

November 4, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

A bidding problem for a change this morning. You are West holding:

S A10 8 **H** K 9 4 **D** 10 8 3 **C** A Q 8 3 and the bidding goes:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	4S	4NT	3S PASS
??			

4NT by partner shows 'two places to play'. You have two decisions – which suit and how high to bid. A slam seems obvious and the best way to select the suit is to bid 5NT asking partner to choose.

NORTH

♠ Q 2 **S/ EW VUL**
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A K 9 5 4 2
♣ 9 5

WEST

♠ A 10 8
♥ K 9 4
♦ 10 8 3
♣ A Q 8 3

EAST

♠ K
♥ Q J 6 5 3 2
♦ -
♣ K J 7 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ J 9 7 6 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ Q J 7 6
♣ 10

Barring a ruff, six clubs is cold as is six hearts, a fine result in the face of the pre-emption and holding so few high cards. And, just in case you're thinking that this wasn't too difficult, see what happened at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	4S	4NT	PASS
5C	PASS	PASS	5S
6C	DBL	ALL	PASS

Let's blame South for breaking the golden rule: Do not bid your hand twice.

CLEVELAND BAY ANNIVERSARY PAIRS [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Barbara Hospers / Jenelle Dalton; 2 Cathy Crawford / Gladys Tulloch; **B** Ann Smith / Anto Wilson; **C** Judith Threlfall / Jayne Dalton; **CALOUNDR A OCTOBER PAIRS** [Director – Steve Murray]: 1 Lyn & Jim Martin; 2 Andrew Dunlop / Stephen Hughes; **B** 1 Kay Sutherland / Kay Webber; 2 Sarah Huntington-Wynne / Tim Sayer; **HERVEY BAY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Malcolm Saunders / Malcolm Allan; 2 John Morris / Neven Burica; **B** 1 Lesley Oliver / June Ronning; 2 Gary Sandlant / Gillian Mason[**TEAMS** 1 Maurice Williams / David Priol / Mattie Baljet / Marcel Hoevenaars; 2 Jocelyn Cooper / Ariane McLean / George Gibson / Lynne Layton.