

January 21, 2017  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The second week of the Summer Festival of Bridge is drawing to a close in Canberra. The major events of the first week were the National Seniors' and the National Women's Teams. 34 teams entered the Seniors' and the Women's event attracted 24 teams. Most of the top seeded Seniors' teams got through to the 4 team semi final, with the Krochmalik team (R Krochmalik, P Lavings, R Klinger, N Ewart) defeating the Beauchamp team to qualify first and the top seeded Neill team (B Neill, A Kanetkar, B Haughie, S Hinge, T Brown & P Buchen) defeating the Lazer team to take second place. During the 64 board final, Neill established an early lead, holding on to convincingly defeat Krochmalik scoring 118 - 85.1.

The 24 team Womens' field was reduced to a four team semi-final also. The Mundell team (G Mundell, A Zets, J Mott, R Nailand) defeated Smyth 128.1-90. In the other semi final, Kaplan (R Kaplan, N Djurovic, D Smart, P McLeish, P Evans, J Osie) defeated Richardson 150-125.1 and kept up the momentum to take the final 159-113.1.

First place in the TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs went to L Varadi/E Urbach, followed by S Harrison/M Whibley and D Beauchamp/T Leibowitz in third place.

<b>S Dealer, All Vul</b>		<b>NORTH</b>	
		♠K3 ♥93 ♦974 ♣AQJT52	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠J762 ♥KT ♦AKQT8 ♣94		♠84 ♥J8654 ♦532 ♣876	
		<b>SOUTH</b>	
		♠AQT95 ♥AQ72 ♦J6 ♣K3	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
			<b>1S</b>
<b>2D</b>	<b>3C</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>3H</b>
<b>PASS</b>	<b>3S</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>4S</b>
<b>ALL PASS</b>			

Most of the field in this pairs' competition arrived in 4S played by South in a similar auction. On the other hand, the results varied quite wildly: from 2 off to making with an overtrick. Why was this? West normally started DA, DK, DQ, which South ruffed in hand. Now it all looked pretty good: Declarer could afford one more loser if Spades were unfriendly, but given the good Clubs, the contract should then make. Those that failed, played for 3:3 trumps or the short SJ. They played 3 top trumps, but East showed out after 2. This meant that West had to make a trump trick and eventually come to HK. To guard against this, Declarer should run S9 at trick 4. If East can win SJ, trumps can be drawn and Clubs still run - 11 tricks. If West has the SJ, 10 tricks is still cold.