

# Coffs Coast Gold Congress

## Intermediate (<750MPs) Teams

16 — 18 August 2019 (Fri — Sun)



... More results can  
be found [HERE](#)

### Slams and Interference

by Max Gilbert

#### Trusting your partner; keeping your nerve

Round 6 of the Coffs Gold intermediate teams. We were coming second, 4 VP behind our current opponents, with two more rounds to go.

#### Board 15

Dealer S | Vul N-S

♠ Q8	N	♠ A743
♥ T975		♥ 2
♦ J8753	E	♦ KT
♣ 92	S	♣ AKJ864
♠ KJT9652		
♥ AKJ4		
♦		
♣ Q5		

Without opposition the bidding might have gone like this:

N	S
-	1C
1S	4S      (Slam now "certain", but is 7♠ on?)
4NT	5H      (showing 2 Aces)
6S	(wimping out – perhaps we are missing A ♣)

More sophisticated systems than ours can locate the A ♣. e.g., after 4 ♠, jump to 6 ♦ can be used to ask how many Aces outside of diamonds. (This is called "voidwood".)

7 ♠ is cold – we have 17 winners!

What actually happened:

W	Me	E	Kathy
P	P	P	1C
P	1S	3D	4S
5D	5S	//	

A radical pre-empt in diamonds

Team	Cont	Dec	Lead	NS Score	Match IMPs
113	7♠	N	♣7	2210	17
111	7♠	N	♦A	2210	13
121	7♠	N	♦A	2210	13
110	6♠	N	♦A	1460	13
112	6♠	N	♦A	1460	13
118	6♠	N	♥3	1460	13
130	6♠	S	♣9	1460	13
136	6♠	N	♦A	1460	13
101	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
102	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
106	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
114	6♠	N	♣7	1460	0
116	6♠	N	♥3	1460	0
120	6♠	N	♣7	1460	0
122	6♠	N	♣7	1460	0
124	6♠	N	♥3	1460	0
125	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
126	6♠	N	♥3	1460	0
128	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
129	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
131	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
132	6♠	N	♦A	1460	0
134	6♠	N	♣7	1460	0
137	6♠	N	♣7	1460	0
123	6♠	N	♥3	1460	-13
115	6♠	S	♥10	1430	-13
127	5♠	N	♦A	710	1
108	5♠	N	♦A	710	0
119	5♠	N	♦A	710	0
135	4♠	N	♦A	710	0
138	4♠	N	♥3	710	0
103	4♠	N	♥3	710	-13
104	5♠	N	♦A	710	-13
107	4♠	N	♦A	710	-13
117	5♠	N	♥3	710	-13
133	5♠	N	♦A	710	-13
109	5♠	S	♣3	710	-17
105	5♠	N	♦A	680	-1

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The 5♦ bid rattled me (North). We didn't know our opponents at all. Surely, they must have some strength outside diamonds. I really don't like bidding slam without knowing about the outstanding Aces. Also, I had a nagging doubt – was Kathy's 4♠ influenced by the 3♦ interference?

As in life, so also in Bridge, it is good to understand and trust your partner. I should have trusted Kathy and ignored the opposition. Kathy's bidding and my hand show that 6♠ should be near enough to "certain". The opposition had made it impossible to ask about Aces in normal ways. But I should have kept my nerve a bit longer. I could at least bid 5♥ if I was wary of going straight to 6♠. That would have told Kathy that I was interested in slam and had the A♥. Kathy would surely have bid 6♠.

Dealing with psychological stress is a significant part of bridge.

We finished this round in 6<sup>th</sup> position, now 19 VP behind the leaders. Now no chance of winning and a bit dejected.

### A lucky Slam – "You have to be in it to win it."

First thing the next morning, we faced opponents using what seemed to us a very exotic artificial system.

On our first board, West opened 5♣! I had a good opening hand, but void in Clubs. I did not want to double (which would be for penalties); 6♣ for take out was really out of the question. With 3 little spades, the chance of 5♣ going down and the probability that the missing red honours would be with East, I just restrained myself from bidding 5♦. I passed, as did East. Kathy, in South seat doubled for penalties. She had the A♣ and scattered honours.

With my hand so unsuited for a penalty double, I bid 5♦. If Kathy had enough to double, for penalties or for takeout, I was now bidding game.

Kathy didn't like diamonds and so bid 5♥. Now I had 20 TP and superb trump support. Without another thought, I bid 6♥.

#### Board 14

Dealer E | Vul Nil

♠ T54		♦ AKJ862	
♥ AQJ9			
♦ AKJ862			
♣			
♠ AQ6	N	♠ K92	
♥ 8		♦ 542	
♦	W	♦ T9743	
♣ KQJT76543	S	♣ 92	
		♠ J873	
		♥ KT763	
		♦ Q5	
		♣ A8	

W	Me	E	Kathy
		P	P
5C	P	P	X
P	5D	P	5H
P	6H	//	

With the cards as they were:

5♣ X makes. That would have been -550.

A spade lead against 6♥ takes the first 4 tricks: we score -150.

On a club lead, Kathy made 12 tricks: we score +980! (With Kathy's double apparently being treated as takeout, it is very difficult for West to lead a spade.)

At the other table, our teammates Mick McAuliffe and Wing Roberts wisely bid on to 6♣ X for -100.

What an extraordinary board!

We were a bit lucky, but it is just another case where (i) bold bidding pays off (for both us and our teammates), and (ii) it can be very difficult to find the right opening lead.