

December 23, 2023

Bridge with Richard Ward

Have you ever held all 13 spades? No, of course not, it will never happen. Sure, it will! The probability is just one in 635,013,559,600. So, if you play one hundred boards every day, this specific hand will come once in 17.4 million years. This fascinating statistic has nothing at all to do with the following hand:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		4H	4S
6H	6S	PASS	PASS
7H!	DBL	PASS	PASS
RDBL!!		ALL PASS	

Here we have international youth players engaging in 'bluff-and-counter-bluff' bidding because that's what youth players traditionally do. West had a tough choice over four spades because she did not have a bid that invited a slam and asked partner for a spade control. But, as a four-heart opening bid often includes short spades, West decided to jump to slam then North, trusting his opponent, "sacrificed" in six spades. But West was not giving up yet. Rather than settling for a reasonable score by doubling this, she pushed on to the grand slam and then redoubled! Everybody at the table was confident that West had a spade void and so, when South led a club, plus 2940 was a nice top plus bragging rights for West.

The play-off for the 2024 Australian Mixed Team was a close-fought affair with THOMSON [Jodi Tutty / David Beauchamp / Pauline Gumby / Warren Lazer / Dagmar Neumann / Maurits Van Der Vlugt] coming from behind to defeat HARRISON [Jessica Brake / Shane Harrison / Sue Lusk / Bruce Neill] 245-239.

QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PAIRS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Ian Afflick / Paul Collins; 2 Roberta Tait / Lex Ranke; 3 Agnes & Barry Kempthorne; **B** 1 Daria Williams / Ross Murtagh; 2 Hema & Shanaal De Zoysa; **C** 1 Ada Krawczyk / Michael Clibbon; 2 Barry Williams / Mike Martin.
