

March 11, 2023

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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

This hand occurred at the recent Queensland Mixed Teams Championship which was directed by Peter Busch and hosted in fine style by the Noosa Bridge Club. A few brave souls opened three clubs as East despite the poor suit and dangerous vulnerability. So, when North-South reached the obvious but doomed four spades, some West's could not resist bidding five clubs as a phantom sacrifice where they were doubled and lost 12 imps for their trouble. At our table Ken Dawson (West) and Adrienne Kelly (East) were defending against the four spades contract which appears to have four unavoidable losers. They played three rounds of hearts, ruffed in dummy. Declarer then drew trumps whilst eliminating the club suit. When ace and another diamond followed, West was not caught napping, rising with the king and snaffling up his partner's queen – a rare 'crocodile coup'. Had he played his jack, East would have been end-played and the contract would have made. Classy defence!

**QLD MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP:** 1 Jill Magee, Terry Strong, Therese Tully, Richard Ward; 2 Fay Stanton, Janeen Solomon, Kerry Wood, Charles Howard; **B** 1 Peter McNamee, Elizabeth French, Pamela Hawkins, Sheryl Cullenward; 2 Margaret & Don Robertson, Julie Scott, Elizabeth Van Vugt; **DALBY CONGRESS** [Director - Chris Snook] **PAIRS** 1 Jenni Buckley / Jim Wood; 2 Hema & Shanaal De Zoysa; **B** Havah Nielsen / Philip Atkinson; **TEAMS** Jenni Buckley, Jim Wood, Mavis Simpson, Denise Hartwig; **TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director - Alan Gibson] 1 Pam Schoen / Phil Hale; 2 Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting; **B** Barbara Mackay / Barry Koster; **C** Wendy Casey / Jo Neary.

Stage 2 of the Qld Open Team trials starts today with sixteen pairs vying for the three available places. The Australian National Championships will be held in Perth in July. The Women's and Seniors trials start on 25 March and entries are open.

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