

January 7 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

The McCutcheon Trophy for the most masterpoints won in 2022 went to Tony Nunn (NSW) on 557 marginally ahead of James Coutts [NSW] on 556.8. Best Queenslander was Charlie Lu ahead of his regular partner, Watson Zhu. Other category winners are listed below.

Here is a simple hand to welcome in the New Year.

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

South opened a strong 2NT raised to 3NT and faced the king of hearts lead ducked twice. Aware that, if the ace of clubs was with West, the contract would fail, our declarer played a hopeful club to the queen and ace. Back came the spade three and it was decision time. Should the spade finesse be taken or is the 3-3 diamond break a better chance? Since the straightforward finesse is a 50 percent chance and the 3-3 break is only 36 percent, declarer went with the odds, took the finesse and went down one. "Unlucky" said South. North sniffed. Can you see where declarer went wrong? There is no need to play on clubs early. Simply try the diamond suit immediately and, if that does not work, the spade finesse can come after the clubs are played as the final chance.

Queensland 2022 masterpoint winners: **SILVER GRAND** 1 Tony Hutton; 2 Terry Strong; **GRAND** 1 Terrence Sheedy; 2 Krystyna Homik; **GOLD LIFE** 1 Charlie Lu; 2 Annette Hyland; **SILVER LIFE** 1 Watson Zhu; 2 Abby Wanigaratne; **BRONZE LIFE** 1 Lyn Tracey; 2 Paul Brake; **LIFE** 1 Dana Williams; 2 Charlie Georgees; **SILVER NATIONAL** 1 Eric Goodchild; 2 Dusk Care; **BRONZE NATIONAL** 1 Eugene Pereira; 2 Christine Newbery; **NATIONAL** 1 Raelene Clark; 2 Voyko Markovic; **BRONZE STATE** 1 Gideon Azar; 2 Elizabeth Van Vugt; **STATE** 1 Martin Wu; 2 Wendy Cuthbert; **BRONZE REGIONAL** 1 Sandi Pirozzo; 2 Ann Sauer; **REGIONAL** 1 Michael Huddart; 2 Greg Dobson; **SILVER LOCAL** 1 Lilly Jia; 2 Vanessa Brewis; **BRONZE LOCAL** 1 Jenny McGowan; 2 John Rivers; **LOCAL** 1 Jan Kinross; 2 Jacqui Dudurovic; **CLUB** 1 Pauline Curin; 2 Elizabeth Ward; **GRADUATE** 1 Kerry Gibson; 2 Anne Portess; **NIL** 1 Duncan Welsh; 2 Alex Wu
