

May 13, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

For many Queensland players, the last fortnight presented several competition options – first the Barrier Reef Congress (BRC) in Yeppoon then, a week later, Hervey Bay’s annual open congress or further afield, the Autumn Nationals (ANOT) played in Adelaide. Most of our players decided the ‘city of churches’ might well be too cold, despite the event’s prestige and went north. The Yeppoon BRC – first time south of Mackay - was highly praised as reported last week.

Those of us who made the trip to Adelaide did find it cold – perhaps too cold – and the going was tough with no major prizes coming home. Winners of the 2017 Open Pairs were Leigh Gold/ Howard Melbourne, followed by Mike Doecke/ Bruce Neill and Philip Markey/ Liam Milne in third. Candice Ginsberg/ Barbara Travis won the Women’s Pairs from Felicity Smyth/ Judith Tobin with Sheila Bird/ Karen Creet in third. The Seniors Pairs was taken out by Nigel Rosendorff/ John Zollo ahead of Andrew Braithwaite/ Arjuna De Livera with third going to George Kozakos/ Michael Smart.

In the 2017 Autumn Nationals Open Teams, victors were P Gumby/A Kanetkar and W Lazer/B Neill ahead of T Chira/ L Ginnan and L Kelso/ S Yuen. In Hervey Bay, winners of the Pairs were S Brookes/ A Kelly ahead of D Quigley/ E French and the Teams was taken out by R Trollope/B Midgley with /P & V Maddigan over G Kellerman M William sand/M Balje /M Hoevenaars

S Dealer N/S Vul

	North		
	♠63		
	♥AK3		
	♦AK954		
	♣AQJ		
West		East	
♠QJ108		♠9742	
♥862		♥10954	
♦Q1082		♦6	
♣85		♣10642	
	South		
	♠AK5		
	♥QJ7		
	♦J73		
	♣K973		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1D	Pass	1C
Pass	6NT	All Pass	1NT

Today’s auction would not please all. Many would prefer an immediate jump shift response of 2D by North to South’s 1C opening. North is certainly more than strong enough in points but some, including me, would prefer a bigger diamond suit – in any case 1D is forcing and unlimited. It was a pairs contest and those who responded 2D frequently wound up in 6D for a poorer result than the 6NT, assuming both made.

Not all did. SQ was the normal lead. In our 6NT 11 tricks can be counted (2S,3H,2D and 4C). The other must come from diamonds. All is well if the suit breaks 3:2 or 4:1 with either DQ or D10 singleton – a good chance, but not today as many found when they trotted out DA and DK. No luck, now two tricks, and the contract, were lost. The 100% (excluding rare 5:0 breaks) safety play is to play one top diamond, then small towards DJ Try it.