

July 29, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

This year's Australian National Championships are coming to an end in Canberra after a fortnight's play encompassing a variety of events. The first week's major centred around what is now called the Interstate Teams played, like cricket's Sheffield Shield, as a double (or treble) round robin then a final between the two top teams. In bridge there are four divisions, Open, Women, Seniors and Youth. Queensland had a team in each. For most of the qualifying rounds all our teams looked certain of a mid-field finish but our ladies (M. Millar/ S. O'Brien, R. Glastonbury/ B. Hobdell, G. Tucker/ S. Strickland, with npc N. Francis) surged home to grab a finals spot. There they met NSW who proved too strong as they did also in the Seniors (v ACT) and Youth (v WA) although SA pipped them by a point in the Open final.

Back in state, the Surfers Paradise club held an Open Congress last weekend. Saturday's Pairs went to C Hamilton/ T Fletcher ahead of M Pisko/ T Anagnostou then A Boyce/ P Nilsson. On Sunday, the Open Teams was won by K Wood, C Howard, J & I Luck over F Whitaker, M Sykes, J Butts, M Doran. Also in Brisbane last Sunday, was the BBC Graded Teams. A Grade victory went to P Evans, J Kelly, B & A Kempthorne with P Bugler, T Runting, G Belonogov, E Kowalczyk second. B Grade went to the Clifford team while C Grade winners were the Hinsch team.

S Dealer All Vul

	<b>North</b>		
	♠J1042		
	♥-		
	♦K106		
	♣KJ10973		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠-		♠653	
♥AQ1076532		♥J984	
♦982		♦753	
♣Q8		♣652	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠AKQ987		
	♥K		
	♦AQJ4		
	♣A4		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
**	**	**	2C
4H	5H	DbI	6S
Pass	7S	All Pass	

Today's hand from the Interstate Teams in Canberra was sent to me by Richard Ward the npc of our Open Team. It was the last hand of the match against WA who at that point had an 11 imp lead. Paul Hooykaas (South) opened a big 2C, but West came in with 4H. North, Ralph Parker, found a 5H cue, in effect saying 'pick a slam'. East now intervened with a double, showing more hearts than South bid 6S, where he could have passed it back, and this was enough for Ralph to bid the grand. It was stone cold and our team picked up a 17 imp swing after opponent's auction differed when West interposed only 3H. There North did cue 4H but East passed, South bid 4S and that's

where they played. Ward remarked that it is often best not to provoke the opponents too far – it may push them into a makeable contract.