

February 19, 2022

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	2H	PASS	1H
PASS	PASS	PASS	4H

West hit on the effective lead of the seven of clubs – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest from four small. Declarer, after drawing trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, looked no further than the spade finesse for the tenth trick hoping for two spades, six hearts and two aces. When that failed, she had only nine tricks. Unlucky.

One of the declarer play tips that intermediate players learn is that any five-card side suit can sometimes be used to develop extra tricks. On this hand at teams, you need to give up on overtricks and play for no worse than a 4-2 spade break, an 84 percent chance. The plan will be to win the first trick then play and ace and queen of spades. There will then be plenty of entries to draw trumps and ruff two more spades establishing the fifth spade as the tenth trick.

The postponed 2021 New Zealand National Congress was eventually held online last week. Congratulations to the NZ Open Team Championship winners: Liam Milne [NSW] / Andy Hung [QLD] / Nick Jacob [NZ] / Alex Smirnov [Germany] / James Coutts [VIC] / Glenn Coutts [NZ]. They were leading by over 100 imps with one stanza to go when their opponents reasonably decided to concede.

**ARANA CONGRESS** [Director – Julie Jeffries] 1 Geoffrey Toon / Richard Wallis; Watson Zhou / Charlie Lu; 2 Lindy Vincent / Richard Ward; Neville Francis / Tony Hutton; **B** 1 Robert Van Beest / Leonie Nugent; Trish Lye / Rhonda Wieckhorst; 2 Abby Wanigaratne / Carmel Martin; Lyn Tracey / Mick Fawcett; **C** 1 Ted Morriss / Jane Doyle; Jo Neary / Susan Kennard; 2 Dimity Burke / Sameer Pandya; Sumant Handa / Eugene Pereira.

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