

February 18, 2017
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Bridge in Queensland owes a tremendous amount to Judy Valentine and her insurance agent husband David. The couple spent much of the 60s and 70s based in a number of Queensland country towns where Judy was always on the lookout for a game of bridge. As a result, she became instrumental in starting clubs in many of these towns. By the early 80s they had returned to Brisbane and Judy, now an established player in her own right, had a significant role in starting the Arana Bridge Club. Initially small, over the years it has become a large establishment and is the major shareholder of substantial premises with the local junior cricket club and AFL clubs.

Last weekend, Arana held its annual Swiss Teams' congress. Given this event immediately precedes the Gold Coast Congress, Arana always attracts a capacity field of high standard as players seize their last chance for strong practice. No different this year, with Richard Ward/Tony Hutton/Magnus Moren/Neville Francis taking the title in great style. I Afflick/P Collins/M Millar/S O'Brien took second ahead of R Parker/J Mills/I Luck/J Luck. The Shardlow team won B Grade and Sullivan won the C Grade.

Also last Sunday, the Warwick Bridge Club held its annual Open Swiss Pairs. Here, the trip from Brisbane was well worth it for QBA Vice President Jim Evans and his wife Pamela, who won the title by less than an imp from D Mundell/J Erlandson, then G Elich/J Elich, who also took out B Grade.

E Dealer NS Vul		North		
		♠7		
		♥532		
		♦742		
		♣K108652		
West			East	
♠62			♠KJ10953	
♥976			♥8	
♦983			♦QJ105	
♣J9743			♣AQ	
		South		
		♠AQ84		
		♥AKQJ104		
		♦AK6		
		♣-		
West	North	East	South	
		1S	dbl	
PASS	2C	PASS	2H	
PASS	3H	PASS	6H	
ALL PASS				

In today's bidding, South's double then 2H shows a much stronger hand than a simple 2H overcall, causing North to value his singleton spade highly, and a brave 6H was reached. S6 was the usual lead, won by SQ, then declarer threw D2 on SA and led S4. But West could ruff, then lead a trump. South won, cashed DA and DK and ruffed D6, then returned to hand via a club ruff to lead S8, which West was able to ruff with her remaining H9 and the contract failed. Winning line is to ruff S4, return to DA and lead S8. If West ruffs, South discards a diamond from dummy and later can ruff his losing diamond, and his slam rolls home.