

January 30, 2021

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

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

West is in -1100 territory with that 3S bid but, when South bids 3NT, North shows a bit extra with a quantitative 4NT (quantitative, not ace-asking). South needs no further encouragement, opting for what he hopes will be a safer contract than 6NT – wrong! When West starts proceedings with the ten of hearts, South’s singleton-detector nose twitches. This is the only lead which jeopardises the contract as, without it, declarer can simply lose a trick to whoever holds the queen of clubs and then claim twelve tricks. How irritating!

However, there is a fool-proof winning line available which does not require a successful guess in clubs. Win the ace of hearts, draw trumps in three rounds and then play off the three spade winners throwing a heart from dummy. Now play the remaining heart to East’s king. He will be forced to either play a heart allowing South to throw a club loser whilst ruffing in dummy or a club which eliminates the guess. Finding this endplay is easy enough but it is possible to have a blind spot about the need to discard a heart from dummy.

Townsville Australia Day Congress results: PAIRS: 1 Betty Hobdell / Rosemary Glastonbury; 2 Bill Redhead / John Johnson; 3 Terrence Sheedy / Ian Afflick; B: Gladys Tulloch / Cathy Crawford; C: Sam Bishop / Kelly Walker **TEAMS:** 1 Bill Bishop / Pat Larsen / June Glenn / Alan Hamilton; 2 Bill Redhead / John Jonson / Jan Smith / Leigh Owens; B: Ann Smith / Andree Galeano / Trudy Low / Dusk Care; C: Geoff Saxby / Eugene Pereira / Sumant Handa / Sameer Pandya
