

March 26, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

North-South were playing a weak no-trump system so the bidding was a straightforward 1NT:3NT to which West led the fourth highest six of hearts to the queen and king. Hearts were continued, the ace winning the third trick. There were only eight tricks even had the spade finesse been successful, so, when East was in with the ace of diamonds, he cashed his heart winners for a one trick defeat.

South bemoaned his bad luck – both finesses failing and the ace of diamonds with West. This is true to a certain extent but, with one heart, one spade, two diamonds and five clubs, you would think there must be a way home regardless. The solution is to play low on the opening lead which protects the hearts from immediate attack and then, when East wins the heart ten and switches to a low spade, grab the ace immediately. That nine of spades is a jewel. No matter how the spades are placed, the defence can make at most two tricks there. Check it out.

The bridge calendar for the next few weeks is jam-packed: Redland Novice Teams; Gold Coast Rescue Series 2 online gold point Pairs and Teams; and pairs events in Townsville, Mackay and Northern Suburbs in Brisbane. The trials for the Queensland Women's and Seniors' teams start today.

QLD OPEN TEAM TRIALS: [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Neville Francis / Tony Hutton; 3 Phil Hale / Laurie Skeate; 4 Richard Fox / Andrew Woollons; 5 Rachel Langdon Nikolas Moore; 6 Paul Collins / Ian Afflick; **SUNSHINE COAST TEAMS:** [Director – Peter Busch] 1 Ryan & Richard Touton / Adrienne Kelly / Ken Dawson; 2 Alison Dawson / David Christian / Lyn & Jim Martin; **B** 1 Vesna & Voyko Markovic / Martin Wu / Eugene Pereira; 2 Noreen Weyling / Tony Davidson / Sarah Huntington-Wynne / Tim Sayer
