearing trumps, led the DK to establish the 10 th trick, the spade finesse certain for the 9 th trick.
	8			
	A642			
	AQ7			
W	N	E	S	South did not make the mistake of cashing her CA when she won the DA, and 10 tricks were the limit, so it was just +420 and 1.50 Imps.
1C	/	1H	1S	
X	/	4H	//	

M 3	KJ83		On board 4 in the third match NS gave up the bidding too early, and left us to play an unmolested 2C! I suspect that after we bid both of the majors, North was wishing he had overcalled 1D, leaving a potential take-out double for later.	
Bd 4	A765			
Dlr W	AK942			
Vul All	-			
A754		QT9	While the 1C opening shows a minimum of 2 clubs, my 1S rebid promised at least 4 clubs as well as 4 spades, so Therese had an easy rebid of 2C.	
J4		KT83		
73		J5	North cashed the top diamonds and led the H5, but after the double, the HA was marked, so I rose with the HK. After drawing trumps I could not guess the spades wrong, so made 9 tricks for +110.	
AKJT2		Q875	We gained an unexpected 7.17 Imps, as half the EW field got too high in clubs, and 3 NS pairs made 10 tricks in diamonds. One EW pair played in 3S instead of clubs, but this precarious contract suffered badly by the break, and finished 4 off for 7 Imps to NS.	
	64			
	Q92			
	QT86			
	9643			
W	N	E	S	
1C	X	1H	/	
1S	/	2C	//	

M 3	QJT52		Board 13 in the third match was a tricky declarer play that eluded most declarers, even Deep Finesse.	
Bd 13	JT8		North passed as Dealer, but ill-advisedly overcalled his spade suit when I responded 1H, and Therese showed a spade stopper and up to 14 HCPs with a 1NT rebid.	
Dlr N	T83		Since I had help in spades and 12 HCPs, I did not invite, just raising to game, and South dutifully led the S4, although a heart lead would probably have led to 5 tricks for the defence.	
Vul All	T3		Therese ducked the spade and then won the next in dummy and played to the D9, won by South who cleared the spades.	
K9		A86	Now a diamond to dummy to pass the C9, covered by all and won by South who finally exited with a heart, the finesse winning.	
AQ32		95	Another club finesse to South, the safe hand, and now, by virtue of the diamond break, she had 9 tricks for +600 and 8.5 Imps.	
K74		A965		
9876		AJ52		
	743			
	K764			
	QJ2			
	KQ4			
W	N	E	S	
	/	1C	/	
1H	1S	1NT	/	
3NT	//			

M 4	A82		On board 8 in the fourth match East missed an opportunity to make a lead-directing bid of 1S in 3 rd seat, but maybe their system does not allow for it?	
Bd 8	Q54		I opened with a 15-17 1NT that could have a 5-card major, so Therese responded 3C to check, but reverted to 3NT when I denied a 5-card suit, but could have had even both 4-card majors.	
Dlr W	JT5		West led the H3, and I had 5 tricks and 2 good minor suits to develop the additional 4 tricks from.	
Vul Nil	QJT3		Firstly I led the CK, and when that held, my tally was up to 6, so now 3 diamond tricks were enough.	
Q4		KJT63	I could not safely continue clubs as a spade switch would be certain, so I reverted to diamonds, won by West, but the spade switch was too late and I had 9 tricks for +600 and 5.00 Imps.	
JT732		8	As it turned out, the CA is with the long spades so I could have continued clubs and lost a spade, a diamond and a club.	
A8		7632		
8653		A97		
	975			
	AK96			
	KQ94			
	K4			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/(!)	1NT	
/	3C	/	3D	
/	3NT	//		

M 4	Q983				On board 13 in the fourth match we had what seemed like a routine auction to 4S, but the results at other tables were anything but routine! While 1 pair made 12 tricks in spades, another only made 8, and another pair did not get to game, while yet another tried 3NT, unsuccessfully. The worst result for NS was 2HEX, for -670, although it looks like South can easily get 2 club ruffs, plus a trick in every suit to beat 2HX if East is declarer. Against our 4S, East led the HA, and Therese was not unduly troubled to lead a trump to dummy and ruff another heart before reverting to spades for 11 tricks and +650. This was a healthy 8.67 Imps, distorted by the -670 result at one table.
Bd 13	-				
Dlr N	AK97				
Vul All	A5432				
A65			42		If East leads their D2, which is easy for West to pick as a singleton, then the diamond ruff holds North to just 10 tricks, and may lead to a defeat.
Q54			AJT763		
T865			2		
K98			QT76		
	KJT7				
	K982				
	QJ43				
	J				
W	N	E	S		
2H	1C	1H	X		
//	2S	/	4S		

M 5	J83				On board 4 in the fifth match my take-out doubles forced Therese to bid and made her hand declarer, and rather than any more testing card, East led the D5, as indicated by the bidding. West won the DA and after cashing the CK, led the SQ, which seemed a little odd, but made more sense when Therese cashed the HA and found out about the 4-0 split! My jump to 4H after Therese was forced to make a bid was based on my good 5-card suit, so it was disconcerting when East showed out on the first round of trumps, but at least Therese had the DK, which made me hopeful of 10 tricks. Thanks to the SJ in her hand as well, West was entitled to no more than the 2 Aces and the trump trick, so along with one other pair, we scored up +620 and 8.17 Imps. The one thing I knew after the 2D rebid and my own 3-card diamond holding was that when Therese was forced to bid she had short diamonds and therefore hearts was at least a 4-card suit.
Bd 4	T654				
Dlr W	KT				
Vul All	JT96				
Q			T9652		If East leads their D2, which is easy for West to pick as a singleton, then the diamond ruff holds North to just 10 tricks, and may lead to a defeat.
J932			-		
AJ8762			54		
AK			Q87432		
	AK74				
	AKQ87				
	Q93				
	5				
W	N	E	S		
1D	/	/	X		
2D	/	/	X		
/	2H	/	4H		
//					

M 5	87643				On board 16 in the fifth match when West opens the bidding with 1D (and most would do the same), EW are always going to get to game, but in which denomination, 4H, or 3NT? It looks like EW were playing the 3H rebid as forcing (not in our system), but here West might consider protecting his SK by trying 3NT instead of supporting hearts. After all, if the hearts run, 9 tricks in 3NT may be easier. On the actual hand 4H is a good contract, only requiring a heart break and one of 2 finesses, but with everything wrong, went one off, although Deep Finesse can make 10 tricks as East as follows. South wins the Club lead on the table and leads the SK, won by South who exits with a club to East, and now East ruffs a spade and cashes the HK before ruffing a club back to hand to play 3 more rounds of hearts, end-playing South to lead a diamond allowing the DK to be the 10 th trick.
Bd 16	8				
Dlr W	65				
Vul EW	Q7652				
K5			QT2		If East leads their D2, which is easy for West to pick as a singleton, then the diamond ruff holds North to just 10 tricks, and may lead to a defeat.
K5			AQ9643		
JT9872			K3		
A83			KT		
	AJ9				
	JT72				
	AQ4				
	J94				
W	N	E	S		
1D	/	1H	/		
2D	/	3H	/		
4H	//				

M 6 Bd 11 Dlr S Vul Nil	A2 AQJ93 93 Q765		On board 11 in the sixth match I had 2 things to say after the X of 1H by East, and they conflicted with each other. Firstly, by rebidding 1S, I confirm at least a 4-card club suit, but I could also have redoubled to show 3-card heart support, which is most important?
KT6 8754 QT862 J		Q987 6 AJ754 K98	I decided to show at least 4-4 in the blacks first and hope to show the hearts later, as a way of bidding out my shape, but when I did eventually support hearts, Therese thought it was only a doubleton support, and no diamond stop.
	J543 KT2 K AT432		East led the DA and switched to a spade, and Therese was able to ruff a diamond, draw trumps, and play CA and another, losing just a spade, club and a diamond for 10 tricks and +420.
W / 2D /	N 1H 3D 4H	E X X //	S 1C 1S! 3H At one table EW sacrificed in 5DX for only -300, but lost 2.5 Imps, since only 2 other pairs played in 4H and one went off! Our modest +420 was worth 6.5 Imps.

M 6 Bd 16 Dlr W Vul EW	AJ43 4 K8654 752		On board 16 in the sixth match I made my most-ill-considered bid of the event! I was in another planet of thinking, and I think that this was the most Imps we lost on any hand in the whole event.
7 QT98653 T2 AK3		QT982 2 J73 T984	At the Vulnerability, West elected not to preempt, and instead opened 1H and rebid the suit, over which Therese made a free bid of 2S in response to my take-out double.
	K65 AKJ7 AQ9 QJ6		There is hardly any hand that I can construct when the North hand bids 2S freely over the 2H rebid in which 3NT is not a better contract than 4S, even if we have a 5-3 spade fit.
W 1H 2H //	N / 2S	E / /	S X 4S Of course if North had a 6-card spade suit and very little strength, then a take-out to 4S over 3NT would be automatic. 4S East did not double 4S, as he did not want to wake me out of my slumber (4NT is makeable), he just sat back smugly and collected his trump tricks to take the contract 2 off for -100 and 11 Imps away.

M 7 Bd 1 Dlr N Vul Nil	K KQJT7 AJ932 QT		On board 1 in the seventh match slam looked possible when Therese rebid her diamonds, and diamonds is probably the safest slam, but here, a heart lead will lead to defeat.
T875 9 T65 J9852		Q64 A542 7 K7643	By the same token, if the heart suit was not so robust, 6D might be the only making slam. If the hearts are not so good, the CK instead of the SK in the North hand would make 6D by far the better contract.
	AJ932 863 KQ84 A		I chose to show hearts after 3D, and Therese showed K or singleton spade with 3S, which was good either way. RKCB showed 2 Key Cards and the trump Queen, so hoping for good hearts, I bid the slam in hearts.
W / / / / //	N 1H 2D 3D 3S 5S	E / / / / /	S 1S 3C 3H 4NT 6H East led the C4, and it did not take Therese long to draw trumps and claim 12 tricks for +980. This was only worth 8 Imps, as while only 3 pairs bid the slam, one pair had a bidding accident and did not get to game.

M 7	AKQJT9			On board 6 in the seventh match a disaster was averted by a suspicious East.
Bd 6	Q6			My 3D jump overcall was weak, although at the maximum strength for the bid, and thus I had no hesitation in bidding 3NT over Therese's 3S bid.
Dlr E	T6			The opening lead of the C6 caused me serious palpitations, even when dummy went down, and it seemed like an age before East won the CA and returned the CT!
Vul EW	Q94			East kept communications open by ducking, and I ran the spades, with no real play except the diamond finesse, which I thought was almost certain to work.
653		87		
82		AJ943		
93		K54		
KJ7653		AT2		
	52			
	KT75			
	AQJ872			
	8			
W	N	E	S	I discarded all of my hearts and the diamond finesse did work, so I made 12 tricks for an unlikely +490.
/	3S	1H	3D	This was 1.67 Imps, but could well have been 3 off for -150 and 11 Imps away.
//		/	3NT	

M 8	KJ3			Board 10 in the eighth match was difficult to assess after Therese showed 4-7 HCPs and a 6-card suit, so I put it back to her with an invitational 3S.
Bd 10	J95			Holding an extra spade and a reasonable suit, she accepted, in spite of being at the lower end of the HCPs.
Dlr E	84			South made it easy by leading the SA, although no lead by South threatens the contract, and with the hearts 3-3 and the SJ in the pocket, 11 tricks were made for +650.
Vul All	KQ932			One pair did not get to game, and two pairs played in hearts (one in 4H going off), so this gained 6 Imps.
76		QT98542		Without the helpfull trump lead, East can finesse spades twice by leading from dummy, and should therefore always make 11 tricks.
AKQ83		64		
A93		QT7		
A85		T		
	A			
	T72			
	KJ652			
	J764			
W	N	E	S	
1H	/	2S	/	
3S	/	4S	//	

M 8	AT73			Board 13 in the eighth match was a test of endurance and defence, as West is bound to show both suits with such a distributional hand.
Bd 13	T863			I was surprized when Therese supported my clubs so early in the auction, and this encouraged me to show my spades over 4H, on the way to 5C. After all, if NS have a heart fit, we could have a spade fit.
Dlr N	KQJ3			A trump lead would leave me with little chance of 11 tricks, but North reasonably led the DK, which I won on the table to lead a spade, preparing for a cross-ruff.
Vul All	Q			Then it was South's turn to shine, but understandably, he was not up to rising with his SK to lead a trump, so North won the SA and exited with the CQ.
QJ852		6		
7		Q54		
T		A86542		
AKJT64		987		
	K94			
	AKJ92			
	97			
	532			
W	N	E	S	It was too late now as I could cross-ruff spades and diamonds, expecting to be 1 off, but when the SK fell in three, I had 11 tricks for +750, and 10.0 Imps. If South had risen at trick 2, the ST would have taken the 3 rd trick for the defence. Hearts made 10 tricks for NS three times, once in game, but one declarer went off in 4H.
2C	1D	/	1H	
4S	2H	3C	4H	
//	X	5C	X	

M 9	KJ753			On board 1 in the ninth match North's 2S opening was a weak two-suiter, and South bided his time until we got to game, and then he guessed that we were going to make game, so he sacrificed.
Bd 1	Q87			
Dlr N	98754			
Vul Nil	-			At least South guessed correctly, as both 3NT and 5C are cold, but at equal Vulnerability, a 4-level sacrifice without some distribution to help you is very risky.
2		AT94		This was no exception, as with a minimum fit in spades and, by good fortune hearts, North did well to make 7 tricks for 3 off and +500 to EW, which was more than adequate compensation for the non-vulnerable game.
T93		KJ		I led the CA so North was under the pressure of the force at trick 1, with trumps breaking 4-1 and no pips in the side suits.
AT62	Q86	Q3		
KQT54	A6542	AJ763		
	KJ			
	982			
W	N	E	S	
2NT	2S!	X	/	This was 5.33 Imps to us, magnified slightly because one pair did not get to game as EW, and one NS pair were allowed to play in 2S, making.
X	/	3NT	4S	
	//			

M 9	952			On board 6 in the ninth match NS were not very competitive in spite of South having the best hand.
Bd 6	K854			
Dlr E	Q764			I was too strong in our system to jump to 3C over the 1D opening, but when I got support, I was happy to suggest a spade contract over South's 3D.
Vul EW	97			In spite of being doubled in 3S, it is likely that this contract would make, as it requires a club lead to beat 3S, followed by 3 red suit tricks in the correct order and then another club ruff.
KJ74		AT3		3SX was never really an option with such a good club suit, and support from partner, but I was surprised that NS subsided so quickly.
T2	Q86	Q97		North led the D4, and I ruffed the second diamond to draw trumps and consider the spade finesse. A heart towards dummy saw North rise and he led another heart which South won with the HJ, and I ruffed the HA. It seemed like North had already shown enough for 2D, so I finessed spades the right way and made 10 tricks for +130, and 4 Imps. Interestingly, NS can make 4H, but the suit was not mentioned.
8	AJ93	T5		
AKQ432	AKJ932	JT865		
	-			
W	N	E	S	
2C	3D	/	1D	
3S	X	3C	3D	
		4C	//	

M 10	AT8542			On board 1 in the tenth match EW got away with murder, but we still gained 3 Imps.
Bd 1	Q9763			We do not have any bid to open with a weak two-suiter, so Therese was forced to pass as dealer, and East bid a natural 1D. Now when West bid 2C, Therese could double to show both suits, or bid 2D as a Michael's Cue-bid.
Dlr N	-			I felt I had more than enough to compete to 3H, but when it was my next turn to bid I was looking at 5D! Double looked like it could work, but Therese was a passed hand and my club holding looked vulnerable, so I meekly passed.
Vul Nil	54			When this contract went 3 off, we scored +150, and rued my failure to double, but we still gained 3 Imps as only one pair played 5DX for 3 off, and one 5D undoubled for 1 off.
Q96		J3		4H and 4S are both makeable, but 3H at one table made 7 tricks and 5HX at another table made 10 tricks.
J		K854		
K96	K7	AQJT73		
A98762	AT2	Q		
	8542			
	KJT3			
W	N	E	S	
2C	/	1D	/	
4D	2D!	3D	3H	
	/	5D	//	

M 10	AT8			On board 9 in the tenth match Therese balanced with 2H when 1NT (15-17) was passed around to her, showing 5 hearts and at least a 4-card minor.
Bd 9	Q8643			
Dlr N	6			
Vul EW	QJ53			East led the DA, but the heart switch was obvious next, and when Therese played low, West played the HA and another, finishing on the table. Now Therese led a spade and played the ST, putting East on the spot again.
K7		Q93		
AT2		95		
T875		AKJ9		
T876		AK92		
	J6542			The top clubs will either win, or set up the HT in the West hand for the 5 th trick, but East tried the CA and a small club, which Therese ran around to her CJ, cashed the SA, and led a trump to dummy to run the spades for 9 tricks and +140.
	KJ7			
	Q432			
	4			
W	N	E	S	Three NS pairs played in hearts one in 3HX going 1 off, one in 2H also going 1 off, and our 9 tricks, and 2 pairs made 8 tricks in a spade contract (one was in 3S), so +140 was worth 4.83 Imps
/	2H!	1NT	/	
		//		

M 11	952			On board 1 in the eleventh match South was close to being doubled when 2S came back to me, but 2NT seemed more prudent, so I had no hesitation in doubling 3S when he stuck his neck out.
Bd 1	K4			
Dlr N	QJ73			
Vul Nil	JT84			I was not looking for ruffs, but the bidding suggested Therese had long diamonds, so I led the DK to look at dummy, and switched to the HQ when it held.
QJT7		K		
QJ96		T52		
K4		AT9852		Declarer cashed the top hearts and ruffed one in dummy before ruffing a diamond back to hand for another heart ruff, over-ruffed by Therese with the SK.
Q93		A52		
	A8643			Declarer still had 3 trumps and 2 clubs to lose, so that was only 6 tricks and 3 off, for +500.
	A873			
	6			
	K76			
W	N	E	S	This was 7.5 Imps to us, as while 3NT was made by EW at two tables, two other tables played in spades, undoubled, one played in 3DE, making, and one played in 4HW going off.
X	2S	1D	1S	
2NT	/	/	/	
X	//		3S	

M 11	2			On board 16 in the eleventh match North got carried away with her good hand and did not take into account Therese's silence in regard to spade support.
Bd 16	AK872			
Dlr W	A842			
Vul EW	Q72			The silence on Therese's part, and North's own spade shortage should have pointed to a long spade holding in the South hand, not good for a heart contract by North.
AKJT873		-		
J9		Q43		Therese doubled 4H and led the DK, and North was caught between a rock and a hard place as Therese could over-ruff diamonds, so the contract finished 3 off for +500, and 12.33 Imps.
63		KQJT9		
84		KJT63		At other tables West played in doubled spade contracts, with varied results. 2SWX only went 1 off, and 4SWX only went 2 off, but 3SWX went 3 off twice, for +600 to EW.
	Q9654			4HN was also played at two other tables but was not doubled, going 3 off, but only -150.
	T65			
	75			
	A95			
W	N	E	S	
1S	1H	X	2H	
2S	4H	X	//	

M 12	-			On board 6 in the twelfth match EW appeared to be daunted by the adverse Vulnerability when they allowed Therese to play in 4H in spite of their excellent spade fit.
Bd 6	AK8432			
Dir E	AQ73			
Vul EW	832			It is hard to say what we would have done if EW had taken the push to 4S, I am glad we were not put to the test!
AQJT98		K743		East led the S3, and the sight of dummy allowed Therese to relax, as if the red suits break, 4H is cold, and if they do not, 4S is cold, so she could not lose!
Q9		T5		
T4		J62		
AKJ		Q765		
	852			We were the only pair to play in 4H, three other Norths taking the phantom sacrifice in 5H, and two Wests made 10 tricks in spades, one of them was in game, but another lost the obvious 4 tricks in 4SW.
	J76			
	K985			
	T94			
W	N	E	S	Making game was worth 10.83 Imps to us, and the one EW pair that scored +620 in 4SW picked up 11.5 Imps for their trouble. Even the NS pair that played in 5HN undoubled gained 0.67 Imps.
1S	2H	3S	/	
/	4H	//	/	

M 12	432			On board 16 in the twelfth match NS were apparently playing 3D in response to 2C as a maximum with a 4-card major, but North had no interest in a major, so bid 3NT.
Bd 16	AJ9			
Dir W	K85			
Vul EW	8532			I did not know what to lead, but knew that North did not have a major suit, and South probably had a 4-card major, which I guessed was spades. I therefore placed Therese with at least 4 hearts so led the H5 hoping to give nothing away, and hit the jackpot!
KT76		95		Therese finessed the HT, and South won the HQ in hand. 3NT is still cold, but South had to find the DQ and quite reasonably led to the DK and finessed the DT, allowing me to lead another heart, won by Therese with the HK and she returned the H2 to set up the suit.
543		KT762		
Q62		973		
Q74		A96		
	AQJ8			Winning on the table declarer now finessed the SQ, which I won and a club back to Therese (suggested by the return of the H2) allowed her to cash 2 more tricks for 2 off and +100.
	Q8			
	AJT4			
	KJT			
W	N	E	S	
/	/	/	1NT	
/	2C	/	3D!	
/	3NT	//		

M 13	64			On board 16 in the thirteenth match I was in a reasonable contract, with chances, but I sensed that South did not have the DA which would have made 4S easy, so I looked for an alternative line, and found it.
Bd 16	AKT63			
Dir W	AT973			
Vul EW	9			North led the HA then switched to the C9, suggesting that South had the CQ. I won the CA and ruffed a heart before cashing 2 trumps to clear the suit, preparing for an endplay on North.
JT983		AKQ2		Now the CK confirmed my suspicion about the CQ, and I next led the HQ and discarded my club loser.
J		Q87		North knew he was endplayed and resignedly cashed the DA giving my 10 th trick for +620, and 9.5 Imps.
K642		85		
874		AKJ6		
	75			While I was waiting for North to accept his fate, I realized that a ruff-sluff would not have helped me as I have 4 diamonds and only 2 trumps left in dummy to ruff them!
	9542			
	QJ			
	QT532			
W	N	E	S	
/	1H	X	2H	
2S	3D	4S	//	