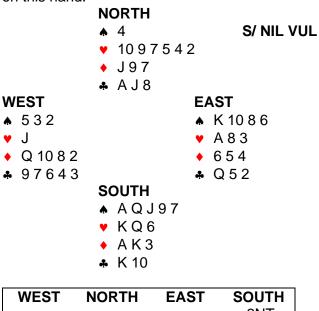
Bridge with Richard Ward

The World Bridge Federation is to be congratulated for bringing the 2021 World Team Championships in Italy to a successful conclusion despite being beleaguered throughout with Covid-related issues. In the Open 96-board final, Switzerland (Sjoert Brink / Bas Drijver / Piotr Gawyrs / Michal Klukowski / Fernando Piedra / Pierre Zimmerman / Krzysztof – coach) defeated the Netherlands (Simon de Wijs / Bauke Muller / Berend van den Bos / Joris van Lankveld / Ricco van Prooijen / Louk Verhees Jr / Gert-Jan Ros – NPC / Ton Bakkeren - coach) 167-164. Sweden defeated Turkey in the Women's event while Poland defeated India in the Seniors and France defeated USA 1 in the Mixed.

A few columns ago you were introduced to a serial over-bidder who delights in his few successes and has selective amnesia about his multiple disasters. He held the North cards on this hand.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2NT
PASS	3D	PASS	4H
PASS	6H	ALL PASS	

2NT was a strong, balanced hand; 3D was a transfer to hearts; the jump to 4H showed a good raise and North's 6H was not as gross as usual having, as it does, some play. Unwilling to risk leading a side suit West started with the jack of hearts won with the king in the South hand. Rather than trying to find the king of spades or the queen of clubs, declarer was able to ruff the fifth spade high whilst ruffing the club loser in his hand – making two spades, six trumps, two diamonds and two clubs. Well played!

MACKAY PAIRS: [Director – Geoff Taylor] 1 David Ting / Eric Goodchild; 2 Monica Darley / Del Ryan; B Sandra Morris / Noel Saunders; TOWNSVILLE PAIRS: [Director – Jan Smith] 1 Phil Rains / John Johnson; 2 Maria Chippendale / Ken Manders; B Margaret Dousset / John Larkin; NORTHERN SUBURBS PAIRS: [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Peter Evans / Tony Treloar; 2 Gary Malinas / Kuldip Bedi; B Carmel Martin / Abby Wanigaratne.