

Bridge with Richard Ward

This hand was played 70 times at the Summer Festival of Bridge with 6 teams bidding the failing 7H, 26 bidding 6H and the remainder bidding to just 4H.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1C	PASS	1H
PASS	4D	PASS	4NT
PASS	5C	PASS	6H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

4D was a 'splinter' bid, promising heart support and a diamond shortage. South checked for key cards and bid the slam to which West led the queen of diamonds. How many times have you been told that, once dummy is on the table, you should take time to consider the optimal options? Several declarers looked no further than the seductive club suit for their tricks, hoping for trumps to break 3-2, and clubs 3-3 or 4-2. On a good day this will be sufficient, but not this time when clubs broke 5-1. A far better and safer line that seems obvious when pointed out by a cranky partner, is to simply ruff two diamonds in dummy with the small trumps.

And, speaking of splinter bids, every partnership needs to be very clear about the meaning of 1S-4H. Does it show spade support with a heart shortage or a solid heart suit? This hand, also from Canberra, saw East-West playing in a 1-0 trump fit after an opponent mis-bid showing diamonds when he meant to show hearts.

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

1S – (3D!) – 4H all pass was not a success. A six spade contract has chances.

NORTHERN SUBURBS TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Jenny Hay / Ralph Parker / Ivy & John Luck; 2 Yolande Coroneo / Jane Farquhar / Laurie Skeate / Phil Hale; **B** Gayle McCarthy / David Lehmann / Dennis Sullivan / John Scrivens; **C** Louise Green field / Moira Daly / Carmel Wikman / Margie Knox; **TOOWOOMBA PAIRS** [Director – Chris Snook] **UNDER 500 MPs** 1 Hema & Shanaal De Zoysa; 2 David Edwards / Eugene Pereira; **NOVICE** 1 Susie & Sandy Fraser; 2 Carol Wright / Teens Haslam