

April 28, 2018
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

Last weekend trials continued at the QCBC. Selection for this year's Open team was completed a week ago and that timing gives some who missed there a second chance. If eligible they could compete in either the Women's, or the Seniors – and some did. The Women's entry was a small ten pairs but with plenty of quality. With six of nine matches now played Eileen Li/ Pele Rankin have a big lead and are near certainties, Toni Bardon/ Yolanda Carter are second and Greer Tucker/ Maha Hoenig third but the next three places are almost tied – with a strong finish any one might displace one or those ahead. The position is similar in the Seniors, although the field is bigger and there are more rounds to go. Here Eva and Tony Berger and Tony Hutton/ Neville Francis are close together at the top with Ian Afflick/ Paul Collins next, but then three pairs, all with solid credentials, are again tightly bunched and still with good hopes of making the team for the Nationals in Hobart.

Away from the trials, Gympie hosted its annual Congress. Here Saturday's Pairs went to P. Bugler/ T. Runting ahead of C. McDonald/ P. Tall and D. Harris/ T. Ridley while on Sunday teams winners were Bugler/ Runting with N. Moore/ Ryan Touton ahead of the Harris and Nillson teams.

E Dealer, E/W Vul

	NORTH		
	a K963		
	© KJ3		
	.. Q3		
	§ K982		
WEST		EAST	
a J7		a 52	
© 754		© 1062	
.. J104		.. K972	
§ AQJ43		§ 10765	
	SOUTH		
	a AQ1084		
	© AQ98		
	.. A865		
	§ -		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	1S
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3S	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D	Pass	6S(ends)

Today's hand, from the Senior's trials, saw all but two pairs miss what seems an easy slam. Hutton/Francis got there with the auction shown. They play their version of Two over One Standard. The 1NT response is wide-ranging and may have primary support for opener's major, if balanced. South's 2NT (stronger than 3NT) is game-forcing and 3S confirmed spade support and maximum. 4NT was Roman KeyCard. 5D showed only one, but South figured it was most likely it was SK and with North - so 6S. DK had to be lost, but then two diamond ruffs saw the slam home.