

August 12, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last Sunday the Sunnybank Bridge Club on Brisbane's south west fringe hosted its annual open Teams Congress. The club, one of our newer, seems to be going from strength to strength as is the congress, which attracted a very strong field. Number One seed, PERRIN (M. Perrin/ N. Francis, T. Hutton/ L. Carter) got off to a good start and then led all the way home. Second were C. Lu/ E. Li, C. Qin/ H. Chin then F. Whitaker/ M. Sykes, T. Tully/ P. Rankin. The McDonald team won the B Division while C Grade went to Byrnes.

Also on Sunday, this time north, the Sunshine Coast Club on Buderim's eastern side held its August Open Teams. Here the clear winners were T. Walford/ S. Hughes, A. Dunlop/ R. Rusk with minor placings going to D. Harris/ T. Ridley, L. Vachon/ R. Gyde then R. Perry/ R. Crowley, M. Jakes/ A. Dawson while B Division victory went to the Beckett team.

On Saturday, the Toowong Bridge Club – our largest – held its Club Championship. Winners were L. King/ H. Standfast, H. Clayton/ M. Sharp ahead of P. Schoen/ P. Hale, L. Moses/ J. Gough.

N Dealer E/W Vul

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | North | | |
| | ♠K8532 | | |
| | ♥6 | | |
| | ♦KQ92 | | |
| | ♣852 | | |
| West | | East | |
| ♠- | | ♠QJ964 | |
| ♥AK10874 | | ♥Q95 | |
| ♦J1086 | | ♦A4 | |
| ♣Q76 | | ♣AK3 | |
| | South | | |
| | ♠A107 | | |
| | ♥J32 | | |
| | ♦753 | | |
| | ♣10943 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 3H | Pass | 4C | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 5D | Pass |
| 6H | All Pass | | |

Today's hand helped John and Ivy Luck (E/W) to overall victory in the recent Darling Downs Open Swiss Pairs. Over East's (John's) strong 1NT, Ivy's 3H response was game forcing with slam interest. In their system, John's 4C and 5D and Ivy's 4S were all cues agreeing hearts and that was enough for Ivy – not known to be backward - to bid the slam. As North, seeing no other hand, what would you lead? Perhaps this time the Lucks were lucky! North chose to lead DK. DA won and after one trump round declarer played DJ losing to North's marked DQ. No return helped the defence and all that declarer now needed was to be able to ruff her remaining small diamond safely while keeping the now good D10 tucked away until all the trumps were drawn.

Most of the field stayed out of the slam. The one other pair in 6H went down after a neutral club lead. It can still be made, but it's a double-dummy line, not likely to be found at the table. Puzzle over it.

