

September 23, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Expert players do not like taking finesses, particularly losing ones, if they can possibly be avoided.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1H
PASS	2NT	PASS	3H
PASS	3S	PASS	4C
PASS	4NT	PASS	5D
PASS	6H	ALL PASS	

North's 2NT was a forcing-to-game heart raise. Some play that South should show shortage in response, but not when it is an ace or a king. So the bidding proceeded with cue bids then Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover that there was one key card missing. West led the jack of clubs. After winning the trick with the ace, declarer's dilemma was that there were finesse positions in three suits. The only finesse that could not be avoided was in spades, so his next move was to lead the queen of spades. West covered this with the king, which was taken by dummy's ace of spades. After discarding a spade on the king of clubs, declarer ruffed dummy's remaining club. Now declarer was in a position to improve upon relying on either a winning trump finesse or finding the queen of diamonds. After cashing the jack of spades, declarer played a trump to dummy's ace, then ruffed dummy's last spade. The elimination was now complete and declarer exited with a trump. Whichever hand held the king would then have to solve the diamond guess or provide a ruff and discard.

INGHAM HINCHINBROOK CHALLENGE PAIRS [Director – Charlie Georgees]; 1 Joy Trigg / Joan Campbell; 2 Stephen Vigg / Danny Benedetto; **B** 1 Cobie & Simon van Kruistum; 2 Dusk Care / Kay Goodwin; **C** 1 Korma Byrne / Sandy Mollenhagen; 2 Jeanette Cockburn / Wendy Coe; **REDLAND PAIRS** ;Director – Julie Jeffries]; **A** 1 Kim Morrison / David Smith; 2 Ian Afflick / Paul Collins; 3 Neville Francis / Patrick Bugler; **B** 1 Deanne Gaskell / Geoff Saxby; 2 Jennifer Finigan / Joanna Bratko; 3 Janelle & James Williamson; **SUNSHINE COAST PAIRS** [Director – Peter Busch]; 1 Alison Dawson / Janeen Solomon; 2 Ivy & John Luck; **B** 1 Sonya & Shane Palfreyman; 2 Vesna & Voyko Markovic; **C** 1 John Rivers / Sameer Pandya; 2 Moira Gibbens / Peter Hagan.
