

September 1, 2018

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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If you are looking for a new interest and have never tried bridge, why not sign up for some lessons and give it a go? See [qldbridge.com.au](http://qldbridge.com.au) to find your nearest bridge club. There is no reason why people of all ages cannot participate. The beauty of this game is that you can start playing with no experience at all and no partner initially. Then, before you know it, you will be seduced by one of the best games on offer and you will have joined the welcoming bridge community.

The Queensland Open Teams Championships was held at the Toowong Bridge Club last weekend. Players from across the state travelled long distances to participate, thanks to travel subsidies provided by the Queensland Bridge Association. The event was ably directed by Jan Peach with convenor, Caroline Nelson, assisting.

The top three seeds, HOOYKAAS, MOREN and TULLY hit the lead early and there was never any doubt that one of these would take the title. HOOYKAAS (Paul Hooykaas/Martin Doran, Peter Evans/Tony Treloar) led for most of the event but slipped near the end. TULLY (Therese Tully/Richard Wallis, Lindy Vincent/Richard Ward) were always 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, but it was MOREN who, with a big final round, slipped past TULLY to take the title. So congratulations to the 2018 Queensland Teams Champions Jill Magee/Terry Strong and Magnus Moren/Neville Francis.

Winners of the B section were Dorothy Gehrke/ Errol Miller/Lex Ranke/Jack Rohde whilst the regional team winner came from Mackay - Noel Bugeia/Monica Darley/ Ian Afflick/ Janeen Solomon.

It has been said that bridge, like old age, is not for the faint-hearted. Non-bridge players would be surprised to learn just what an intensely competitive and intellectually stimulating game it is. It is also a game of mistakes, where the winners are those who make the least. Not all mistakes however lead to poor results. The hand below from the critical HOOYKAAS-TULLY encounter illustrates this. HOOYKAAS was ahead in the match when this came along.

W/NS	♠ K 10 9 7 5 2		
	♥ A 10 5 4		
	♦ A 10		
	♣ 6		
♠ 6 3		♠ A Q J 8 4	
♥ 8 7		♥ -	
♦ Q J 9 7 4		♦ 8 6 5 2	
♣ K 9 7 2		♣ Q J 10 3	
	♠ -		
	♥ K Q J 9 6 3 2		
	♦ K 3		
	♣ A 8 5 4		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1S	pass	2H
pass	4C	pass	5S
pass	6H	DBL	RDBL
all pass			

4C is a 'splinter' bid – showing four-card heart support and shortage in clubs. 5S was intended as 'exclusion' Blackwood, a conventional bid asking for the number of key cards outside the spade suit. The correct response in their system should have been 6D showing two key cards without the HQ but North, fearing that something may have gone amiss with the bidding, decided to simply sign-off in the small slam. South, who would have bid 7H with the correct response, was planning to pass when East decided to direct an opening spade lead from partner by doubling. The redouble meant that South confidently expected to make the contract. 13 winning tricks later and a score of +2470 meant a 14 imp pick-up as, at the other table, North-South stopped in the small slam. This was not quite enough for TULLY as HOOYKAAS went on to win this match by just 5 imps.