

September 16, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

In teams play declarer needs to ensure the contract before looking around for overtricks.

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

The bidding at both tables was a simple 1NT:3NT with West leading the 4th highest five of hearts. The first declarer played the queen won by East's king. Next came the killing switch to the jack of spades: Q-K-4. Trick three was won by the ace of spades and, when declarer played the ace of diamonds disclosing the bad break, there were only 8 tricks available. The declarer at the other table showed how to make the contract safely. To prevent a possible early spade lead from East, the ace of hearts was played at trick one. As long as East did not gain the lead too early four diamond tricks would be sufficient. With that in mind, declarer led a low diamond from dummy and, when East followed with the six, the eight won the trick much to everybody's surprise. It does not help the defence to play a higher card. If West had been able to win the first diamond there would have been no winning return. When the eight of diamonds held, declarer was able to play the diamond suit for five tricks and make an overtrick for a useful swing.

NOOSA SEPTEMBER TEAMS [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Ivy & John Luck / Terry O'Dempsey / Ralph Parker; 2 Rosemary Green / Philippa Barnett / David Harris / Tim Ridley; **B** Bev Connell / John Reiter / Don Scown / John Newton; **DALBY SEPTEMBER PAIRS** [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Jenni Buckley / Jim Wood; 2 Michael Doherty / Gus Govan; **B** Susie & Sandy Fraser; **KENMORE NOVICE PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **UNDER 50** 1 Carmel Sedgman / Marc Greenbaum; 2 Jenny Fryar / Irene Koman; **UNDER 100** 1 Renuka Mahadevan / Mary Fletcher; 2 Jim Pope / Peter Wilce; **MAGNETIC ISLAND TEAMS** [Directors – Jan Smith & Leigh Owens]: 1 Frances & Alan Brown / Janelle Conroy / Tex Sheedy; 2 Betty Hobdell / Rosemary Glastonbury / Ian Patterson / Ched Twyman; 3 Helen Lovegrove / Joh Tredrea / Russell Woolley / Charlie Georgees.
