

June 17, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Three State Championships were decided last weekend: Qld Butler Pairs Jill Magee & Terry Strong; Qld Women's Pairs Michelle Radke & Kathy Males; Qld Men's Pairs Tim Runting & Patrick Bugler.

Today's hand comes from the 2022 Red Sea International Festival played in Eilat, Israel.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	2H	PASS	2NT
3D	PASS	3NT	DBL
PASS	PASS	PASS	

The bidding was imaginative, especially North's pass over 3D when most would bid rebid hearts with such a dramatic, distributional hand. South's double looks reasonable but the winning defence would need careful handling with all of those diamonds looming in dummy after the ace of spades won the first trick. Next came a club: 7-2-A-Q! This deterred North from the obvious high heart continuation and, when clubs were continued, South later became endplayed to provide the ninth trick - NS -550. At another table, South became upset when his partner removed six diamonds doubled to six hearts, so he redoubled to indicate his displeasure. When the opening lead was the king of clubs that was NS + 2070

QLD BUTLER PAIRS [Director Alan Gibson]: 1 Jill Magee / Terry 1 Strong; 2 Tim Runting / Patrick Bugler; 3 Andrew Woollons / Richard Fox; 4 Jenny Hays / Ralph Parker; 5 Meta Goodman / John Luck. 6 Lyn & Jim Martin; **TOWNSVILLE TEAMS** [Directors Leigh Owens & Jan Smith] 1 Kenn Winter / David North / Jayne Dalton / Jan Smith; 2 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson / Phil Rains / Lesleigh Rooney; 3 Pat Larsen / Pat Leighton / Gladys Tulloch. Barbara Hospers.

Meanwhile in Melbourne, the Victor Champion Cup was won by Andrew Spooner / Matt Mullamphy / Ron Klinger / Ian Thomson over Liam Milne / James Coutts / Andy Hung / Sartaj Hans. Results from the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation championships in Hong Kong next week.
