

December 2, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Australian team of Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung and Nabil Edgtton- Michael Whibley(NZ) made it into the quarter finals of the Soloway Knockout Teams in Atlanta. Seeded 20th in a powerful field of 32, they overcame some highly fancied teams containing multiple World Champions such as David Berkowitz and Jeff Meckstroth. Leading at the half-way mark, the last 30 hands did not go their way losing finally 181-131 Nevertheless, an outstanding effort on the international stage.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4H	5H	6H	1S
PASS	PASS	PASS	6S

North's five heart bid promised spade support and first round control in hearts. As South had no wasted values in hearts, bidding the slam seemed obvious. West's lead of the three of clubs looked and smelt like a singleton, so declarer did well not to waste the jack of clubs at trick one, winning with the ace. After drawing the trumps and ruffing both heart losers all that remained was to play ace, king and another diamond. If West won this trick, any red card return would allow South's club loser to be discarded. If East won it, there were no winning options.

SUNSHINE COAST PAIRS [Director – Steve Murray]: 1 Lyn & Jim Martin; 2 Sheryl Cullenward / Ann Mellings; **B** 1 Ilo Hellaby / John Newton; 2 Prunella Adams; **TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Janeen Solomon / Maha Hoening; **B** 1 Annette Corkhill / Wendy Gibson; 2 Sonya & Shayne Palfreyman; **C** 1 Trish Weimers / Carla Ferro; 2 Sheena Pollock / Denise Merrin; **AIRLIE BEACH PAIRS** [Directors – Jan Smith & Leigh Owens]: 1 Tex Sheedy / Noel Bugeia; 2 Betty Theodore / Judy Zeller; **B** 1 Mary Rose Ramsden / Noel Saunders; 2 Coleen Evanson / Bill Pickering; **C** Jill Brabon / Beverly Lowcock.

The Grand National Open Teams Final comprising 60 top teams from all over Australia is underway today at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club. Progressive scores can be found on the Australian Bridge Federation website.