

August 26, 2017  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Major events last weekend were out of Brisbane. The Redcliffe Bridge Club had its annual Open Pairs last Sunday with Peter Busch directing and an excellent field of 42 pairs. Top seeds Malcolm Carter/ Tony Hutton overcame a poor start to take the lead quickly and were then never caught. Second were Alan Smith/ Robyn Clayton with Gregory Gosney/ Margaret Plunkett in third. B Grade winners were T Morriss/ J Doyle ahead of M Clibbon/ B Johnman and A Byrnes/ S Parkes.

Meanwhile the Surfers Paradise Club held its August Congress directed by Trevor Strickland. Saturday's Pairs were won by Charles Howard/ Kerry Wood then Murray Perrin/ Neville Francis and Carter/ Hutton in third. K Donaldson/ B Borrell won B Grade whilst C Grade victors were G Panton/ A Grimsdale. Sunday's Team's champions were A & S Braithwaite with A & S Richman who finished nicely ahead of M Perrin/ N Francis with R Ward/ T Tully then G & C Wilkinson with B Greenwood/ P Andrews in third. B Grade went to S Robinson/ A Christie and J Sear/ J Swanson.

At the time of writing, the World Championships being played in Lyon are down to the finals. In the Open, it's France v USA2, in the Women England v China while the Seniors final is Sweden v Italy. Australia's Seniors did well to make the Senior's Quarter Finals while the NZ Open Team did even better to make their Semis. Back at home this weekend the Toowong Bridge Club will host the Queensland Open Teams Championships.

**W Dealer E/W Vul**

	<b>North</b>		
	♠KJ962		
	♥874		
	♦Q		
	♣8543		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠AQ7		♠108	
♥KJ106		♥A5	
♦K9543		♦AJ8762	
♣J		♣AQ6	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠543		
	♥Q832		
	♦10		
	♣K10972		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1D	Pass	3D	Pass
4D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5H	Pass	5NT	Pass
6D	Pass	7D	All Pass

The pair who bid this hand were certainly aggressive. East's 3D was game forcing, West's 4D, stronger than an immediate 5D, showed some interest, and East's 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood. The 5H response showed two (here SA and DK) while the 6D response to 5NT revealed only one (non-trump) king. Probably 6D should have sufficed but our East thought a top was needed – so, 7D. Was he right? Certainly our declarer could not be convinced otherwise, as he rolled home when North elected a heart lead allowing the grand slam to make, as, here so would a spade lead. Against a confidently bid grand, a trump lead is often best. Here it would have left declarer still guessing