

## 2019 Gold Coast Open Teams by Richard Wallis

The 58<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Congress has come and gone and this is the first one without my good friend and long-time partner Tony Jackman. In his honour, and with 5 of last year's team still present, Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber, Therese Tully, Tim Runting and myself, we called the team Jackman as usual. We asked Craig Francis to fill the vacant spot, and we must have done something right, as with 8 wins out of 12 and a maximum win on the final match we finished 24<sup>th</sup>, our best result for some time.

Meta, Wynne and Therese played as a threesome at our home table, and Craig, Tim and myself played as a threesome at the away table, although Tim's Convener duties limited when he could play. Our second-worst result was against the Fischer team (13) in Match 8, where we lost by 22 imps, and this team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Swiss, making the final series but losing in the semi-final. We had a 2 Imp win against team 9 in Match 10 and then our biggest loss to team 22 in Match 11, 25 imps, pushed us back to 55<sup>th</sup> place, before we sailed home to 24<sup>th</sup> place.

The winners of the Teams Final included Andy Hung, now residing in WA but a Queenslander at heart. He played in the Coutts team of James Coutts, Shane Harrison, Nabil Edgtton, Ellena Moscovsky, Liam Milne and Andy Hung. Liam and Andy also combined playing with co-editing the daily Bulletin. Well done to all of the team.

<b>M 1</b>	J3		<p>On Board 11 in the first match Craig (West) overcalled 2C and, while I wanted to bid 2S, since it was forcing, I thought that I was not strong enough since Craig and I did not have the agreement that as well as a 5-card suit, I would be strong and/or have club support with a reasonable hand.</p> <p>Since he had good clubs he could have investigated 3NT with a 3S bid over 3C, but decided to pass and the spade game had been missed. Even though I had a diamond stop, I would have raised to 4S as even if Craig only has 3 spades, 4S should have some play.</p> <p>North led the D4 and Craig played low in dummy so 11 tricks were made for +150.</p> <p>At the other table East did bid 2S and was quickly raised to game, making 11 tricks for -450 and 7 imps away.</p>	
<b>Bd 11</b>	Q109864			
<b>Dir S</b>	Q94			
<b>Vul Nil</b>	32			
K1085		Q9762		
52		A		
J8		K73		
AKQ109		8765		
	A4			
	KJ73			
	A10652			
	J4			
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
2C	/	3C	1D	
			//	

<b>M 1</b> <b>Bd 14</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>		8 K98632 A3 10842			<p>On Board 14 in the first match Craig opened with a 15-17 1NT after I had passed as dealer and Stayman showed the spade fit. We were quickly in 4S, to which North led the H6.</p> <p>The hand looks easy for 11 tricks after this lead, and that is when declarer should think about possible bad trump breaks. If North has K &amp; Q of spades, nothing can be done, but if it is South or the honours are split, then a double-finesse in spades will limit the losers to just 1.</p> <p>Obviously if North has the singleton K or Q, then laying down the SA will pick this up, and also limit the trump losers to just 1, but that is a smaller percentage chance than the double-finesse.</p> <p>Thus win the HQ and lead a diamond to dummy then lead a small trump, putting in the S10 when South plays low. If this loses, back to dummy with a club and repeat the finesse.</p> <p>When the S10 wins, back to dummy with a club to lead another spade and this time win the SA over the Q and back to dummy with a club to lead another spade, losing just 2 tricks, +450. East was declarer at the other table and went 1 off for 11 imps to us.</p>
AJ102 AQ 542 AQ76				6543 J10 KQJ7 KJ5	
		KQ97 754 10986 93			
<b>W</b>  1NT 2S	<b>N</b>  / 				

<b>M 2</b>		K		<p>On Board 15 in the second match Craig showed interest in game with his jump to 2S after my double, but I was very mindful that he was a passed hand, so did not even make a game try with 3S.</p> <p>From Craig's point of view he has maximum points for 2S (8-10), but he has 2 Aces and a 5-card suit, so 3S would have been more encouraging.</p> <p>North led the HA and switched to the C4. South won the CK and forced dummy with a heart.</p> <p>Craig led the SQ through instinct and then stopped to take stock! North opened and South had shown up with the CK so it was unlikely that South had the SK as well thus he rose with the SA felling the stiff SK.</p> <p>He still had a spade to lose and made 10 tricks for +170, which seemed like a game swing out. However at the other table EW allowed Therese to play in 2H making 8 tricks for +110 and 7 imps.</p>
<b>Bd 15</b>		AKQ1032		
<b>Dlr S</b>		J3		
<b>Vul NS</b>		J654		
A8765		QJ93		
874		6		
A105		KQ864		
Q10		A93		
		1042		
		J95		
		972		
		K872		
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	
/	1H	X	/	
2S	//		/	

<b>M 2</b> <b>Bd 21</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul NS</b>		Q854 A105 5 AJ842			<p>On Board 21 in the second match I made a weak jump overcall of 2D and found Craig with a good hand and diamond support. He had a hard decision but went for the maximum result, hoping I had at least the DA.</p> <p>After North led the C4 his optimism was rewarded when I had probably the best hand for him from the bidding and he had free choice to guess a possible 3-0 diamond split, and absolutely no problem if diamonds were 2-1.</p> <p>When diamonds behaved he had 9 tricks, but no real possibility for a 10<sup>th</sup> as North had 4 clubs to cash if she won the HA.</p> <p>This was +400 to go with -200 at the other table where Wynne had to soldier on in 2H when it is EW that can make 7 tricks in hearts.</p> <p>3NT is the only making game for EW unless they can contrive for West to be declarer in 5D as a club lead beats 5D by East.</p>
K6 KQJ2 KJ109 K65				A1032 6 A87632 103	
		J97 98743 Q4 Q97			
<b>W</b>  3NT	<b>N</b>  1C //	<b>E</b>  2D	<b>S</b>  /		

<b>M 3</b> <b>Bd 5</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AK3 K3 KQ8642 J9		On Board 5 in the third match NS had a straight-forward auction to 3NT and I had a safe lead of the HJ. Double-dummy a spade lead is better for the defence, but the HJ gives nothing away.	
Q10872 A87 97 K52		964 J10952 AJ3 83	North won the HK and deceptively led the C9, ducked all around as I gave reverse count. The CJ came next and Tim could win this and exit with the D9. I won the DA over the DK and led the H10, which declarer now covered, allowing Tim to win and return a heart for me to cash out the hearts. A spade signal from Tim brought forward the S6 next from me and declarer seemed to panic and cashed the top spades and DK making only 5 tricks for +400.	
	J5 Q64 105 AQT764		At the other table West led the S2, won in dummy, and at trick 2 South led the CJ from the North hand and West took the CK, thus Meta had no trouble making 10 tricks for +630 and 14 imps.	
<b>W</b> //	<b>N</b> 1NT	<b>E</b> /	<b>S</b> 3NT	

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 17</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	J83 AJ8 KJ72 432		On Board 17 in the fourth match I had minimal points but great shape so I had no hesitation in jumping to game after Craig gave me support. South led the H10 and dummy's hearts were a big surprise, especially when North produced the HA and was known from the lead to have the HJ as well! It seemed to me that if South overcalled with such poor hearts he is more likely to hold the SK, so I played the SA and was duly rewarded. A club towards dummy forced South to play the CA and CQ. I took a diamond pitch before taking the trump finesse and then played DA and D6. NS had no defence.	
652 KQ65 53 K975		AQ10974 - A10864 86	If South wins I can ruff a diamond in dummy while if North overtakes to play a trump, my D10 becomes good. At the other table the same contract was played to the same opening lead but declarer went 1 off for +50 and 10 imps to us.	
	K 1097432 Q9 AQJ10			
<b>W</b> 2S	<b>N</b> 3H	<b>E</b> 1S 4S	<b>S</b> 2H //	

<b>M 4</b> <b>Bd 20</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul All</b>	K832 Q54 109873 4		On Board 20 in the fourth match Craig's double of the 2H overcall showed 3-card spade support, which did not interest me although Deep Finesse suggests that 4S is makeable. I showed my club suit next, at least 5 since Craig might only have 2 for his opening bid, and I was not prepared to let NS play in 4H, although when I saw the hands it was obvious that we had 4 tricks. North led the H4 to 5C and Craig was at a crucial point in the hand. No matter where the hearts are, the contract is likely to depend upon the spade finesse as a diamond must be lost, so there are 2 lines of play: 1. Discard a diamond on the H4 and another when you get in on the established HK then lead trumps hoping the spade finesse is right. 2. Ruff the H4, but not with the C5 as this card may be needed to re-enter your hand later if the clubs are 3-0. Both lines work but alas Craig ruffed instinctively with the C5 at trick 1 and then played the CK so was not able to take all of the options and -100 was 6 imps out against -130 at the other table.	
QJ5 KJ8 A64 K763		A1064 - Q52 QJ10985		
	97 A1097632 KJ A2			
<b>W</b> 1C X /	<b>N</b> / / 4H	<b>E</b> 1S 3C 5C	<b>S</b> 2H 3H //	

<b>M 5</b> <b>Bd 8</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	Q KQ9 KJ4 AJ9832		On Board 8 in the fifth match the old adage 'fortune favours the brave' was verified!  A 7-card suit headed by AQ is normally worth some bid, but South decided that his void in partner's opening suit warranted some caution and he passed on the first round.  However when North upped the ante by bidding 3C, South judged that 3D was likely to be at least as good as 3C and even raised to game when North invited.  Even the trump lead from Craig did not defeat 5D as 1 spade can always be trumped, 1 discarded on the CA and the SK is a trick, so we scored up -400.	
A1043 875 1092 Q104		J752 AJT63 - K765		
	K986 42 AQ87653 -			
<b>W</b> / 2H / //	<b>N</b> 1C 3C 4D	<b>E</b> 1H / /	<b>S</b> / 3D 5D	At the other table the bidding was similar on the first round but Meta did not mention her diamond suit over East's 3H rebid and EW won the hand in 3H. This was 2 off but 7 imps away.

<b>M 6</b> <b>Bd 16</b> <b>Dlr W</b> <b>Vul EW</b>	102 873 Q96 QJ832		On Board 16 in the sixth match South was able to double with such a weak hand to show the other 2 suits. Many people would use 1NT or 2NT to show the other suits with such a weak hand and leave the double to be a little stronger, but to each his/her own.	
A76 952 AK1084 54		KJ5 AKQ106 J752 K	Craig's redouble showed 3-card support and North made a weak jump of her own to take up room. But all I needed was 3-card support, so I jumped to game.	
	Q9843 J4 3 A10976		South was excited by North's jump response, and at favourable vulnerability, she elected to sacrifice in 5C, which turned out to be right on this hand!  I led the HA and we quickly cashed out for 3 off and +500. It was lucky for us that South only had 1 diamond, as otherwise we had missed a slam.	
<b>W</b> 1D XX X	<b>N</b> / 3C //	<b>E</b> 1H 4H	<b>S</b> X 5C	At the other table Therese and Meta were not so brave (reckless?) and East made 11 tricks in 4H for 4 imps out.

<b>M 7</b> <b>Bd 10</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	A9875 - 97632 J103		On Board 10 in the seventh match, after I opened with a 15-17 1NT we had a simple transfer auction to 4H, and South led a top-of-nothing S6.	
K2 AJ10876 54 K96		QJ10 94 AQJ8 AQ42	I wanted to encourage North to continue the suit, and at the same time, unblock, so I played the SK at trick 1. North won and returned the S7, which I won in hand to run the H9 which won!	
	643 KQ532 K10 875		Another heart, also ducked, and I now had 10 tricks without the diamond finesse as the D5 can be discarded on the third spade, which was lucky as the DK was wrong.	
<b>W</b> 2D 4H	<b>N</b> / //	<b>E</b> 1NT 2H	<b>S</b> / /	There is nothing that South could have done, as, even if I had played the HA at trick 3 it looks like only 2 hearts will be lost and that is what happened even though the heart finesse worked at trick 3!  At the other table the bidding was the same, but this time South led the C7 (MUD) and somehow or other (probably brilliant defence by Wynne and Meta) the contract went 1 off so we gained 12 imps.

<b>M 8</b> <b>Bd 15</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	AJ109 K1042 K1086 8		On Board 15 in the eighth match, against the team that lost in the semifinals, NS had an efficient auction to a slam with only enough HCPs for game with a balanced hand.  Distribution made up the difference. North's 4C was a splinter agreeing hearts, and then followed a 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> cue bid before North asked for key cards with 4S, before jumping to 6H over the response showing 2 key cards plus the trump Q.  Tim led the DA, but there was nothing we could do and South scored up 12 tricks for -1430.  Even though South had a singleton diamond, since it was the DQ, there was a discard on the DK, so no finesse was needed.  At the other table Meta and Wynne did not find the magic fit for slam and stopped in game so we lost 13 imps.	
Q432 6 A5 KQ6542		87 J3 J97432 J109		
	K65 AQ9875 Q A73			
<b>W</b>  X / /	<b>N</b>  4C! 4S! 6H	<b>E</b>  / / //	<b>S</b>  1H 4D 5H	

<b>M 9</b> <b>Bd 1</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	Q985 QJ64 A964 5		On Board 1 in the ninth match NS were playing Precision, so 2C was natural and 2D was an enquiry, with 3S natural and 14-15 HCPs.  I developed an aversion to leading away from an unsupported Jack many years ago, but this is one of the few times that I have seen it successful.  Craig led the D2, which I encouraged as declarer won on the table and then led the S5, covering my S10 with the SJ. Craig won the SA and led the DJ and another, declarer ruffing.  Declarer then led the S4 towards dummy and, on winning the SK, my DK promoted the S7 into another winner for Craig whilst at the same time taking declarer's last trump. Thus we gained 2 heart tricks to go with the 5 others, for 3 off and +150.  At the other table the invitation for the spade game was refused, and 3S by South became the final contract, to which West led the S3. This did not test Meta's declarer play and 11 tricks were +200 and 8 imps.	
A72 A1087 J52 842		K10 942 KQ83 10763		
	J643 K3 107 AKQJ9			
<b>W</b>  / / /	<b>N</b>  / 2D 4S	<b>E</b>  / / //	<b>S</b>  2C! 3S	

<b>M 9</b> <b>Bd 2</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul NS</b>	10 AKQ105 A965 KQ10		On Board 2 in the ninth match I had a minimum hand in HCPs, but a maximum hand in shape and opened 1C in first seat, intending to bid spades on the next round. Craig responded 1S also on a minimum hand, this time with no shape, but it hit home.	
J642 J74 K72 842		KQ983 3 8 AJ7653	North, with a strong hand and short spades started off with a double instead of bidding 2H, and, since the vulnerability was favourable, I jumped to game in spades as an each-way bet.	
	A75 9862 QJ1043 9		Since South had nothing to go on except the double, she could do little more than double 4S for penalties, and that ended the auction. North led the HA followed by the DA, allowing Craig to escape with 9 tricks and -100.	
<b>W</b>  1S //	<b>N</b>  X	<b>E</b> 1C 4S	<b>S</b> / X	At the other table I did not hear the auction, but Therese finished in 5H, making 11 tricks for +650, so rather surprisingly since NS have 25 HCPs, we gained 11 imps.
<b>M 9</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	KJ7632 1064 107 K6		On Board 13 in the ninth match I was guilty of making an assumption initially, and then not asking for an explanation of the bidding before I started to play!	
5 QJ9 A9654 Q972		AQ10984 2 3 AJ843	North's 2D opening bid was the Multi, and I thought it likely that she had hearts, so overcalled 2S, over which South made a take-out double, probably expecting North to pass, and pass she did!	
	- AK8753 KQJ82 105		When South led the HA and then the DK, I should have asked North what the double was, but failed to enquire, so was I still non-the-wiser when I passed the CQ at trick 3.	
<b>W</b>  //	<b>N</b> 2D!	<b>E</b> 2S!	<b>S</b> X	Luckily my spades sitting over North were just too good, and I made 5 spades, 2 clubs and the DA for 8 tricks and +670.
				At the other table Meta finished in 4H, which has no chance and finished 2 off for -200, but 10 imps to us.

<b>M 10</b> <b>Bd 17</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	QJ103 542 QJ8 962		On Board 17 in the tenth match the result of the match was decided by this lucky result.	
AK92 AK6 A2 AKJT		65 QJ10873 1073 87	I did not have a text-book weak-two, but the texture of the suit would normally be enough to garner 4 tricks if hearts were trumps, so I bit the bullet and opened 2H.	
	874 9 K9654 Q543		Craig did not muck around and simply bid 6H, possibly wondering what I could have as he put down likely the strongest dummy I have seen!	
<b>W</b>  6H	<b>N</b> / //	<b>E</b> 2H!	<b>S</b> /	South led the C3, and I played the CA at trick 1 so I could draw trumps and take the club finesse in safety for 12 certain tricks. What I did not want was to take a losing club finesse at trick 1 and allow North to lead back a club for South to ruff.
				If North ruffed the CA I could still take the now marked club finesse after drawing trumps. Consequently I only made 12 tricks, versus -510 at the other table, but 10 imps.

<b>M 11</b> <b>Bd 13</b> <b>Dlr N</b> <b>Vul All</b>	QJ84 1052 8765 J4		On Board 13 in the eleventh match Tim went quietly after South opened 1H, preferring to overcall 2C, and North wisely passed. I did not know whose hand it was, but I was surprised by no heart support from North, so I jumped to the most practical game of 5C. North led the H2. Since the H2 suggested an honour, South played the HK at trick 1 and Tim was able to pitch spades from the table to assure 12 tricks when the clubs were 2-1 and his 3 major suit losers were ruffed in dummy. South ducked the D3 when it was led off the table, so Tim scored up 13 tricks for +640. At the other table West passed Wynne's 1H opening and when Therese passed and East balanced with a double, he also passed the double! Wynne made 5 tricks for 2 off and -500, so we gained 4 imps. This also accords with Deep Finesse's analysis which suggests the EW can make 8 tricks with hearts as trumps.	
63 AQJ76 Q AK872		A95 - K10943 Q9653		
	K1072 K9843 AJ2 10			
<b>W</b>  2C	<b>N</b> / /	<b>E</b> / 5C	<b>S</b> 1H //	

<b>M 12</b> <b>Bd 26</b> <b>Dlr E</b> <b>Vul All</b>	J92 J976 KQ4 1065		On Board 26 in the twelfth match Craig opened with a 20-22 2NT and I enquired about the majors, to which he denied a 5-card major but had at least one 4-card major. I showed a 4-card spade suit and at the same time denied 4 hearts, so Craig jumped to 4S. North led the DK. Craig allowed the DK to win, and North, probably misreading South's signal on the DK, erred by next leading the C5, picking up the suit for no losers. Now a diamond ruff and successful spade finesse allowed Craig to park his heart loser on the 4 <sup>th</sup> club while North ruffed with his trump trick, for +650. Deep Finesse suggests that EW can be held to 9 tricks in a spade contract, but it is a lot easier when you can see all the hands. West at the other table opened 1C and played there. After the lead of the C5 she made 10 tricks for -130 and 11 imps to us.	
AQ76 K43 A97 AK4		8543 A52 62 J987		
	K10 Q108 J10853 Q32			
<b>W</b>  2NT 3D! 4S	<b>N</b> / / / //	<b>E</b> / 3C 3H!	<b>S</b> / / / /	

<b>M 12</b> <b>Bd 27</b> <b>Dlr S</b> <b>Vul Nil</b>	92 76432 J1053 K6		On Board 27 in the twelfth match, which was almost the last of the event, South's opening bid of 1C was passed around to me and I went straight to game by jumping to 4S. South's double quickly caught my attention, and South led the HA, DK and DA, which I ruffed and led the S3 towards dummy. South jumped up with the SK and erred by next leading the HQ to dummy, allowing me to ruff a diamond and use the SJ to enter dummy again to cash the now good diamonds for 10 tricks and +590. If South leads a club at any time I am liable to mis-guess, putting on dummy's CQ, but he did not put me to the test. Also a spade back at trick 5 give me the entry is too early to take full advantage. So I should have been 1 off. At the other table Therese responded 1H to the 1C opening, as would I, and finished too high for -150 and 11 imps.	
J4 K95 Q9864 Q54		AQ108763 10 7 A1073		
	K5 AQJ8 AK2 J982			
<b>W</b> / //	<b>N</b> / /	<b>E</b> 4S	<b>S</b> 1C X	