

May 20, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Today I can highlight an outstanding challenge facing our new state president Richard Wallis who has taken over from Keith MacDonald. After 30 years as president Keith has left the Queensland Bridge Association as a stable body with sound finances and a thriving club structure across the state, as well as our nation's biggest (and best) event – the Gold Coast Congress – that is increasingly acclaimed around the world. So, well and truly done, Keith. The major area that stands out as needing improvement is our player performance, compared against the other states. A record six Australian teams – Open, Women, Seniors (2), Youth and Girls - are about to leave to compete in the Asia- Pacific Championships in Seoul. In our 40-strong contingent I can see only one Queenslander - Andy Braithwaite. Come on Richard – as the second biggest state, let's make it a goal to improve our playing performance - even our Sheffield Shield team now does much better than our open team!

The Surfers Paradise Bridge Club's May Teams was held on Saturday, attracting 28 teams. Afflick (I Afflick/ P Collins, N MacLaurin/ T O'Dempsey) edged out Butts (J Butts/ P Wyer,, T Strong/ J Magee) for the Championship. The Plate was won by Nightingale (B. Nightingale/ M. Bernau, E. Besprosvan/ E. Hennig) ahead of Welch (J. Donovan/ B. Welch, J. Adams/ B. Borrell) and C Division went to Chotai (A & V Chotai, K. Goodwin/ S. Clifford) with Till (G. Till/ K. Reeder, J. Jeffries/ J. Ralph) in second position.

E Dealer E/W Vul

	North		
	♠K93		
	♥K7		
	♦85432		
	♣Q98		
West		East	
♠QJ74		♠A108652	
♥J652		♥AQ43	
♦KJ6		♦Q109	
♣63		♣-	
	South		
	♠-		
	♥1098		
	♦A7		
	♣AKJ107542		
West	North	East	South
		1S	5C
All Pass			

The great bridge pioneer Ely Culbertson used this hand as a test for his pupils in the 1940s. Seventy years on, see if you can make 5C against the SQ lead. East opened so most of the outstanding points including the major aces will be with him. Given that, the one chance is for 3:3 diamonds but West must be kept off lead or a heart switch will be fatal. Cover SQ with SK but don't ruff. Pitch D7. Now win the return, cash DA, use dummy's C8 and C9 as entries for two diamond ruffs – the suit breaks - and

now CQ lets you back in to cash the needed two diamond winners pitching hearts from hand and your 5C comes home.