

2018 Northern Suburbs Teams of Three by Richard Wallis

This year in the Teams of 3 at NSBC on 9th December I had the pleasure of playing with Lyn Tracey, Robin Webcke and Peter Lang. We had 5 modest wins and 1 bad loss to finish in 3rd place. The winners in A grade were Andrew Gosney, Abigail Wanigaratne, and Gary and Debbie Gibbards, with Paul Roberts, Sumant Handa, Eugene Pereira and Rex Meadowcroft in a close 2nd place.

It was a good day, enjoyed by all who participated, with very few calls for the Director (Alan Gibson), and great hospitality from NSBC as usual. It is meant to be a learning day, and there were many instructive hands that my team could take away for logging into the memory. Some we got right, and some we put down to experience, hopefully to avoid being repeated.

On one memorable hand I cost our team 4 Imps when I forgot I was playing in a teams match and did not cash my 8 tricks in a 2S contract, and instead tried for an overtrick, finishing 1 down! Not surprisingly, since most players were inexperienced, some of our mistakes were duplicated at the other table, finishing flat, but not this one!

M 1 Bd 5 Dlr N Vul NS		Q2 A103 KQ64 KQ107		On board 5 in the first match Robin opened 1NT (15-17) and East gave the matter some thought before doubling, over which I bid 2C looking for a major fit, and then raised Robin's 2NT rebid to game in spite of the hesitation.	
10987 Q7652 3 982			AJ64 8 AJ10975 J3	East duly led the DJ and Robin won in hand to take the heart finesse to West, although considering the diamond position, a club to dummy and a heart to the H10 would have been safer.	
		K53 KJ94 82 A654		Luckily West did not have any more diamonds and returned the S10, won by East who then set up the diamonds, but we now had 10 tricks for +630.	
W / //	N 1NT 2NT	E X /	S 2C 3NT	At the other table Lyn and Peter found their spade fit and finished in 4SEX, escaping for just 2 off and -300, thus we gained 8 Imps. I did not get the play at the other table in 4SX, but it seems that declarer must have been able to set up the diamonds for 1 loser as Deep Finesse suggests that 6 tricks is the limit for EW in 4S.	

M 1 Bd 6 Dlr E Vul EW	J63 876 Q974 J86		On board 6 in the first match East opened 1C and I made a weak-jump overcall of 2S, over which West bid 3D without any problem.	
K J54 AK10862 A103		Q75 AK103 5 Q9752	East's rebid was not so obvious, and he eventually came forth with 3NT, to which I led the S10, obviously won on the table.	
	A109842 Q92 J3 K4		Now East's inexperience came to the fore when he cashed the top diamonds, discarding a heart(?), before changing his mind and taking the heart finesse into the safe hand.	
W 3D	N /	E 1C 3NT	S 2S //	I exited with a heart and now East cashed the CA and led to the CQ, which I won and exited with another heart to East who now had nowhere to go and exited with a club to Robin and we cashed out for 3 off and +300.
At the other table the same contract was reached but Peter used the club fit to greater advantage, running the CT from the table, setting up 4 clubs, and 2 each of the other suits for 10 tricks and +14 imps.				

M 2 Bd 9 Dlr N Vul EW	Q9432 5 AJ10 A1063		On board 9 in the second match I was planning to get to 4S slowly, by first responding 2C since I only have 3-card support, but when East overcalled 3H I bid a practical 4S.	
K1065 K63 KQ74 92		7 QJ109874 86 J85	East has a safe lead of the HQ, which will give nothing away and sometimes set up a defensive trick, but instead he led an anti-percentage D8, looking for a ruff?	
	AJ8 A2 9532 KQ74		This is anti-percentage because he only has a singleton trump, and, when West won the SK at trick 2, cashed the DK and returned a diamond, East had no more trumps left.	
W //	N 1S	E 3H	S 4S	Peter was surprised when East discarded, but, since a diamond ruff looked likely, it would have been prudent to cash the SA first, eschewing the finesse, and leading the SJ.
At the other table Peter led the HQ and 4S went 1 off for +50 and 10 imps to us.				

M 2 Bd 13 Dlr N Vul All	Q83 AJ102 - K108543		<p>On board 13 in the second match I bid a less-than-brave (cowardly?) weak 2D over East's 1C opening and West made a negative double with a less-than-perfect hand.</p> <p>West could bid 2NT with his good stoppers, but instead chose to bid his 4-card heart suit, and 2H was passed out.</p> <p>This seemed like a good time to lead the DA, as I thought that leading the D2 hoping for a club return may be a bit hard for Robin to interpret, and I got the good news at trick 1!</p> <p>Robin ruffed the D2 and returned a club as requested and we took the first 7 tricks for 2 off and +200. 2NT can make, but requires pin-point card-reading.</p> <p>At the other table John Gough was braver and bid 3D with the South hand, again West doubled, and Peter bid 3H, which suffered the same defence but this time 3 off for -300 and 3 imps out.</p>	
A107 K85 J74 A762		KJ4 9643 KQ9 QJ9		
	9652 Q7 A1086532 -			
W X	N / /	E 1C 2H	S 2D //	

M 2 Bd 14 Dlr E Vul Nil	5 1086 A75 QJ9743		<p>On board 14 in the second match Robin picked a very good time to be conservative. He has the absolute minimum for a response to my opening bid, albeit with a reasonable 6-card club suit, but his shortage in my spade suit suggested a pass.</p> <p>East must have suspected a spade stack in the West hand but was too weak to respond, so 1S was the end of the auction. West led the CA and switched to the H5.</p> <p>I was very pleased to be in just 1S when dummy tracked, as I would likely have rebid 3S if Robin had responded 1NT, and even happier when West covered the DQ.</p> <p>My delight eased a little when East discarded when the S5 was led off the table, and I knew I had problems. Luckily West pulled the wrong card during the play and I finished up with 8 tricks for +110. At the other table 2S went 1 off for +4 imps.</p>	
KJ8743 752 K102 A		- QJ93 8643 K10652		
	AQ10962 AK4 QJ9 8			
W //	N	E /	S 1S	

M 3 Bd 20 Dlr W Vul All	QJ4 K864 4 AJ853		<p>On board 20 in the third match I did not like my hand for game so bid a conservative 2C on the second round which was passed this out.</p> <p>East led the S2 and Peter won the 3rd round and drew trumps, finishing unfortunately in dummy, so he exited with the DK, won by East who switched to the H3.</p> <p>Finishing the trumps in the dummy at least eliminated any minor problem with finding the CQ, but the diamond suit is more powerful if the D4 is led towards dummy.</p> <p>Not to worry, West did not want to give a ruff-sluff with a spade, nor force dummy to ruff a heart, so led a diamond into the Q109, and Peter could wrap up 9 tricks for +110.</p> <p>At the other table NS climbed all the way to 5C, also making 9 tricks, but +100 was worth 5 imps.</p>	
A1095 A1052 7632 2		K82 J973 AJ85 Q9		
	763 Q KQ109 K10764			
W / / //	N 1C 1H	E / /	S 1D 2C	

M 4 Bd 3 Dlr S Vul EW	AK82 J9843 KJ8 2		Board 3 in the fourth match proved that sometimes fortune favours the brave! Peter called 2C over the 1NT opening bid to show both majors, and obviously I bid 2S, which was passed out.
107 AK5 A963 AQ63		Q94 72 1074 KJ1087	The opening lead was the HA and West switched to a trump, but I could win in dummy and lead another heart, setting up the suit. My modest hand fitted in perfectly with Peter's hand and we emerged with 8 tricks for +110.
	J653 Q106 Q52 954		Even a heart continuation at trick 2 does not beat the contract, as East ruffs with a natural trump trick.
W 1NT //	N 2C!	E /(!)	At the other table North was silent over the 1NT opening, and Lyn had no problem making 8 tricks for +120 and 6 imps. East could have doubled the 2C artificial bid to suggest a club contract, but maybe thought he was too weak?
		S / 2S	

M 4 Bd 5 Dlr N Vul NS	2 A743 J10754 1042		On board 5 in the fourth match East opened with a strong 2C, and I bid my good suit even though it was adverse vulnerability. I have 5 tricks so the worst I can go for is 3 off and -800, and then EW may have a slam.
QJ10987 65 9 AQ93		AK53 2 AKQ863 K6	West made a positive response and East raised to game, but showed nothing on the way, except that opening bid of 2C. Obviously you are going to get to game in spades, but it is cost-free to show the heart control by jumping to 4H over 2S, then West could bid the slam confidently.
	64 KQJ1098 2 J875		I thought that West was very fortunate to jump to slam with 2 small hearts and then find a singleton in dummy after Peter led the HA!
W 2S 6S!	N / / //	E 2C 4S	At the other table there was a mix-up with a Blackwood response and the slam was missed, so that was 11 imps out.
		S 2H /	

M 5 Bd 16 Dlr W Vul EW	92 K62 J942 Q972		On board 16 in the fifth match I opened 1D in the 4 th seat, West now overcalled 1S, having passed initially, and East raised to 2S over Lyn's 2D response.
A10864 5 10865 AK10		753 AJ1097 7 6543	My 2NT rebid showing 18-19 was easy, but I had to re-think when 3S came around to me. A penalty double came immediately to mind, and this fits in with the vulnerability, but I went for broke with 3NT.
	KQJ Q843 AKQ3 J8		3SX is our best result, especially if Lyn is psychic enough to lead a trump, but on the obvious trump switch when I win the DA, 7 tricks appears to be the limit for +500.
W / 1S 3S //	N / 2D /	E / 2S /	West led the S6 which I won and led the H3. East won the HA and returned a spade. West paused to think on winning the SA and thought a little too much as he cashed the top clubs before returning a spade and now I had 9 tricks for +400.
		S 1D 2NT 3NT	Same contract at the other table, but 2 off for 11 lucky imps.

M 6 Bd 21 Dlr N Vul NS				A765 6 J976 A1032		On board 21 in the sixth and last match I let Lyn's original pass and the adverse vulnerability overrule my desire to bid 4S over West's 4H rebid. At equal or favourable vulnerability, I would have bid 4S on the way to 5D.
82 K1073 10854 KJ6					Q43 AJ9842 - Q854	Having already supported my diamonds, I would only expect Lyn to pass 4S with 4-card support, as I did not make a Michael's cue-bid, so can only have 4 spades.
				KJ109 Q5 AKQ32 97		4S by South can be defeated by an unlikely diamond lead by West, as the HK gives a second entry for the repeat ruff and the club loser is inescapable. The HK followed by a diamond, an obvious switch when dummy shows up with 4 diamonds is too late as there is no second entry.
W 2H	N / 3D	E 1H 4H	S 2D /(!)	A potential 12 imp gain went begging as 4H is cold, but it was the same result at the other table for a flat board.		