

March 04, 2017
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Australia's premiere bridge event, the 55th Gold Coast Congress concluded last Saturday with the finals of the major teams and others, including the Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Prizes were awarded at a spectacular dinner dance at the conclusion on Saturday evening. Much praise was and should have been showered upon Therese Tully (Convenor) and Kim Ellaway (QBA Manager) for their organisation and large team of helpers.

The open teams entry (over 200) after qualifying produced a 6 team final. After 1 elimination playoff, this came down to semi finals between the 4 teams: HUNG, BROWN, KONIG and VAINIKONIS. In one semi final, Hung defeated Brown 79:63 and in the other, Vainikonis beat Konig 86:54. Then came the final with HUNG (A Hung, N Griffiths, L Milne, K Lazar, M Whibley, R Lee) defeating the all European VAINIKONIS (V Vainikonis, W Olanski, M Krasnoselskiy, E Vainikonis, J Rotomskyte). The Senior's teams was finalised on Friday between top qualifier CHAN (P Chan, R Januszke, R Sebesfi, J Zollo) and WALSH (A Walsh, B McDonald, A De Livera, E Havas) after a strong last round, the WALSH team triumphed.

Given there were plenty of non-finalists left, most took the opportunity to compete in the closing Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs, named in honour of one of Queensland's greatest women players. North/South Open winners were D Sprung/J Sprung, W Jenner-O'Shea/J Haffer, B Callaghan/C Duckworth. East/West Open winners were J Brake/M Brown, R Hanson/J Herring and G Martin/N Moore. Winners of the Intermediate division were L Norman/W Gibson and the Restricted was taken out by A Gosney/J Luke-Paredi.

E Dealer All Vul

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|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | North | | |
| | ♠A10752 | | |
| | ♥QJ10543 | | |
| | ♦K3 | | |
| | ♣- | | |
| West | | East | |
| ♠964 | | ♠KQJ83 | |
| ♥A82 | | ♥K | |
| ♦J106 | | ♦A72 | |
| ♣Q542 | | ♣AK83 | |
| | South | | |
| | ♠- | | |
| | ♥976 | | |
| | ♦Q9854 | | |
| | ♣J10976 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1S | PASS |
| 1NT | 2H | 3H | PASS |
| 3NT | ALL PASS | | |

Today's is a hand from early in the week. Most E/W pairs went down in an unlucky 4S. Sydney's Michael Courtney elected to bid 3NT after partner Sue Ingham's forcing 3H. Even after a heart lead, Declarer was in good shape for 10 tricks. He led a top spade from dummy and used his entries in hand to play on spades. This resulted in 11 tricks and wound up a top board.