

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

Much of the serious bridge last weekend was out of town. The Noosa Bridge Club, on behalf of the state body, hosted the Queensland Mixed Teams Championship under the direction of Peter Busch. Top seeded team of N Francis, T Hutton, J Magee, T Strong got off to a slow start, but on Sunday pushed up to the top of the field only to be overtaken towards the finish by C Lu, W Zhou, E Li, P Chang, who pipped them at the post, winning by 1 IMP. C McDonald, P Tall, J Bell, V Laws took 3rd position. In the B Grade, victory went to R Fox, R Clark, E Zeller, E Mander, with P Nilsson, E Nilsson, A Boyce, J Jenkins in 2nd position and R Thomas, C Baynes, P McNamee, P Wakeford in 3rd.

Those who weren't mixed enough, went out to Dalby for their annual Congress. Saturday was their Swiss Pairs and this was won in a close finish by D Moran/J Rose over B Longford/P Larsen with D Hartwig/C Snook taking bronze. Winners in the B Grade were K Hayes/S Price ahead of V Robbins/P Robbins. The Dalby Swiss Teams was played on Sunday with victory going to L Sutton, R Fulton, L-M McRoberts, J Briggs ahead of A Mayers, H Eastment, B Longford, P Larsen with third taken by L Moses, P Bugler, P Hale, P Schoen.

Trials for the State Open team begin this weekend.

S Dealer EW Vul

	North		
	♠AQ42		
	♥QJ7654		
	♦Q		
	♣K8		
West		East	
♠10653		♠K98	
♥2		♥K109	
♦K542		♦876	
♣9732		♣Q1064	
	South		
	♠J7		
	♥A83		
	♦AJ1093		
	♣AJ5		
West	North	East	South
			1NT
P	2D	P	2H
P	5H	P	6H
A			

Today's hand saw one pair reach an adventurous slam. North's 2D was a transfer, South duly bid 2H, North felt he was worth an invite, and bid 5H. South, with 3 aces and a good diamond suit, took the push. There were others in the slam, but most failed. Our declarer got S6 led – unlikely from the SK - and things looked difficult. He decided to win SA and then test hearts. HQ was led, which held. But the second heart lead revealed East had a trick. Declarer now took another line, leading DQ to DA and followed D9 throwing S2. This held. DJ was continued, covered and ruffed, now CK back to CJ and CA pitching S4 from dummy. D10 was now played with SQ away and while East can ruff, this will be his last and the only trick for the defence.