

June 19, 2021

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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We have three new 2021 Queensland champions with the completion of the Qld Butler Pairs played at the beautifully appointed Northern Suburbs Bridge Club last weekend. Elieen Li and Watson Zhou won the Butler Pairs repeating their recent success at the Arana Congress. Women's Pairs Champions are the Gold Coast's Angeline Christie and Krystyna Homik while the Men's Pairs Champions are Terry O'Dempsey and Geoffrey Toon.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	2D	PASS	3C
PASS	3H	PASS	3S
PASS	4S	ALL PASS	

After a fourth-suit-forcing enquiry discloses that neither North nor South has a heart stopper, South ends in 4S. The defence starts with ace, king and a third heart which you must ruff. If you do not, you will be relying on a 3-3 trump break which is against the odds. Next comes the key play, a low spade towards dummy. This keeps trump control as another heart can be ruffed in dummy. On any return there will now be ten tricks – three spades and a ruff, five diamonds and one club. Check out for yourself what would happen if you had simply played the top spades at trick four.

Meanwhile other less scientific bidders went 1S-2D-3NT which rolled home after losing the first four heart tricks. Sometimes simplest is easiest.

**QLD BUTLER PAIRS:** [Director: Alan Gibson] 1 Elieen Li / Watson Zhou; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 3 Jill Magee / Terry Strong; **B** 1 Tere Wotherspoon / Charles Page; 2 Angeline Christie / Krystyna Homik; **C** 1 Barbara Kent / Ross Murtagh; 2 Winny Chan / Trevor Dwerryhouse

**TOWNSVILLE TEAMS:** 1 Bill Bishop / Pat Larsen / Leigh Owens / Jan Smith; 2 Ian Patterson / Betty Hobdell / Albert Beric / Phil Rains / Lesleigh Rooney; 3 Bill Redhead / Gayleen Brown / Helen Lovegrove / Vivienne Otto.

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