

February 24, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The Fifth Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships concluded last Sunday at the Broadbeach Convention Centre. The 36 team entry included several Australian lineups. After three days of Swiss qualifying rounds the field was reduced to eight. Saturday morning's quarter-finals cut this to four. In the afternoon, the first semi saw Australia Gold beat Scotland White (99-49), while India A easily accounted for the President's team (157-62). Then came Sunday's longer final encounter/Australia Gold (P. Markey©, J. Haffer, D. Wiltshire, M. Henbest, P. Gumby, W. Lazer) was a high quality NSW/ SA lineup. Not much was known about the Indians (k. Nadar©, S. Chokshi, B.Satyanaryana, K. Anklesaria, J. Shivdasani, K. Tiwari) but they were obviously in great form. India had much the better of the first two stanzas, Scotland struck back in the last, but it was not enough – India taking the title 103-65. Meanwhile, the first major of the Gold Coast Congress was won by ahead of with third place going to

N Dealer, N/S Vul

	NORTH		
	a Q62		
	© -		
	.. J94		
	§ AQJ10963		
WEST		EAST	
a J104		a A983	
© KQJ1084		© A76532	
.. 8		.. Q32	
§ K84		§ -	
	SOUTH		
	a K75		
	© 9		
	.. AK10765		
	§ 752		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	3C	3H	5C
5H	All Pass		

David Stern for more than a decade has done a great service for the Congress. He has headed the small team that has produced the excellent Daily Bulletin. We all owe him thanks – I understand this was his last year. Today's hand, from the teams a few years back had him lamenting the NS (his pair) actions. In their style – it should be everyone's – a vulnerable opening 3C is a very serious bid and partner's jump to 5C, vul against not, even more so. Declarer brought 5H home by nice play.. He ruffed the club lead, cashed a top trump, then eliminated the minors before running SJ. Even had South held both SQ and SK he would be endplayed. 5H well made. Stern remarked that it was hard to blame either North or South for not finding the vulnerable 6C save. It is usually bad 'etiquette' for a pre-emptor to bid again, and South looks to have defence. Still this time a vulnerable 6C sacrifice would have worked – it makes 11 tricks. Impossible, unless you are the problem solver "Deep Finesse' to get to the making N/S slam - 6D, but only by North.