

January 6, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

A recommended New Year resolution is to bid as the professionals do, living dangerously early and obstructing their opponents frequently. Last week, expert Andy Hung held, all vulnerable, S KQ8652 H void D J10954 C J8 and bid a courageous three spades over an opening bid of two clubs which promised a big hand. The final contract was six spades doubled making ten tricks for -500 – great value when the score from the other table was 2210 for bidding and making the grand slam (A3-AKQJ8642-820-A opposite void-95-AKQ63-K109754) in an uncontested auction.

Your New Year hand appears to have three unavoidable losers even when seeing all of the cards.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1H	PASS	2D
2S	3D	4S	5D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

West leads the king of spades won perforce with the ace. Next comes a diamond to dummy's nine and the ten of spades – six – three of hearts (!) – jack of spades. West wins an undeserved trick but now it is a simple matter to ruff out the hearts and enjoy three winners there whilst drawing trumps and discarding three clubs from hand. Declarer loses just one spade and one club.

TOP QUEENSLAND MASTERPOINT WINNERS 2023: OVERALL 1 Kim Morrison; 2 Charlie Lu; 3 Abby Wanigaratne; **SILVER GRAND PLUS** 1 Kim Morrison; 2 Janeen Solomon; **GRAND** 1 Charlie Lu; 2 Nikolas Moore; **GOLD LIFE** 1 Abby Wanigaratne; 2 Edward Hahn; **SILVER LIFE** 1 Rachel Langdon; 2 Janelle Conroy; **BRONZE LIFE** 1 Eugene Pereira; 2 Daria Williams; **LIFE** 1 Shayne Palfreyman; 2 Ched Twyman; **SILVER NATIONAL** 1 Trevor Henderson; 2 Peter McNamee; **BRONZE NATIONAL** 1 Sonya Palfreyman; 2 Vesna Markovic; **NATIONAL** 1 Lilly Jia; 2 Robert Fulcher;

Other categories next week.