

December 10 2022

Bridge with Richard Ward

A competent declarer can usually tell when the opponents are angling for a defensive ruff. The routine counter to this is to draw as many trumps as quickly as possible. On this hand, North-South bid accurately to six spades played by South on the lead of the five of diamonds.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ Q 8 5 4	♠ A J 10 6
♥ A K	♥ Q 2
♦ Q 10	♦ A K 6 3 2
♣ A Q 10 9 6	♣ K 5

Declarer played the queen of diamonds initially, planning to be in dummy to take the spade finesse(s) and was a bit surprised when the jack appeared from East. The danger of a diamond ruff should the finesse fail was obvious and so next came ace and another spade won by East who gave his partner a ruff for the setting trick! The look on South's face must have been priceless! The whole hand:

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

East was Sweden's Peter Fredin about whom a book has been written: "Master of Bridge Psychology: Inside the Remarkable Mind of Peter Fredin". We lesser players can only look on with awe. At the other table, there was a bidding mix-up and seven spades was reached. So, when the spade finesse worked, that was plus 1510 and 17 imps to the Fredin team.

AIRLIE BEACH PAIRS [Director – Leigh Owens] 1 Terrence Sheedy / Noel Bugeia; 2 Ellie Sheffield / Betty Andison; **B** Dusk Care / Sandra Bunnett; **C** Thea Weekes / Lydie Martin;
REDLAND TEAMS [Director – Chris Snook] 1 Larry Moses / Richard Wallis / Nikolas Moore / Rachel Langdon; 2 Toni Bardon / Neville Francis / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** John Scrivens / Denis Sullivan / Bert Luchjenbroers / Sunil Mukherjee; **C** Michael Clibbon / Deborah Thomas / Philip Thompson / Ada Krawczyk

The play-offs for the **Australian Mixed Team** resulted in a win for Lauren Travis, Phil Markey, Renee Cooper, Ben Thompson, Sophie Ashton and David Wiltshire. They will play in the World Championships in Marrakech, Morocco next August.
