

June 24, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Recent times have not been kind to non-traveling bridge enthusiasts in Brisbane with all the major action out of town. On Thursday 15th June, the Noosa Imp Pairs was held at their excellent Club. There it was a good win to N Francis/ P Bugler with M Jakes/ A Dawson in second, just pipping I Luck/ R Parker.

Then, on the weekend, the Sunshine Coast Club held its June Congress. Saturday's Pairs was won by T Bardon/ J Wallis (again) ahead of Francis/ Bugler with B Stacey/ M Phillips in third. B Grade winners were J Glenn/ A Hamilton while C Grade went to M McKee/ T Beale who were a praiseworthy sixth overall. Sunday's Teams saw a big win to M. Carter/T. Hutton, L Carter/ M Doran over R Touton/ R Touton, L Moses/ A Slater. Meanwhile, many others went south to the Gold Coast Club's Open events. Saturday's Pairs was won by I Luck/ R Parker over T Strong/ J Magee with N Weerasinghe/ J Masters in third. Sunday's Teams Championship went to F Whitaker/ M Sykes (New Zealand visitor), Strong/ Magee ahead of T Tully/ P Rankin, R Ward/ R Parker.

Meanwhile, much further north, the Townsville Bridge Club held its 50th Anniversary Teams which was won by D McAlister, R Glastonbury, J Johnson, P Rains.

W Dealer E/W Vul

	North		
	♠ -		
	♥ AKQJ10963		
	♦ QJ3		
	♣ 98		
West		East	
♠ 1094		♠ J6	
♥ 2		♥ 74	
♦ 109654		♦ AK872	
♣ J752		♣ AKQ10	
	South		
	♠ AKQ87532		
	♥ 85		
	♦ -		
	♣ 643		
West	North	East	South
Pass	4C	4D	4S
Pass	5H	All Pass	

Stuck in Brisbane last weekend, I played at Northern Suburbs and had this hand as South. North's (Ron Clark) 4C opening was explained as 'Namyats' and shows a good 4H opening similar to an Acol 2H. What should I have done? Hard to bid 4H with such a great spade holding, but after East's 4D interpose, I couldn't stop myself and was not surprised to see partner revert to 5H. I passed. Defence cashed C AK, but then CQ was ruffed by declarer who now got home via two diamond ruffs and one pitch on the SA. My partner said 'you should pass 4H!' But later, I was able to reply 'I might well have done better in spades' as other South's made 13 tricks in that suit, some bidding 6S and getting home on a diamond lead from West when partner had bid that suit.