

These hands were taken from the bulletins available at The Gold Coast Congress 2023

The teams event was played with 12 qualifying rounds and these boards come from the final qualifier, round 12

In the top of the table clash between Hung and Rosenberg, Hung needed a draw at least to qualify, and Rosenberg simply needed to avoid a blitz.

<b>Board 16:</b>	♠ K Q 3	Dealer W E-W vul
	♥ Q 10 6 5 2	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ K 4 3	
♠ 9 4		♠ J 10 5
♥ A 9 8 3		♥ K J
♦ K 10 8 5 4 3		♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ A		♣ 8 7 6 2
	♠ A 8 7 6 2	
	♥ 7 4	
	♦ J	
	♣ Q J 10 9 5	

Lin and Rosenberg played 3♠ from the north hand on a diamond lead and wrapped up 10 tricks. At the other table Kolesnik was on lead to 4♠ as West and knew to lead his ♣A. Now the question was whether to underlead in hearts for the ruff (in case partner had three hearts), or play the ace and another heart in case partner had a singleton. The auction had made it clear that the former was more likely – which was what Kolesnik did, but today it didn't matter. The defenders got their hearts and club ruff for down one and 6 IMPs.

At our table in the Restricted Teams division we had a complicated auction leaving us , East -West in 3♦ X when our opposition left a double in, making 10 tricks for a score of 870 and plus 14 IMPs as our N-S teammates were in 3♠ making 10 tricks!

#### Board 17

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	Hung	Kaplan	Harrison
	Pass	1♣	dbl
1♥	2♠	pass	3♣
pass	4♦	pass	5NT
pass	6♦	all pass	

Board 17:

♠ A J 9 6 2

Dealer N none vul

♥ 7

♦ K 7 5 2

♣ 7 4 3

♠ 4

♠ K 10 7 5

♥ Q 10 8 6 5 3 2

♥ K J 9

♦ J 9 6

♦ 3

♣ 9 6

♣ Q J 10 8 2

♠ Q 8 3

♥ A 4

♦ A Q 10 8 4

♣ A K 5

Kaplan opened the East hand ( 10 HCP) but it still didn't prevent his opponents from doing extremely well.

Hung won the heart lead and had no choice but to draw trumps. The singleton in East was a huge danger signal about clubs, with East marked with nine black cards. The good news was that West could no longer guard clubs even if spades broke badly.

Hung led a low spade to the queen, ducked the return, and ruffed the heart continuation. He could no longer ruff out spades and cross back to hand, but he didn't need to. He crossed to the club ace, ran the trumps, squeezing West, then came back to the spade ace and led a club. He took trick 13 with the ♣5.

That was worth 11 IMPs to Hung against 4♠ by the other team.

At our table we had a much more sedate auction with our opposition N-S in 4♠ and our teammates in 3NT.

	♠ 8 3 2	Dealer West N-S vul
	♥ A 7 6	
	♦ 5 4 3	
	♣ K Q J 7	
♠ Q 9 6 4		♠ A K 10
♥ Q 9 4 3 2		♥ J 8 5
♦ Q 9 6 2		♦ A K 10
♣		♣ A 8 6 5
	♠ J 7 5	
	♥ K 10	
	♦ J 8 7	
	♣ 10 9 4 3 2	

In this final board for discussion, West opened with 2♥ (both majors 0-8 points) and East with 19 HCP knows to pass with his balanced 3-3-3-4 count. When his partner turned up with a 4-5-0-4 six count and 5♥ was on, their system may have come under scrutiny as their opposition were in 4♥ making 11 tricks for a minus 7 IMPs! (as we were, using our less complicated system!)

The Hung team ended in 4<sup>th</sup> place after this final round, qualified for the finals, but didn't progress any further.

The Open Teams Final was eventually won by the Dalley team - Paul Gosney - Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley - Tony Leibowitz

These bulletins were interesting to read as we had played the same hands, to see how the top players bid and what contracts they ended up in, compared to us!