

November 11, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1H	PASS	1S
PASS	2S	PASS	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

One of Australian international Bobby Richman's aphorisms was, "More points are lost by not raising partner's major suit on three-card support than by any other action." Here the raise to two spades is the best rebid on the North cards. Then, if South bids 3NT showing only four spades, North can act accordingly – unnecessary on this hand.

West began the defence with three top diamonds. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace and king of spades, reducing his chances of landing the game to a favourable heart layout. When it failed, the unlucky result was a one trick set. The winning play is not impossible to find at the table. Simply cash the top clubs then play the ace of spades and a spade to the jack. If this loses to a doubleton queen, East will be end-played, forced to give a ruff-and-discard for the tenth trick. As the cards lie here, the jack of spades will win. Should East have started with Q-10-4 of spades declarer will need to rely on the heart finesse after all.

NORTHERN SUBURBS PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Ken Dawson / Andy Slater; 2 Sunil Mukherjee / Bert Luchjenbroers; **B** 1 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Roberta Tait / Lex Ranke; **C** 1 Fiona Evans / Paul Brake; 2 Sue Ziegenfuss / Kathy Males;

TOWNSVILLE NOVICE TEAMS [Director – Charlie Georgees]: 1 Yvonne Cassidy / Toni Barrell / Greg Lawler / Garry Bolton; 2 Terry Hughes / Frances Summerhayes / Lyn Gadsby / Jan Woollett.

The 62nd Gold Coast International Congress will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach from 17th February 2024, Entries through the Queensland Bridge Association website are coming in fast with nearly 300 teams entered to date.

Entries have also opened for the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra from 9th January and the Barrier Reef Congress in Mackay from 3rd May.
