

July 08, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last Saturday, the Queensland Teams of Three was played at the QCBC. This event has teams made up of three novice players, each allocated an expert captain who plays one set with each novice – a good teaching exercise. A Grade victory went to I Halford with G & D Gibbards and A Thomson while B winners were C Green with B Dwyer, F Gillies and M Jermanus.

On Sunday, the major bridge was out of town. Quite a few went west to the Lockyer Club's annual Swiss Pairs at Laidley. Winners after a strong finish were T Hutton/ M Carter ahead of J Magee/ T Strong with J Evans/ L Moses in third. B Grade went to R Fulton/ L Sutton with D Le Good/ K Cohen in second place followed by R & N Kelley. Others followed the sun north to compete in the Noosa Winter Teams. Here victory went to S Andrew/ G King and A Pollock/ J Frazier who led most of the day. P Nilsson/ A Boyce, N Moore/ A Wanigaratne were second, then S Brookes/ K Dawson, V Brookes/ A Kelly in third. B Grade victory went to D Bendt, J Hope, P McNamee, P Wakeford while second were C Robinson, S O'Neill, P Hawkins, H French.

E Dealer All Vul

	North		
	♠KQ10		
	♥A6		
	♦KJ632		
	♣652		
West		East	
♠76532		♠4	
♥J10874		♥9532	
♦95		♦Q1074	
♣8		♣QJ93	
	South		
	♠AJ98		
	♥KQ		
	♦A8		
	♣AK1074		
West	North	East	South
Pass	4C	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	4NT
		All Pass	

Today's auction, after a 20-22 point 2NT opening by South saw North bid 4C (Gerber). This ace ask has fallen out of favour but is still used by some when partner has opened 1NT or 2NT. Probably wasted here since North knows the combined total is at least 33-35, not enough for a grand slam. HJ was the usual lead and appears to be easy if clubs are 3:2 (4S, 2H, 2D and 4C tricks). Some cashed CA and CK, got the bad news, then tried the diamond finesse and off they went. This is a good line, but not good enough. Much better at trick two, is to cash CA, then cross to SK to lead C5. If East plays low, insert C10, which here will win and you have your four club tricks. Should East insert CJ or CQ, cover. Here West shows out so cross back to SQ and lead C6. Whether East ducks or goes up with CJ, your club losers are restricted to one and again, you're home.