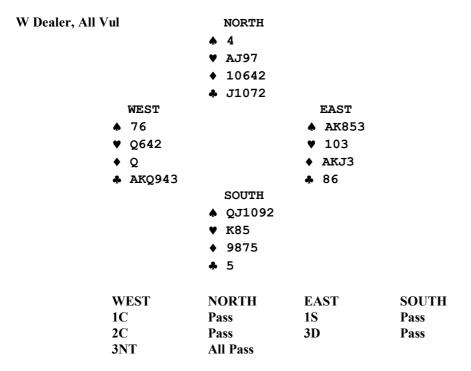
Last Sunday, the Toowong Bridge Club hosted an open IMP Pairs with a Restricted section alongside. IMP (International Match Point) is a form or scoring at pairs more like teams scoring where the size of the difference between scores is crucial as opposed to the fact of a difference. In normal club scoring, if you scored 120 (2NT) while all the rest toiled in 3D for 110, you would get a big top score. At teams scoring your 120 against 110 is a 'flat' result. Mind you, if your 120 had been 600 your score in a teams encounter would have been massive (big difference) while in club pairs you would still get the top score – the size didn't matter.

At Toowong, a strong victory went to top seeds Neville Francis/ Tony Hutton. Good to see them in form coming up to the Nationals in Hobart later this month. Geoff Toon/ Terry Strong took second ahead of Ken Dawson /Richard Trollope. B grade victory went to P. Nilsson/ L.Skeate while B. Kent/ N. Strutton were C winners. In the Restricted, K. Hamilton –Reen/ M. Simon won gold ahead of C. Caton/ T. Henderson.



Sometimes the wind is with you. Today's hand, from late in the Toowong event, saw Francis (West) become declarer in 3NT. North had to choose a lead. He concluded that West had shown heart stop(s) and that suit would be better led by South – so led a diamond (through strength). It might have secured a great top – but he failed on the next trick. Francis won DQ, saw nine tricks but, suspecting a bad club break and, if so, without then an entry back, decided to play a low club as a safety play. North – not seeing this as a last chance, followed C3 andC8 won in dummy. After some surprised head shaking, Neville now had 12 tricks (2S, 4D, 6C) for a big swing. South was too polite to say 'Partner, had you won C10 and found the heart switch we would have downed an unbeatable contract1' – Ah well.