

December 3 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

To reach the semi-finals of the Grand National Open Teams championship it is necessary to survive all five knockout matches or, failing that, to place first or second in the repechage. Of the fifteen Queensland entrants, only three reached the fourth round where they were all eliminated. The 56-board final was fought between CANBERRA 2 [George Kozakos / Ian Thomson / Marianne Bookallil / Stephen Fischer] and SYDNEY 4 [Nick Jacob / Frazer Rew / Ella Jacob / Lakshmi Sunderasan / Matt Smith / Jamie Thompson] ending in one of the rarest of results – a tie! The 42-table Swiss Pairs consolation event was won by Sydney's Emerald Grand Masters and internationals Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer with the best placed Queenslanders: Tony Treloar / Peter Evans, Pippa & Andrew Hooper and Jill Magee / Terry Strong.

You, North, hold **S** A **H** KQ104 **D** AQ98 **C** KQ102 as partner opens 1NT showing a balanced strong hand. You will certainly be bidding a small slam with hopes of a grand. You check unsuccessfully for a major suit fit then for aces until the iron-clad 6NT is reached. Now, let's peek into the highly sophisticated bidding world of USA experts Larry Cohen [North] and David Berkowitz [South].

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
PASS	3S ¹	PASS	3NT ²
PASS	4S ³	PASS	5C ⁴
PASS	5S ⁵	PASS	5NT ⁶
PASS	6S ⁷	PASS	7C
PASS	PASS	PASS	

1: 3-suiter, short spades; 2: a spade control; 3: spade ace or void; 4: a club suit; 5: co-operative try for a club grand slam; 6: 'forward-going' perhaps; 7: choice of 6NT or 7C and he chose correctly. Phew! North had bid spades, spades, spades and spades with his singleton ace. How do these guys sleep at night?

TOOWONG PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson] **A** 1 Bert Luchjenbroers / Errol Miller; 2 Ivy Luck / Meta Goodman; **B** 1 Barbara Power / Jill Hutson; 2 Lilly Jia / Davis Zhang; **C** 1 Jane Tagney / Marge Henry; 2 Sally Hall / Rosemary Thomson.