

August 26, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	2D	PASS	2C
PASS	3NT	ALL PASS	2NT

North's 2D bid was 'waiting' and, when South promised 23-24 high card points, the 3NT game was easily reached. West led the jack of spades and declarer could count six top tricks. Unless there was a singleton or doubleton ace of diamonds, there would only be two tricks in the diamond suit when the defender with the ace of diamonds held up until the third round of the suit. So, declarer had only eight certain tricks and the club suit was the most likely source for the ninth – or a miraculous doubleton queen of hearts. Trick two went: C2 – 8 – 3 – 9 and a spade was returned. Now declarer cashed the ace of clubs and was pleased to see the queen fall on the left. Declarer's next move was to play the king of diamonds, which was allowed to hold perforce. A diamond to the queen also won and declarer now led dummy's remaining club towards his jack-six. East rose with the king of clubs and declarer's jack of clubs was the ninth trick.

There is a defensive lesson here as well. When South leads the king of diamonds, East should play the 8. This is the start of a high-low length signal indicating an even number of diamonds so West knows not to take the ace until the third round. If West had played the two of diamonds – showing an odd number, West could safely win the second round.

QUEENSLAND GRADED TEAMS [Director – Jan Peach]: 1 Michelle Radke / Ian Halford / Paul Collins / Ian Afflick; 2 Tere Wotherspoon / Siegfried Konig / Patrick Bugler / Tim Runting; **UNDER 750** Eugene Pereira / Martin Wu / Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; **UNDER 150** Linda & Peter Neil / Stuart Stoddart / Sue Calthrop; **TOWNSVILLE NOVICE PAIRS** [Director – Charlie Georgees]: 1 Nina Doyle / Ian Leach; 2 Jeff Stephens / Lyn Gadsby; 3 Frances Summerhayes / Terry Hughes.
