

January 13, 2024

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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

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

The bidding was identical at both tables in a teams match and, when dummy appeared on the opening lead of the three of spades, declarer needed to avoid three losers in the trump suit. Usually, with such a holding, declarer needs to guess which defender holds a doubleton honour and leads through that holding, intending to duck on the second round or, alternatively, guessing which defender holds both honours. On this deal, East can be expected to hold six spades to West's three. Accordingly, East is by far the favourite to hold a doubleton trump honour assuming that the honours are split between the defenders.

So, at the first table, South won the opening lead - S3-2-9!-ace - and crossed to dummy with a club so as to lead a heart towards hand. East jumped up with the ace of hearts, returned a spade to partner's known queen thanks to the trick one discovery play and received a club ruff for one light. At table two, declarer avoided that risk by playing the jack of hearts from hand at trick two. Whatever West did, the contract was now home as the cards lay. This will also work if West holds both heart honours.

**2023 MASTER POINT AWARDS (continued): BRONZE STATE** 1 Jenny McGowan; 2 Vanessa Brewis; **STATE** 1 Ben Leung; 2 John Rivers; **BRONZE REGIONAL** 1 Bill Gilmore; 2 Don Cameron; **REGIONAL** 1 Jacqui Dudurovic; 2 Julia Caldwell; **SILVER LOCAL** 1 Kate Macdonald; 2 Davis Zhang; **BRONZE LOCAL** 1 Elizabeth Ward; 2 David Ward; **LOCAL** 1 Duncan Welsh; 2 Zac Ross; **CLUB** 1 Lauren Morgan; 2 Sue Mittermair; **GRADUATE** 1 Margo Solomon; 2 Wayne Mitchell; **NIL** 1 Sheila Waddell; 2 Neil Niemand, Paul Halvorsen.

**GOLD COAST TEAMS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Nikolas Moore / Rachel Langdon / Pamela & Jim Evans; 2 Krystyna Homik / Frank Hymus / Odette Hall / Cheryl Hensel; **B** Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Ping Xie / Paul Han

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