

October 14, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Here is an avoidance play involving a loser-on-a-loser and careful management of the small trump cards.

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

At one table, East opened two hearts which promised a weak hand with 5+ hearts and 4+ in either clubs or diamonds. South bid four spades and EW were then allowed to stop in five hearts, making a fortuitous twelve tricks for +680. At the other table when East passed initially, South's opening four spade bid won the auction.

West led the king of hearts and shifted to the two of diamonds. As the cards lay, playing low from dummy would have been fatal: East would win the trick with the king of diamonds and shift to a club, giving the defenders four tricks before declarer gained the lead. Instead, declarer won the ace and threw the diamond queen on the jack of hearts. Later declarer was able to get to dummy three times, (yes – check it out), to establish a diamond winner for a club discard. If the diamonds had broken 5-1, declarer would have had to hope that the ace of clubs was onside. That was a double-game swing and 15 imps.

QBA FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

[Directors – Julie Jeffries, Alan Gibson, Peter Busch]

TBIB OPEN TEAMS & REG BUSCH TROPHY: 1 Sandra & Andrew Richman / Andy Braithwaite / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Anne Lamport / Richard Wallis / Greer Tucker / Paul Gosney / Ewa Kowalczyk; **PLATE** Malcolm Saunders / Jan Randall / Don Cameron / Adrian Lohmann; **CONSOLATION** Jan & Ian Argent / Robyn Clark / Carol Loth; **RESTRICTED** Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Vanessa Brewis / Jenny McGowan; **REGIONAL** Frances & Alan Brown / Janet Hansen / Diane Morgan / Geoff Taylor; **MOORE AUSTRALIA OPEN PAIRS:** 1 Neville Francis / Richard Ward; 2 Alison Dawson / Peter Evans; **PLATE** Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting; **CONSOLATION** Sonya & Shane Palfreyman; **REGIONAL** Jan Smith / Leigh Owens; **RESTRICTED** Kate McDonald / Ben Leung. **NOVICE** Ann Whitmore / Sandra Morris.
