

## 2005 Qld Open Teams

The Qld Open Teams at Toowong this year attracted a quality field of 32 teams, with a few of those teams occupying the top spot over the first 4 rounds. A glitch in the seeding system had the eventual runaway winners (Sigfrid Konig, Jim Wallis, Bill Haughie and Steven Burgess) only seeded second, and although they had a slow start, they shot to the lead on the second day and were never headed.

My team (R. Wallis, Therese Tully, Lindy Vincent and Richard Ward) had maximum wins on the last 2 rounds to just overtake the number 1 seeds (Neville Francis, Magnus Moren, Paul Gosney and David Appleton) for second place by the barest margin of 1VP. Country teams fared well, with the Brown team from Cairns winning the Plate, ahead of the Theodore team from Bundaberg. David Anderson did a great job as Director as usual, and Toowong Bridge Club were congenial hosts, providing copious quantities of goodies to nibble on during both days.

<b>M 1</b>	J2			On board 7 in match 1 Therese was in charge of what looks like an easy game in spades. However, the deceptive discards of the LOM sitting in the South seat seduced her and she fell in hook, line and sinker.
<b>Bd 7</b>	QJ72			
<b>Dir S</b>	KJ985			
<b>Vul All</b>	64			After the 1NT rebid (15-17), the 2C was checkback and my 2S confirmed 3-card support and a minimum hand, but Therese had more than enough to bid game, to which South led the H6.
A97			T8654	
K854			AT9	
AT4			3	After the heart lead, with the club finesse working, it is a simple matter to duck a round of trumps, set up the extra heart trick, and finesse the CJ for an easy 10 tricks,
KJ3			A952	
	KQ3			However, there is also a squeeze possibility that may obviate the need for the club finesse, so Therese ruffed a diamond before ducking a heart, ruffed the next diamond return, and then cashed 2 heart tricks, on which South threw 2 clubs! The lead of the CK seemed to confirm the CQ was well placed, and the fall of the CT allowed a finesse, but South won the CQ, then cashed the SK and DQ for 1 off.
	63			
	Q762			
	QT87			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			/	
1H	/	1S	/	
1NT	/	2C	/	Understandably, Therese was astounded at how cunningly South had played to defeat a cold contract.
2S	/	4S	//	

<b>M 1</b>	K75			We were lucky on board 10 in match 1 when South forgot to double over Therese's 1D opening, and although he tried to catch up on the next round by bidding 3H, his partner, perhaps mindful of his original pass, did not bid on to game.
<b>Bd 10</b>	KT743			
<b>Dir E</b>	543			
<b>Vul All</b>	74			It takes a trump lead to beat 4H, as otherwise North can ruff a diamond and concede just 1 heart, 1 diamond and 1 club.
J872			T5	
9			A652	
T982			AQJ7	In just the part-score and holding 4 trumps, Therese tried the forcing defence and led the DA, which should have allowed North to make 10 tricks, but North drew trumps and relied on a 3-3 spade break for the possible overtrick so she only made 9 tricks for -140.
K653			KQ8	
	A643			At the other table Richard and Lindy were kept out of the auction by East opening with a strong 1NT. Both hands are a little too flat to take much action.
	QJ8			
	K6			
	AT92			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1D	/	
/	1H	/	3H	This contract went 1 down for +100, so the loss was only 1 Imp.
//				

**M 2** J9873  
**Bd 17** AQJ63  
**Dir N** 42  
**Vul Nil** Q  
 AT62 K54  
 KT42 985  
 Q96 5  
 T4 A87632  
  
 Q  
 7  
 AKJT873  
 KJ95  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / / / 1D  
 / 1S / 2D  
 / 3H / 3D  
 //

Board 17 in match 2 was another lucky hand for us in both rooms. At our table South judged her hand only suitable for play in diamonds, and when she bid that suit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, North subsided. We cashed our 2 Aces and took a trump trick, so -130 was the limit of the hand.

This would not have been a good time for North to insist in playing in one of his major suits.

At the other table Richard and Lindy were more adventurous in the bidding and after the misfit became apparent, Lindy finished in 3NT. This makes via the Club honours and the finesse positions of the key cards in the majors, so they wrote down +400.

The net score was +270, which is 7 Imps.

**M 2** Q6  
**Bd 26** AQ63  
**Dir E** A93  
**Vul All** KT54  
 AJ84 K  
 7542 KJ8  
 4 KQT862  
 J962 AQ3  
  
 T97532  
 T9  
 J75  
 87  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 1H / 1D /  
 3C / 2C /  
 3NT // 3H /

On board 26 in match 2 I missed the obvious line (especially in hindsight) for 9 tricks and went 1 off in 3NT for a flat board.

The bidding suggested that South had length in spades, so North led the SQ, which I won on the table.

With the hearts, diamonds and clubs all well placed, the winning line is to lead the DK at trick 2, win the next trick (finessing a heart if necessary) and setting up the diamonds. Inaccurate defence will allow 10 tricks, but 9 should come easily enough with careful play.

After the speculative lead, I could envisage 4 spade tricks, 3 club tricks and a trick in each red suit, so at trick 2 I led the CQ, taken by the CK.

At the end I ended up with 9 tricks, but not the entries to cash them. Even 3H is makeable due to the friendly breaks, but my poor suit and good holding in the unbid suit beguiled me into 3NT.

**M 3** K863  
**Bd 4** KQ87  
**Dir W** KJT4  
**Vul All** Q  
 AQJT7 2  
 JT96 A642  
 AQ8 963  
 3 AJT84  
  
 954  
 3  
 752  
 K9765  
 2  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 1S 1NT X XX  
 2H / 4H //

On board 4 in match 3 the bidding had given me a blueprint on how to play the hand as soon as dummy was exposed.

1NT by North was for take-out, showing at least 2 suits other than spades, and the redouble by South showed a 6-card suit.

When North led the CQ and dummy went down it was obvious that South had the rest of the clubs, and that North had at least 4 cards in both red suits.

The spade finesse may have been working, and anyway I did not want to let South in, so I finessed the SQ at trick 2 and North won and returned a spade, a club being discarded on the table.

The HJ was covered, won in dummy and a heart was returned to North, who returned a heart to my hand. Now the stage was set, with North having the best heart, and obviously the DK.

I now cashed my spades, throwing all of the diamonds and finally a club, North also discarding a diamond. The D8 was ruffed on the table and I led the CJ, not even looking at South's card as when I ruffed and North over-ruffed, he was endplayed and had to lead into my diamond tenace for 10 tricks. At the other table the bidding was not so revealing and North led a diamond so it was a flat board.

<b>M 3</b>	Q				Therese and I have an agreement that if one of us makes an overcall and the other is on lead, there has to be a good reason why you do not lead the overcalled suit, and this saw us in good stead on board 9 in match 3. This also means that we do not overcall poor suits unless we are strong enough to expect to play the hand.
<b>Bd 9</b>	AJ3				
<b>Dir N</b>	KQ76				
<b>Vul EW</b>	AK98				
	3				
8		AJT9432			Normally I would have led a heart to 3NT by South, but the S8 was mandatory, and South took the 3 <sup>rd</sup> round, discarding a heart and a diamond.
KQ964		852			
JT54		8			
764		Q5			With the heart gone from dummy, even if the diamonds behaved South needs more than 2 tricks from clubs. Luckily for us, he had a momentary lapse in concentration when he finessed the club into the danger hand and Therese was able to cash out for 2 off, having already discarded 1 spade on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of diamonds.
	K765				
	T7				
	A932				
	JT2				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
//	1C	3S	3NT		Since he could afford to lose a club to me but not Therese, he should have cashed the top clubs to guard against losing to a short honour in Therese's hand and this would have led to 9 tricks.

At the other table East only bid 2S, and Richard and Lindy were beguiled by the vulnerability and played in 2SX, taking their 6 tricks for +200 and 7 Imps.

<b>M 4</b>	KT96				Board 15 in match 4 contained the weirdest bidding of the weekend, and I presume that North must have a case of writer's cramp when he wrote down 2S.
<b>Bd 15</b>	-				
<b>Dir S</b>	AKQJ854				
<b>Vul NS</b>	98				Therese led the CQ and North won the CA on the table and led the D2 winning in hand to lead another top diamond. Imagine Therese's surprize when I ruffed this! She had to ask 'no more diamonds?', expecting me to suddenly find one.
J7			AQ852		
Q762			A54		
2			T96		
K75432			QJ		A club return is best, but I knew that Therese had to have the HA for this bidding, so I led the H2, North discarding the C9.
	43				
	KJT983				Another diamond ruff and then a club exit which North ruffed and now it was Therese's turn to ruff a diamond. North eventually finished 4 off for +400 to us.
	73				
	AT6				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		
	2S	//	2H		At the other Richard finished in 3NT and played well to make 9 tricks for +600 and 14 Imps. This was a bonus in a very close match that we only won by 5 Imps.

<b>M 4</b>	KJ82				Psyches can take various forms and on board 22 in match 4 when Therese asked for a heart stop I tried the effect of bidding 3NT without a stopper in the NS suit. My reasoning was two-fold, firstly that Therese may have Jxx that will convert my holding into a stopper, or, secondly that North may not lead a heart, waiting for his partner to lead through my stopper. Of course this was also based on an expectation of club support or the CQ in Therese's hand.
<b>Bd 22</b>	KJT92				
<b>Dir E</b>	54				
<b>Vul EW</b>	Q92				North fell for the bluff and led the S2, so I had 9 tricks when the clubs broke, which became 10 when the DK proved to be singleton.
A7			QT963		
Q5			63		
975			AQ83		
AK8743			Q6		At the other table Lindy and Richard played in 3H and played well to make 9 tricks for another +140, which equated to 13 Imps.
	54				
	A874				
	JT642				
	T5				
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>		I am sure that North will eye my stopper showing bids in the future with suspicion.
		/	/		
1C	1H	1S	2H		
3C	/	3H	/		
3NT	//				

**M 4** 8532  
**Bd 25** 853  
**Dir N** T53  
**Vul EW** 853  
 Q KJT9764  
 AQJ2 K6  
 A962 K7  
 AKT7 Q4  
  
 A  
 T974  
 QJ84  
 J962  
  
**W N E S**  
 / / 1S /  
 2C / / 2S /  
 3D / / 3S /  
 4NT / / 5D /  
 5H / / 5S /  
 5NT //

Whenever East opens the bidding on board 25 in match 4 EW should get to slam. However, I was conscious of the misfit, and when Therese only showed of the top spade honours with 5D, I did not evaluate the rest of her hand clearly enough and signed off in 5NT after Therese denied the SQ with her 5S bid.

2S was not forcing and 3D was Bourke's Relay, after which 3S by Therese confirmed a 6-card suit.

Of course it is hard to construct an opening bid (if there was any doubt about the quality Therese could have called it a weak-two and opened with a multi-2D) that will not have a play for 12 tricks. If she had the SA instead of the SK there would be a play for all 13 tricks.

This was 13 Imps out, and when North bid a speculative slam on the very next board (he thought that he was well behind in the match), we lost another 13 Imps. Subsequently we only won the match by 5 Imps, having lost a total of 26 Imps on these 2 boards.

**M 5** Q432  
**Bd 4** AQ83  
**Dir W** AJ  
**Vul All** T64  
 T9 K765  
 J974 KT5  
 6532 KT4  
 Q97 A83  
  
 AJ8  
 62  
 Q987  
 KJ52  
  
**W N E S**  
 / 1NT / 2NT  
 //

On board 4 in match 5 2NT was invitational, after which North assessed her hand as minimum and passed.

Therese led the S5, won by declarer in hand to lead a club towards dummy and my Queen captured the Jack. I next led the H4, which declarer ducked to Therese and she led another spade.

Declarer next finessed the DJ and Therese cleared the spades and won the next club to cash the spade and exit with a club. The HK was our 5<sup>th</sup> trick and we wrote down -120.

At the other table Richard was in 3NT and during the course of the play found himself in dummy for the first lead of clubs. He tried the imaginative lead of small towards the CT in his hand and both West and East ducked!

He still did not know where the CA was, but he could now be certain that West held the CQ, so he then led next towards dummy and played the CK, also winning. He finished with 10 tricks for +630 and 11 Imps.

**M 5** JT732  
**Bd 10** AKQJ3  
**Dir E** 8  
**Vul All** T4  
 A9865 Q4  
 86 T52  
 A KT9642  
 98652 Q7  
  
 K  
 974  
 QJ753  
 AKJ3  
  
**W N E S**  
 / / 1D /  
 2D / / 2H /  
 3C 3H 3S //

Board 10 in match 5 was a disaster waiting to happen, but sometimes you can be so far out of your depth that the opponents have no inkling.

My 2D showed spades and another suit (strength undefined) and 2H by Therese was to play if that was my other suit. I assumed that meant that she had clubs as well, so bid 3C and was surprized to see her go back to spades. The old adage 'no double - no trouble' held true again, so I passed, as did NS.

Of course Therese was just looking for a better contract if it was available and would have passed 2S in a flash. After my 3C bid she thought that I had a stronger hand, hence the free bid over 3H.

After the CK lead this terrible contract went 5 off for -500! However, it was a 4 Imp gain as Richard and Lindy bid to 3NT and which 10 tricks for +630.

**M 5** K976  
**Bd 12** Q7  
**Dlr W** Q76  
**Vul Nil** 7652  
 QJ T8432  
 J9863 A2  
 K943 T85  
 94 AJ3  
  
 A5  
 KT54  
 AJ2  
 KQT8  
  

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

That system and luck play a big part in the final result was demonstrated by board 12 in match 5. Even if everyone played the same basic system there would still be differences due to system interpretation.

At our table South opened 1C and his 1NT rebid was raised to 2NT and he went on to game to which I led the H6. Unfortunately this presented declarer with his 9<sup>th</sup> trick and we were very soon writing down -600.

At the other table Lindy opened 1H and also finished up in 3NT, but now West had been warned off the heart lead and instead led the D3.

According to Deep Finesse there is a double-dummy line to make 9 tricks, which probably involves end-playing East, but is not obvious and only 8 tricks were made for -100 and 12 Imps away.

**M 6** T9863  
**Bd 19** J63  
**Dlr S** T64  
**Vul EW** 95  
 QJ AK52  
 KT8742 AQ  
 J97 Q32  
 K2 Q863  
  
 74  
 95  
 AK85  
 AJT74  
  

W	N	E	S
			1D
1H	/	1S	2C
2H	/	4H	//

Board 19 in match 6 was a difficult hand to evaluate for Therese when I overcalled 1H, so she bid a forcing 1S to see what further bidding ensued.

Since I had good spade honours, I rebid my hearts to show a 6-card suit, and that was all Therese needed to bid 4H. Note that 3NT has an easy 10 tricks also, and this contract looked a better prospect to me when North led the D6 and I saw dummy.

However, the threatened diamond ruff did not eventuate as South won the DK and switched to a trump, after which I was able to cash 2 trumps and enter my hand with the SQ to draw the last trump.

I entered dummy by overtaking the SJ and pitched a diamond on the 3<sup>rd</sup> spade and when South ducked the next diamond lead from dummy I had 11 tricks for +650. No extra Imps though as EW at the other table had stayed out of game so we gained 10 Imps.

**M 6** T  
**Bd 24** T9864  
**Dlr W** JT8654  
**Vul Nil** Q  
 K875432 QJ9  
 52 A3  
 9 A73  
 J54 KT972  
  
 A6  
 KQJ7  
 KQ2  
 A863  
  

W	N	E	S
3S	/	4S	4NT
/	5D	//	

At the other table Richard had an easy bid of 4NT over 4S if East raised the 3S opening to game. However he saw no value in sacrificing before EW had bid to game, and was satisfied he had done the right thing when 3S was passed out, making 10 tricks for -170.

At our table Therese did raise my 3S bid to game, and South bid a strange 4NT that North converted to 5D which must have caused South some consternation.

However, far from being a sacrifice, 5D was cold, and we lost 11 Imps.

North had decided that she was going to pull a double from South, and the correct bid in this case is 4NT, to show 2 places to play. Since South's bid of 5C would be pulled to 5D, NS may well have ended up in 5H, which can be defeated by the diamond ruff.

**M 6** 96532  
**Bd 25** Q5  
**Dlr N** 3  
**Vul EW** AQJ52  
 - AKQJT7  
 K6 AJT  
 KQJT98642 A7  
 KT 96  
  
 84  
 987432  
 5  
 8743  
**W N E S**  
 5D 2S / /  
 // //

On board 25 in match 6 Therese had her best hand of the tournament, but was pre-empted firstly by North's 2S opening (spades and a minor) and secondly by my 5D jump.

Therese's spade holding and my vulnerable 5D bid suggested that since North had values outside of spades, they were likely to be in clubs, her weakest suit. A 6D bid, which was certainly considered, runs the risk of NS cashing the first 2 club tricks.

At the other table EW did not have to contend with a 2S opening, but surprizingly they still not get to slam, finishing in 5S, also making 13 tricks on a non-club lead. This was the correct contract with East declarer, as a club lead by South will take the first 2 tricks.

At one of the top of the table clashes, East finished in 6NTX, but South did not find the club lead, so this contract made with an overtrick for a big loss. Over 2000 points and many Imps swung on the opening lead.

**M 7** J753  
**Bd 5** AQ98  
**Dlr N** J5  
**Vul NS** 864  
 AQ4 86  
 KJT32 6  
 T42 AKQ9  
 T3 AKQJ95  
  
 KT92  
 754  
 8763  
 72  
**W N E S**  
 1H / 1C /  
 2H / 2D /  
 3NT / 3C /  
 5C // 4C /

On board 5 in match 7 I missed a cost-free cue-bid on the way to 5C and a good slam was missed.

After the reverse, my 2H was forcing to game, so Therese was able to emphasize her club suit by pulling my 3NT to 4C and now I could have cue-bid 4S instead of bidding 5C. With only 3 losers, Therese would not have needed much more than a cue-bid to bid slam after my 2H bid showing some degree of strength.

The lead was the D8, but with the spade finesse working, there was no lead to beat 6C, and we wrote down +420. The same score and contract at the other table meant a flat board.

**M 7** J7  
**Bd 7** 964  
**Dlr S** KT97  
**Vul All** QT95  
 AQ953 KT6  
 Q2 AKJT3  
 AQ532 4  
 J 7643  
  
 842  
 875  
 J86  
 AK82  
**W N E S**  
 1S / 2H /  
 3D / 3S /  
 4H / 4NT /  
 5S / 6H //

On board 7 in match 7 we got to the worst slam, but luckily South did not find the trump lead that would have led to defeat, and instead led the CK to look at dummy. A trump lead was too late now, and Therese was able to ruff a club in dummy for the 12<sup>th</sup> trick.

After the 2H response, my 3D was forcing to game, and 3S by Therese was stronger than 4S. My 4H was meant to show the double fit, and also indicate a club shortage, and this prompted Therese to look for slam.

Thinking that 6H showed a 6-card suit, I elected to play in Therese's suit, in which I could get a club ruff, but 6S is cold by taking the diamond ruff in dummy.

Surprizingly, at the other table EW did not get to slam, and drew trumps before ruffing a diamond to only make only 11 tricks.

**M 7** T  
**Bd 10** 832  
**Dir E** A873  
**Vul All** AKJ54  
 KQJ98743  
 T A  
 T J4  
 QT7 KJ96542  
 632  
 652  
 AKQ9765  
 Q  
 98

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
4S	5H	3D //	4H

On board 10 in match 7 no one knew whose hand it was after the first 3 bids, and North had to make the first bid at the 5-level, choosing to bid one more.

From Therese's point of view, she had an easy 5S bid, but this may have pushed NS into a cold slam, so she wisely passed as did South.

With my good 8-card suit I was sorely tempted to bid again, but I had no idea how many tricks NS could make, and I knew we had at most 1 spade trick, so I also passed, content at having pushed then to the 5-level.

I led my DT and South played safe for 11 tricks, although with the clubs well placed, 13 tricks were available after this lead, and 12 tricks were available after any lead.

At the other table Lindy and Richard did not allow themselves to be pushed to the 5-level, normally good tactics at teams, but this time only +500 was available, so we lost 4 Imps.

**M 8** A7642  
**Bd 15** J8632  
**Dir S** 3  
**Vul NS** 75  
 QJ93 T  
 Q75 94  
 Q95 KJT62  
 J43 AT962  
 K85  
 AKT  
 A874  
 KQ8

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1D	/	1C 1NT
/	2C	2NT	/
3C	3S	/	4S
//			

On board 15 in match 8 we were active in the bidding and that should have given North the clue as how to make 4S.

1C was Precision and Therese's 2NT showed the minors (at least 5-5) and this should have warned North that at least one of the majors was not going to break.

On the lead of the CA and diamond switch, North won in dummy and cashed the SK and then made the fatal mistake of leading a spade from dummy. The entries are now gone to ruff diamonds, cash clubs and throw me in to lead a heart into dummy.

After winning the DA declarer should allow for the bad spade break by ruffing a diamond, and then a spade to dummy allows another diamond ruff before cashing the SA to confirm the 2 trump losers. A club to dummy and the 3<sup>rd</sup> club, discarding a heart, allows declarer to lead a diamond from dummy and I am end-played, having to lead into dummy's hearts.

An initial heart lead by Therese, and another after winning the CA gives EW the best chance to defeat 4S, but Deep Finesse suggests that 4S still makes.

At the other table Lindy played in 3NT and managed to make 9 tricks for +600 and 12 Imps.

**M 8** KJ84  
**Bd 20** AQ752  
**Dir W** 9  
**Vul All** A94  
 73 AQ5  
 K6 JT84  
 AQJ K86542  
 QJ6532 -  
 T962  
 93  
 T73  
 KT87

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1C	1H	2D	/
2NT	/	3NT	//

On board 20 in match 8 I chanced my arm with 2NT on the second round as it seemed likely that Therese had something in spades and hearts since I had such good diamonds.

North still led a small heart, and with 8 tricks in the bag, I thought that it was likely the spade finesse would provide my 9<sup>th</sup> trick, but there was no hurry, so I cashed the DA (confirming the break) and led back a heart.

North won the HQ, cashed the HA and led a spade, but now I did not need the finesse, so I rose Ace and cashed my 9 tricks. Since I had the clubs well held, if North had switched to a club after winning the HQ, I would have had enough tricks.

At the other table EW played in a quiet 2D, making 10 tricks for -130, but 10 Imps to us.

