

July 20, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

The two strongest states in the Australian bridge world are South Australia and New South Wales, so it was no surprise to see both featuring prominently at the Australian National Championships held in regional chilly Orange, NSW last week. Results were: **OPEN NSW** 164 SA 81; **WOMEN'S NSW** 162 SA 159; **SENIORS NSW** 209 SA 109; **YOUTH SA** 220 VIC 152. Best performing Queensland teams were the Women and the Youth who both came 3rd. Meanwhile, the 8th World Youth Bridge Championships are under way in Wroclaw, Poland and the Under 26 Australian Women's team [Zara Chowdhury, Anne Davey, Diyah Shah, Lauren Morgan, Kate Macdonald & Jasmine Skeate] have excelled by reaching the semi-finals. An outstanding effort.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 3 E / NS VUL
♥ A J 6 3
♦ K 7 3
♣ J 4 2

WEST

♠ K J 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A J 8 5
♣ K 8 7 3

EAST

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ K 10 5
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ A 8
♥ Q 9 7 4 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A Q 10 5

This hand from the ANC saw everyone playing in hearts, many at the 4-level, after West had shown opening values during the bidding. The popular lead from West was the three of clubs and declarer needed to cope with a potential loser in each suit. Your Saturday morning challenge is to find the winning line, involving the notorious Morton's Fork, leading the ten of diamonds after the spade queen is established as a winner. Check it out.

MORETON BRIBIE CONGRESS [Director – Peter Busch]: **PAIRS** 1 Eugene Pereira / Barry Koster; 2 Shirley & Chris Watson; **TEAMS** 1 Tim Runting / Patrick Bugler / Peter Evans / Tony Treloar; 2 Shirley & Chris Watson / Janine Budgeon / Robert Sutton; **MACKAY NOVICE PAIRS** [Director – Ian Cruickshank]: 1 Jill Brabon / Noel Saunders; 2 Annie Lynch / Diane Stokes; **SURFERS PARADISE CONGRESS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: **PAIRS** 1 Robyn Fletcher / Pat Beattie; 2 Lech Kaszubski / Peter Munro; **TEAMS** 1 Eileen Li / Charlie Lu / Watson Zhou / Martin Qin; 2 Hugh Gilberg / Brett Crabtree / Graham Carson / Suzie Braithwaite; **BUNDABERG CONGRESS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **PAIRS** 1 Anna Monks / Fred Whitaker; 2 Peter Gordon / Helen Manzau; **TEAMS** 1 Andrew Struik / Maurice Williams / David Priol / Nikki Riszko; 2 Malcolm Allan / Jan Randall / John Morris / Don Cameron.
