

January 13, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The end of a year in bridge in this country is usually marked by the announcement of the annual master-point awards. Leading the national list – and winner of the McCutcheon Trophy was Sydney's Warren Lazer with 469 mps. He edged out, by one point, his long-time partner Pauline Gumby. Congratulations to both – they have been both excellent and consistent. Queensland awards – the James O'Sullivan – are made at various level. Long our leading player, Neville Francis, once again won the O'Sullivan with 365, nicely clear of Tony Hutton. The next level (Grand Master) went to Malcolm Carter (238) ahead of Andy Hung.

First open event for 2018 was last Sunday's Swiss Teams at the Gold Coast Club. Here, overall winners were Richard Ward// Therese Tully and Jill Magee/ Terry Strong ahead of E&T. Berger with K. Johnson/ L. Steinwedel then C. Howard/ K. Wood with I&J. Luck The Summer Nationals are now underway in Canberra – Good luck to the many Queenslanders who have made the trip.

E Dealer, E/W Vul

	NORTH		
	a Q10		
	© AJ		
	.. AK732		
	§ KJ87		
WEST		EAST	
a 84		a 653	
© Q1095		© 64	
.. Q105		.. 9864	
§ Q1043		§ A965	
	SOUTH		
	a AKJ972		
	© K8732		
	.. J		
	§ 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	1S
Pass	2D	Pass	2H
Pass	3C	Pass	3S
Pass	???		

Today's hand saw many different auctions and resultant contracts at a recent club game. All the field played in NT, about half in three, most of the rest found their way to 6NT, almost all failing. I like the auction shown where South elected to rebid 3S rather than the 3H others found. This does show at least a five-card suit – but it's a poor one. The 3S rebid shows a six-card suit and should now see North Blackwooding and settling in 6S. 6NT can make, given HQ, CQ and CA are favourably placed but 6S is easier. A trump lead makes it tougher – without it, two heart ruffs in dummy see you home not needing the HQ finesse, but it is on if required should a trump be led.