

January 16, 2021

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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<b>NORTH</b>		<b>S/ ALL VUL</b>	
♠	10 7 3		
♥	7 4		
♦	J 10 7 5 3		
♣	8 7 5		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠	5	♠	J 6 2
♥	J 10 9 3 2	♥	K Q 8 6 5
♦	6 4 2	♦	9 8
♣	K 10 4 2	♣	J 9 6
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	A K Q 9 8 4		
♥	A		
♦	A K Q		
♣	A Q 3		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	2D	PASS	2C
PASS	3C	PASS	2S
PASS	4S	PASS	3NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	6S

After a game-forcing 2C opening, this pair is playing 2D as a negative bid followed by 3C as a second negative. So South knows not to expect much, if anything, from partner. When 3NT is removed to 4S, South just bids what she hopes she can make - 6S.

West leads the jack of hearts and South gazes longingly at the “beautiful” diamond suit in dummy. The question is, how to reach them? Plan A hopes for spades to break 2-2: draw trumps, cash top diamonds, then cross to dummy with a third trump. This line will lead to only 11 tricks on the layout shown. Plan B needs trumps to break no worse than 3-1: cash just one top spade and then play three top diamonds. East, no newcomer to the game, will decline to ruff but this will be countered by next leading the nine of trumps to dummy’s ten. When East takes this with the jack (it does not help to duck) and plays a heart declarer will ruff high. Then she will cross back to dummy with the four of spades to the seven allowing dummy’s diamonds to take care of the club losers.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Barrier Reef Gold Point Congress will be held in Mackay at the end of April. Generously sponsored by TBIB, a company renowned for its long-term provision of ABF Travel Insurance, the congress features Open Pairs, Open Teams and Restricted events for players with fewer than 300 masterpoints. It will be one of the first major congresses to re-open after many Covid-19 cancellations across Australia. The Mackay organisers will need plenty of entries for this prestigious event to be a success so get yours in promptly.

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