

November 25, 2023

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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Charlie Lu first appeared on the Queensland bridge scene playing with Martin Qin in the Open Team in 2019. Since then he has gone from strength to strength, winning the award for the most masterpoints earned in 2022 together with a number of national titles. Last week he played in a gruelling 6-day play-off event for the 2024 Australian Open Team and his team [Charlie Lu / Peter Gill / Liam Milne / James Coutts / Tony Nunn / Nabil Edgtton] came through to win convincingly from [Andrew Spooner / Philip Markey / Mike Doecke / Will Jenner-O'Shea / Shane Harrison / Mat Smith]. Charlie and his team will be heading to Buenos Aires for the World Bridge Games next October.

When you pick up the South hand it is always a good idea to add up your high card points from left to right and then from right to left. If the total is 26 both times that is a good start.

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

The no trump game was reached via 2C:2D:3NT. The king of spades was led and allowed to hold. West continued with the ten of spades and, when East discarded a diamond, declarer paused to think. There were eight top tricks in hand and the only chance for a ninth was that the queen of hearts would prove to be a winner. This needed West to hold the king of hearts. Accordingly, after taking the ace of spades at trick two, declarer cashed all of the winners in the minor suits and then played a spade. West could take three more spade winners but then, at trick twelve, the forced heart return provided the ninth trick.

**NOOSA PAIRS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Sanmugaras Kamal / Neville Francis; 2 Janeen Solomon / Alison Dawson; **B** 1 Pamela Hawkins / Michelle Behrens; 2 Noreen Weyling / Tony Davidson; **GOLD COAST TEAMS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Paula & David McLeish / Therese Tully / Kim Morrison; 2 Abby Wanigaratne / Carmel Martin / Raelene Clark / Richard Fox; **B** 1 John Rivers / Eugene Pereira / Vesna & Voyko Markovic; 2 Richard Spelman / Lyn Tracey / Kate Macdonald / Paddy Taylor

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