

April 14, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The first of the two open team trials finals playoffs was played last weekend at the QCBC. Now, after six of the 11 twenty board matches, Paul Hooykaas/ Martin Doran have established a big lead and seem near certainties to top the field. The battle for the remaining two places to make the trip to the Nationals in Hobart is still fairly close with Nik Moore/ Larry Moses leading the way from Pam and Jim Evans then Paul Wyer/ Carmel Martin.

Meanwhile, for those not trialling, there was plenty of action elsewhere. The Caloundra Club held an open Graded Teams won well by Richard and Ryan Touton with Paul Collins/ O'Brien whose early big victory over top seeds Richard Ward/ Tony Hutton and Neville Francis/ Murray Perrin gave them a fine start. Ward pursued but had to settle for silver ahead of G. Olsen. M. Jakes with R. Trollope/ R. Crowley. The Tall team won B Grade while Delgado took the C honours. Others went west, up the range to the Toowoomba bridge club in its excellent garden surrounds.

Here, last Sunday the club hosted a Butler Pairs with a near capacity field under the direction of Chris Snook. Here, Adrian Mayers/ Byron Longford overcame a modest start to jump to the front and were afterwards never headed and went on to a fine win

W Dealer, Nil Vul

	NORTH		
	a J1065		
	© KQ72		
	.. Q10		
	§ 953		
WEST		EAST	
a AQ84		a 9732	
© A984		© -	
.. 52		.. A643	
§ K106		§ Q8742	
	SOUTH		
	a K		
	© J10653		
	.. KJ987		
	§ AJ		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C	1H	Dbl	4H
4S	All Pass		

Richard Ward sent me today's hand from the Caloundra event featuring the winning Touton team. Ryan was West. His 1C opening was bizarrely overcalled 1H (???) by North, Richard T doubled (negative), and both South and West, not unreasonably, found game bids, Ryan's 4S prevailing. HK was led, ruffed in dummy. S3 was pulled to SK and SA. H8 was now ruffed in dummy and CQ played, won by South's CA. He returned CJ – a diamond would have been much better - won in hand with CK, H9 ruffed in dummy and the now good C10 tabled. South couldn't trump so now over to DA and the C8 was next, Ryan throwing D2 from hand while North ruffed with a trump trick. North had to make one more trump from his remaining s J10. That made three for the defence but that was all. A little lucky but well done. Minor placings went to J. Wood/ J. Buckley then S.Wlodarczyk/ G. Elich while B winners were T. Dunne/ L. Meyers.