

January 20, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The Summer Festival of Bridge is now reaching completion at the ACT's Canberra Rex Hotel with the National Open Teams finals about to get underway. Major events of the first week were the National Seniors' and Women's Teams. The Seniors went to FREE (J. Free, K. Morrison, R. Klinger, P. Wyer, P. Lavings, R. Krochmalik) with a comfortable win over De Luca. In the Women's it was also a good win to BOURKE (M. Bourke, S. Lusk, J. Brake, J. Tutty) over Mundell. The other major also played was last Sunday's National Open Swiss Pairs. Here Queenslanders Therese Tully/ Richard Ward got their timing slightly wrong. Always close to the top in the big 200 pair field, they hit the lead with one round to go, had a small plus there but had to settle for third behind fast finishing C. Gower/ A. Apteker and S. Ashton/ D. Wiltshire.

Not everyone went to Canberra – back in town last Sunday The QCBC held an open Cross-imp Pairs. Here R. Parker/ J. Mills had a big win, ahead of M. Radke/ I. Halford then A. Smythe/C. Shoutrop.

W Dealer, Nil Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a 2		
	© AJ103		
	.. 6		
	§ KQ107632		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a J4		a KQ86	
© K4		© Q98	
.. AJ10932		.. Q95	
§ 854		§ AJ9	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a A109753		
	© 7652		
	.. K84		
	§		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
1NT	3C	3NT	Pass
Pass	4H	Dbl	Pass
4D	Pass	5D	Dbl(
All Pass			

Today's hand comes from Richard Ward (North) in the Pairs. EW seemed not to be confident of their system knowledge. The 1NT opening was unusual and showed 8-10 points, maybe unbalanced – as it was. Ward interposed 3C, then 3NT by East, passed back to Ward who was not done – he found 4H. This was doubled by East and might well make eight tricks – a good save against E/W's making 3NT – but no, West wasn't confident, and removed to 4D, raised to 5D by a probably infuriated East and doubled by South (Tully). On the CK lead N/S made six tricks (SA and a spade ruff, CQ and two club ruffs, and HA) for +800 – a lot better than a minus score in 4HX if East had trusted his partner and passed 4HX.