

July 06, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last Sunday, the Toowong Bridge Club hosted an open IMP Pairs with a Restricted section alongside. IMP (International Match Point) is a form of 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.

**W Dealer, All Vul**

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	♠ 4		
	♥ AJ97		
	♦ 10642		
	♣ J1072		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ 76		♠ AK853	
♥ Q642		♥ 103	
♦ Q		♦ AKJ3	
♣ AKQ943		♣ 86	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	♠ QJ1092		
	♥ K85		
	♦ 9875		
	♣ 5		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	3D	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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 and C8 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 contract' – Ah well.