

February 17, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The Arana bridge Club last Sunday hosted an open teams. As ever it was an excellent event marked by superb hospitality – the day long supply of home-made tucker was first class. Since it was last chance for a good warmup, a number of overseas players, here for this week's Commonwealth Nations Tournament, and/or the Gold Coast Congress took part – they may have needed the practice because the prizemoney stayed here. Winning team was A. Gibson/ B. Patterson and A. Dawson/ E. Zeller. Silver went to I&J. Luck with R. Parker/ J. Mills and bronze to T. Treloar/ P. Evans and R. Fox/ A. Woollons .B category winners were the Eastman team while Bellis took the C grade honours. Midway through the qualifying rounds of the Commonwealth Nations event India A were leading the internationals, ahead of Scotland White and Canada Red with Tasmania and Australia Gold also doing well. Quarters and semis will be played today and the final tomorrow.

N Dealer, N/S Vul

	NORTH		
	a K1087		
	© AJ1082		
	.. Q		
	§ 984		
WEST		EAST	
a 64		a 952	
© 76		© KQ953	
.. J10743		.. 6	
§ J763		§ KQ102	
	SOUTH		
	a AQJ3		
	© 4		
	.. AK9852		
	§ A5		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
**	Pass	Pass	1D
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	3S	Pass	4NT(RKCB)
Pass	5H	Pass	6S(ends)

In today's auction North had passed, so South gave up at 6S despite knowing dummy had the two missing keycards (SK,HA) – with a combined high card point count of less than 30 there was plenty missing. In fact, more than half the pairs field stopped in 4S and all the few who got to 6S went down. Why? They didn't ask themselves 'can I afford to draw trumps?' A trump lead was common, they won, drew them all, and thought one diamond ruff would see them home. Not today – the bad 5:1 break in the suit saw them one down. Winning line is to win SJ, D2 to DQ, S7 to SQ – good, trumps are 2:2 – ruff D5 with S10, HA, then ruff H3 with S3. Now trump D8 with dummy's SK, back to CA and SA takes East's last trump. Your remaining D AK9 are high and the opponents can have C5 at trick 13.