

July 6, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

Timing the play to perfection is an advanced declarer skill which eludes most players. The bidding here was a straightforward 1H:1S - 2S:4S.

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

It is easy to defeat yourself on this hand as three out of four declarers proved, each bemoaning their bad luck when all three finesses failed. Declarer #1 took West's opening lead of the queen of diamonds with the ace and returned the suit. East won the second trick and shifted to a club. Down one. Declarers #2 and #3 ducked the opening lead but failed at trick two when West shifted to a heart: queen-king-two, then came the inevitable club shift. Down one again.

The road to success involves keeping East off lead while either the king of trumps or the king of hearts remain unplayed. If East had played the king of diamonds at trick one, this declarer planned to win the ace and return the ten of diamonds. However, East followed with the eight of diamonds so the queen won the trick. West tried a heart next, but declarer took the ace immediately. The queen of trumps then lost to West's king but there was nothing the defence could do now. Four trumps, four hearts and the minor-suit aces came to a triumphant ten tricks.

TOOWONG PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Pele Rankin / Greer Tucker; 2 Eva & Tony Berger; **B** Robyn Bishop / David Sydes; **C** Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis; **Under 150 MPs**: 1 Geoff Willson / John Wilson; 2 Linda & Peter Neil; **B** 1 Vina & Naren Shah; 2 Sue English / Gordon Plant; **TOWNSVILLE CONGRESS** [Directors – Jan Smith, Leigh Owens, Bill Bishop]: **PAIRS** 1 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson; 2 Val Holbrook / Noel Bugeia; **B** Di Garside / Donna Fitch; **C** Ann Smith / Robyn Green; **TEAMS** 1 Ched Twyman / Beth Whebell / John Tredrea / Phil Rains; 2 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson / Jan Smith / Leigh Owens; **B** Heather Colbert / Sam Bishop / Ann Smith / Robyn Green.
