

May 28, 2022

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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In 1486, John Morton, the Archbishop of Canterbury and also Lord Chancellor advised the king, Henry VII, to impose a 'benevolence' tax on everybody. The reasoning was that, if a person was living modestly, then he must be saving money and so could afford the tax. Whereas if they were living extravagantly, they were obviously rich and could also afford the tax. This became known as the "Morton's Fork" predicament and came to be applied to a similar defensive problem in bridge.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
DBL	1NT	2H	2S
3H	3S	PASS	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

After South promised a 6-card spade suit, North was worth a bit extra and a pushy game was reached. Now South had to justify this optimistic bidding after West started with the queen of hearts. For this contract to make, the king of diamonds must be with West as expected from the bidding and trumps must not break badly. But, even with all of this good fortune, there still appear to be four losers – two in trumps and one each in diamonds and clubs. Our declarer found a neat solution catching West in a "Morton's Fork" dilemma. After winning the ace of hearts, South led the three of clubs. If West had risen with the ace, there would be two discards available and hence no loser in diamonds. If instead West played low, dummy's queen would win and the club loser would be discarded immediately on the king of hearts. The defence is powerless to stop ten tricks.

**QLD BUTLER PAIRS:** [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Peter Evans / Tony Treloar (Qld Men's Pairs champions); 3 Charlie Lu / Watson Zhou; **B** 1 Abby Wanigaratne / Carmel Martin (Qld Women's Pairs champions); 2 Bronwyn Macleod / Kuldip Bedi; 3 Dennis Sullivan / John Scrivens; **C** 1 Jane Farquhar / Yolande Coroneo; 2 Eugene Pereira / Martin Wu; 3 Julie Jeffries / David O'Gorman; **TOOWONG NOVICE PAIRS:** 1 Carly Ferro / Cathy Mathieson; 2 Kathleen & Mike de Voi.

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