

June 10, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last weekend, the Arana Bridge Club held an Open Congress. The Club was founded in 1986 by the great bridge traveller Judy Valentine, one of several she helped get going across Queensland. It progressed to an excellent clubhouse overlooking sporting fields. Saturday was an Imp Pairs which was won by N Francis/ M Perrin ahead of M Carter/ T Hutton then P Evans/ T Treloar. In B Grade victory went to L Ranke/ J Rohde while C Grade winners were G Boross/ G Ypinazar. Sunday's Teams winners overall were R Parker/ J Mills and R Wallace/ I Halford. Second was S O'Brien/ P Collins and T Bardon/ C Martin while third place went to P Roberts/ B Carroll with I & N Gibson. Winners of the B Grade were A Boyce/ J Jenkins with B Grade Pairs winners Rohde/ Ranke.

Meanwhile, very much north, the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships concluded in Seoul. No joy for the 6 Australian teams who competed in the various divisions. China won almost all divisions. In both the Open and Ladies, they were followed by Indonesia then Chinese Taipei. New Zealand were fourth in the Open and seventh in the Women's and those 2 placings were reversed for our teams. The other Australian teams generally finished midfield.

N Dealer N/S Vul

	North		
	♠AJ84		
	♥10942		
	♦1097		
	♣Q6		
West		East	
♠10753		♠-	
♥AKJ8		♥Q765	
♦J4		♦AK863	
♣A95		♣K843	
	South		
	♠KQ962		
	♥3		
	♦Q52		
	♣J1072		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	3H	Pass
6H	All Pass		

This hand from late in the Open Teams in Seoul saw almost half the field reaching an aggressive 6H while others lingered at safer levels below that. Half of those in 6H failed. How would you have gone with the SA lead? Way home is via a cross-ruff making eight trump tricks plus the minor AK's. Ruff SA, cash D AK and ruff D3 in hand. Now ruff S5, back to CA, ruff S7 and cash CK. That's eight tricks. Next trump D4 - never mind that it's high - with your HJ then ruff your last spade with dummy's remaining (also high) HQ. Poor South has had to under-ruff. Your hand, with ten tricks made is down to the trump H AK and C9. The opponents can fight over the last trick.