

May 27, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last weekend the 44th Queensland Mixed Pair's Championship was hosted by the Toowong Bridge Club over two days. Defending champions were Lyn and Malcolm Carter who got off to a slowish start on Saturday but kept moving upwards through the field. Most of the first day's play was dominated by Margaret Millar and Neville Francis battling with Pam Schoen/ Phil Hale, but through Sunday the Carters charged forward and were in front by the lunch break and went on to win narrowly from Millar/ Francis followed not too far back by Schoen/ Hale then Jill Magee/ Terry Strong. B Grade winners were P Larsen/ J Rohde then J Glenn/ A Hamilton with A Corkhill/ G Toon in third place while C Grade went to A Christie/ T Fletcher from J Jenkins/ A Boyce and V & P Robbins in third.

Meanwhile on Sunday in parallel with the major event, a Novice Matchpoint Pairs was also played at Toowong. Champions were L Lovett/ R Spelman while B Grade went to S Ziegenfuss/ J Dunning and C Grade winners were M Choueifate/ A Refshauge.

Today at the QCBC our state teams will be hard at practice for the nationals in Canberra in July. Kibitzers (bridge term for onlookers) will be welcome but must remain silent.

N Dealer Nil Vul

North

^a 6
©KQ
.. KJ8542
§K976

West

^a J10852
©875
.. A1063
§Q

East

^a AQ
©A109643
.. Q97
§52

South

^a K9743
©J2
.. -
§AJ10843

West

**
2H
All Pass

North

1D
3C

East

1H
PASS

South

Dbl
5C

Today's hand, late on Sunday, gave the Carters an 88% result and a nice push towards their victory when Lyn (North) brought her 5C home. In the auction, South's double was negative, suggesting length in the other two suits (spades and clubs). Against Lyn, HA was led and the suit continued, HK won and she led a spade. East rose with SA and played SQ, won by SK in dummy. She then drew one round of trumps and continued on what was effectively a high cross-ruff to make her 11 tricks. Malcolm noted that it's tougher if trumps are led, but you can still make by ruffing and establishing diamonds. This time you may get home by making six clubs in dummy (via four diamond ruffs plus two used for entry back to hand), one heart and spade trick, your own remaining trump and the final established diamonds.