

2005 BBC Swiss Teams

Due to congestion in the bridge calendar we moved our August Swiss Teams to September this year, but the congestion followed us. Nonetheless we had a good rollup of 26 teams in the Open and 10 teams in the Restricted, ably directed by David Anderson and Bill Singley. Heat was a serious factor at this time of year and the committee gave serious thought to hiring air-conditioners for the day, but the cost was prohibitive.

I teamed up with Tony Jackman, Peter Hainsworth and Neville Francis, and our only loss was in match 4 to the Croft team. We managed to win the other 6 matches by enough to finish ahead of John Pritchard, Bianca Barden, Darko Janzekovic and Jenny Han, with Dennis Croft, Janeen Solomon, Eva and Tony Berger in 3rd place. The final result was a triumph for the seedings, as teams 1, 2 & 3 finished in that order.

Pamela Newnham, Ann Williams, Rita Lynch and Teresa Lehane won the Restricted Teams, from Kevin Dean, Geoffrey Roberts, John Correy and Catherine McPaul.

M 1	Q7542				The old style of precision was to pass a limited opening bid unless you had prospects of game, but many now ignore this rule with any pretence of a good reason. Tony picked a good time to ignore the rule on board 1 in match 1 after West made a take-out double of my 1H opening.
Bd 1	95				
Dlr N	J83				
Vul Nil	T82				
K98		63			
72		KJT			His 1NT response kept EW out of the auction, and my 2H rebid closed it. Note that a responsive double from East, denying spades, could have reaped a huge reward.
AQ92		K654			
A976		KJ54			
	AJT				I was able to enter dummy by the SQ to take the heart finesse, so I lost just 6 tricks for 1 off and -50.
	AQ8643				
	T7				
	T82				At the other table Peter and Neville balanced themselves back into the auction when North passed the 1H opening, and ended in 3NT from the East seat, making 11 tricks on the friendly lie of the cards.
W	N	E	S		
	/	/	1H		
X	1NT	/	2H		This nothing hand suddenly produced 9 Imps to us out of the blue.
//					

M 1	84				Board 5 in match 1 was a routine 1 off at our table. I led the H4 and Tony won with the H9 and paused to take stock. The lead could have been from a doubleton, or a middle card in a 3-card holding, so he cashed the CA to see what my signal was.
Bd 5	AQJT9				
Dlr N	63				
Vul NS	AQJ2				
QJ2		AKT9765			Playing low-encouraging, I signalled vehemently by playing the C9 under his Ace, so he cashed the HA and gave me my ruff.
K52		876			
AKQ92		-			This should have been flat, but if South can get in again, North has 3 heart tricks without needing to give South a ruff, so there is always room to look elsewhere.
43		KT8			
	3				
	43				
	JT8754				Declarer lamented that although it looked easy to give the South hand a ruff for 1 off, in practice 4S was likely to make. That is what happened at the other table when North played clubs after winning with the H9 and East came to 11 tricks for +450 and 11 Imps.
	9875				
W	N	E	S		
	1H	2S	/		
4S	//				

M 2	J76			
Bd 11	T			
Dlr S	K64			
Vul Nil	T98765			
Q9832		A4		
Q965		AJ432		
AT3		9852		
K		A2		
	KT5			
	K87			
	QJ7			
	QJ43			
W	N	E	S	
			1D	
1S	/	2D	/	
2NT	/	3H	/	
3NT	//			

Board 11 in match 2 was a nothing board that turned into a complete bonus for us as EW appeared to have a bidding misunderstanding and missed the good game in hearts.

My 1D was the Precision catch-all bid and West overcalled 1S, over which Tony passed. It appears as if East was asking for more information by 2D, and obviously expected the subsequent 3H rebid to show at least a 5-card suit.

West was not of the same accord, and their 3NT rebid closed the auction, East happy to have described the hand type.

Since my 1D had not shown diamonds, Tony led his long suit, and West was only able to set up 8 tricks before we got our clubs going so finished 1 off for +50.

At the other table Peter and Neville had a normal auction to finish in 4H for another +420 and 10 Imps.

M 2	KJ43			
Bd 13	84			
Dlr N	KQ532			
Vul All	Q6			
97		A52		
QT52		AK9763		
J		A7		
AJ9875		32		
	QT86			
	J			
	T9864			
	KT4			
W	N	E	S	
	/	1H	/	
2C	/	2H	/	
4H	//			

EW missed a potential slam on board 13 in match 2 when East did not pick up the Acol style delayed game raise.

The West hand has many potential good features and it is difficult to describe them all, but in my view, an immediate 4D splinter bid is no good as it does not show the good club suit.

The delayed game raise, even if partner recognized it, is also no good as it does not show the singleton diamond.

The West hand does not know how high to go, but if the hand is adequately described, any move towards slam can be left to East. After the 2C response, the bid that gets everything across, although a bit on the light side, is 4D, splinter.

Now East may make one try with 4S, but since West has nothing more to say, the bidding should stop in 5H. In 4H I led the DT and East did not try hard and only made 11 tricks for -650.

At the other table Peter and Neville did get to slam, but luckily South did not lead a spade, so slam made for +1430 and 13 Imps in.

M 3	-			
Bd 17	QT73			
Dlr N	T53			
Vul Nil	QT7543			
AK9732		J8654		
5		962		
J96		842		
AK2		96		
	QT			
	AKJ84			
	AKQ7			
	J8			
W	N	E	S	
	/	/	2NT	
/	3C	/	3H	
3S	4H	//		

On board 17 in match 3 West was surprizingly put off by my strong 2NT opening and did not overcall on the first round. Maybe he fancied his chances of defeating 3NT if that became the final contract.

3C by Tony asked for 5-card majors, and his hand improved vastly when I showed hearts rather than spades.

Now West bid his spades, but the moment had passed and EW did not compete over 4H, which made an easy 11 tricks for +450.

At the other table Peter and Neville had no trouble bidding 4S and NS decided to take what was on offer in 4SX rather than risk the 5-level, and found the pickings to be very small.

Only 1 off in 4SX gave us a net +350 and 8 Imps.

M 3 6
Bd 21 987632
Dlr N 32
Vul NS QT74
 JT92 KQ873
 A KJT5
 KJ87 AQ64
 KJ95 -

A54
 Q4
 T95
 A8632

W	N	E	S
	/	1S	/
2NT	/	3C	/
4S	/	4NT	/
5D	/	5S	//

A void in an outside suit is not a good time to use any of the forms of Blackwood and board 21 in match 3 was a prime example of when it is best to cue-bid.

2NT by West was Jacoby, and West was not excited by the club shortage shown by East so he signed off in 4S. East was not finished, and used Blackwood, though he could only really go to slam if his partner showed 2 missing Aces, so he subsided in 5S.

After Blackwood I would have doubled 6S if it had been bid, as I could not then place East with a void club.

Peter and Neville have an agreement that West is obliged to cue-bid after the 3C rebid, and thus they were on much stronger ground when after a series of cue-bids they bid the cold slam for an 11 Imp gain.

M 4 T5
Bd 3 87542
Dlr S Q864
Vul EW T4
 KJ9873 -
 J63 KQT9
 J73 T95
 2 AKJ973

AQ642
 A
 AK2
 Q865

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

On board 3 in match 4 we courted disaster in 3S after Tony misread my double of 3C.

Perhaps I should have passed quietly and hoped Tony came back in with a double, which he may have done since he had both red suits, but I thought that was too big a position to take.

West was extremely happy with the final contract, and did not double in case we had a better spot. According to Deep Finesse, NS can make 7 tricks in every denomination except clubs, and this is what I got, for -100.

At the other table the bidding was more boisterous and finally subsided in 4CX, which only went 2 off, but another -500 was 12 Imps away.

This hand was a big factor in our loss on this match.

M 4 K
Bd 6 A6
Dlr E Q9852
Vul EW Q9853
 874 J95
 QT8732 KJ94
 KJ6 3
 4 AJT62

AQT632
 5
 AT74
 K7

W	N	E	S
		/	1S
/	1NT	/	2S
//			

Board 6 in match 4 was a misfit with possibly 11 opposite 11 and Tony decided that a game try was not warranted.

Playing Precision, Tony's 1NT was forcing, and I nearly upgraded my hand to a 3S response showing 14-15. In retrospect, I think that this was a better bid, and then we would have reached game. 3NT looks good, but on the obvious heart lead from either defender it has only 8 tricks.

There was nothing to the play in 2S and after a heart lead I made 11 tricks for +200.

At the other table NS found their diamond fit, but were scuttled by the club ruff and finished 1 down for +50 and 6 Imps to us.

M 5 J543
Bd 10 K73
Dir E A84
Vul All T64
 Q7 -
 AJ65 QT2
 KT9752 QJ63
 9 K87532
 AKT9862
 984
 -
 AQJ
W N E S
 / 2NT / 1C
 // 4S

On board 10 in match 5 we bid quickly to game against silent opponents and with everything friendly I made 12 tricks for +680. The 2NT response in our system shows a balanced 8-10, so I knew I had at least a doubleton support.

Someone once said that any making slam must be a good one, but this required the HA and CK both on side, which is roughly 25%. Swap the EW hands around and even 4S can go down.

The West hand seems particularly suited to some sort of overcall after the Precision 1C opening and as I consulted the hand records later, I was surprised that no action was taken at all. Maybe put off by the vulnerability, but both sides were equal.

At the other table Neville and Peter were not put off by any negative thoughts about going down, and finished up in 5DX for an excellent save, gaining 10 Imps for -200. If the heart finesse had worked, 5D would have made!

M 5 AKJ62
Bd 15 KQ4
Dir S T752
Vul NS 3
 QT75 94
 97 853
 J8 AK64
 QT854 A976
 83
 AJT62
 Q93
 KJ2
W N E S
 / 4H // 1H

On board 15 in match 5 Tony knew that slam was not a good prospect when I opened 1H and so he gave East no chance to get in to the auction by jumping to 4H, and all passed.

4H may make or it may fail, but there is often a bonus in the play by not letting EW exchange information during the bidding and that is what happened on this hand.

Looking at all 4 hands, it is obvious that West can lead a diamond and get a ruff and then the CA is the setting trick. However, with nothing to guide them, West chose the 'safe lead of the H7, and now I was able to make 10 tricks by drawing two rounds of trumps and relying on the spade finesse and a ruff to set them up while I had the trump entry to dummy.

At the other table Neville and Peter got to play the hand in 3C, and although this went 2 off we gained 11 Imps.

M 6 AKJ92
Bd 20 875
Dir W Q3
Vul All KQJ
 73 QT54
 Q32 KJ964
 A9875 K64
 972 3
 86
 AT
 JT2
 AT8654
W N E S
 / 1C / 2C
 / 2S / 3C
 / 5C //

On board 20 in match 6, when I rebid my clubs to show a 6-card suit, Tony guessed that 3NT must have a play, but was not able to ask me for a stopper in both red suits, so settled for 5C.

Of course 3NT has 9 top tricks and there are 10 tricks on a diamond lead, which is what happened at the other table. Luckily NS at the other table were only in 1NT so the score was only -180.

Tony received a trump lead and won in hand to cash the top spades and ruff a spade high. Returning to hand with a trump, he ruffed another spade with the CA, drew the last trump and discarded the HT on the good spade and led a diamond.

Since he had the tempo, he was able to win the heart return and establish the DJ while he still had a trump left. If East had led a heart initially, he is still able to set up the spades and discard the heart from dummy. However as soon as he loses the lead to a diamond he is forced to ruff a heart with his last trump and EW make 2 diamonds and a heart.

M 6	KT986			
Bd 22	A95			
Dir E	63			
Vul EW	KT3			
AJ52		74		
QT8		64		
Q9		AK8542		
Q986		A72		
	Q3			
	KJ732			
	JT7			
	J54			
W	N	E	S	
		1D	1H	
1S	2H	2D	/	
3H	/	4D	//	

On board 22 in match 6 West was wary of 3NT after we overcalled in hearts, and asked East for a stopper that she was unlikely to have.

The auction stopped in 4D and we had 4 tricks in this contract that were unlikely to go away and we duly wrote down +100.

Since West almost had an opening bid of her own, and a fitting diamond honour, she could have tried 3NT on her own, which only requires the overcaller to have the HJ, or both of the top honours, which is a pretty good chance.

A good point in the bidding is that Tony should have doubled 3H to show a top honour, in case East did bid 3NT and I was on lead.

At the other table Neville and Peter did get to 3NT and made this contract exactly for +600 and 12 Imps.

M 7	432			
Bd 27	Q9843			
Dir S	JT8			
Vul Nil	KQ			
KQT65		A		
J2		A765		
AK3		952		
A93		T8752		
	J987			
	KT			
	Q764			
	J64			
W	N	E	S	
			/	
1S	/	1NT	/	
2NT	/	3NT	//	

On board 27 in match 7 declarer has a lot of work to do to make 3NT and cannot do it without the aid of the defense.

I led the D4 and declarer unblocked the SA and ducked a club to Tony, who cleared the diamond suit.

Declarer next played two rounds of clubs, and while I was about to win the 3rd round I marked declarer with no more spades and Tony with something in hearts.

However, after cashing my diamonds I had a mental lapse and led a spade, instead of the HK, so declarer gratefully grabbed his 9 tricks after all.

At the other table the defence to 3NT was more accurate and Neville finished 1 off so we lost 10 Imps.

M 7	QJT			
Bd 31	-			
Dir S	QT983			
Vul NS	AKT87			
A974		K8652		
643		AKT875		
2		K		
J9654		Q		
	3			
	QJ92			
	AJ7654			
	32			
W	N	E	S	
			/	
/	1D	1H	3D	
/	5D	//		

On board 31 in match 7 I had a difficult hand to evaluate, especially when Tony's 1D opening could be as few as 2 diamonds. Since he had at most 15 points, it was unlikely that 3NT was a good spot (cold actually as the cards lie), so I opted for the pre-emptive bid of 3D, promising at least a 5-card suit.

West was a little timid in not bidding 3H, and when Tony raised to 5D, East was shut out.

Since trumps were 1-1, Tony was able to ruff all of dummy's hearts and lost just 1 spade for +620.

At the other table Neville showed both of his major suits, and they tempted fate by bidding 5S over 5D. Their bidding must have sounded confident, as the contract was undoubled, so 2 off only conceded -100 and 11 Imps.