

June 09, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

There was plenty of major bridge action last weekend, and more about to happen. First the Arana Bridge Club, excellently located – on a hill-top in Brisbane’s north-west and surrounded by playing fields – held its annual open Congress. On Saturday it was Pairs, though with teams style scoring (rather than the usual match-point). Here there was a strong victory to Martin Doran/ Paul Hooykaas. Great to see them in fine form just ahead of next month’s Nationals in Hobart where they will lead our open team. Second went to M. Hoenig/ S. O’Brien then R. Ward/ T. Hutton. On Sunday it was teams. Here Ward/Hutton, with L&M. Carter struck back, and won well, ahead of M. Perrin/ N. Francis and J. Magee/ T. Strong then R&R. Touton with L. Moses/ N. Moore.

Much further west the Darling Downs Club held an open teams won well by P. Larsen/ M. Geldard and B. Longford/ E. Zeller then the Wippell and Buckley teams. This weekend the QCBC will host the Queensland Butler Pairs while, in Melbourne, the Victor Champion Congress has some of us making the trip down.

E Dealer, N/S Vul

		NORTH		
		♠ Q72		
		♥ KQ1053		
		♦ J965		
		♣ 5		
WEST			EAST	
♠ KJ9			♠ 654	
♥ 8764			♥ J92	
♦ KQ1042			♦ 873	
♣ 8			♣ J1074	
		SOUTH		
		♠ A1083		
		♥ A		
		♦ A		
		♣ AKQ9632		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
**	**	Pass	2C	
2D	2H	Pass	3C	
Pass	3NT	Pass	6C (all pass)	

Life can be cruel - today’s hand illustrates. Holding the South hand recently I had no qualms about opening a game forcing 2C. Only 21 high card points but, by my count, 10 tricks. When partner found 2H over East’s 2D interpose, then 3NT over my 3C, a shot at 6C seemed right. West led H7 and all looked well – surely SK was with West for his interpose, so SQ would give entry later and my spade losers could go on his HK and HQ. DA won in hand, then CA and CK. Rude word!! Then, against the odds 4:1 break meant a loser there - one off as SK still had to be lost. Things got worse – on the way out a rival asked ‘Did you bid the grand on board two?’ ‘What grand?’ I replied, ‘we were one off in 6C?’ He grinned “7H is cold, and even 6S makes.’ He was right but hurried away before telling me what they’d bid.