

June 15, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

Signalling legally to partner with the cards you play can be difficult at times. Sending a message can be easy, but picking it up on the other side of the table is less so. Beware the partner who thinks that it is possible to send two messages with just one card: "I played the ten to tell you that I liked your lead and also held something in spades" makes little sense.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	3D	4H
5D	6H	ALL PASS	

When the ace of diamonds wins the first trick [DA-9-8-4], and dummy has a singleton as here, East's card should suggest to partner what to play next. A high card would ask for a spade, a low card for a club. So, the eight must be a neutral card, denying the ace of spades and the king of clubs. Even so, at the table West could see no harm in continuing with the queen of spades. Wouldn't you? This allowed declarer to win the ace of spades, unblock the king of clubs, then cross to dummy three times to play on clubs, discarding the two spade losers. The winning defence is to exit with a trump at trick two, using up one of dummy's precious entries too early. Congratulations if you found that play.

Queensland Women's Pairs Champions: Carmel Martin / Abby Wanigaratne

Queensland Men's Pairs Champions: Tony Treloar / Peter Evans

QUEENSLAND BUTLER PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Tony Treloar / Peter Evans; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** 1 Joyanne Gissing / Greg Lee; 2 Margaret Plunkett / Greg Gosney; **C** 1 Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; 2 Peter Schmidt / John Rivers;

TOWNSVILLE TEAMS [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson / Lesleigh Rooney / Robyn Nolan; 2 David North / Ken Winter / Leigh Owens / John Tredrea; **B** Donna Fitch / Di Garside / Carol Blackman / Heather Colbert; **C** Ann Smith / Andree Galeano / Jo Gillis / Sue Reilly.
