

January 06, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

There is a tradition building up at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club. To celebrate the end of one year and the start of another the club hosts an open New Year's Eve Teams – hopefully one where finesses work more often, and suits break better (for you) e. It was great to see a big turnout this time – 18 teams of all standards turned up to enjoy a more light-hearted game than usual, aided by fancy caps and the odd glass of champers. When the music stopped - and the fireworks started to be heard – victory went to Chris and Carolyn Woolley with Paul Collins/ Sue O'Brien ahead of Toni Bardon/ Yolande Carter and Pam Schoen/ Peter Evans then Ralph and Sheila Parker with Ian Halford// Michelle Radke.

While he was not there it was great to hear that club president Ray Ellaway was home and on the way up from serious health problems. It was also pleasing to welcome former English Bridge Union chairman Denis Robson and his wife Val who teamed with one of our long-standing top pairs -Denis' brother Mike and Betty Lee.

W Dealer, All Vul

	NORTH		
	a KQJ94		
	© 84		
	.. QJ42		
	§ KQ		
WEST		EAST	
a 53		a A1082	
© KJ953		© 762	
.. A965		.. 10	
§ 65		§ 97432	
	SOUTH		
	a 76		
	© AQ10		
	.. K873		
	§ AJ108		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Today's hand saw one declarer come for advice– after his 3NT had failed. He said 'H5 was led and my H10 won.' ; I now had six tricks – 4C and 2H - and spades looked best for more. I played S7 to SK, but East won SA and shot back H7. My HQ lost to West's HK, H3 came back to my now bare HA. When S10 didn't fall I had to try diamonds but West won DA and his two heart winners saw me one off. If SA was onside or if East held DA I make easily, or if S10 dropped or hearts were 3:3. Was I unlucky?' ;Well, Yes.' I said, but there is a 100 % line wherever their two aces are.

At trick two, cross to CK and lead D2. If East has DA and goes up, you now have in that suit the extra three tricks required. If he ducks you win DK and, revert to spades. You get two more tricks there before the 'bad guys' hearts are setup. If West has DA a heart return, around into your H AQ will allow you to make 10or 11 tricks for a top – much better.