

March 03, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The 57th Gold Coast Congress closed last Saturday evening with a splendid Victory Dinner Dance at the venue – the Broadbeach Convention Centre – with close to 500 attending. Though much enjoyed – especially those who collected prizes – there was a tinge of sadness. The occasion marked the end of nearly 15 years as Convenor/ Chairman for Therese Tully. It's been a great reign with the Congress moving forward in numbers and quality year by year. Well and truly done Therese, now go back to relaxing as a great player.

The major event of the week, the Open Teams, concluded just in time for the celebration. HINDEN (F. Hinden/ G.Osborn, K. Dyke/ R. Cooper) who had been the top qualifier, met BUCHEN (P. Buchen/ I. Thomson, M. Yuen/ N. Stock) who had done well to reach the final after making the last group of six in sixth spot. But perhaps they had run out of steam. At the halfway point they were behind 81-39 and despite a third quarter comeback it was not enough, with Hinden then galloping away to take the Championship 152-80. In the Seniors Team Final the NAGY team had a closer match, but finally triumphed over BRIGHTLING (113-90).

W Dealer, All Vul

	NORTH		
	a 96		
	© J9		
	.. 976		
	§ AK10653		
WEST		EAST	
a A754		a KQJ83	
© K752		© A643	
.. KJ52		.. A	
§ 4		§ QJ2	
	SOUTH		
	a 102		
	© Q108		
	.. Q10852		
	§ 987		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
4S	Pass	5D	Pass
5H	Pass	6S	All Pass

Today's hand, towards the end of the final, really sealed victory for Hinden. Already well in front, they bid 6S. So did Buchen – but only Hinden succeeded. A club was led at both tables. Declarer has no real hope unless DJ can be established, or be part of a red suit squeeze. Dyke (for Hinden) ruffed CK at trick two, crossed to DA, ruffed CQ in dummy then D5 in hand and ran trumps. On the last trump, South conceded. He had H Q108 and D Q10 in front of dummy's now H K75 D KJ while declarer still holds H A64 when he tables that final trump. Whatever South discards, in front of dummy, is fatal. Well played Keiran Dyke. The Buchen declarer missed the line.