

February 12, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

Australia is finally returning to face-to-face bridge after two years of pandemic-related closures and cancellations. The first major event on the national calendar to restart is the Gold Coast International Congress which gets under way this Saturday at the Gold Coast Congress and Exhibition Centre at Broadbeach. It is not too late to enter any of the many available events.

Entries have also opened for the Townsville Gold Point Barrier Reef Congress 9-13 May with Pairs and Teams, Restricted and Open events on offer.

The play of this hand is based on a theme developed by US expert Eddie Kantar.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	1H	PASS	1C
PASS	6NT	ALL PASS	1NT

There are some players such as this North person who, when holding a big balanced hand opposite partner's opening bid, simply leap to a small slam in no trumps without wasting time on scientific investigations. This is not such a bad idea and it saves time! Now it is up to partner to find twelve tricks. West leads a middling diamond won in dummy and there is much to do. Next comes the club queen, club jack and a third club to the ten. You now have eight tricks in clubs and diamonds and need four more in hearts and spades with a few possible lines of play. Best is to lead a low heart towards dummy at trick five. If East holds the king you will fall back on a 3-3 heart break then, finally, a winning spade finesse. But, if West holds the king, she will have no winning options. If she rises with the king there will be three hearts and a spade. If she plays low, the jack will win and spades will provide two more tricks.

Stage 1 of the trials for the Qld Open Team concluded last weekend. At the top of the rankings were Tony Hutton / Neville Francis; Jill Magee / Terry Strong; Paul Hooykaas / Michael Gearing; Kerry Wood / Charles Howard; **Greer Tucker / Pele Rankin; and Janeen Solomon / Charlie Lu.**

