

February 10, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Starting Wednesday, the Broadbeach Convention Centre will host the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Competitions. This event is open to countries eligible for the sporting Games soon to follow but entry is flexible and usually supplemented by extra host nation teams. England, Canada and New Zealand appear the strongest contenders for the title. Then, at the same venue Australia's largest Bridge event, the Gold Coast Congress gets underway. It will be bigger and better than ever.

Last weekend, the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club hosted this year's Qld Senior Teams Championship. Top seeds N. Francis/ L. Carter with M. Carter/ T. Hutton started slowly but came home strongly to win well. C. Miller/ K. Steffwensen with D&P. McLeish were a comfortable second ahead of the Olsen team while Killiner took B grade. Back in town it had to be mainly younger folk who contested the open Swiss Pairs at the Toowong Club. Here it was a clear win to A. Wanigaratne/ N. Moore followed by E. Li/ G. Lee then J. Magee/ T. Strong. Y. Coroneo/ J. Farquhar won B grade while C went to D&S. Berns.

The column joins with many older players in extending their sympathy to ABF president Bruce Neill and his sister Sue Lusk – both Australian reps – on the death early this week, of their father Warren Neill. He had lived in recent years with Sue in Adelaide.

Dealer, N/S Vul

	NORTH		
	a 3		
	© QJ5		
	.. 85		
	§ QJ87652		
WEST		EAST	
a A1054		a KJ82	
© 642		© 87	
.. 10964		.. KQJ2	
§ K3		§ 1094	
	SOUTH		
	a Q976		
	© AK1093		
	.. A73		
	§ A		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	1H
Pass	2C	Pass	2S
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Today's hand, from the Toowong event, saw all the field as one in reaching 4H. Not as one, however, in making their contract. Only six succeeded – then all ten tricks – while the rest of the field went down, mostly by two tricks. On a non-spade lead there is a fortuitous path to make 11 or more. D10 was a common lead. Win DA, cash CA cross to HQ and lead CQ. When East doesn't cover, ruff. Luck is with you. CK drops. Eureka! Now HA, and over to HJ. With CK gone dummy has five more club winners – home with overtricks. More fun if West starts SA and another. Don't ruff – pitch D5 from dummy and it's an easy run from there since your SQ has been setup.