

January 27, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The concluding major, event of the 2018 Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra was the National Open Teams Championship. The event started a week back with a series of qualifying rounds that reduced the big field to semi's on Saturday. Here, top qualifier KANETKAR (A. Kanetkar, B. Neill, W. Lazer, P.Gumby, D. DeLivera, A. Braithwaite) beat COURTNEY and CORNELL (M. Cornell, A. Bach, M. Whibley, M. Brown, T. Leibowitz, D. Beauchamp) were too good for APPLETON. In Sunday's final, Cornell (mainly Kiwis) got off to a good start and held on to a 30imp lead to take the title.

Back at home, the Northern Suburbs Club last Sunday hosted an open Swiss Teams. Here, a strong victory went to Ralph Parker/ John Mills with Michelle Radke/ Ian Halford The minor placings were tightly clustered with second going to S. Konig/ G. Thomas with B. McLeod/ C. Schtroup ahead of H&R. McLauchan with J(oan) Mills/ J Scriven. The Hoffman team won B grade while Hyland took the C grade honours.

N Dealer, All Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a J102		
	© AK		
	.. 852		
	§ AKJ108		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a A984		a -	
© J853		© Q1074	
..		.. AKQJ643	
§ Q9743		§ 62	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a KQ7653		
	© 962		
	.. 1097		
	§ 5		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
	1NT	2D	3S
Pass	4S	5DI	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Today's hand, from the NSBC event had many auctions, leading to a big variety of results. Much depended on North's choice of opening, usually 1C or, as here 1NT. I felt sorry for the 1NT openers whose system allowed a transfer, despite an interpose. So that North got to play a 4S contract, fatally doomed losing three diamonds and the trump ace. At our table East interposed 4D and at South I could only bid 4S. 'Not enough' cried East '5D. North doubled. Who was right?

As it happens 4S, by South is cold as West has no diamond to lead. Was East right to 'go again' with 5D. Generally, no but our defence only took four tricks (H AK and C AK) for +500, not as good as +620 for 4S made but OK in our match – our opponents in the other room had got to 4S by North and gone down. There is a defence to beat 5D by three for +800 but – I'll leave it to you.