

May 13, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

Sweden's Peter Fredin must rank as one of the world's most imaginative players. What makes Fredin's approach to bridge so original is that, again and again, he rejects the correct technical line in favour of a psychological one. As Fredin puts it, opportunities to deceive occur all the time, but the vast majority of players are not 'wired' to think that way. Or maybe they just don't have his nerve: he's never worried about looking a fool when backing his intuition over the mathematical odds. This hand was played in Barbados in 2015 and, because Fredin's team was trailing badly in their match, he decided, with no opposition intervention, to take the plunge with the South hand to a precarious but not impossible, six spades. Looking at the two obvious trump losers, how did he make twelve tricks?

He won the opening heart lead then cashed his three top diamonds and the ace of clubs. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed another club, ruffed another heart and ruffed the fourth club with the queen of spades. At trick 11, declarer held the ace-nine of spades as he advanced the nine of hearts towards dummy's singleton spade ten. West, reduced to the king-jack-eight of spades, inserted his jack, but was endplayed. Mission accomplished, six spades made but far too difficult for most of us.

QUEENSLAND NOVICE PAIRS [Director – Julie Jeffries] 1 Paddy Taylor / Alex Wu; 2 Stuart Stoddart / Sue Calthrop; **B** George Collings / Phil Kay; **C** Richard Huysmans / John Reed; **HERVEY BAY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook] **PAIRS** 1 Jenny Millington / Barry Jones; 2 Gordon Kellerman / Patricia Mann; **B** Maurice Williams / Patricia Hamilton; **C** Duncan Welsh / Sue Mittermair; **TEAMS** 1 Patricia Mann / Gordon Kellerman / John Morris / Neven Burica; 2 Fred Whitaker / Anna Monks / Jenny Millington / Barry Jones; **B** Barbara Love / Rob Anderson / Marianne Elmer / Peter Kriksciunas
