Bridge with Richard Ward

NORTH W/ ALL VUL/ TEAMS ♠ AK5 ♥ J1073 A 10 9 6 3 **.** 8 [L Skeate] **WEST EAST** ♠ QJ10 ♠ 8432 KQ62 **9** ♦ KJ5 Q74 **4** 432 ♣ QJ975 SOUTH ♠ 976 A 8 5 4 8 2 ♣ AK106 [P Hale]

The Australian National Championships Interstate Teams in Adelaide finished yesterday – results next week. Playing in the Queensland Open team for the very first time, Phil Hale partnered by Laurie Skeate showed great technique to bring home this four heart contract which was beyond most of the other experts. They lost their way when they tried to combine their chances of bringing home some extra diamond tricks whilst drawing trumps as well. This all came unstuck with the cruel trump break The winning Hale line was really quite simple though it still needed a little luck. On the opening queen of spades lead he did not play any trumps at all. He cashed his four black suit winners, pitching dummy's losing spade, and ruffed a spade. Then he exited with ace and another diamond won by West who sent back a top heart. When the nine of hearts appeared and diamonds broke evenly declarer had made two spades, two hearts, one diamond, two clubs and three ruffs = 10.well-earned tricks.

TOWNSVILLE CONGRESS: [Directors – Geoff Allen, Leigh Owens, Jan Smith] **PAIRS** 1 Pat Leighton / Robyn Nolan; 2 Pat Larsen / Bill Bishop; **B** 1 Charlie Georgees / Russell Woolley; 2 Anto Wilson / Reg Burton; **C** 1 Sharon Morley / Ann Barron; 2 Robert Mischlewski / Fred Cole; **TEAMS** 1 Leigh Owens / Jan Smith / Ched Twyman / Albert Beric / John Larkin; 2 Terrence Sheedy / Janelle Conroy / Diane & Max Holewa; **B** 1 Dusk Care / Kay Goodwin / Joan Elliott / Robyn Nolan; 2 Russell Woolley / Charlie Georgees / John Tredrea / Helen Lovegrove

The Novice Teams-of-3 for players with 0-50 masterpoints will be held at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, Woolloongabba on Saturday 23 July from 12 noon. Individuals, pairs or three players can enter and teams will be arranged so as to have an experienced player as captain. Enter through the QCBC website.