

## 2017 Qld Open Teams by Richard Wallis

The entries for this year's Open Teams held at Toowong Bridge Club were a little down at only 22, but it was a tough event to win nonetheless. The numbers were very disappointing for a State Title, especially since 9 of those teams were Zonal teams receiving a QBA subsidy.

Top seeds were Francis (Neville Francis, Magnus Moren, Tony Hutton and Malcolm Carter) and they swept all before them winning 7 of the 8 matches to win by almost a full match.

My team (Lindy Vincent, Richard Ward, Therese Tully and Richard Wallis), after a slow start were hot on their tails, inflicting their only defeat, but we could not sustain the pressure and had to settle for second place. Doran (Martin Doran, Lyn Carter, Jill Magee and Terry Strong) were third, beating us in the last match but just failing to overcome our lead.

As usual, TBC did a great job of looking after us with food and drinks over the two days, and Director Jan Peach gave us a trouble-free weekend, with very few calls to convene an Appeal's Committee.

<b>M 1</b>	-			On board 7 in the first match South had a potentially good hand, depending on a fit, but a poor suit and an absence of Aces was a negative.
<b>Bd 7</b>	A954			
<b>Dlr S</b>	AJ8654			
<b>Vul All</b>	T54			
KQ8		A932		The hand improved for South when North responded 2D, but she showed her extra spade and a minimum hand to see where the hand was headed.
QT82		KJ763		
93		T2		
9762		A8		When North rebid diamonds it was obvious he was minimum but had at most 1 spade, thus the meagre South hand became a 3-loser, so she jumped to 5D!
	JT7654			
	-			
	KQ7			I led a trump, but the sight of dummy was very daunting to me and 12 tricks were easily taken for -620.
	KQJ3			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	This was a complete disaster for us as only 4 NS pairs got to 5D, and 9 others played in spades, 1 in 3NT and 1 EW made 3H. The datum average was only 120, so we lost 11 Imps against the datums and 10 in the match when Richard and Lindy reasonably stopped in 3D.
/	2D	/	2S	
/	3D	/	5D	
//				
<b>M 2</b>	J8			On board 15 in the second match I bid a lazy 3NT when Therese opened 1NT (15-17) instead of investigating a club slam if there is a good fit.
<b>Bd 15</b>	JT96			
<b>Dlr S</b>	J642			
<b>Vul NS</b>	QJ2			
AK76		93		North led the HJ and when Therese saw the dummy she could see that a good slam had been missed. Assuming the clubs behaved there were 12 top tricks, with a possible squeeze for 13, so she rose with the HA and cashed the CK.
Q53		A8		
K3		AQT		
A986		KT7543		
	QT542			The 3-0 club split put paid to 12 tricks and we had a lucky escape, making just 11 tricks for +460 and a flat board.
	K742			
	9875			Systemically I should have responded to 1NT with 2S, as a transfer to clubs, and Therese would have rebid 2NT, a super-accept.
	-			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	Now I could have set clubs with 4C, and cue-bidding would get us to 6C. However, if my hand is declarer, 6C could make except on a spade lead and continuation via a major suit squeeze.
1NT	/	3NT	//	

<b>M 2</b>	KT54		
<b>Bd 19</b>	AQ5		
<b>Dlr S</b>	Q8		
<b>Vul EW</b>	K932		
62		A87	
J983		74	
K65		AT943	
8765		QJ4	
	QJ93		
	KT62		
	J72		
	AT		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1C	1D	1H!
/	2H	//	

On board 19 in the second match South missed a golden opportunity when they bid 1H over my 1D overcall instead of making a negative double!

North had an uncertain diamond stopper, so rebid 2H instead of 1NT (or 1S). Surprising to me when I saw the whole hand, South did not even make a game try, simply passing 2H, to which Therese led the D5 and we cashed our 2 tricks and led another diamond.

Declarer has 3 certain losers in any contract, and in 2H must also lose a trump, so 9 tricks was the limit, for -140.

At the other table Lindy did make a negative double, and Richard ended in 4S as North, which has no problem when the spades are 3-2 and the C9 comes good with one ruff.

It is also likely that the DJ came good so that was +420 and 7 Imps to us.

<b>M 3</b>	852		
<b>Bd 11</b>	KQ		
<b>Dlr S</b>	J5		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	J76542		
Q7643		A9	
A82		T5	
QT92		K53	
T		AKQ983	
	KJT		
	J97643		
	A874		
	-		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
			1H
1S	2H	3C	4H
/	/	X	//

On board 11 in the third match I was surprised by all the bidding at my first turn to bid, so showed my suit and values suggesting maybe 3NT or 4S if Therese had a suitable hand, but when 4H came around to me a penalty double seemed obvious.

Therese led the CT and the sight of dummy was a surprise to all, especially 6 clubs and only 2 hearts. When declarer played low in dummy I played the CQ, ruffed by declarer. Now declarer led the DA and another and I won, and led the H5, ducked to dummy.

Declarer led a club off dummy, ruffed and Therese over-ruffed, and then exited with a spade to my Ace. We cashed 3 more tricks for 3 off and +500, although after winning with the H8 it could have been 4 off except for a bit of confusion as to South's strength.

At the other table East or West overbid and finished in 4S, undoubled, which finished 2 down for another +100 and 12 Imps.

<b>M 3</b>	86		
<b>Bd 13</b>	QJ9863		
<b>Dlr N</b>	A82		
<b>Vul All</b>	53		
AT97432		KQ	
2		AK5	
K76		94	
K8		AQJ942	
	J5		
	T74		
	QJT83		
	T76		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	/	1C	/
1S	/	2NT	/
3S	/	4S	/
4NT	/	5C	/
5D	/	6H	/
6S	//		

Board 13 in the third match was a triumph for our system, although at the time it seemed like another flat board. My 2NT showed 18-19 HCPs and the 3S rebid by Therese was forcing and set spades as trumps, with some slam implications.

After 3S I could/should have bid 4C as a cue-bid, but wimped out and signed off in 4S. Therese was not finished yet and used RKCB and found there was 1 Key Card missing. Holding 7 spades, Kx or Kxx may be enough for slam, but to be sure she next asked for the SQ with 5D.

My 6H rebid showed the SQ and the HK, so 6S became the final contract. A grand slam is possible opposite QJ or QJx, but a grand slam on a finesse is not good teams play. North led the HQ and fairly quickly Therese claimed 13 tricks for +1460.

The 7-card spade suit opposite the 2NT rebid (surely guaranteeing at least 2 spades), would seem to suggest that spades should be the final denomination, which also protects the DK. However East finished in 3NT at the other table, and after the lead of the DQ was lucky to make 10 tricks but 13 Imps to us.

<b>M 4</b>	T65		
<b>Bd 20</b>	3		
<b>Dlr W</b>	QT632		
<b>Vul All</b>	Q985		
KJ72		AQ9	
A94		KQJT7	
AJ9		85	
AK2		T73	
	843		
	8652		
	K74		
	J64		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
2NT	/	3D!	/
3S!	/	4NT	/
5C	/	6H	//

On board 20 in the fourth match Therese opened 2NT, showing a balanced 20-21, and my 3D was a transfer to hearts.

Holding a reasonable hand and exactly 3 hearts, Therese rebid 3S, and I was away to slam with 4NT.

I could have forced Therese to bid Hearts first with 4D, but wanted to protect my spade holding, so made my hand declarer.

The 5C response confirmed that we had all of the Key cards, but a grand slam was not considered as that constituted 15 HCPs out of a maximum of 21, and probably not another long suit as a source of tricks.

South led the S8 and when dummy tracked there was no need to protect my spade holding, and 12 tricks on top even with a 5-0 heart break, so that was +1430.

At the other table they could not identify the heart fit early and subsided in 4H, so we gained 13 Imps.

<b>M 4</b>	Q86542		
<b>Bd 22</b>	JT2		
<b>Dlr E</b>	T		
<b>Vul EW</b>	QT2		
KJ		A73	
AK876		Q95	
973		AKQ4	
AK6		975	
	T9		
	43		
	J8652		
	J843		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
		1NT	/
2D	/	2H	/
6NT	//		

On board 22 in the fourth match Therese transferred to hearts as a first step when I opened 1NT, but as my hand did not allow a super-accept, or a jump to 3H to show a minimum with 4-card support, she settled for the obvious 6NT and South led the ST.

North covered the SJ and then I needed a heart break or a squeeze for 12 tricks, and I could relax when the hearts broke 3-2 and consider a possible squeeze for 13.

When I cashed the hearts pitching 2 clubs North had to release two spades and South a spade, diamond and club. Then I cashed the SK forcing South to discard another club and then I ran the top diamonds.

So now North is in sole charge of the black suits and when he chose to discard the C2, I had the 13<sup>th</sup> trick in dummy with the C6.

Obviously I would not like to bid a grand slam and then rely on a double squeeze, but it was a nice way to gain 1 Imp.

<b>M 5</b>	AQJ		
<b>Bd 5</b>	A4		
<b>Dlr N</b>	QJ42		
<b>Vul NS</b>	KJ42		
983		K7	
T87532		QJ6	
987		KT6	
Q		A9765	
	T6542		
	K9		
	A53		
	T83		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
/	1C	/	1S
/	2NT	/	3NT
//			

On board 5 in the fifth match NS were caught in a systemic black spot where South wanted to investigate a 5-3 spade fit, but there was no clear way so he settled for 3NT and hoped for the best.

Declarer showed at least 4 clubs in the bidding, so it was a red-suit lead for me and I chose the HQ as I had touching honours.

This hit the jackpot and as I had 2 entries, in spite of the diamond finesse working, North had to settle for 8 tricks and +100 to us.

Declarer won the HK and finessed the SQ and I gave thought to leading the DK to kill dummies diamonds, but rejected that as declarer could duck.

Instead I continued hearts (Therese had encouraged) and declarer unblocked the spades and led the DK, which I covered.

At the other table Lindy was able to identify the 5-3 spade suit and the final contract was 4SS, making 10 tricks for +620 and 12 Imps.

<b>M 5</b>	J3		
<b>Bd 9</b>	K		
<b>Dlr N</b>	QJT762		
<b>Vul EW</b>	KT98		
A876		KQ952	
Q84		T963	
K		A5	
65432		A7	
	T4		
	AJ752		
	9843		
	QJ		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	2C!	X	2D!
3S	/	2S	/
/	//	4S	//

On board 9 in the fifth match NS were play all Multi-Twos, thus 2C was among other things, either a weak 2D or a strong 2C, and South bid 2D as a possible waiting bid.

Holding both majors I doubled firstly, intending to convert a 3C response to 3S (equal-level conversion), but when 2D came around to me Therese is bound to have some values, so I bid 2S over which Therese invited game and I accepted.

South led the D9 and I won on the table perforce! Anxious to discard a heart on the DA I came to hand with a trump and discarded the H4 then led to the H8, won by North, who returned a trump.

North showed out on the next heart, and it was easy to make 10 tricks for +620, losing 2 hearts and a club.

At the other table a normal 2D opening led to Richard and Lindy sacrificing in 5D, which has 5 top losers and thus finished 3 off for -500, but 3 Imps to us.

<b>M 6</b>	AKQ32		
<b>Bd 17</b>	QJ876		
<b>Dlr N</b>	J		
<b>Vul Nil</b>	72		
976		J854	
43		T952	
AK986		Q32	
T96		J4	
	T		
	AK		
	T754		
	AKQ853		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	1S	/	2C
/	2H	/	3NT
//			

On board 17 in the sixth match against the eventual winners, Therese demonstrated that the old stand-by of 4<sup>th</sup> highest of your longest and strongest is still effective.

After North showed his hearts, South jumped to 3NT, hoping his T754 in diamonds would be a stopper. If North had Jx in diamonds an x in clubs he would have been right, but when Therese led the D8 and my DQ won the first trick, we very quickly had 5 tricks after which declarer was able to claim the rest.

North gave thought to bidding 4H over South's 3NT, but passed, albeit reluctantly.

At the other table Richard rebid his hearts and 4H became the final contract. An unlikely spade lead would have removed an entry to the North hand prematurely, but this did not happen and he finished with 12 tricks for +480 and 11 Imps.

<b>M 6</b>	K843		
<b>Bd 19</b>	J8743		
<b>Dlr S</b>	94		
<b>Vul EW</b>	Q3		
2		J96	
AKQT92		65	
65		AKT32	
AT93		K85	
	AQT75		
	-		
	QJ87		
	J642		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	3S	/	1S
2H	/	/	/
X	/	4D	X
4H	X	//	

Even if North had bid just 2S on board 19 in the sixth match I had nowhere to go without support, but when Therese doubled 3S I had an easy 4D, although South's quick double was a little unsettling.

Therese pulled the double to 4H and North came to light with a double, as many would, and led the S3.

Therese ruffed the second spade and led the HA, getting the bad news and a good contract had just got harder.

Therese cashed the top diamonds and clubs, and ruffed another spade for her 9<sup>th</sup> trick, counting the top hearts, which set up the endplay on North.

When Therese exited with a club (North discarding his last spade) and South returned a diamond, she ruffed with the HA and led the CT forcing North, with only trumps left to ruff and lead a trump into her tenace.

That was +790 and 5 Imps to us as the 4H contract at the other table was not doubled.

<b>M 7</b>	QT53		
<b>Bd 7</b>	87		
<b>Dlr S</b>	AT2		
<b>Vul All</b>	A643		
AKJ86		742	
642		QJ9	
J6		K873	
JT8		Q97	
	9		
	AKT53		
	Q954		
	K52		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
			1H
1S	1NT	2S	//

Board 7 in the seventh match looked pretty normal at the time when I made a simple raise of Therese's 1S overcall, but there were misgivings.

I had bad shape, suspect values in hearts, and North showed spade values with his 1NT response, but if I failed to raise to 2S, everything would be usefull and 2S would roll in with an overtrick!

Alas all my concerns were real, and a second heart lead from North, using a minor suit Ace as an entry killed off the hearts, and there were still 2 clubs, 2 spades and 1 diamond to lose, which was only 5 tricks and 3 off for -300.

This seemed like a disaster at the time, but score-up was a different story as the same contract was reached at the other table. I do not have the details, but this time it went 4 off for +400 and thus we gained 3 Imps after all.

<b>M 8</b>	T9		
<b>Bd 21</b>	QT86		
<b>Dlr N</b>	95		
<b>Vul NS</b>	KT764		
86432		K	
A		KJ9432	
43		KQJ72	
AJ853		9	
	AQJ75		
	75		
	AT86		
	Q2		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	/	1H	1S
2C	/	2D	/
2H	//		

Board 21 in the eighth match was a misfit all around, and whomever stopped first had the last laugh. I had a minimum opening bid including a stiff King, but 2 suits and an easy rebid, so I opened 1H.

Therese's 2C response over South's 1S overcall was forcing for 1 round, but not to game, and when the misfit was obvious, stop as soon as possible was the recommendation, so she gave me preference to my first-bid suit.

I was a little surprized when the red suits were placed on the table, but glad that clubs were not bid again, and also that I had 6 hearts, ably reinforced by the HA.

South led the H7, and I had time to set up the diamonds for 3 tricks, plus 4 hearts and the CA, so that was 8 in all for +110.

It does not look like the type of hand anyone would get to game on, but that is what happened at the other table when East played in 4H, also making 8 tricks for 2 off and -100, so we gained 5 Imps.