

August 21, 2021

Bridge with Richard Ward

There are now nine Australian Emerald Grandmasters [$> 10,000$ MPs] with the top four, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Paul Lavings and Peter Gill, all from New South Wales. This deal features Pauline Gumby playing in this year's Victor Champion Cup Congress Swiss Teams online.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	W Lazer		P Gumby
			1C
PASS	1H	PASS	1S
PASS	4S	PASS	4NT
PASS	5D	PASS	6S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

4NT was Roman Key-Card Blackwood and five diamonds showed 1 or 4 key cards. There were seven pairs in six spades. Not only was Pauline the only one to make it, but she also made it look effortless after West led the ace of diamonds and another diamond, won by the king and a club discarded.

Sometimes it can be difficult when counting tricks to decide which hand needs to be made high. If declarer counts four spades in hand, two club ruffs in dummy, four hearts, one diamond and one club – $4+2+4+1+1=12$ – that looks best and is what happened: ace of clubs, ace of hearts, club ruff, ace of spades (spade jack appearing was a welcome sight), another club ruff, ten of spades cashed, king of hearts, king and queen of spades drawing all of West's trumps and finally a heart to the queen and jack. The key to the hand is not to ruff a diamond.

Progressive masterpoint totals for Queensland to the end of July have been published and these are the current leaders: **NOVICES** Alan Kestenberg; **GRADUATE** Mark Harnack; **CLUB** Vanessa Brewis; **LOCAL** Linda Lee; **BRONZE LOCAL** Brenda Hall; **SILVER LOCAL** Ann Sauer; **REGIONAL** Sandi Pirozzo; **BRONZE REGIONAL** Rosemary Porter; **STATE** Raelene Clark; **BRONZE STATE** Sumant Handa; **NATIONAL** Eugene Pereira; **BRONZE NATIONAL** Charlie Georgees; **SILVER NATIONAL** Noreen Weyling; **LIFE** Judith Leathley; **BRONZE LIFE** David Christian; **SILVER LIFE** Watson Zhou; **GOLD LIFE** Annette Hyland; **GRAND** Terrence Sheedy; **SILVER GRAND & ABOVE** Neville Francis
