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TEAMS WINNERS

Congratulations go to the Noble Team, Barry Noble, Ashley Bach, Ishmael del’Monte, Tom Jacob and Martin Reid on their decisive win in the Gold Coast Congress Open Teams. Their decision to play was not made until two weeks before the tournament when Barry suggested to Ishmael that he might like to put together a team, and voila a victory.



The Victorious Noble Team

L to R: Tom Jacob, Martin Reid, Ashley Bach, Barry Noble and Ishmael del’Monte

FINAL NUMBERS COUNTING THE WAY THEY DO ELSEWHERE

Utilising the US system of counting number of tables in play per session, here is our year on year comparison for the past six Gold Coast Congresses – this year up 17% on last year.

	Sat Day 1	Sun Day 2	Mon Day 3	Tue Day 4	Wed Day 5	Thu Day 6	Fri Day 7	Sat Day 8	Total
2006	81	578	574	1072	1557	1544	792	61	6259
2007	72	574	572	1096	1585	1576	490	239	6204
2008	83	598	594	1167	1684	1672	552	196	6546
2009	98	569	568	1096	1579	1568	488	169	6135
2010	622	620	310	1584	1515	1348	460	168	6627
2011	694	694	346	1744	1760	1744	579	183	7744

TEAMS FINAL – ENGLAND V. NEW ZEALAND – FIRST QUARTER

John Carruthers

No, it's not rugby or cricket, but the final of the Teams event at the Gold Coast Congress. For England (HIRST): Michelle Brunner-John Holland and Bill Hirst-Andy Hirst-Howard Melbourne; for New Zealand (NOBLE): Tom Jacob-Martin Reid and Ashley Bach-Ishmael Del'Monte-Barry Noble (okay, so they're not quite all Kiwis). Both teams were five-handed, playing with one fixed partnership and one three-way partnership.

Remarkably, for their third knockout match in a row, Hirst conceded a big swing on the first board. They had won the first two of those matches quite handily. Could they do it a third time?

Dealer: North Vul: None Brd 1	♠ Q 6 ♥ A J 7 4 ♦ K 4 ♣ K Q 9 6 5	♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ K 10 9 3 ♦ J 9 ♣ J 10 4	West A. Hirst North Jacob East B. Hirst South Reid 1NT Pass 2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass 4♦ Pass 4♠ Pass 6♦ Noble Holland Del'Monte Brunner 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 2NT Pass Pass Pass
♠ K J 3 ♥ Q 8 6 2 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ 8 7 2	♠ A 10 8 5 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 8 7 5 2 ♣ A 3		Pass 2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass 4♦ Pass 4♠ Pass 6♦ All Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 2NT Pass Pass Pass

It was all about the bidding...I can't profess to know what all the bids mean, but it looks to me that Reid used Puppet Stayman, got a "Yes, I have a major" response and embarked on a series of natural bids, until four hearts, possibly a cue bid in support of diamonds, or possibly Redwood. I would like to think they knew exactly what they were doing as they reached a very good contract which might even make against 4-1 diamonds.

Yesterday their teammates had opened an off-centre one no trump to successfully avoid a slam off a cashing ace-king. Today it was the other way round – Jacob-Reid used the one no-trump base to get to a really good slam. Whatever you think of the merits of off-centre no-trumps, there is no doubt that strictly limiting the hand in terms of high card points and distribution greatly facilitates the later bidding in cases like this one.

Both Holland and Brunner had unexpressed extra values. With his doubleton honours in the pointed suits, John Holland had the option of rebidding 1NT to show the same hand Tom Jacob had shown by opening one no-trump (15-17). He chose not to do so and that was 10 IMPs to Noble.

The BBO commentators were not exactly enamoured of John Holland's bidding on the following hand:

Dealer: East Vul: N-S Brd 2	♠ 2 ♥ A J 3 2 ♦ K 9 2 ♣ A Q J 7 3	♠ A K 6 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ K 9 2	West Noble North Holland East Del'Monte South Brunner 2♥[2] 3♣ Dble Pass Pass 2♣[1] Pass Pass Pass
♠ Q 9 7 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ J 10 7 6 3 ♣ 8 4	♠ J 10 8 5 4 3 ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 6 5		1. Strong, artificial, forcing 2. Negative

The bidding diagram is how we saw it on BBO. It was suggested in Holland's defence that the 2♣ bid may have been a Multi Two Diamonds, in which case two hearts was pass or correct. It does seem extraordinary to overcall that textureless suit vulnerable against not in front of a strong hand. Further, it was suggested that Ish had to double to show the strong version of the Multi.

Whatever it meant, it looked like with Brunner's three trumps and singleton diamond (imagine if her minors had been reversed!), Holland was headed for one off. That could have been a good result against the plus 400 available in three no-trump for East-West. But how would one get to game exactly?

Ish led the spade ace and shifted to the heart king! With hearts 3-3 and clubs 3-2 Holland was now booked for plus 670 with only one loser in each suit. But something exceedingly strange occurred. Holland won the heart ace and played the diamond king to keep West off lead, Del'Monte won the diamond ace and played the heart queen and another. Holland won the jack of hearts, overtaking the ten and played the heart three, discarding a spade! One supposes that he pulled a wrong card, but if he thought he played a diamond, he'd have ruffed in dummy. He'd still have been better off if he'd ruffed the heart with the club ten, but he discarded a spade. West won and returned a trump and plus 200, which had been turned into minus 670, was suddenly converted to plus 500.

At the other table, when Andy Hirst passed his dad's two no-trump opener, their plus 180 was no match for the Closed Room result and it was another 8 IMPs to Noble.

On Board 3, both East-West pairs reached a dreadful four spades with a trump suit of ♠AQ42 opposite ♠975 off the ace of clubs and needing to rid oneself of a couple of other losers as well. Noble won 3 IMPs for an extra undertrick. On Board 4 Noble Reid made one no trump on a board that was passed out at the other table. Noble 24-Hirst 0.

Martin Reid won a vulnerable game swing on the next board by evaluating his hand a bit more accurately than Michelle Brunner...

Dealer: North	♠ Q	West	North	East	South
Vul: N-S	♥ K 6 2	A. Hirst	Jacob	B. Hirst	Reid
Brd 5	♦ K 9 5 4	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
	♣ 10 9 7 5 4	Pass	2♥	2♠	3♣
♠ 9 7 4 2		3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
♥ 7 4	♠ K J 8 6 3	Pass			
♦ A Q 8	♥ 8 5				
♣ Q J 6 3	♦ J 10 6 2	Noble	Holland	Del'Monte	Brunner
	♣ A 2	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
	♠ A 10 5	Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
	♥ A Q J 10 9 3	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♦ 7 3				
	♣ K 8				

Having expressed their hands accurately, East-West were content not to offer North-South a big penalty in fours spades, and rather chose to defend. Plus 650 North-South.

This drifted two off, inadequate compensation for North-South's vulnerable game. Another 11 IMPs to Noble, leading 35-0 now.

Board 6 was an interesting play problem in five hearts, where both North-South pairs were pushed by an East-West attempt to sacrifice in four spades. Since four spades was only one off, taking the push to five hearts was the right decision...if they made it.

Dealer: East	♠ 6 2	West	North	East	South
Vul: E-W	♥ 7 6 4 3	A. Hirst	Jacob	B.Hirst	Reid
Brd 6	♦ A 9 8	4♠	5♥	3♠	4♥
	♣ A K 9 2	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♠ K 9 8 3					
♥ A	♠ A Q J 10 7 5 4	Noble	Holland	Del'Monte	Brunner
♦ J 6 5 4	♥ 10 8	3♥	3♠	1♠	2♥
♣ Q 8 7 5	♦ Q 10	Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥
	♣ 4 3			Pass	
	♠ ---				
	♥ K Q J 9 5 2				
	♦ K 7 3 2				
	♣ J 10 6				

The play developed along similar lines: spade lead ruffed; heart to the ace; spade ruffed, trumps drawn; diamond to the ace; diamond to the king. Here they diverged:

Reid played the club jack, covered and won in the dummy – there were no further problems. Had the jack not been covered, he intended to win in dummy cross to hand in trumps, then run the club ten – even if it lost, East would have had to give him a ruff-and-sluff (7=2=2=2). Hirst denied him the opportunity to display his superior declarer skill!

Brunner played a third diamond, hoping East would have to win. When West was able to win, she took the club finesse for her contract.

Both declarers could have ducked the diamond queen to ensure their contract. Had East had a third diamond, that would mean he had only one club and high one from the dummy, then the finesse, would have made sure of the contract (assuming he had seven spades). Both Easts missed the opportunity to unblock the diamond queen.

The boards flattened a bit and we actually had another couple of pushed boards, in four hearts and a part score.

Sitting South what would you lead from:

<p>♠ J ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 10 9 7 6 3 ♣ J 10 7 6</p>	<p>West A. Hirst</p> <p>2♦ 3♠ Pass</p>	<p>North Jacob</p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p>	<p>East B.Hirst</p> <p>1♠ 3♦ 4♠</p>	<p>South Reid</p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p>
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Martin Reid led a diamond, trying to give partner a ruff. Unfortunately, Hirst was kidding...

<p>Dealer: North Vul: E-W Brd 9</p> <p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ K 10 7 6 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ A K 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 6 5 ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q 9 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 7 3 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ 8 5 3</p>
	<p>♠ J ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ 10 9 7 6 3 ♣ J 10 7 6</p>	

Jacob had a natural trump trick and a club lead gains a tempo for the defence before the hearts are set up for discards. Still he lost only 1 IMP against the three no-trump bid and made at the other table. Noble 35-Hirst 1.

Noble won 7 more IMPs on Board 10 when Brunner-Holland went two off in three no-trump as Jacob-Reid went play in two hearts.

On Board 11, neither West bid with:

<p>♠ --- ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ K J 10 8 6 4 2</p>

With no one vulnerable. North-South declared three no trump at one table and four spades at the other – spades made 11 tricks, no-trumps 12, so 1 IMP to Hirst. The problem was that 10 tricks in clubs were available.

Eleven more IMPs fell into Noble's lap on the last board when the Hirst declarer muddled the play in four spades, going off with 11 tricks makeable. The score in the final stood at Noble 53-Hirst 2.

SESSION TWO FINALS

Barry Rigal

The set was initially one way traffic, though at the end of the set Hirst mounted enough of a challenge to leave them with the slimmest of chances for recovery.

The first accident was more about good or bad luck – depending on which way you look at it. The auction at one table where Holland-Brunner were N/S was unsurprising;

Dealer: South
 Vul: N-S
 Brd 15

♠ A 8
 ♥ K Q 8 2
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ K Q 10 5 3

♠ K J
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ J 9 7 6 4 2

♠ 9 6 4 3 2
 ♥ 7 4 3
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ A 8

♠ Q 10 7 5
 ♥ J 10 9 6
 ♦ J 7 5 4 2
 ♣ ---

West North East South
 1♣ 1NT Pass 2♣
 Dble Rdbl All Pass

West	North	East	South
-	2	-	2 NT
-	1	-	1 ♠
-	1	-	1 ♥
2	-	2	- ♦
-	2	-	2 ♣

Del'Monte's Stayman enquiry looks particularly well judged to me (you don't want to play a 5-3 spade fit here especially facing a 1NT overcall). Melbourne's double was less well judged (would you mind partner leading his five-card suit?). Bach made him pay in the auction and Del'Monte made him pay in the play – making the contract would only gain 4IMPs if 3NT was going to come home -- the overtrick was where the money resided.

Melbourne led a low trump – certainly not best but entirely reasonable. Del'Monte won cheaply in hand, led a heart to the king, passed the ♦Q, ducked all round, and now ducked a heart to West's bare ace.

Back came a low club to the ace, and Del'Monte led a spade up; Melbourne correctly unblocked the ♠K to let Hirst win his ♠Q. In this six-card ending:

	♠ --- ♥ Q 8 ♦ 9 ♣ K Q 10	
♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ A 10 ♣ J 9 7 6	♠ 9 6 4 ♥ 7 ♦ K 6 ♣ ---	♠ 10 ♥ J 10 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ ---

Hirst had two winning options (a diamond through holds declarer to his three trump tricks and a spade lets West pitch his diamond for the same result.) but when he played a heart Melbourne had to ruff, or declarer would score the ♥Q easily plus his three trumps, and now he could do no better than play ♦A and another diamond. Del'Monte was in hand for the trump coup and a cool +1160 for 15 imps

Now would 3NT make, to limit the damage. On Jacob's lead of the heart jack Reid ducked, and Holland led a club to the ace, after which eight tricks were the limit. Had declarer played ♠A and another spade at trick two, the defenders would have been somewhat awkwardly placed (West can avoid the endplay by shifting to ♣9 eventually). In any event Noble had 15 imps.

There was more to come a couple of deals later:

Dealer: South
 Vul: E-W
 Brd 19

♠ 9 6 2
 ♥ A 10 7
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A Q J 7 5

♠ A K Q 10
 ♥ K
 ♦ A 9 5 4
 ♣ 9 6 4 3

♠ 8 7
 ♥ Q J 8 6 5 3 2
 ♦ J 8 7 2
 ♣

♠ J 5 4 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ K 10 3
 ♣ K 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
-	1	-	1 NT
1	-	2	- ♠
-	3	-	3 ♥
2	-	2	- ♦
1	-	2	- ♣

Del'Monte opened 4♥, doubled by Melbourne to end the auction (a slightly surprising pass by Hirst but maybe Melbourne's rubber-bridge training made his double more inclined to penalties than one might expect?).

Melbourne led ♠K to get a count card ♠5, and continued with the ace – though maybe the queen was clearer. Hirst followed with the ♠3, leaving Melbourne to guess if this was club preference with four spades, or an original doubleton spade; but either way, how can cashing the ♦A be wrong? If partner discourages, you go back to spades and wait for your club trick if any. However, Melbourne played a third spade at trick three and declarer ruffed and ruffed out the clubs via the trump finesse, for 590.

In the other room Brunner opened the South hand 3♥; fair enough, but after 3♥–Dbl–4♥–4♠ Brunner fell from grace and bid 5♥. Had she doubled to show extra shape, wanting to bid again, Holland might well have got it wrong and bid 5♥ himself – but at least it would then have been his fault! The defenders cashed out for 300 and Noble had another 13 imps.

After a series of small swings had got the Noble lead close to three digits, the third swing went to Hirst, and it too was not without an element of god fortune –though they certainly deserved a break by now.

Dealer: South ♠ K 10 7 4 3 2
 Vul: Both ♥ ---
 Brd 23 ♦ Q 8 7 6
 ♣ 10 7 2

♠ A 9 8
 ♥ A K J
 ♦ 9 4
 ♣ A Q 9 6 5

♠ Q J 6 5
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ K 10 3 2
 ♣ K 3

♠
 ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 4 3
 ♦ A J 5
 ♣ J 8 4

West	North	East	South	
7	-	7	-	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
7	-	7	-	♥
-	1	-	1	♦
7	-	6	-	♣

Newell and Reid had an unopposed auction to 4♥ (1♦–1♥–2NT–4♥), but in the other room Bach overcalled 1♠ over 1♣ and now when Hirst bid 2♥ and Del'Monte raised spades Melbourne cue bid 3♠ and used keycard then drove to 6♥. Del'Monte found the essential diamond lead (the 3rd/5th ♦3) and declarer won, drew trumps, then ducked the ♦9 round to South's ♦10.

At this point in the hand North was known not to hold more than six spades and appeared to have four diamonds, so it was logical to guess clubs right rather than to try to smother the ♣10, and Hirst duly made his slam.

TEAMS FINAL – THIRD QUARTER

John Carruthers

Hirst was stuck 55 IMPs at the beginning of the second half of the match. They needed to make inroads very quickly, and they did so...

On Board 1 the Hirsts bid to a good 6♥, making – flat board as Ash and Ish did likewise.

On Board 2, Ash stepped out a bit:

Dealer: East ♠ A 10 7 5 4
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10 3
 Brd 2 ♦ Q 6 4 3
 ♣ 10 7

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ A 9 6 4 3

♠ K
 ♥ K Q 7 6 2
 ♦ A J 8 2
 ♣ K Q 8

♠ J 6
 ♥ A J 8 5 4
 ♦ 10 7 5
 ♣ J 5 2

Bach, sitting West, made a Michaels Cue Bid, Ish responded two spades, and when Brunner doubled for takeout, Holland took his opportunity and passed. That was plus 500 to North-South on the spade king lead when three no-trumps failed by two tricks at the other table. Hirst had what they needed, a 12-IMP gain early on in the set.

Noble gained a part score swing on Board 3, the Board 4 presented Hirst with yet another opportunity to chip away at the deficit:

Dealer: West	♠ J 6 2	West	North	East	South
Vul: All	♥ Q 10 3	Bach	Brunner	Del'Monte	Holland
Brd 4	♦ 10 4 2	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
	♣ J 9 7 3	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
♠ 7		4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
♥ K J 5 4 2		Pass	Pass		
♦ 9 3		A.Hirst	Jacob	B. Hirst	Reid
♣ Q 8 6 5 2		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
	♠ A 10 9 4	1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
	♥ 9 8 6	Pass	Pass		
	♦ A 8 7 6 5				
	♣ K				

Four hearts could have been beaten and wasn't. Holland led the diamond ace, the spade ace where a more passive defence would have led to a trick in each suit.

Jacob led the club three, ducked to the king and Reid shifted to a low diamond. Hirst played three rounds of clubs from the top and the defence cleared diamonds. Declarer could take no more than his top hearts and the long club for two off. That was 13 IMPs to Noble and a 61-IMP lead. Surely there was no coming back now.

And there was not. Noble outscored Hirst 18-17 the rest of the way to make the score 133-51 at the end of the quarter. That was enough for Hirst and they conceded. Well done to the NOBLE team: Barry Noble, Ashley Bach, Ishmael Del'Monte, Martin Reid and Tom Jacob, winners of the 50th Gold Coast Open Teams.

In the third set the imps went backwards and forwards (leaving Noble up 83) but Hirst struck a blow for his side with a nice play here.

Dealer: South	♠ J 10 5	♠ K Q 7 3
Vul: Nil	♥ 6 5 4 3	♥ Q 9 2
Brd 11	♦ J 6 3	♦ K 4 2
	♣ J 10 2	♣ Q 9 3
♠ 6 4 2		
♥ A K 7		
♦ A 9 8 5		
♣ K 7 4		
	♠ A 9 8	
	♥ J 10 8	
	♦ Q 10 7	
	♣ A 8 6 5	

Both tables reached 3NT here from the East seat but Reid had opened the South cards and Holland had passed. Where Del'Monte was declarer the defenders led ♥J won by the king, and a spade to the king scored. Del'Monte ducked a diamond to Brunner, who continued hearts. Declarer led a second spade to the ♠Q and ♠A, and a third heart established a winner for Brunner while she had the spade entry. Declarer had no more than eight tricks before North could cash the long heart for down one.

In the other room Hirst was warned that the ♠A and ♣A rated to be with South. He needed diamonds to be 3-3 and for North to have some combination of significant club and spade spots. He elected to duck a diamond from dummy to South, then win the diamond return in hand and cash the ♦A.

	♠ J 10 5	♠ K Q 7 3
	♥ 6	♥ ---
	♦ ---	♦ ---
	♣ J 10 2	♣ Q 9 3
♠ 6 4 2		
♥ ---		
♦ 9		
♣ K 7 4		
	♠ A 9 8	
	♥ ---	
	♦ ---	
	♣ A 8 6 5	

Now came a spade from dummy. If North had played low Hirst would have ducked – end-playing South to lead a club round to East’s king. Now the ♠K ensures declarer can establish either the spades or the clubs for the ninth trick.

So North rose with the spade jack covered by the queen, and the spade nine returned, which Hirst ducked, establishing the long spade for the contract.

Reid would have done better to duck the spade. Now declarer leads a club to dummy and plays the 13th diamond. Then he leads a spade from dummy and simply covers North’s card, eventually collecting a second club in the ending.



BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

Dealer: North ♠ 9 6 5 4 3
Vul: N/S ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	4♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 2
♥ A K Q 8 7 5
♦ A 7 2
♣ 7 5 4

West leads the ♥10: four from dummy – you win with the ♥Q and South plays the ♥J. You are not fooled by South’s ♥J and continue with the ♥K: ♥3 from declarer, ♥2 from West.

Partner’s ♥10-then-♥2 indicates an original holding of ♥10-2 doubleton. Therefore South began with ♥J-6-3.

What next? There is a strong temptation to play the ♥A next. South will have to follow and surely partner will be able to ruff higher than dummy’s S9. However, that is not the right defence and playing a third heart would allow declarer to succeed if the whole deal looks like this:

♠ 8 7	♠ 9 6 5 4 3	♠ 2
♥ 10 2	♥ 9 4	♥ A K Q 8 7 5
♦ K 9 6 4 3	♦ 8 5	♦ A 7 2
♣ 9 8 3 2	♣ A K Q J	♣ 7 5 4
	♠ A K Q J 10	
	♥ J 6 3	
	♦ Q J 10	
	♣ 10 6	

West leads the ♥10: four – queen – jack (tricky). East cashes the ♥K. If East plays a third heart, dummy will win. South will then draw trumps and continue with four rounds of clubs, on which South discards two diamonds. Now south loses only two hearts and one diamond.

After winning with the ♥Q and ♥K, East should play the ♦A. West will then signal to continue diamonds by playing the ♦9 (if playing standard signals, high-encouraging) or by playing the ♦2 (if using reverse signals, low-like). East then knows to play a second diamond and the defence takes four tricks to defeat 4♠ by one trick.

If West had ♠J-7 and not the ♦K, West would discourage diamonds when you play the ♦A. Then you would play a third round of hearts at trick four and hope West could ruff higher than dummy.

Some kind players made submissions to the Bulletin Box in the last 24 hours of the tournament. Unfortunately these have not reached the Bulletin at the time of this publication (mea culpa). I apologise for this and if appropriate will include them in the first bulletin next year. The editors, David, Barry and John greatly appreciate the efforts of the players to let us know their interesting hands, funny stories and tournament experiences. Thanks and see you all next year.

JUST AN AVERAGE BOARD

John Carruthers

Julian Foster told me an amusing story from today's Walk-In Pairs.

Dealer: South	♠ 10 9 4 3 2	West	North
Vul: E/W	♥ 8 6		Julian
Brd 3	♦ Q 10		East
	♣ A Q J 8	Pass	Pass
		Pass	1♠
♠ 7		Pass	4♠
♥ Q J 5 3 2	♠ A Q 6	Pass	Pass
♦ J 7 6 3	♥ 10 7		Pass
♣ K 5 3	♦ K 9 4 2		Pass
	♣ 10 9 6 3		
	♠ K J 8 5		
	♥ A K 9 4		
	♦ A 8 5		
	♣ 7 4		

East led the ♣9. Upon enquiry, Foster discovered that the nine was the pair's conventional lead from top of nothing. They over-led honours. West put up the club king and Foster won the ace and successfully ran the spade ten. The next spade went to East's ace and East then shifted to a low diamond. A glint of greed shone in Foster's eyes. He could see that if he could win the three remaining clubs, he could discard dummy's losing diamonds.

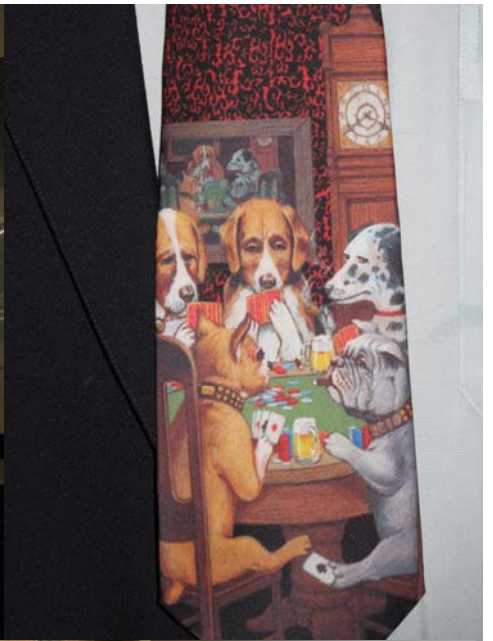
It being pairs, the overtricks were important so Foster won the diamond ace, drew the last trump and led a club to the eight! Disaster! East won the ten and shifted to...a low diamond! Foster won the queen.

Dinner Dance

Saturday night saw the Queensland Bridge Association and Gold Coast Congress host the Congress Dinner Dance with 600 players and friends attending a wonderful combination of wine, food and friendship. Here are some happy snaps from the evening.























Medium

5	6	9	8	1	4	7	2	3
3	4	1	6	7	2	5	9	8
8	2	7	5	9	3	6	4	1
4	8	3	7	2	6	9	1	5
6	9	2	1	5	8	4	3	7
7	1	5	3	4	9	8	6	2
1	7	4	9	3	5	2	8	6
2	5	8	4	6	1	3	7	9
9	3	6	2	8	7	1	5	4

Diabolical

7	1	6	3	4	5	2	9	8
5	2	3	7	9	8	6	1	4
9	8	4	2	1	6	7	3	5
6	5	2	1	8	3	4	7	9
8	3	9	4	5	7	1	2	6
4	7	1	9	6	2	8	5	3
2	9	8	6	3	1	5	4	7
1	4	5	8	7	9	3	6	2
3	6	7	5	2	4	9	8	1

MEMORY
(David Law 2011)

Midnight, why must we play till midnight
 It's so hard on my memory
 When we play after ten
 By eleven, no one knows what four no trumps was
 Maybe Blackwood, maybe not

Memory, so useful when you're bidding
 All of those funny systems
 No one ever heard of
 In confusion the bidding cards all dropped at my feet
 And the clock keeps ticking on

Every new bid seems to have some strange conventional meaning
 Someone doubles, and we got into trouble
 No rescue seems like coming

Wishing somehow you will be dummy
 Ignoring noises your tummy
 May be making again
 In post-mortem try to recall back who bid what when
 Loss of memory has began