

February 25, 2023

### Bridge with Richard Ward

---

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1D
2C	2S	PASS	3H
PASS	4D	PASS	4H
PASS	4S	PASS	6D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

When the diamond fit was disclosed, North and South used cue bidding on their way to the small slam. West led the club king. A useful dummy tracked and declarer's initial analysis was that a 3-3 spade break would provide three heart discards and, failing that, there was a last-chance heart finesse to take. It is easy to miss an extra possibility and our bridge column declarer found it.

After drawing two rounds of trumps with the king and queen, declarer led the two of spades towards dummy. If West rose with the ace, declarer would have four spade tricks, so West played low and dummy's king won the trick. A low spade was then played from dummy to declarer's jack and West's ace. This left West on lead with only clubs and hearts: eventually he exited with a club. Declarer ruffed this in dummy and threw a heart from hand. After cashing the queen of spades, throwing a second heart from hand, declarer ruffed a spade to establish a spade trick in dummy. Then he could cross back to dummy with a diamond and discard his jack of hearts on dummy's spade winner. What a cunning devil!

**GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS** – 620 pairs competed in several events over three days. **OPEN PAIRS** 1 Finn Kolesnik / Adam Kaplan; 2 Andrew Spooner / Phil Markey; **B** Richard Brightling / David Hoffman; **C** Ian Price / Bruce Tier; **D** Jonathan Free / Ron Cooper; **E** Bob Clarke / Therese Demarco; **F** Andrew Woollons / Richard Fox; **G** Debbie McLeod / Brian Cleaver; **RESTRICTED PAIRS** Annie Pilcher / Camilla Boyd; **B** Sandy Carter / Nerida Gillies; **C** Tony Abbott / Neil Williams; **D** Tere Wotherspoon / Mick Fawcett; **NOVICE PAIRS** Zac Ross / Kate Macdonald; **B** Debbie Carroll / Jacinta Lee; **WEEKEND PAIRS** 1 Sue Lusk / Viv Wood; 2 Di Smart / Liz Havas

---