

May 19, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

With the gold-pointed Barrier Reef Congress starting Monday in Townsville many players in the South-East saw the Surfers Paradise Club's open Swiss Teams last Saturday as a great opportunity for a final warmup. It was, and a strong field competed. Victory went to the in-form lineup of Pele Rankin/Eileen LI and Martin Doran/Paul Hooykaas. Both pairs are shortly Hobart bound for this year's Nationals after success in our recent trials. Second at Surfers were C. Howard/ K. Wood with P. Collins/ S. O'Brien.

Now to the North. The Pairs Championship was not good for Queenslanders with all the major prizes going South – all to Victorians - probably after a last taste of warm weather for several months. M. Darling/ P. Hollands started nicely, soon took the lead, and went on to win well. A. Maluish – at least she learned her game here – and A. Mill chased hard, but had to settle for second, ahead of J. Heywood/ F. Vearing. With one session to go the Open Teams seems firmly again in Victorian hands – top seeds G. Lewin, G. Chettle, P. Hollands S. Hinge and L. Ginnan.

N Dealer, All Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a QJ		
	© QJ654		
	.. 92		
	§ 9543		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a K107		a 9862	
© 973		© 108	
.. j10865		.. AKQ4	
§ J10		§ K62	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a A543		
	© AK2		
	.. 73		
	§ AQ87		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
	Pass	1D	Dbl
3D	3H	Pass	4H(ends)

Today's hand, from the Surfers event was well played by Martin Doran. Most of the field stayed out of game, but Doran was the only declarer who attempted 4H to bring it home. East cashed DA and DK then led a trump. Declarer won HA and HK in dummy then over to HQ in hand (D8 from East), then ran SQ. This lost to SK in West who returned DJ. Declarer ruffed (C7 from dummy). Next he finessed CQ (it held) then S4 back to SJ. Now he held HQ and C954, East had S98, CK6 and South SA5, CA8 and West S10, DJ10, CJ. Martin now led HQ. East was gone. If he let go a spade, a club goes from dummy and that hand is high. If East, instead, pitches a club, dummy throws a spade – and again that hand is high. A lovely well played squeeze.