

June 10, 2023

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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There are so many different aspects to think about in this game that sometimes just evaluating your hand, following suit, counting trumps and signalling (legally) to partner in defence takes up all of your energy. If you become competent at all of these things you will, by and large, find yourself on the podium now and again. This hand happens to be 'cold' for ten tricks but, even seeing all four hands, the successful line is not obvious.

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

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

North's double was a 'support double' promising three hearts so South bid to the normal game. West started with the king of spades and our genius declarer was reasonably confident that the ace of clubs was with West given the bidding. So the opening lead was ducked and the ten of diamonds switch was taken by the ace. Then - here comes the 'genius' bit - a low spade went to the jack and queen. Later, the diamond loser was discarded on the ace of spades and it was then easy to establish diamond winners to make one spade, five hearts and four diamonds. It would not have helped West to continue with the queen of spades at trick two as that would have been ducked leading to the same result. There were distributional dangers to this line but this was far better than hoping for the ace of clubs onside.

**ARANA CONGRESS** [Director – Julie Jeffries] **PAIRS** 1 Maha Hoenig / Janeen Solomon; 2 Pele Rankin / Kim Morrison; **B** Joyanne Gissing / Greg Lee; **C** Ian Broadley / Ben Ludic; **TEAMS** 1 Therese Tully / Paul Hooykaas / Pele Rankin / Kim Morrison; 2 Neville Francis / Patrick Bugler / Watson Zhou / Charlie Lu; **B** 1 Mick Fawcett / Dewi Eastman / Lyn Tracey / Winny Chan; 2 Jennifer Bavage / Susan Kennard / Jane Doyle / Melva Leale.

Many Queenslanders have travelled to Melbourne this week for the prestigious Victor Champion Cup. Results can be viewed on the ABF website.

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