

March 12, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		PASS	1NT
PASS	2C	PASS	2H
PASS	4H	ALL PASS	

A straightforward auction here: a strong no trump then 2C, Stayman convention, asking for a 4-card major suit. West leads the queen of spades and declarer South sees that she is in danger of losing a trump and three club tricks if she has to play clubs herself. An ancient desperation play when faced with having to open up a suit holding of JXX opposite QXX is to start with the jack from dummy. If East is asleep and plays low, West will win the king but now a second lead from dummy will allow the queen to score.

No such trickery is necessary on this hand however provided the trumps break 3-2. Simply cash the ace-king of spades and the ace-king of hearts and then play on the diamond winners. If East trumps in with the queen of hearts there will be only two losing options available – open up the clubs for declarer or concede a ruff-and-discard by leading a third spade. If East chooses not to ruff in, declarer will finally play a third trump which leads to the same losing options.

The Gold Coast Congress Online Rescue Series 1 earned gold points for 100 pairs and 50 teams Australia-wide. Series 2 will be coming soon.

QUEENSLAND MIXED TEAMS: [Director – Peter Busch] 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward / Jill Magee / Terry Strong; 2 Tim Ridley / David Harris / Sam Halvorsen / Rosemary Green / Philippa Barnett; 3 Ryan & Richard Touton / Adrienne Kelly / Jim Martin; **B** 1 Janice & Edgar Beckett / Pamela Hawkins / Russell Greenwood; 2 Michael Huddart / Jean Pearce / Rozanne Thomas / Sandy Long; **TOOWONG NOVICE PAIRS:** [Director – Steve Murray] **A**1 Phoebe & Mark Harnack; 2 Chris Green / Graeme King; **B** 1 Louise & Stephen Bennett; 2 Judy Wallace / Jan Flanigan; **C** 1 Sue English / Joanne Bayett; 2 Sue Calthrop / Stuart Stoddart.
