

November 26, 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Australian Open Team for the 2023 World Championships in Marrakesh, Morocco is Tony Leibowitz, Paul Gosney, Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Robert Fruewirth and Jamie Thompson. They defeated Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, James Coutts, Liam Milne, Shane Harrison and Andy Hung 305-256 in the 120-board final.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	2NT	PASS	3D
PASS	3S	PASS	4S
PASS	4NT	PASS	5H
PASS	6S	ALL PASS	

2NT was a game force in spades and 3D showed shortage. A Roman Key Card Blackwood query revealed that partner held both missing aces and so the small slam was reached. West, seeing no point in starting with diamonds, began with the nine of hearts. Declarer needed to avoid the distraction of a possible missed grand slam. Trumps were drawn and the red suits eliminated ending in hand before considering the club suit which, if breaking 2-2 or 3-1 would provide 13 or 12 tricks respectively. This occurred in a teams match where overtricks tend to be irrelevant and so declarer planned to lead the five of clubs, playing low from dummy to ensure the contract. When West showed out, East was allowed to win the ten but now had no safe return. Contract made. Note that, had declarer started with a club honour, there would have been no way to recover.

GOLD COAST TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Nikolas Moore / Rachel Langdon / Sarah Strickland / Darren Brake; 2 Kevin Steffensen / Kerry Wood / Carolyn Miller / Charles Howard; **B** Lex Ranke / Jack Rohde / Barbara Kent / Ross Murtagh

NOOSA PAIRS [Director – Peter Busch] 1 Judy Marks / Adam Rutkowski; 2 Lyn & Jim Martin; **B** 1 Sue Smith / Pat Lovell; 2 Janelle Kipping / Grace Mathias

The Grand National Open Teams Final is under way at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club. Sixty teams from all over Australia are battling it out for the title with the final two teams competing on Bridge Base Online on Monday.
