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 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

This year's world bridge championships concluded last weekend in Lyon, France. The Open (Bermuda Bowl) saw a spine tingling final with USA2 just pipping France at the post. Our Kiwi cousins did very well to make the last four but then lost the playoff for bronze to Bulgaria. In the Women's (Venice Cup) China won well over England while the Seniors (d'Orsi Trophy) saw USA2 take that gold against Italy. Our seniors made their quarter final while our Open and Women dropped back after fair starts.

Back at home last weekend the Queensland Open Teams Championship was played at the Toowong Bridge Club. A number of leading regional teams – those further away helped by a subsidy from the state body - took part. Most found the teams from the south-east a bit too strong but enjoyed, and profited by the competition. Top seeds N. Francis/ M. Moren and M.Carter/ T. Hutton won well, ahead of L. Vincent/ R. Ward and T. Tully/ R. Wallis then M. Doran/ L. Carter and T. Strong/ J. Magee.. Toowoomba's Snook team won the Plate which meant that Cairns' Hooper team were awarded the country team award.

E Dealer NIL Vul

North

♠ K
 ♥ K1052
 ♦ AKQ72
 ♣ AJ4

West

♠
 QJ1062
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ J8
 ♣ K87

East

♠ 9874
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 10654
 ♣ 10932

South

♠ A53
 ♥ Q9876
 ♦ 93
 ♣ Q65

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1S	Dbl	3S	4H
Pass	4NT	Pass	5D
Pass	6 H	All Pass	

Today's hand comes from the Cavendish million-dollar tournament in Las Vegas some time back. East's 3S raise was preemptive and West's opening placed almost all E/W points with him. Most declarers won SK after SQ was led, then led H2 to HQ. One West, after winning HA, found the great return of DJ. This locked declarer in dummy and when HK didn't drop HJ, the slam failed. Best line is to cash D AK before leading H2. It's a small risk – it needs the suit to break 5:2 or better – but sees you home when West is endplayed after he takes HA. Declarer wins any return in hand. then can finesse West for HJ playing East to have had a singleton given his very weak raise.