

May 20, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Coping with wild distributional hands can be either satisfying when you get the bidding right or really, really irritating otherwise. This hand from the New Orleans Spring Nationals was reported in the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2S	5H	5S	1H
DBL	PASS	PASS	6H
			PASS

Two spades was described as an intermediate jump overcall. Most experts would bid six hearts over five spades, although this sounds counterintuitive holding three aces and good spades. But partner has no defence, and the heart ace is unlikely to cash.

They lead a spade and, when both follow in trumps, you see that five spades was not making which is a pity. Still, they have not taken their club tricks, so all may not be lost. Hoping for a mis-defence and a miracle in diamonds, you cross to dummy in hearts and lead towards your singleton ace. East plays the king (wouldn't you?) so "all" that remains is to cross to dummy again and lead a triumphant jack of diamonds, pinning West's ten and making all thirteen tricks. You are a genius! Never underestimate the power of leading towards the closed hand!

SURFERS PARADISE TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Margaret Pisko / Trish Anagnostou / Edward Hahn / Jeff Conroy; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong / Edda & Tom Strong; **B** Daria Williams / Eugene Pereira / Voyko & Vesna Markovic; **C** Kevin Ridgway / Helen Jones / Lois & John Rolls.

After the River City Gold Mixed Pairs in Brisbane next weekend the next national gold point event is the Victor Champion Cup which will be held at the Mooney Vally Racecourse Melbourne starting on 8th June. Early Bird entry discounts close this week.

An online Director Training Course for club and congress directors will be held on the second weekend of October. Check the website for early details.
