

March 31, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The Sunshine Coast Bridge Club last Sunday hosted its annual open Graded Swiss Teams Congress. A capacity field entered but, as ever, all went smoothly under Peter Busch's direction. The Brookes team (Stephen and Verna Brookes, Adrienne Kelly/ Don Levin) played much better than their 4th seeding – they started with a leap to the front, were only once threatened, and went on to win well. Top seeds, Richard Ward/ Tony Hutton and Neville Francis/ Ralph Parker, had to settle for second with a score that often might have won. Bronze went to K. Rogers/W. O'Brien with P. Buch/ J. Drake. The Leathley team took the B grade honours ahead of lineups led by Delgado and Northey in a fairly close battle.

Meanwhile, much to the south, Launceston hosted this year's Tasmanian Festival of Bridge over last weekend. It's a relatively short tournament, encompassing two major pairs events. The first, named for Tasmanian and Australian great player/ director, was the Roger Penny Swiss Pairs. Here gold went to W. Lazer/ P. Gumby ahead of N. Rosendorff/ G. Smolanko then D. Chung/ N. Hardy. Then came the TBIB Australian Open Pairs. L. Havas/ N.Ewart won with G. Kozakoz/ I. Robinson second then G. Johnson/ N. Kumar

N Dealer, Nil Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a KJ72		
	© J1095		
	.. 642		
	§ 86		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a Q95		a A4	
© -		© AKQ73	
.. A9873		.. KQJ105	
§ K10932		§ A	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a 10863		
	© 8642		
	.. -		
	§ QJ754		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
	Pass	2C	Pass
3D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Pass	5NT	Pass
6D	Pass	7D	All Pass

Today's hand is from the Sunshine Coast event. The results highlight two points. Many players are frightened to bid grand slams, and Many prefer to play No Trump than a minor suit. The auction shown is very simple. East opens a 2C game force, West's 3D shows a positive response (5+ diamonds and 8+ points). East is delighted, and his Roman Keycard enquiries show the DA and an extra king. It's an easy make via a heart ruff or two. Only four of thirty plus teams bid it. Many stopped at 6D – at least it made – and more tried 6NT. It can make from West but Some East's got the spade lead that sets their NT slam. Bid it with your partner.