

August 13, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT ¹	DBL ²	RDBL ³	PASS
2C ⁴	DBL	2D	2NT
PASS	3NT	ALL PASS	
1: 16-18 HCP 2: single suited			
3: another single suit! 4: pass or correct			

Once East-West have found their diamond fit, North-South sensibly give up on trying to penalise their opponents and settle in the most likely game of 3NT. West starts with the four of diamonds-2-8-K and declarer, South, can count only eight immediate tricks. Have you ever wondered what the experts are thinking about when they take ages to play to the first trick? On this hand, she is working out the most likely diamond distribution together with the importance of never letting East gain the lead. Who does she think holds the jack of diamonds and why? See below.

Sometimes it pays to play off a long suit immediately hoping that this will cause some discarding pain. In this case, however, the discomfort would be for South, so trick two is the queen of hearts-K-3-5. The queen of diamonds is allowed to win at trick three followed by a third diamond won in dummy. A second heart goes to the jack and ace and the hand is over – making one heart, two diamonds and six clubs. Most of us would get this one right.

TOOWOOMBA PAIRS: [Director – Chris Snook] 1 Pamela & James Evans; 2 John Churchett / Trevor Henderson; **B** Elizabeth & Tony Thorne; **C** Suzie & Sandy Fraser;
SUNNYBANK TEAMS: [Director – Julie Jeffries] 1 Susanne & David Sarten / Janeen Solomon / Terry O'Dempsey; 2 Therese Tully / Paul Hooykaas / Charlie Lu / Watson Zhou;
B Joan Jenkins / Alan Boyce / Susan & Andrew Smart; **C** Sam Ng / Con Fernandez / Ismail Meman / Loretta Lovett.

The lead appears to be from three to an honour. If West had QJ4, he would have led the queen. If he held J74, East would have played the queen. So East must hold the jack – and the 10, 9 and 8.
