

January 20, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

Australia will be sending four teams to the World Bridge Games in Argentina in October. The Open and Mixed teams play-offs were held last month and the Women's and Seniors were decided in Canberra last week. **WOMEN'S** Ella Jacob, Jenny Thompson, Renee Cooper, Jane Reynolds; **SENIORS** Gabi Lorentz, Stephen Burgess, Paul Lavings, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera, Paul Lavings, Robert Krochmalik. Also at the Summer Festival of Bridge, the Gold Coast's Sonya and Shane Palfreyman triumphed over more than fifty pairs in the 500/750 Swiss Pairs.

NORTH		S/ EW VUL/ TEAMS
♠	A J 5	
♥	9 7	
♦	A J 10 8 6 5	
♣	8 6	
WEST		EAST
♠	10 8 4 2	♠ K 7 6 3
♥	K 8 3	♥ Q J 10 6 4
♦	3	♦ K 7 4
♣	Q 10 9 4 2	♣ 7
SOUTH		
♠	Q 9	
♥	A 5 2	
♦	Q 9 2	
♣	A K J 5 3	

In a club teams match South opened a strong 1NT and was raised directly to 3NT. There is a defensive theory that, if the opponents do not check for a major suit fit then it is often best to make an aggressive major suit lead. It seems that the West players at both tables had been reading the same book as both chose to lead the two of spades rather than a fourth-highest club. Finding the killing heart lead was a bridge (sic) too far however. The Table 1 declarer played low from dummy so East won the king and, seeing no future in spades, switched to the queen of hearts. When the diamond finesse lost a few tricks later, that was down two. At the other table, the declarer began by counting his tricks – a useful New Year resolution. There were two aces and two clubs, so just five diamond tricks were needed – only impossible if diamonds were 4-0 with the king offside. So, the ace of spades won the first trick, then the ace of clubs and the nine of diamonds was run. Although the finesse lost, as at the other table, declarer now had enough tricks to cash.

QUEENSLAND CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB GRADED PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Margaret Millar / Neville Francis; 2 Tony Treloar / Graham Rusher; **B** 1 Chris Hill / Barry Koster; 2 Annette Hogan / Sally Hall; **NOVICE** 1 Louise & Stephen Bennett; 2 Peter Fagan / Kerry Barridge,
