

February 11, 2023

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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With just a week before the start of the International Gold Coast Bridge Congress at Broadbeach, all of the preparations are in hand including the pre-dealing of some 40,000 hands for the week-long event.

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

One of the first things you learn as a beginning bridge player is how to evaluate a hand by adding points: Ace=4, King=3, Queen=2 and Jack=1. The next thing is that a combined 25+ points are usually needed to bid game and 33+ for a small slam. And so it came to pass that absolutely every pair in a club duplicate bid these hands to a slam via 2NT (20-22) – 6NT since the minimum count was known to be 34. Simple. Now to find 12 tricks on the jack of diamonds lead.

Declarer could count ten top tricks, with possibilities in both black suits for extra tricks. He saw that the club suit should be broached first. So, after winning the first trick with dummy's queen of diamonds, declarer led a low club from dummy, intending to play the jack of clubs if East had followed with a low card. When East discarded a diamond, declarer rose with the ace of clubs and continued with the five of clubs. If West had played the king of clubs, declarer would have had the rest of the tricks. When West played the nine of clubs, dummy's queen won, giving declarer his eleventh trick. Then, all declarer had to do was to make an extra trick in spades without allowing West to gain the lead. Consequently, declarer returned to hand with the king of diamonds and then led a low spade to the nine. Whether that held or not, there were three spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

**QLD OPEN TEAMS TRIALS STAGE 1** [Director – Alan Gibson]: **OVERALL:** 1 Carmel Martin / Abby Wanigaratne; 2 Lech Kaszubski / Ian Afflick; **A** 1 Alison Dawson / Peter Evans; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong **B** 1 Michael Gearing / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Kim Morrison / Andy Braithwaite

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