

July 1, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Declarer play hands which have just one problem to solve should be the easiest to analyse at the table. Today's grand slam hand has twelve top tricks and the club suit provides the only hope for the thirteenth.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2S	DBL
PASS	3C	PASS	3H
PASS	4H	PASS	4NT
PASS	5H	PASS	7H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

The bidding: 2S was a 'weak 2' – six spades with less than an opening hand; 3C promised some values; 5H showed two key cards, clearly both minor suit aces.

The play began with a spade opening lead followed by three top hearts. Declarer then cashed the king and queen of diamonds and, when East turned up with a singleton, could be marked with a 6-2-1-4 distribution. Next came a club to the ace and a second club. When East played low, dummy's nine won the trick. If East had split his club J-10, the ace of diamonds would provide a dummy entry to repeat the finesse. Had East followed to two diamonds, only West could possibly hold four clubs. In that case, declarer needs to play safely in the hope that, if East has a singleton, it is the jack or ten – so start clubs with the king and queen.

TOOWOOMBA TEAMS [Director – Chris Snook]: **UNDER 500 MASTERPOINTS** 1 Trevor Henderson / Mavis Simpson / John Erlandson / Patrick Kelly; 2 Lawrence Price / David Edwards / Greg Munck / Ngaire Wills; **NOVICE** 1 Susie & Sandy Fraser / Tim Porter / Roger Green / 2 Rhonda & Allan McLucas / Joy & Gerry Orrin. **TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director - Alan Gibson]: **OPEN** 1 Pele Rankin / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong; **B** Winny Chan / Wendy Gibson; **C** Sherrell Cardinal / Peter Lang; **UNDER 150 MASTERPOINTS** 1 Marge Henry / David Sydes; 2 Jacqui Dudurovic / Althea Crowley; **B** Alice Edwards / Jenny Andrews;