

June 25, 2022

### Bridge with Richard Ward

The Swedish Teams Cup usually attracts over 300 teams using a format similar to our Grand National Open Teams starting with heats played locally, ending with sixteen teams competing in the play-offs. A contender for 'Best Declarer Play of the Year' was Johan Bennet on this hand.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST     | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1C    |
| 1H   | 2C    | 3H       | DBL   |
| PASS | 4H    | PASS     | 5D    |
| PASS | 6D    | ALL PASS |       |

North-South were playing a sophisticated bidding system which thankfully need not concern us, where 2C showed diamonds, double was takeout and 4H was a slam try in diamonds. But the play is the thing. West led the king of hearts won by dummy's ace. Declarer could see that the heart loser could be thrown on the spade king but how to avoid two club losers? Bennet showed his class by smoothly cashing the ace of clubs at trick two. South saw no need to unblock his king of clubs – why would you? Declarer continued to draw trumps whilst ruffing two spades and a heart. He then exited with a club won perforce by South who was forced to concede a ruff and discard. NS +920.

**CAIRNS NOVICE PAIRS:** [Director – Rick Gryg] 1 Graham Real / Jonathan Jones; 2 Sandrine Taillardat / Sharon Poole; **SUNSHINE COAST CONGRESS:** [Director – Peter Busch] **PAIRS:** 1 Neville Francis / Patrick Bugler; 2 Lyn & Jim Martin; **B** Herold Rienstra / Melissa Weber; **TEAMS:** 1 Toni Bardon / Jim Wallis / Neville Francis / Patrick Bugler; 2 John Luck / Sue O'Brien / Tony Walford / Geoff Olsen; **B** Kathy & Warren Males / Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting; **GOLD COAST CONGRESS:** [Director – Alan Gibson] **PAIRS:** 1 Marjorie Askew / William Powell; 2 Krystyna Homik / Frank Hymus; **B** Pamela Jessep / Bill Peters; **C** Shi Zeng / Xiao Liu; **TEAMS:** 1 Jill Magee / Terry Strong / Watson Zhu / Charlie Lu; 2 William Powell / Marjorie Askew / Gary Lynn / Clive Klugman; **B** Sue Robinson / John Sear / Jane Swanson / Bob Hunt.

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