

August 26, 2018

Bridge by Richard Ward

For many decades Tony Jackman has been a leading light in the world of Australian bridge. His stellar playing and administration record speaks for itself. It is an honour to be asked to take up this column where he left off. These are big shoes to fill. Vale Tony Jackman 1938-2018 R.I.P. You will be missed.

The World Youth Teams Championships have concluded in Wujiang, China with the Australian Juniors Team (Renee Cooper – Francesca McGrath, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson, Tomer Libman, Andrew Spooner, Michael Doecke (npc) – finishing 10th in a field of 21 teams. They started slowly with 5 losses in their first 6 matches, but then lost only 3 more for the rest of the event – a respectable win-loss ratio of 13-8.

Encouraging youth players (ie under-25's) to take up this enthralling game is sometimes problematic, but this year we have seen some encouraging signs with a group regularly attending classes, tuition, games and pizza dinner - all for free - at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, 67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba every Friday from 6.30pm – 9pm. For more details contact Paul Brake on 0490 117 482.

Meanwhile, around the state:

In **Cairns**, Bill Bishop - Bruce Bowden won the Cassowary Coast Pairs ahead of Jane and Rick Gryg with John Evans - Eve Dodds and Sue Reilly - Joe Gillis winning the B and C sections respectively; At **Northern Suburbs**, Ewa Kowalczyk - Geoff Toon won from Andy Slater - Ken Dawson with Andrew Gosney - Chris Larter and Daria Williams - Ross Murtagh taking out the B and C sections respectively; and, in **Redcliffe**, Jill Magee - Terry Strong were 1st with Dorothy Gehrke - Errol Miller 2nd and Tony Bowmaker - Ted Morriss and Keith Cohen - David Rubin leading in B and C respectively.

Current Australian Youth Team member, Matt Smith, timed this hand to perfection using a dummy reversal when many other declarers in the Canberra 2017 Youth Interstate Teams event failed to make their 4♠ contract - reached after a 1NT opening and a transfer sequence..

S/Nil	♠ Q 10 9 7 3	
	♥ K 4	
	♦ 8 6 5 2	
	♣ A 10	
♠ 6 5		♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 8 2		♥ Q 9 7 6 5
♦ A J 10 7		♦ Q 9
♣ K 9 8 3		♣ Q J 6
	♠ A K J	
	♥ A J 3	
	♦ K 4 3	
	♣ 7 5 4 2	

West led the ♥8 and Smith made the counter-intuitive play of the ♥K. Then he cashed the ♣A, finessed to the ♥J and threw the ♣10 on the ♥A. He was now able to score three club ruffs with the ♠Q-10-9, three trump tricks with the ♠A-K-J, three hearts and a club for ten tricks. If he had let the heart lead run to the jack at trick one, the timing would be gone for the three club ruffs in dummy. As expert NSW and former Queenslander Paul Lavings reported, Smith's line succeeds when the heart finesse wins (by no means a certainty), hearts are no worse than 5-3 and the trumps break 3-2.
