

January 22, 2022

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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The online Summer Festival of Bridge is over with some Queenslanders prominent on the podium. The National Women's Teams winners were Sue Lusk, Viv Wood, Paula McLeish [QLD] and Pele Rankin [QLD] while the National Open Teams went to Sophie Ashton, Peter Gill, Tony Leibowitz, Nabil Edgtton, Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung [QLD]. Other semi-finalists were Greer Tucker, Watson Zhou and Charlie Lu.

The juggernaut ASHTON team kept up the pressure on their opponents throughout, coming out ahead in many fine-judgement situations. Experts can be at their most deceptively active when not vulnerable against vulnerable as this hand attests.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	C LU		W ZHOU
PASS	1D	2S	3H
PASS	3S	PASS	4NT
PASS	5C	PASS	6NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	

At this table, the weak jump overcall did little to disrupt North-South, who simply checked for key cards and then bid what they hoped would make. There was nothing to the play. But in another match, Nabil Edgtton, in the winning team, opened 2H with the West cards! This was just enough interference to talk their expert opponents out of the slam, subsiding in just 3NT. 13 IMPs to ASHTON. Such bids, even when they do not work out too well, have the added advantage of putting the opponents on edge – always having to double-guess what may be going on. But they also require a forgiving and easygoing partner who takes all of your bids at face value. Meanwhile, do not try these at home.

**KENMORE PAIRS:** [Director – Chris Snook] 1 Jill Magee / Terry Strong; 2 Michael Pemberton / Annette Corkhill; **B** 1 Prasad Nettur / Arvind Bhasin; 2 Rex Meadowcroft / Rosemary Porter

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