

January 9, 2021

Bridge with Richard Ward

This hand, reported in Australian Bridge by England's David Bird, features Lidia Beech (1950-2001) and Margaret Bourke who were a formidable pair and a household name in Australian women's bridge in the 90's. As a partnership they played in the Australian Women's Team for eight consecutive years. This hand illustrates some practical bidding from Bourke followed by expert play from Beech.

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

South opened 1D, West bid 2S and North bid an immediate 6D - courageous (if it works) or crazy (if it doesn't). But there are many ways in which 6D could be a winner depending on who can make what, and it could hardly be too expensive if doubled. West leads the nine of hearts and declarer is pleased to see that the slam has some play, the simplest line needing the king of clubs with West. Beech planned to play for that layout but, before committing, she first eliminated the side suits. She ruffed all three spades and the queen of hearts whilst drawing trumps before playing ace and another club. East won with the king (oh no!) but had started with only two clubs (yes!) and was forced to give a ruff-and-discard allowing South's club loser to be discarded.

Latest news from the Australian Bridge Federation

- The 2021 Australian National Championships have been relocated from Orange NSW to Perth WA from 10th to 22nd July. Selection trials for the Queensland teams will be held mainly in March. Entry forms for the Open, Seniors and Women's trials are available on the Queensland Bridge Association website.
 - The new technology platform, MyABF has been launched and is now available as a free service for all players. When fully operational, it will provide access to masterpoints, coming events and entries, results, announcements and discussions. Sign up now.
-