

September 09, 2017
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last weekend the Queensland Contract Bridge Club hosted a state event, the Graded Pairs Championship. The event was won well (little luck needed) by Ivy and John Luck ahead of Neville Francis/ Murray Perrin with Jill Magee/ Terry Strong in third. B division victors were A Barry/ J Hay followed by W Gibson/ A Harburg and D & S Berns. A Scott/ J Hefferan won the C Grade with N Hinsch/ P Burke in second and J Vickers/ K Robson in third position.

Also last weekend the Yeppoon Bridge Club, fresh from its success hosting the Barrier Reef Congress for the first time, held its Open Pairs and Teams. Saturday's Pairs Championship was won by T Sheedy/ R Nolan ahead of M Saunders/ S Dwarshuis and R Lorraway/ J Dooner. Victory in Sunday's Teams went to M Allen, W Renton-Power, K Cupples, A Lohmann, most of whom had profited from the previous weekend's experience in the Queensland Open Teams. They pipped Lorraway/ Dooner with E & N Gibson via a strong finish. B Grade went to D & M Holewa, E Leivesley, J Conroy.

English player Victor Mollo is regarded as the king of writing amusing bridge stories. Many have tried, but none have matched him. However, a new release "If I Only Had a Heart" by Scottish authors A Adamson and H Smith featuring the Wizard of Oz characters, Dorothy, the Tinman and others goes close to the Mollo level. It's suitable for all but absolute beginners.

W Dealer, All Vul

	NORTH		
	a J972		
	© 63		
	.. AQ5		
	§ Q1086		
WEST		EAST	
a 6		a 4	
© KQ74		© AJ109852	
.. J862		.. K107	
§ J942		§ 75	
	SOUTH		
	a AKQ10853		
	© -		
	.. 943		
	§ AK3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	3H	4S
5H	5S	Pass	6S
All Pass			

Today's auction saw both sides 'push the boat out'. Who was right? It depended on how South played. HK was led and ruffed. Most played SA, C A, CK and CQ, hoping to drop CJ. No luck. Now they had to finesse DK. That failed as did the contract. Only a couple found the 100% line. Did you? The CJ finesse works here but what if it's wrong? Better is to cross in trumps at trick three then ruff dummy's second heart. Now a third round CJ finesse. Either way you're safe. If it wins, you have the required pitch of D3 on C10. If it loses poor East is endplayed, having to return a heart giving a ruff and discard, or a diamond around into D AQ. Either way you're safe. "- and the crowd cheered'.