

April 8, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Bridge is a game for all ages. In the recent Queensland trials for the three categories the players' ages ranged from 17 to 87. The most remarkable performance came from octogenarian Margaret Millar who, with long-time partner Sue O'Brien, qualified second in a strong field of 19 pairs in the Women's field. Margaret Millar has a dazzling record in representative competition including 17 appearances for Queensland at the Australian National Interstate Teams which she has won on four occasions, a win in the 2007 Australian Women's Butler with Greer Tucker and nine Queensland championships.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1D	PASS	1H	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

West leads the king of diamonds to declarer's bare ace. Declarer can count seven trumps and the two red aces as certain tricks. Unless the king of trumps is singleton, the tenth trick will have to come from the club suit. Declarer can devise three plans - good, better, and best. Plan A is to hope that West holds both the ace and king of clubs, in which case a club trick can be forced. Plan B is to take the heart finesse which, given the opening bid by West, is a likely winning choice. Plan C is to cross to dummy and lead a low club towards hand. This works if the club honours are split. When East plays low, South covers East's card and West is on lead with only losing alternatives. If instead East rises with the king of clubs and returns a spade, declarer wins the ace and has a trump left in dummy to ruff a losing club if necessary. The defenders will make a trump and two club tricks.

QLD TEAM TRIALS 2023: [Director – Alan Gibson] **WOMEN'S** 1 Carmel Martin – Abby Wanigaratne; 2 Margaret Millar – Sue O'Brien; 3 Maha Hoenig – Janeen Solomon; Reserves: Greer Tucker – Pele Rankin; **SENIORS** 1 Kerry Wood – Charlie Howard; 2 Paul Collins – Ian Afflick; 3 Larry Moses – Ralph Parker; Reserves: Paul Hooykaas – Tony Hutton
