

2016 Yeh Cup Mixed Teams by Richard Wallis

Mr Yeh is a leading Taiwanese industrialist who over the years has privately sponsored many top class international invitation bridge events, including the Yeh Cup, which was held for the first time outside of Asia, at the Gold Coast in 2009, convened on behalf of Mr Yeh by Therese Tully and David Stern. On a more domestic level he has also sponsored a Mixed Teams event in his home town, Kaohsiung, for many years, and this year he decided to strengthen this Mixed Teams event by giving personal invitations to a small number of overseas teams, from Australia, China and Indonesia.

At Mr Yeh's specific request, the three Australian teams were invited without publicity. If Mr Yeh continues to invite overseas players in future years, hopefully even more Australians will get the chance to go, but the current venue has very limited space.

The three teams from Australia were:

Aussie Allstars - Bruce Neill, Margaret Bourke, Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby

Sydney – Peter Buchen, Kathy Buchen, Matthew Thomson and Cathryn Herden

Gold Coast – Simon Hinge, Elizabeth Havas, Richard Wallis and Therese Tully

The event was conducted using screens and bidding boxes throughout as a 10-round delayed Swiss, with the top 8 (of 22) progressing to the Quarter-finals. Preliminary matches were of 10 boards, conducted over Friday and Saturday, and the Q/Fs were 2/8 board matches, the S/Fs 2/10 board matches, and the Final 2/12 board matches, all played on Sunday, with a Butler Pairs on Sunday for those pairs not playing in the S/Fs.

The Aussie Allstars won the qualifying round, with the Gold Coast sneaking into 8th place, but both teams lost the Q/F and were relegated to the Butler Pairs. On a brighter note, Simon Hinge and Elizabeth Havas came second in the Butler, and Matthew Thomson and Cathryn Herden finished 3rd. It was great fun, albeit with some language difficulties due to our lack of understanding Chinese (some system cards were completely in Chinese), and it is a pity lack of space makes it difficult at present for Mr Yeh to open it up to more teams.

M 2 T764

Bd 15 JT87

Dir S QJ3

Vul NS KQ

832

K

K94

AJT743

KJ9

Q53

865

9852

W

N

E

S

1C

/

1H

/

1NT

/

2D

/

3C

/

3NT

//

On board 15 in the second match EW had a 2/1 auction to 3NT and after ruling out all other suits I led the S4. This hand is easier if East is declarer, to protect against a spade lead, and declarer tried the SQ at trick 1 which Therese won and led back the SJ, which also held, and she now cleared the spades.

Declarer did not have a clear blueprint of the hand, and eventually lost 3 spades, a heart, a diamond and a club for 2 off and +100 to us. If declarer plays low on the spade lead Therese cannot lead another, and maybe declarer will scrape home but is still likely to go 1 off.

At the other table Elizabeth stopped in 2H on the misfit, and could not see the magic club position which could yield 9 tricks double-dummy, and finished 1 off, for +2 lmps.

In another match, Bruce Neill, sitting North, led a spade and watched as after winning the SQ, East won the CA and then led the C3, setting up the dummy, emerging with 11 tricks for a big loss to Bruce's team. Holding 2 entries to the dummy, ducking a club will offer many chances.

M 4 KJ3
Bd 6 KJ432
Dir E 94
Vul EW AT9
 2 A6
 A85 QT97
 AQJT763 K85
 K7 6542
 QT98754
 6
 2
 QJ83
W N E S
 / 3S
 4D 4S 5D /
 5S X //

On board 6 in the fourth match there was a lively bidding sequence at the end of which Therese was in 5SX, as I had guessed that 5D was a likely make and 5SX would be cheap and thus took out insurance.

West led the DA and Therese ruffed the next round and led a heart towards dummy, and West played low hoping for Therese to play the HJ, but she unerringly played the HK and led a trump. When the club finesse worked, that was 11 tricks and +650.

At the other table Simon played in 5D as West, and here North doubled, but he was end-played at trick 1!

On any lead Simon could draw trumps, carefully preserving a trump entry to dummy, and take advantage of the favourable lie of the hearts to discard a club on the 4th heart for +750, and 17 Imps.

M 6 AK74
Bd 4 T
Dir W J
Vul All AQJ9852
 5 QJ9832
 532 KQ84
 KT6532 94
 K74 6
 T8
 AJ976
 AQ87
 T3
W N E S
 / 1C 1S 2H
 / 3C! / 3D
 / 3NT //

On board 4 in the sixth match I had a good hand but was short in Therese's suit and conservatively only bid 3C over her 2H response, which was not forcing after her simple 2H response in competition.

Luckily she had 2 Aces and decided to have another go with 3D and my 3NT closed out the auction. However, when East led the D9 and dummy tracked, it was obvious that 6C had many chances, probably cold on the club finesse.

Having missed a possible slam, I made sure of 11 tricks by playing low in dummy, and won the spade at trick 2 to lead the CA and another for +660.

At the other table NS did get to 6C, but this was defeated and +100 gained us 13 Imps. Since the CK and HKQ are all well placed 6NT is cold, but do you want to be there?

After the match it was agreed that my best rebid is 2S!

M 6 J9
Bd 5 K53
Dir N 8642
Vul NS K843
 AK62 T5
 AT84 J962
 JT95 AK
 T Q9652
 Q8743
 Q7
 Q73
 AJ7
W N E S
 / / 1S
 / 1NT //

Board 5 in the sixth match was a simple part score with less than half the high cards between us and no good fit, which did not bode well for success, but you have got to get lucky some time!

East led the C5, and wanting to preserve a later entry, I played low from dummy and paused for thought as to how I could garner 7 tricks.

Spades looked to be my best prospect, so I led the SJ and it held! Another spade and I had the pips to set up the suit for 3 tricks, and the club finesse to cash them.

Along the way EW also gave me a trick in each red suit, so I emerged with 8 tricks for +120.

At the other table NS also stole the contract, but this time in 2S, which went 1 off for another +100 and 6 Imps.

M 7 KT842
Bd 16 Q3
Dir W K74
Vul EW A64
A
KJ95
QJ63
J982

Q(63
AT7642
92
3

J75
8
AT85
KQT75

W	N	E	S
1C	1S	/	2C
/	3S	/	4S
//			

On board 16 in the seventh match I made a simple overcall after West opened 1C, and Therese bid 2C to show at least a limit raise in spades.

East led the HA and switched to the D9, on which I played the DT and West the DJ. I ruffed the HQ on the table and played the S7 for a trump finesse and West obliged with the SA, but now he was end-played, or so he thought!

West exited with the C2 and I won on the table and ran the SJ, losing to East, and I was glad I had not run the SJ at trick 2, as I would then have had 2 more trump losers.

If East had returned a diamond I had no recourse due to the short club, but East knew I was out of hearts so played another heart, and I ruffed, drew the remaining trumps and ran the clubs for 10 tricks for +420.

At the other table 4H by Elizabeth also made 10 tricks as East for +620 and 14 Imps.

M 10 7
Bd 9 K84
Dir N AK
Vul EW AKT8752
9862
Q9752
962
J

QJT53
J6
JT3
Q93

AK4
AT3
Q8754
64

W	N	E	S
/	1C	/	1D
/	3C	/	4C
/	4D	/	4H
/	4NT	/	5H
/	5S	/	5NT
/	7C	//	

Board 9 in the tenth match was nearly the end of our participation in the Yeh Cup Mixed Teams, but luckily the following disaster, which resulted in a loss, was not bad enough to drop us out of the top 8.

My jump to 3C was highly invitational, but not forcing, and when Therese set clubs with her 4C response, I was interested in slam.

Cue-bids were followed by RKCB, and when Therese showed both major suit Aces but denied the CQ, I thought her support for clubs (xx at least) and my extra club would be as good as the CQ, so asked about Kings, and her 5NT response suggested the SK.

I have heard of a few instances of a grand slam being bid and made when only game had been bid at the other table, and this was another one, well almost!

At the other table they had a bidding mix-up and stopped in 3NT, making 12 for -490, so 11 Imps away, instead of 10 Imps to us for staying in just 6C.