

April 21, 2018  
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The arduous three weekend long trials process to select this year's Queensland Open team came to an end last Sunday at the QCBC. The winners – by a country mile – were the new partnership of Paul Hooykaas and Martin Doran. They did it well. In the earlier qualifying rounds they got their partnership into gear, finishing mid-field but that was all needed to make the finals. Now in top form they started well, were never headed nor strongly challenged. The battle for the other two places in the Hobart bound team was much closer with Pam and Jim Evans staying just in front of Tony Treloar/ Peter Evans. It's very much a new lineup and we wish them well. Fourth place went to Nik Moore/ Larry Moses who become the reserve pair.

Now the Open is completed some pairs may have another chance – trials for the Women's and Seniors teams start this weekend, again at the QCBC.

W Dealer, N/S Vul

	<b>NORTH</b>		
	a <b>A854</b>		
	© <b>KQ10</b>		
	.. <b>Q943</b>		
	§ <b>AK</b>		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
a <b>QJ7</b>		a <b>63</b>	
© <b>7643</b>		© <b>AJ982</b>	
.. <b>2</b>		.. <b>J65</b>	
§ <b>97432</b>		§ <b>1086</b>	
	<b>SOUTH</b>		
	a <b>K1092</b>		
	© <b>5</b>		
	.. <b>AK1087</b>		
	§ <b>QJ5</b>		
<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
Pass	<b>1D</b>	Pass	<b>1S</b>
Pass	<b>3S</b>	Pass	<b>4NT</b>
Pass	<b>5H</b>	Pass	<b>5S(ends)</b>

Today's pairs hand saw several auctions. Much depended on South's first response. Often, as shown, it was 1S. Then, after North's 3S jump raise (a mild underbid) South had enough to enquire. Where 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood, the 5H response showed two aces, but denied the SQ. Now 6S was too big a push (ask my partner who tried 6S). Still making 5S was a near bottom as NT also made 11 tricks. Where South, instead, bids an inverted 2D – a game-forcing raise – North may push to 6D.

Try it against a safe club lead. It's easy when HA is led. That didn't happen so the odds now favour – no certainty – HA being with East and we have to hope that hand has only two spades. Win CA, three trump rounds, CK, SA, back to SK, CQ, then play your lone H5 to HK. When West plays low you are home. If East ducks you are left with only one loser (a spade). If he wins HA he is endplayed with only a heart to return giving you two heart tricks (two spade losers from hand) – and the contract.