

February 04, 2017  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last weekend, the fledgling but prosperous Kenmore Bridge Club, hopefully well on their way to acquiring premises of their own, held its first Open events for 2017. On Saturday, they hosted an Open Pairs, with a Novice event running parallel. The Pairs Championship was won in good style by Peter Evans/John Kelly ahead of Richard Ward/Neville Francis then Ian Afflick/Alan Gibson in third position. The Plate was won by S Burden/S Elworthy. The Novice Championship was won by U Suliman/S Parkes.

Sunday saw capacity fields for the Open and Novice Teams. The Teams' title was won convincingly by Tully (Therese Tully, Richard Ward, Neville Francis, Magnus Moren), well clear of Afflick (I Afflick, A Gibson, P Collins, S O'Brien) and Hale (P Hale, P Schoen, L Moses, J Gough). The Plate was won by Boyce (A Boyce, J Jenkins, P & D Nilsson). In the Novice Championship, the Byrnes team (A Byrnes, P Taylor, U Suliman, S Parkes) took honors while the Allingham team (P Allingham, D Gould, A & S Sharp) won the Plate.

This weekend the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club will host the first Queensland title of 2017, the QBA Senior Teams.

<b>N Dealer, Nil Vul</b>		<b>NORTH</b>			
		♠Q863			
		♥AQ			
		♦8653			
		♣KQ6			
<b>WEST</b>				<b>EAST</b>	
♠A52				♠K	
♥10853				♥J92	
♦109				♦J742	
♣10872				♣AJ943	
		<b>SOUTH</b>			
		♠J10974			
		♥K764			
		♦AKQ			
		♣5			
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	<b>1D</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>1S</b>		
<b>PASS</b>	<b>2S</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>4S</b>		
<b>ALL PASS</b>					

Today's hand looks too straightforward to be worth reporting. A simple sequence finds the spade fit and gets to 4S, with the most common lead being D10. It seemed to most declarers that there are 3 top losers: SA, SK & CA, and many were right. But not all. Those who didn't look deeper found themselves in trouble. They won DA and lost a spade to East's SK. Back came D2 (suit preference), declarer won DK, but West then took SA and sent C2 to partner's CA. Back came D7, ruffed with West's last trump and 4S was one off.

Had declarer suspected the diamond shortage lead, defeat could have been avoided by leading a club at trick 2. East wins CA, returns a diamond won by DK and declarer's DQ can be pitched on dummy's winning CQ and the defence's 3rd round of diamond's can be ruffed high in hand, seeing the contract home.