

April 15, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

'The King is dead – long live the King' – not quite, but in bridge terms it feels that way. Long serving Queensland Bridge Association President Keith McDonald decided to stand down at last week's AGM after an excellent 30 years' tenure during which our game grew in number of clubs and members. His long service was honoured by unanimous election as a QBA life member. New King is Richard Wallace who in fact did a short term many years back. Richard is one of our leading players, long time committee member and former President of the Brisbane Bridge Centre. Another President who has recently stood down at their club's (Northern Suburbs) AGM is Elizabeth Gibson. She has done an excellent job and seen her club prosper and expand. Her successor is Diana Dick who has served that club and Toowong Bridge Club in many roles, notably teaching, over a long period.

The Seniors and Women's Trials are now underway at the QCBC and nearing completion. In the Seniors, Malcolm Carter/Tony Hutton are well in front and near certainties as are Sue O'Brien/Margaret Millar. In both cases, several pairs are close in the fight for the last 2 team places

N Dealer All Vul

	North		
	♠1062		
	♥A842		
	♦J85		
	♣743		
West		East	
♠4		♠AQ3	
♥108		♥J73	
♦AKQ1092		♦7643	
♣A862		♣J95	
	South		
	♠KJ9875		
	♥KQ95		
	♦-		
	♣KQ10		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1S
2D	Pass	Pass	2S
3D	3S	4D	4S
5D	Pass	Pass	5S (ends)

Who was right in the bidding for this hand? Both sides started slowly and when they found a fit, both pressed on. In fact, 5D was the par contract doubled, it makes 9 tricks for -500. Whereas N/S can make either 4S or 4H (+620). Here some Souths liked their hands too much and pressed on to 5S, all but one failing, after the DA was led. Because there was only one immediate entry to dummy (HA), Declarer usually had to lose 1 club and 2 spades. After crossing to HA and leading S10, it was reasonably clear to East to rise SA and now Declarer can't get to dummy to finesse SQ.

The successful Declarer, after crossing to HA at trick 2 casually called for the S6. East wasn't alert enough to rise SA, Declarer had all the pips and ran S6 successfully. Now another spade enabled SQ to be caught now or later, meaning only 1 spade loser. Later, given SA was with East, Declarer easily placed CA with West and was able to cross with the fourth heart to finesse SJ. When that held, he was home.