

March 10, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

With the Commonwealth Nations and Gold Coast tournaments wrapped up and visiting stars gone home, it's time to turn our attention back to Queensland events – and a couple are imminent. This weekend the Noosa club will host the state Mixed Teams Championship while a week later trials for the Queensland Open team (to represent in the Nationals, this year in Hobart) will commence at the QCBC. In a change to previous QBA policy, non-contending pairs will be allowed to compete in stage one (if multiple stages are required).

Meanwhile last weekend the Northern Suburbs Club hosted the first of two local rounds for the Brisbane zone in the qualifying process for entry to the Grand National Open Teams to be played later in the year. Winners at NSBC were G. Toon/ E.Kowalczyk and B. Luchjenbroers/ S. Mukherjee just ahead of I&J. Luck, R. Clayton/ A. Smith and M. Goodman who will advance to the Brisbane final. The QCBC had the other Brisbane round. Here victory went to J&P. Evans with P. Bugler/ T. Bardon half a point ahead of N&A. MacLaurin with P. Collins/S. O'Brien. They will also be Brisbane zone finalists.

N Dealer, All Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a 4		
	© AQ983		
	.. AKQ103		
	§ K9		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a AJ1032		a Q865	
© 10654		© K72	
.. 72		.. 94	
§ A8		§ 7654	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a K97		
	© J		
	.. J865		
	§ QJ1032		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
	<b>1H</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>1NT</b>
<b>Pass</b>	<b>3D</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>4D</b>
<b>Pass</b>	<b>5D</b>	<b>All Pass</b>	

Today's hand, from the quarter-finals of the Open Teams at the GCC, In a Daily Bulletin David Stern quoted late great Bobby Richman ' If I bid a new suit (naturally) at the three level you can assume I'm less than enthusiastic about 3NT' Bill Hirst must have subscribed to the view hence his 4D response to partner's 3D rebid despite fair holdings in the unbid suits. A trump was led. Declarer won, drew another and played clubs. West won CA and did well to cash SA immediately to hold 5D to 11 tricks. In the other room 3NT was reached – and quickly failed on a spade lead. It is often better to try for 9 tricks in 3NT – but, as here, not always.