

January 14, 2017
 Courier-Mail Bridge Column by Tony Jackman

The first major event of the year, the Summer Festival of Bridge, has begun in Canberra and offers a variety of team events including Seniors', Women's and Rising Stars. This year it has also attracted the undisputed 'Coffee Queen of the World', Maria Teresa Lavazza, from Italy who has fielded a team to compete during the festival. Many of our top Queensland players have already arrived in the Nation's capital or are on their way.

Last weekend, the Gold Coast Bridge Club hosted their annual Teams Congress, the first big event of the year for the state. This one day Swiss Teams attracted a capacity crowd who were welcomed by the Club President Di Hodges. The field was the strongest that I have seen for many years at a Queensland Congress attracting our strongest State players along with National and Internationals including New Zealander Jan Cormack. Among the top ranking Queenslanders in the field were 4 Gold Grandmasters and 2 McCutcheon winners. In first place in the A category was the Parker team (R&S Parker, P Hooykaas, P Rankin), second was Ward (R Ward, T Jackman, T Hutton, T Tully) and Steffensen (K Steffensen, N Francis, P Wyer & C Miller) were in third position. Winners of the B division were Brake (P Brake, E Besprosvan, B Coe, R Misior) and the C division winners were Raward (N Raward, D Piddington, G & P Powis).

Today's hand comes from this congress:

	S Dealer, E/W Vul		
		NORTH	
		♠8	
		♥AK9763	
		♦6	
		♣AQT94	
	WEST		EAST
	♠KJT3		♠AQ976542
	♥QJ854		♥-
	♦3		♦A94
	♣852		♣K6
		SOUTH	
		♠-	
		♥T2	
		♦KQJT8752	
		♣J73	
	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	PASS	PASS	5S
	6S	DbI	All Pass
			SOUTH
			5D
			PASS

After I led the DK, declarer had no problem making 12 tricks on a crossruff. This was an enormous swing to the opponents because our other pair (Ward/Tully) are stopped in game. So, I felt inclined to reprimand my partner, Tony Hutton, and suggest he didn't have a decent double. However he cunningly struck back by suggesting that I could have saved in 7D, making 10 tricks for a great sacrifice at -500.