

August 05, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

This year's Australian National Championships (ANC) concluded last weekend at Thoroughbred Park in Canberra. Major events of the second week were the Butler Pairs which carry points towards later Australian team selection. Sadly, no Queensland pair finished near the top.

Back home, last Sunday at the local showgrounds the Darling Downs Bridge Club hosted its annual Swiss Pairs Congress directed by Chris Snook. A capacity field was attracted and the Championship was won comfortably by Brisbane's J & I Luck ahead of T O'Dempsey/ N MacLaurin then N Francis/ P Bugler. B Grade went to L Sutton/ R Fulton while C Grade winners were G Look/ S Crooke.

The Maryborough Bridge Club also held an open congress last weekend. Saturday's Pairs went to M Stoneman/ V Roland with minor placings to A Kelly/S Brookes then S Stevens/ P Gordon. Sunday's Teams champions were P Wang, M Ruttiman, J Cooper, R Roebbers. The Hawkins team took second place while third went to the Brookes team.

**W Dealer All Vul**

	<b>North</b>		
	♠ AQJ		
	♥ K10		
	♦ A864		
	♣ AKJ4		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠ 85		♠ 632	
♥ J963		♥ AQ8	
♦ KQJ105		♦ 972	
♣ 95		♣ Q1082	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ K10974		
	♥ 7542		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 763		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3C
Pass	3D	Pass	3S
Pass	4S		

In today's auction South's 3C was Stayman. North's 3D denied a major while South's 3S suggested five spades with a four card heart suit. Either way 4S became the contract. DK was led. Usual line was to try for heart ruffs in dummy. DA won, D4 was ruffed then H2 led to HK. East won HA and returned a trump won in dummy. H10 was played, won by the defence who sent back a second trump. Declarer won in hand but then could only get one heart ruff and now needed CQ onside. That finesse failed, as did the 4S contract, losing three hearts and CQ.

Winning line is a 'reverse dummy'. Win DA, ruff D4 and use CA and CK as entries to ruff D6 and D8. Then exit C7. The defence does best to return a trump, but declarer wins in dummy and ruffs its last club in hand with his last trump. That's eight tricks and dummy still has the two top trumps for ten tricks and the contract.