

October 21, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

You are frequently told to stop and think before playing to the first trick but there are times when you have no idea what you should be thinking about. One suggestion is to consider whether it will be dummy or your hand which will be taking the important tricks.

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

The bidding was straightforward once the heart fit was discovered. South checked for key cards and, missing one, bid six hearts to which West led the queen of diamonds. If you look no further than the club finesse, you will go down. A far better line which is easy to miss involves trumping dummy's two diamond losers. Cash the ace and king of diamonds and ruff one with the king of trumps. The seven of trumps to dummy's nine is allowed to win so ruff a second diamond with the queen. Then the ten of hearts to dummy's jack will be won by East who returns a club won by the ace. Finally, a spade is won by the ace and trumps are drawn. Four spade tricks, three trumps, two diamonds, two diamond ruffs in hand and the ace of clubs brings the total to twelve tricks.

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