

July 30, 2022

### Bridge with Richard Ward

---

Australian players have been prominent at the prestigious Spingold championships being held at Providence, Rhode Island, USA. This is a knock-out teams event which attracts the top bridge players internationally. The HANS team – Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Nabil Edgton and Michael Whibley defeated top seeds NICKELL 104-97 to reach the round-of-16. There they went down to BRAMLEY, 141-102, another top-ranked team which included our own Liam Milne and Andy Hung. BRAMLEY went on to reach the semi-finals where they lost to the eventual winners, ZIMMERMAN, a world champion team from Switzerland. It has been some time since Australians have performed so well on the international bridge stage.

The 55<sup>th</sup> European National Team Championships was won by the Netherlands in Madeira, Portugal last month. This hand which appeared in the Daily Bulletin courtesy of UK journalist and author David Bird features some remarkable declarer play brought about through sheer desperation.

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

You, South, are in a precarious (hopeless) 3NT as West leads the spade 5-K-7-4. How would you continue? This declarer played a diamond!!!: 2-3-Q-K. The spade continuation was won with the jack and the heart finesse taken by East who returned the five of diamonds. West won with the seven and, unable to unravel the defence with the ace-king-queen of clubs still hidden, returned ..... the ten of hearts. +630! East/West are former European champions so all that can be said is that it is more difficult to see through this type of deceptive play than might be imagined.

**QLD NOVICE TEAMS-OF-THREE:** [Director – Chris Snook] **A** Helen Klieve / Mike Martin / Graeme King / Richard Fox; **B** Zorika Zipka / Valeri Barakin / Simon Byrne / Ross Murtagh; **C** Gustavo Sanchez / Jill McTaggart / Nari Blackett / Robyn Clark

---