

## 2010 Gold Coast Open Teams by Richard Walis

Well, the Gold Coast Congress has come and gone again for another year and it was bigger and better than before. A tremendous total number in the pairs of over 300 tables, and a total of almost 400 in the teams.

Next year the number of tables in the Open Pairs should reduce, as many of the transition players will be taken out to play in a new Intermediate Section.

Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber, Tony Jackman, Therese Tully and your truly fronted up again, and for a while we were going okay, but after winning our first 5 matches and rising to 15<sup>th</sup>, we then lost 3 on the trot, before recovering to win 3 of the last 4 for an 8-4 win loss record. However, 73<sup>rd</sup> place was still a little disappointing after such a good start.

Most of our wins and losses were only by a few Imps, although it was surprizing how many times the Imps difference fell on the wrong side of the line for us. We did have two 25s, but these were almost balanced by an 8 and a 6.

This year among all of the overseas visitors we had two sponsored Polish teams, resplendent in their blazers, and playing in the pairs and teams. Both the Polish teams made the finals albeit in the last 2 positions, but while one team was eliminated in the round of 4, the other team, containing a few World Champions, won the Open Teams Final by a big margin. The top Polish pair in this team also won the Open Pairs.

<b>M 1</b>	97			On board 6 in the 1 <sup>st</sup> match Therese decided to be conservative after the double by North showed the other suits, since we had not established a good fit, and slam was only marginal on HCPs.
<b>Bd 6</b>	K8752			
<b>Dlr E</b>	QT875			
<b>Vul EW</b>	T			North led the H5, and when dummy went down, I am sure Therese thought that we had missed a slam, but she relaxed when the clubs broke 4-1, as then slam prospects were not good.
AJT3		K65		
AT6		J3		
AJ62		K4		Therese gave up a club, and when South did not return a heart, setting up our 11 <sup>th</sup> trick, Therese just took 10 tricks for +630.
42		AKQ987		
	Q842			At the other table NS were a little more adventurous, and drove all the way to 6C, also receiving a heart lead, but from South.
	Q94			
	93			
	J653			Again this had good prospects until the clubs did not break, although better if West is declarer with a heart lead, and then it was in serious jeopardy.
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		1C	/	
1S	X	3C	/	However, declarer took the spade finesse through South, and was able to repeat the finesse and discard the losing heart for 12 tricks and -1370, 12 Imps away.
3NT	//			

**M 1** J762  
**Bd 7** K85  
**Dlr S** 3  
**Vul All** QJ873  
A94 QT8  
J9 A2  
QJT6542 AK8  
9 KT642  
  
K53  
QT7643  
97  
A5

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

On board 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> match my 1NT rebid showed 15-17, and Therese was looking at a reasonable 7-card suit and an outside entry. She could have bid an encouraging 3D, which I would have taken to 3NT which such good diamonds and outside stoppers, but the odds were with game so she settled for a direct leap to 3NT.

South avoided giving away an overtrick, (and in this case an Imp), by leading the H6, and when the HJ did not win I claimed my 9 tricks for +600. This was the beauty of teams scoring, making the contract is more important than taking risks for overtricks.

At the other table EW forgot Hamman's Rule, the gist of which is: If 3NT is a viable contract, bid it!

EW made a try for game, but bypassed 3NT and finished in just 4D. From their point of view at least they did not get to the bad 5D, but making 10 tricks for 130 in 4D instead of the cold 3NT was 10 Imps to us, and almost recovered the 12 Imps lost on the slam swing on the previous board.

**M 1** 652  
**Bd 9** K5  
**Dlr N** QT975  
**Vul EW** J87  
AKQT9 J7  
A Q6432  
A82 K64  
QT62 AK3  
  
843  
JT987  
J3  
954

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

On board 9 in the 1<sup>st</sup> match my long absence in Perth and lack of system practice cost a slam swing.

The 3C rebid by Therese was Bourke's Relay, and I bid 3D instead of 3NT because I thought that it may be an advantage to have my hand as dummy, but I forgot that I could also have bid 3S, to show a doubleton honour (4S would have shown 3-card support), after which Therese would know her spades were solid and then bid 4NT (RKCB).

This would have led us to 6NT, which while not cold on any layout, has many chances for 12 tricks.

On the actual 3-3 club split, 12 tricks are easy, and Therese made all 13 tricks by way of a Vienna Coup. Aiming for a possible double squeeze, she won the DT in hand, and cashed her spades and the HA (Vienna Coup).

North was under no pressure, but when Therese cashed her 4 club tricks, he could not spare a heart of a diamond, and chose to discard another diamond, whereupon Therese discarded the heart and claimed the last 2 tricks with the diamonds, for +720 and 1 Imp.

**M 2** K54  
**Bd 23** T862  
**Dlr S** 753  
**Vul All** 765  
J83 AQT9762  
Q9 AK74  
QJ92 -  
A943 JT  
  
-  
J53  
AKT864  
KQ82

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	/	X	1D
X	/	4S	2D
			//

On board 23 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match Tony missed the inference that as well as a good hand with long spades, I also had hearts, and failed to move after I pulled his penalty double and jumped to game.

My first double was made with trepidation, as the last thing I wanted was for Tony to pass 1DX, but I wanted to keep both majors in play, although I would still have bid spades if Tony bid hearts over the double as he may have been forced to bid a 3-card suit.

An immediate jump to 4S would have been premature, but after Tony doubled for penalties, I lost interest in slam and made the obvious bid.

When dummy went down and slam looked good, I needed the trump finesse to be losing, so I played off the SA, hoping to find South with the stiff SK, so lost 2 tricks for +650.

However, if I was in 6S, the spades finesse is better odds than dropping a stiff King offside, so I would have made it. This was a flat board as only 11 tricks were made at the other table also

<b>M 2</b>	K632			
<b>Bd 24</b>	KT62			
<b>Dir W</b>	8642			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	7			
AQ		987		
J54		A9873		
953		KQ7		
KQ853		J4		
	JT54			
	Q			
	AJT			
	AT962			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1NT	/	2D	/	
2H	/	3NT	/	
4D	/	4H	/	
4S	/	5H	//	

On board 24 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match changes in the system led to different interpretations as to the meaning of my 3NT rebid. Tony and I do not use normal transfer responses to a 1NT opening, as 2H and 2S are both natural and invitational, 3H and 3S are natural and forcing to game, and 2D forces 2H which may be passed or converted to 2S, which opener must pass.

I decided that I was going to game rather than invite with 2H, but I thought that I could make Tony declarer by forcing him to bid 2H, and then give him a choice of games by rebidding 3NT. Not so, as a 3NT rebid is Ace-asking, and Tony's 4D response showed 1 Ace, but I do not know what the 4S bid was meant to show, probably a control.

In 5H Tony soldiered on, but he had an unsuitable hand for such a high-level contract, and finished with 8 tricks for 3 down for -150.

At the other table EW stopped in just 2H, but that went 1 down so our loss was only 3 Imps.

<b>M 2</b>	763			
<b>Bd 26</b>	KT8632			
<b>Dir E</b>	6			
<b>Vul All</b>	QJ6			
KQ94		AJT5		
A974		QJ		
AT872		9		
-		AT5432		
	82			
	5			
	KQJ543			
	K987			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
X	/	2C	2D	
4S	//	2S	/	

On board 26 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> match I opened with a Precision 2C and South did us a favour by overcalling 2D.

Tony had a fine negative double, except if I do not have a major and rebid clubs! He could hope I was going to come back in with a double and convert it to penalties, but that is less certain with a limited hand, so he doubled for take-out and raised my 2S bid to game.

We were not about to go overboard on this hand after the overcall as Tony has too many diamonds and his void in clubs is not an asset, so I made an easy 10 tricks in 4S.

At the other table they did go overboard and ended up in 6S, going 3 off for 14 Imps to us.

This board caused problems all around the room, and there were horror stories of sticks and circle penalties in both hearts and diamonds given away by NS.

<b>M 3</b>	T32			
<b>Bd 2</b>	74			
<b>Dir E</b>	AQJ7			
<b>Vul NS</b>	AQJ9			
9654		AKQJ87		
K63		AQT952		
982		3		
653		-		
	-			
	J8			
	KT654			
	KT8742			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2D	X	2C	/	
4S	/	2S	3D	
5H	/	5C	/	
		6S	//	

Board 2 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match was an exception in that I do not normally like opening a limited two-suiter with an artificial game-force, but the potential of the hand was enormous, so I succumbed.

Therese's 2D bid was expected, and anyway, club or diamond values were not much use anyway, but North's double of 2D and South's 3D bid were very encouraging, as it was hearts I was really interested in.

Therese's jump to 4S denied any first-round control, as she could have bid a forcing 3S with anything promising, but I thought that my hand was worth another try by cue-bidding 5C, and the 5H cue-bid was music to my ears.

Even if it was a singleton heart I thought that 6S would have some play, so I jumped to slam, to which South led the D5.

I ruffed the CA at trick 2 and was able to claim after drawing trumps for +980.

This was worth 11 Imps as slam was not even attempted at the other table.

<b>M 3</b>	QJT983			
<b>Bd 6</b>	2			
<b>Dir E</b>	T86			
<b>Vul EW</b>	A43			
764			K2	
K54			AQJ83	
QJ9			AK5	
K765			QJ8	
	A5			
	T976			
	7432			
	T92			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1NT	2S	1H 3NT	/ //	

A downright lazy bid of 3NT led to a loss on board 6 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match. I was all set to raise 1NT to game when North bid 2S in front of me and I still carried on with the same 3NT bid without considering all of the options.

Then I had to go through the pain of Therese losing the first 7 tricks for 3 off and -300.

Since we play 4-card suits, I thought we may have a 5-3 heart fit but did not want to blast 4H on the off-chance. The solution of course was to bid 3S, as even with a 5-3 heart fit 3NT may be a better contract with a double spade stopper.

It was unlucky that we had heaps of tricks but no spade stop, but sensible bidding would have uncovered that.

At the other table EW did get to 4H by East, but went 1 off, so the damage was limited to just 5 Imps.

<b>M 3</b>	Q9842			
<b>Bd 10</b>	T762			
<b>Dir E</b>	62			
<b>Vul All</b>	43			
KT			AJ75	
A95			K3	
AQT94			K85	
A86			KT75	
	63			
	QJ84			
	J73			
	QJ92			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2D	/	1S 2NT	/ /	
3C!	/	3D	/	
6NT	//			

On board 10 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match I cribbed a point when I rebid 2NT, which shows 15+, so I had no problems with admitting to a minimum when Therese asked with 3C. Her sign-off in 6NT indicated that she had higher ambitions if I had shown 17-19.

South led the CQ, which I won in hand to test the diamonds, finishing with my DK, and then I finessed the ST, and had 12 tricks even when that finesse lost.

If I had elected to go to the SK and run the ST, the hand becomes a classic double squeeze, and 13 tricks would emerge, with North squeezed between spades and hearts, and South between hearts and clubs, but I was happy with 12.

At the other table EW did not get to slam, which is just as well as East only made 11 tricks, which is puzzling, as after the lead of the CQ I could have made 12 tricks by returning a club, forcing South to split and then the C8 back to South's CJ makes the CT my 12 trick.

<b>M 4</b>	KQ83			
<b>Bd 15</b>	75			
<b>Dir S</b>	KQJ863			
<b>Vul NS</b>	2			
A654			97	
KQT6			932	
42			A7	
AQ7			JT8653	
	JT2			
	AJ84			
	T95			
	K94			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
1NT	2D	2NT	3D	
/	/	4C	/	
5C	/	/	X	
//				

On board 15 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match I gave Tony a problem with my ill-advised 4C bid, intended only to play, but obviously he saw it differently, and South saw a chance to shine.

I had limited entries, and used the first to successfully take the club finesse, but did not get the play right after that, losing 2 hearts, 1 spade and a diamond, for -300.

However, the board was saved by Wynne and Meta, who were having a terrific game at the other table, finishing with +68 Imps against the Datums, and playing in 3DX, to the opening lead of the S9.

In diamonds, EW should be able to get the SA and a spade ruff, and a trick in each other suit to take 3D down 1, but must preserve entries to get the spade ruff, and West rushed in with the SA at trick 1 and returned the HK.

This play would have been useful if it was East that had the doubleton, but as it was, the spade ruff disappeared, and +670 resulted in a surprising (to Tony and I) 9 Imps to us. This was part of our biggest win -25-0.

**M 4** A9873  
**Bd 26** -  
**Dir E** AQJ5  
**Vul All** Q542  
 Q54 J6  
 JT5 9864  
 9632 K74  
 AK7 JT63  
 KT2  
 AKQ732  
 T8  
 98  

W	N	E	S
/	1S	/	1H
/	3NT	//	3H

On board 26 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match South made a very aggressive 3H rebid, which gave North nowhere to move, so they bid 3NT. I think that in spite of the potential of the South hand, a 2H rebid is more than enough, which will give North room to bid a minor, and South room to show the 3-card spade support

At the other table, Wynne and Meta, playing Precision, did bid more carefully and reached 4S, making 10 tricks for +620.

I led the C3 to 3NT and this hit the jackpot when Tony played 3 rounds, setting up another trick for our side, and giving nothing away.

3NT is still cold, as the spades are 3-2, but declarer seemed to go into melt-down, relying on the diamond finesse as she discarded a spade from dummy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> club and then went across to dummy, to cash hearts, throwing spades from hand, before running the DT.

When I won the DK I had the club and the H9 to cash for 1 off and 12 Imps.

**M 4** AK96  
**Bd 28** Q  
**Dir W** AJT32  
**Vul NS** T73  
 QJT853 42  
 J85 AT  
 - 9876  
 AK64 Q9852  
 7  
 K976432  
 KQ54  
 J  

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

On board 28 in the 4<sup>th</sup> match NS had a 5-4 diamond fit and a 7-1 heart fit, but game was available in the poorer heart fit and not diamonds. A curious bid that 2S, since it would seem safe to bid a 7-card suit instead, with the good diamond support as back-up, but hearts were never mentioned.

In fact, if West under-leads the club honours and East plays the CQ, West can get a diamond ruff immediately and another when East wins the first round of trumps to take 4H 1 off, but that is never going to happen in practice.

Against 5D I was tempted to lead the C5, but instead led the S4, but continued with clubs when I next won the HA and declarer was forced off, conceding 2 trump tricks to me at the end for +200 and 13 Imps when Meta and Wynne did play in 4H, making +620.

The diamond pips are just not good enough to be able to take top outside winners and carry out a high cross-ruff.

**M 5** Q98543  
**Bd 2** J2  
**Dir E** J86  
**Vul NS** 83  
 A6 J2  
 KQ953 864  
 AQ KT3  
 KQ62 AJT94  
 KT7  
 AT7  
 97542  
 75  

W	N	E	S
		/	/
1C!	/	2C	/
2H	/	4H	/
4NT	/	5D	//
6H	//		

On board 2 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match we were very lucky when I missed a valuable chance to offer Tony an alternative 6C contract, which is cold, but South missed the chance to promote North's HJ or his HT into the setting trick.

After the 1C opening our bidding was natural and forcing to game, and with his 4H bid Tony could have just been making sure as a passed hand that I did not pass 3H, or he could have been showing poor hearts. Anyway, I could have left the decision up to him by bidding 6C instead of 6H and I am sure he would have passed.

North led the S5 to 6H, so I had first to dispose of my spade loser, by cashing the top diamonds and leading a club to dummy to throw my spade loser on the DK before I led a trump.

Since North has the HJ, all South has to do is rise HA and lead another diamond to defeat 6H, but he played low and I went back to dummy with a club (thankfully 2-2) and led another heart, and could then claim when all followed and South led a spade for +980.

That was 11 Imps versus 3NT making -400 at the other table.

**M 5** KQT83  
**Bd 6** 54  
**Dir E** AKJ7  
**Vul NS** T9  
 54 A9762  
 QT63 A8  
 98432 6  
 J7 AK643  
  
 J  
 KJ972  
 QT5  
 Q862  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / 2NT / 1S 2H  
 // // 3NT

On board 6 in the 5<sup>th</sup> match we gave declarer every chance in 3NT but he still went 1 off!

South made a very light overcall, but still raised his partner's 2NT to game!

Tony was warned off a spade lead, and on a normal 4<sup>th</sup> highest club lead, 3NT would be very quickly 2 off, but he led the CK, which asks for count. We were playing normal count but it did not seem prudent to waste the CJ when dummy had Qxxx, so I played low and Tony exited with the S2, won, perforce, in dummy.

Declarer came to hand with a diamond and led 2 more spades, Tony ducking, before leading the CT, and after much thought running it when Tony ducked.

On the diamond return declarer could run the diamonds and lead a heart, but we had 5 tricks so Tony rose Ace to cash out for 1 off.

At the other table EW played in 2SX for +500 and 11 Imps.

**M 6** 532  
**Bd 20** Q654  
**Dir W** T4  
**Vul All** K764  
 98 KQJT7  
 KT 82  
 K98762 QJ3  
 982 Q53  
  
 A64  
 AJ973  
 A5  
 AJT  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 / / 1S 2H  
 / 3H / 4H  
 // //

On board 20 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match, South was a little shaken when he saw dummy, but after a little thought he told his partner that the good news was that there was a line for 10 tricks, and then he proceeded to show him how game could be made.

NS were the two Stevens (Blackstock and Henry) who are among the top NZ players.

He won the 2<sup>nd</sup> spade and went to dummy with the CK to take the heart finesse, carefully retaining the H3, and won the diamond return to lead the H7 across to dummy to next take the club finesse.

When the club finesse won and they broke 3-3, he went back to dummy with the carefully preserved H3, and pitched his losing diamond on the 4<sup>th</sup> club for 10 tricks and -620 to us.

At the other table Wynne and Meta obviously stayed out of game, so 10 Imps out. In 3H, the club finesse can be avoided by drawing trumps and exiting with a diamond, forcing a ruff-sluff or a club lead.

**M 6** 732  
**Bd 21** KJT4  
**Dir N** Q64  
**Vul NS** QT8  
 JT94 A865  
 A953 87  
 2 AJ75  
 KJ96 A54  
  
 KQ  
 Q62  
 KT983  
 732  
  
**W** **N** **E** **S**  
 2C / 1NT /  
 4S // 2S /

On board 21 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match it was our turn to get to a thin game.

When I bid 2C I intended to bid a scrambling 2H over a 2D rebid by Tony, but his 2S response made my hand so much better that I raised to game instead of just inviting, which he would have probably declined.

South led the DT, which Tony won and took an immediate diamond ruff, before pulling a small heart off the table. North rose with the HK and led a trump, ducked to South, who returned a heart. Now Tony ruffed a heart and ruffed another diamond, and returned to hand with the CA to lead another diamond and ruff in dummy, North is squeezed and pitched a club. Since South obviously had the SK, Tony returned to hand with the SA, and when the SK dropped he cashed the last trump, throwing a heart, and led to dummy for his 10 trick. Since the squeeze had worked, the CQ dropped and he had +450.

At the other table 1NT by East was not disturbed, and it went 2 off for +100 and 11 Imps.

<b>M 6</b>	T2			
<b>Bd 22</b>	9752			
<b>Dir E</b>	Q98			
<b>Vul EW</b>	T853			
AK3			Q864	
A3			Q8	
AJ			76532	
AJ9742			KQ	
	J975			
	KJT64			
	KT4			
	6			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
		/	2D!	
X	/	2NT	/	
3NT	//			

On board 22 in the 6<sup>th</sup> match we missed the boat, as long as Tony's hand was declarer, but EW at the other table missed the boat by a larger margin when a bidding slipup left West declarer in 6D, instead of East in 6C or 6NT.

South's 2D opening showed a weak two in either major, and I intended to bid my clubs next after doubling to show a good hand. However, when Tony bid 2NT, I took the easy way out and raised to game. A better bid would have been a quantitative 4NT, but I am not sure how highly Tony would have valued his hand.

Slam is not a good proposition, but makes if East is declarer, as on a non-heart lead declarer runs the clubs, then a squeeze/throw-in develops on South.

On a heart lead, as Tony got, declarer runs it around to the HQ and now has 12 tricks. A heart lead from North scuttles slam if West is declarer.

We gained +690 and +300 for 14 Imps.

<b>M 7</b>	7			
<b>Bd 1</b>	842			
<b>Dir N</b>	A64			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	QJT864			
AK9543			QT6	
QJ6			7	
7			KQJT9832	
A72			9	
	J82			
	AKT953			
	5			
	K53			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
	3C	/	3H	
3S	4H	4S	5H	
X	//			

On board 1 in the 7<sup>th</sup> match Tony refrained from bidding his diamonds over North's 3C opening, following the general principle of not preempting over a pre-empt.

South bid his own suit, and when he got support, went on to the 5-level over our game bid. It is likely that North would have returned to hearts anyway, but South could have offered North a choice of contracts by bidding 5C instead of 5H.

5C can get out for just 1 off against a making spade game our way, but 5H has no real play for any more than 9 tricks, as if trumps are drawn we get 2 spades as well as 2 black Aces, and if declarer leads clubs without a trump lead, Tony can get a club ruff.

Declarer cashed the HA and tried to ruff 2 spades, using diamond ruffs to get back to hand, but I was able to over-ruff and lead my trump to get our just dues.

At the other table 4S was 1 off, so we gained 8 Imps.

<b>M 7</b>	96			
<b>Bd 3</b>	43			
<b>Dir S</b>	AT863			
<b>Vul EW</b>	A974			
J43			AQT8	
K65			AQJT97	
74			K	
T6532			Q8	
	K752			
	82			
	QJ952			
	KJ			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
			1D	
/	3D	X	/	
4C	/	4H	//	

Whether to double or bid your long suit when holding 4 cards in the other major is a dilemma often faced in a competitive world, and it appeared again on board 3 in the 7<sup>th</sup> match.

I would be happier doubling with Tony's hand as East if I had a 4513 distribution, and all my values were working, but on the actual hand, it is better to bid the 6-card suit, and that is where the matter would have rested.

If South bid 4D and that was passed over to Tony, he could now bring spades into the picture with a double, but South had already bid too much.

Of course, in response to the double I had clubs, so we were 1 level too high. It is likely that if I had responded in a major, it would have been raised to game.

At the other table EW stopped in 3H, which just made for -140 and 6 Imps out.

**M 8** K932  
**Bd 15** T3  
**Dir S** Q32  
**Vul NS** J743  
 T J54  
 KJ9864 AQ7  
 T874 K6  
 62 QT985  
 AQ876  
 52  
 AJ95  
 AK

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2H	/!	4H	1S //

On board 15 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match my 3H is weak when not vulnerable, and North hesitated for quite a while before passing, so Therese put the pressure back to South with a direct leap to game.

North has not got a lot to hesitate about, since he has a normal raise to the 2S level if available after an overcall, and therefore should show support at the 3-level because he has good 4-card support. Then South would have had an easy game bid.

After the hesitation, South did not feel justified in taking any further action, and although North led the SK to look at dummy, he did not find the diamond shift at trick 2, so I was only 2 off for -50.

At the other table Meta did get to 4S after her initial Precision 1C opening and 1S rebid, making 11 tricks for 12 Imps to us.

**M 8** -  
**Bd 22** QT9632  
**Dir E** KT4  
**Vul EW** 9864  
 A764 QJ5  
 J K75  
 AJ2 9763  
 QT732 AK5  
 KT9832  
 A84  
 Q85  
 J

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
X	2H	/	/
3C	3H	3NT	4H
X	//		

On board 22 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match I got everything wrong and we lost 12 Imps in a part-score hand.

South's 2C shows a single-suiter, and my double showed values. This gave North the opportunity to show his 6-card heart suit, so South did not need to reveal his own suit.

Now my 3C was natural, and Therese made the obvious game bid, but the vulnerability was right for NS to sacrifice, so South, who had bided his time until then, now bid 4H, and I doubled.

Therese led the CK, getting a count card, and then made the important play of the CA to force dummy to ruff and ensure her trump trick.

Declarer led a diamond off the table and I thought that the hand was easy, as declarer was marked with a spade, otherwise Therese would have led the SQ through dummy!, so I rose with the DA and cashed the SA expecting this to be or 3<sup>rd</sup> trick and Therese's trump our 4<sup>th</sup>.

Disaster as declarer ruffed this and then proceeded to ruff 2 more clubs, and at the end, exited with the HQ, pinning my Jack and making 10 tricks. Rising with the DA is correct, but I have to return a trump for 1 off, or an initial trump lead will lead to 2 off.



**M 8** QJT  
**Bd 24** 82  
**Dlr W** QT54  
**Vul Nil** AQJ4  
 AK874 9532  
 AT3 K654  
 2 AK976  
 T863 -  
 6  
 QJ97  
 J83  
 K9752

W	N	E	S
1S	/	4C	/
4S	/	5S	/
6S	//		

On board 24 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match we got to a bad slam on minimal values that I might have made.

If North had led the SQ, I would have been forced into the winning line, but instead he led the CA, ruffed on the table. There are many possible favourable lies of the cards to allow 6S to make, but the early ruff had eliminated some of those, so I decided to continue ruffing clubs.

A heart to my Ace allowed another club ruff, and then the top diamonds (discarding a heart) and a diamond ruff allowed me to ruff a 3<sup>rd</sup> club.

I then cashed the HK and had to decide how to return to hand for the final club ruff. Knowing that there was only 1 diamond left but 2 hearts, I led a heart, and North over-ruffed and led a trump for 1 off.

If I had led a diamond, my trumps are larger than the solitary trump held by South, so the slam would have made.

On a trump lead, declarer can ruff clubs and set up diamonds in the process, leaving the HK on the table as an entry for the last diamond to throw the remaining loser while North ruffs with his trump trick.

**M 8** 9864  
**Bd 26** J  
**Dlr E** QJ8753  
**Vul All** T3  
 AQT K7532  
 QT9832 7654  
 T4 6  
 74 QJ8  
 J  
 AK  
 AK92  
 AK9652

W	N	E	S
2H	/	4H	2C
/	5D	/	X
X	//		6D

On board 26 in the 8<sup>th</sup> match I knew we were getting a bad score if 6D made, and I also was reasonably certain that a heart lead was not going to defeat it.

My double suggests a lead other than hearts, normally the first suit bid by dummy, and Therese plays that even if the suit was artificial as here, but did not think I meant clubs, so led a spade.

The spade lead was what I wanted, but joy turned to despair when dummy went down, and we were pretty quickly scoring up -1540.

There was nothing we could do, just unlucky that North had 6 diamonds and 2 clubs and not 4 diamonds and 3 clubs (or 5 and 4), but then the double club finesse works, if there are sufficient entries to take it.

At the other table Tony and Meta were not pushed around as much, and stopped in 5D, making 13 tricks, so at least the spade lead saved 1 Imp, and the double only cost 1 Imp.

**M 9** J  
**Bd 13** J8653  
**Dlr N** KJ54  
**Vul All** 985  
 AT743 852  
 AKT742 Q9  
 - Q92  
 74 AQT62  
 KQ96  
 -  
 AT8763  
 KJ3

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

On board 13 in the 9<sup>th</sup> match I got too excited when Tony showed some spades and values by his freebid of 3S, and raised to game. Luckily South went quietly, and did not double!

The opening lead was the DA, ruffed on the table, but South ruffed the HQ at trick 2 and led another diamond, Tony discarding a club, to avoid a club loser.

A club came back but Tony won with the CA and discarded a club on the DQ and led a heart up, and now he was in control.

However, 2 diamonds and 3 spades meant 2 off for -200 to NS.

At the other table EW also got to 4S, but they were doubled by Meta, and this finished 3 off for +800 and 12 Imps!

Deep finesse suggests 8 tricks for EW in spades, probably along Tony's line, so Wynne and Meta picked a big trick that converted 7 Imps into 12.

**M 9** K72  
**Bd 14** -  
**Dir E** QT98532  
**Vul Nil** J72  
A6 QT9853  
QT8542 AKJ93  
A7 -  
985 K6

J4  
76  
KJ64  
AQT43

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

On board 14 in the 9<sup>th</sup> match Tony was concerned about a possible minor suit game for NS so adopted a 'push-me' approach.

His first instinct when I bid 2H was to jump to game, but we have at most 1 heart trick, his CK is not well placed, and he thought that a game bid might push NS into 5C. He had legitimate worries as 5C needs the spade lead and an immediate diamond cash and ruff to beat it, and that would not have been easy holding the top hearts.

5D is cold, but that suit did not get a mention by North, and South had already received support for clubs, so was unlikely to mention the suit himself. Tony's ploy worked as neither North nor South saw fit to disturb 4H, and I had no trouble making 10 tricks for +420.

At the other table I did not get the bidding, but EW went overboard and bid all the way to 6H, maybe as a phantom save over 6D. At least they played it from the East hand, but 11 tricks was 1 off and 50 to use for 10 Imps.

**M 10** KJ75  
**Bd 20** T7543  
**Dir W** 3  
**Vul All** J98  
A8 Q2  
AJ62 9  
AK82 T97654  
AK4 QT63

T9643  
KQ8  
QJ  
752

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

I think that in over 40 years of playing Bridge, board 20 in the 10<sup>th</sup> match was the first time I have ever written down a score of +270, for a notrump part-score making all 13 tricks!

My 2NT rebid was intended to show a hand too good to open 2NT, but Tony misinterpreted it as 20-22 HCPs. Even so, he agrees that his 4 points and 6-card suit were more than enough to raise to game.

North led a spade, and when the SQ held at trick 1, and the diamonds and clubs behaved, I had all 13 tricks. Even if the clubs did not break, if the hand with KQ of hearts also held the club length, they would have been squeezed.

At the other table they did not get to slam, but the -690 resulted in a 9 Imp loss.

While a slam is cold, it is hard to see how you could get there, and if slam was reached, the diamond slam is better odds, making 7 on the 3-3 club break. 7C is also there on the 3-3 break.

**M 10** T87  
**Bd 21** 965  
**Dir N** QJ3  
**Vul NS** 8732  
AKJ96532 Q  
K AJT4  
87 AK6542  
K6 Q5

4  
Q8732  
T9  
AJT94

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
X	/	1C	1NT!
2S	2C	2D	/
5S	/	3H	/
	//		

On board 21 in the 10<sup>th</sup> match, South's 1NT over Tony's 1C opening showed 2 suits, my double was a positive response (as would have been 3S), and North bid 2C, although with support for every suit, had nor reason to bid.

Tony's 2D was natural, as was my 2S, and Tony tried again for a fit or 3NT with 3H.

After the non-specific overcall from South I had no sure way of setting my suit and investigating slam, so at this point I jumped to 5S and hoped that Tony would know what to do with a suitable hand.

Unfortunately he didn't, because while he knew the SQ was a good card, as well as the top tricks in diamonds and hearts, he was looking at 2 club losers, so he passed.

I did not want to bludgeon 6S on my own, but holding 2 outside kings, both of which were likely to be controls in South's suits, and a self-supporting suit of my own, I should have bid 6S myself.

At the other table the slam was bid so we lost 11 Imps

**M 11** 8543  
**Bd 8** AT532  
**Dir W** 83  
**Vul Nil** 85  
 2 K7  
 Q97 K64  
 QT976 5  
 A972 KQJT643  
 AQJT96  
 J8  
 AKJ42  
 -  
**W N E S**  
 / / 2C X  
 4C / 5C //

On board 8 in the 11<sup>th</sup> match Tony opened a natural and limited 2C, and South doubled with his good hand, whereas a forcing 3C, showing a two-suiter, or a direct spade overcall may have served him better.

My pre-emptive 4C effectively shut North out, and when Tony bid 5C, South had not even shown 1 of his good 2 suits and had nowhere sensible to go, so had to pass.

The DA looks like a normal opening lead, but South got off to a bad start by leading the SA, and thereafter NS could only take 3 tricks, for 1 off and -50.

At the other table Wynne and Meta got spades into the picture early on, and EW did not press on to 5C, so 4S making 11 tricks for +450 earned us 11 Imps.

Maybe East was worried about pushing NS to slam, as the favourable lie of the hearts allows 12 tricks to be made.

**M 11** Q98652  
**Bd 9** AQ  
**Dir N** QJ7  
**Vul EW** 97  
 AKJT3 -  
 97 8654  
 96 T843  
 Q852 KJT43  
 74  
 KJT32  
 AK52  
 A6  
**W N E S**  
 / 1S / 2H  
 / 2S / 3D  
 / 3H / 3NT  
 //

On board 9 in the 11<sup>th</sup> match NS have an easy time in 3NT, and in spite of the lead of the C2, made 10 tricks without really trying at our table for -430.

The same 10 tricks can be taken in 4H, but 4S looks to have problems, but does it?

The real fun was at the other table where Wynne and Meta found their 6-2 spade fit and West doubled 4S (who wouldn't?).

Wynne won the diamond lead on the table and led the innocent looking S4, and ran it!

West rose on the next trump, and exited with another diamond, won on the table. Wynne led the HA in dummy, and overtook the HQ to lead good hearts through West and negate their trump holding.

The only tricks that West could make were the AKJ of trumps, and Wynne had the rest for +590 and 4 Imps.

I have not analyzed it, but DF indicates that 4S should fail, and I expect that it requires West to not waste the S3 by ducking the first round of trumps.

**M 11** 853  
**Bd 10** Q52  
**Dir E** KQJ  
**Vul All** Q753  
 T64 AQ  
 KT976 4  
 743 AT98652  
 KT 962  
 KJ972  
 AJ83  
 -  
 AJ84  
**W N E S**  
 / 3D X  
 3H / 4H  
 //!

On board 10 in the 11<sup>th</sup> match I was more than happy about the final contract of 4H after Tony's opening pre-empt, so I did not double. On the hand layout, NS were likely going nowhere, so a double would have been a big pick-up.

As it turned out, if North was going to bid a 3-card suit he was better asking South's preference by bidding 4D, but 4S had 4 top losers anyway.

With nothing to guide him, Tony led the DA, which set up North's diamonds, but for no real gain, as it also took a vital trump, and North did not want to be in dummy.

North was in a hopeless contract, and finished 3 off for +300.

At the other table Wynne and Meta found their spade fit, but could not stop below game, and finished 1 off for -100, but still worth 5 Imps. If I had doubled, this could have been 12 Imps.

**M 12** Q  
**Bd 18** AQ8  
**Dir E** QJ  
**Vul NS** AQJT964  
 AK7543 JT92  
 642 J93  
 A84 2  
 5 K8732  
  
 86  
 KT75  
 KT97653  
 -  
**W N E S**  
 1S X / 3S! /  
 4S 5H / 4H /  
 5S / / 6D /  
 / 6H //

On board 18 in the 12<sup>th</sup> and last match the bidding got out of hand after a slow start, and we did not know whose hand it was, just hoped that NS were at least 1 level too high!

It is extraordinary to double with the North cards, and then to go on the 5H with only 3-card support was another strange decision. Is not a good 7-card suit worth bidding anymore?

South thought that the 6-level was the time to introduce his own 7-card suit, and obviously North preferred hearts. I must admit to thinking later that I would have bid this suit first, as playing teams, getting to the right game is more important than the highest scoring game.

I led the SA and was very surprised when I saw dummy, but at least it looked like the DA was chasing, so I led that to take this peculiar contract 1 off, and exited with a diamond, and was very surprised to see Therese ruff this for 2 off and +200.

At the other table EW must have been napping as Tony and Meta were allowed to play in 3C, making exactly for +110 and 7 Imps.

**M 12** 8543  
**Bd 20** AQJ5  
**Dir W** 4  
**Vul All** AKQ2  
 - 76  
 K73 T9842  
 98763 AKT52  
 J8765  
  
 AKQJT92  
 6  
 QJ  
 943  
**W N E S**  
 2NT 3D 5D 5S  
 //

On board 20 in the 12<sup>th</sup> and last match the bidding was fast and furious, but stopped after only 1 round.

My 2NT was for the minors (weak or strong and I classified this as weak) and North's 3D was for the majors, but with a better hand than 3C would have shown.

Over Therese's 5D bid, South is just guessing, and yes he may have 7 solid tricks in spades, but we could easily have 2 Aces, so he did not gamble a slam, and was no doubt disappointed when dummy went down and slam was cold.

The diamond lead took the first trick, but that was all that was coming to us, so that was -680.

At the other table Tony and Wynne had an easier time and did get to slam for +1430 and 13 Imps.

**M 12** 432  
**Bd 26** Q75432  
**Dir S** KQ7  
**Vul All** 2  
 AQ85 JT976  
 6 JT98  
 98542 AJ6  
 J93 6  
  
 K  
 AK  
 T3  
 AKQT8754  
**W N E S**  
 / 2D / 2C  
 / 3H / 3C  
 // 5C

On board 26 in the 12<sup>th</sup> and last match we lost heavily when South preferred the direct and sure approach.

He opened with an artificial 2C, and rebid 3C to show where his long suit was, but over North's 3H bid he simply signed off in 5C, which was cold, not because of the North's heart suit, but because of the diamond holding giving him his 11 trick.

At the other table, and many more I heard of around the room, North was able to show the 6<sup>th</sup> heart, but any heart contract above 2H is forced off very quickly, and the 5-level was way too high on this occasion.

On another day 4H could have been the best contract, and 6H may have even been cold, but South's decision to spurn any heart fit in favour of his virtually solid club suit won the day this time and we lost 14 Imps.

On a 3-2 heart break, all South needs is the SA instead of the SK for 6H to be cold.