

April 22, 2017

Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

As ever, despite the great exodus from town over the Easter break, there were more than enough bridge players remaining for the Brisbane Bridge Centre's Easter Congress to have entries closed well in advance. The Pairs' Championship on Sunday saw Neville Francis/Murray Perrin get off to a great first round and basically continue to lead strongly all the way to win convincingly. Minor places were tighter, with Tony Hutton/Malcolm Carter second, just ahead of Robyn Clayton/Alan Smith. In B Grade, the winners were M Fawcett/L Tracey while J Price/R Spelman won C Grade.

Teams' Championship was played on Easter Monday with top seeds R Parker/John Mills/N Francis/M Perrin vying for the lead throughout but always under challenge by M Hoenig/L Carter/M Carter/T Hutton who eventually cleared away to a good win. Third place went to J Butts/M Doran/P Rankin/T Tully. B Grade was won by A Jonsberg/E Jonsberg/C Larter/J Lahey ahead of J Jenkins/L Norman/R Murtagh/M Knox. C Grade winners were J Price/R Spelman/M Fawcett/L Tracey, with N Hirsch/P Burke/P Burke/B Tolstrup taking second place.

On Tuesday, QCBC will host its annual Anzac Day Teams event, it may not be too late to enter – say 'please'.

W Dealer All Vul

	North		
	♠102		
	♥104		
	♦AKQ842		
	♣AK9		
West		East	
♠983		♠J4	
♥AK753		♥QJ62	
♦653		♦1097	
♣76		♣10532	
	South		
	♠AKQ765		
	♥98		
	♦J		
	♣QJ84		
West	North	East	South
P	1D	P	1S
P	3D	P	3S
P	4C	P	5S
All Pass			

Today's hand from the Gold Coast Congress Pairs was described by Barry Rigal and featured top Queensland pair Neville Francis/Magnus Moren (previous winners) in action. Their bidding was slightly different to the fairly normal auction shown and they wound up in 6NT S (I'm not sure how) doubled by W. Moren (N) guessed from the double they were either off 2 aces or perhaps the HAK. If 2 aces, nothing can be done. But if the HAK, perhaps another contract might be better, so he bid 7D. East found the club lead, not a heart and Moren had the first 16 tricks.

The lesson – if opponents are in a slam you know you can beat, think twice before doubling.