

April 29, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Late last week one of Australia's greatest bridge players, Roelof Smilde, passed away in Sydney. Many of my readers will be unfamiliar with his name or history. Not surprising – Roelof was 86 and stopped playing serious bridge nearly 30 years ago. However, his previous years had been marked with an incredible number of major successes in our game - many ANC and Gold Coast Congress Championships and more than a dozen national caps. Tim Seres, Denis Howard and Dick Cummings were frequent teammates – perhaps Australia's best ever line up. Our condolences go to his family. More information can be found on the ABF web-site.

Back in Brisbane, trials for our Seniors and Women's Queensland teams for this year's Nationals (July in Canberra) concluded at the QCBC. M. Carter/ T. Hutton led the Seniors all the way and will be joined by I. Afflick/ P. Collins and C. Miller/ P. Wyer while S. O'Brien/ M. Millar and M. Jakes/ A. Dawson virtually tied for first in the Women and will be joined by R. Glastonbury/ B. Hobdell (a fine Townsville pair).

On Tuesday, the QCBC hosted the Anzac Teams with a big strong field. A last round surge saw a narrow victory to Hutton/Carter with N. Francis/ M. Moren over R. Lachman/ B. Hunt and G. Belonogov/ E.Kowalczyk.

W Dealer, N/S Vul

	NORTH		
	♠ K3		
	♥ K84		
	♦ AK4		
	♣ AQ952		
WEST		EAST	
♠ J8742		♠ Q105	
♥ 52		♥ A	
♦ J9763		♦ Q852	
♣ 8		♣ J10743	
	SOUTH		
	♠ A96		
	♥ QJ109763		
	♦ 10		
	♣ K6		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	2NT	Pass	5H
Pass	6H	All Pass	

I have seen more scientific auctions than this one, but it did land in a fine spot though many in the field failed. Why? It looked too easy after West led C8 - a normal enough through strength lead. The plan if any, was to draw trumps, conceding HA and there would be at least 12 tricks left. Those who won the club and played a trump were quickly down. East won HA, returned a club and West ruffed.

If a contract seems too easy, look for a possible problem. Here it could only be a club ruff. Solution? Win CK, then at trick two, cash DA, then DK pitching C6. Now play trumps and ruff a club return with a high pip. Easy, but not all found it.