

February 13, 2021

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2H	2S
3H	3S	PASS	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

East opens 2H which shows at least five hearts, at least four diamonds or clubs and less than opening strength. When North shows signs of life by raising her partner's spades, South can hardly be criticised for bidding the game. West starts with the ten of diamonds-3-2-jack. When declarer plays the ace of spades, East discards the three of clubs which in their carding methods is encouraging in clubs. This hand contains traps for the unwary. There are nine or ten obvious tricks – five spades, one heart, and three diamonds (perhaps four if that suits breaks 3-2). Another trick can come from a heart ruff in dummy provided trumps are not drawn first.

If the play continues with ace and another heart, East can win and give partner a diamond ruff. West will then know to underlead her club ace to put partner in for a second diamond ruff. Can this be prevented? Yes, but it is difficult. At trick three, give up a club. West can get one diamond ruff, but now trumps will be drawn in two more rounds leaving one in dummy to ruff the heart loser. Should East choose not to return a diamond, South will have time to negotiate the heart ruff. Such foresight is the play of an expert.

Trials for the 2021 Queensland Open Team begin soon. Entries are closing on Wednesday with twenty pairs listed to date. If you would like to play in Stage 1 just for the experience, non-contending pairs are welcome. Check the QBA website for details.

Entries for Mackay's Gold Point Barrier Reef Congress are filling fast. The dates are 30 April to 3 May and there are walk-ins plus Open and Restricted Teams and Pairs.

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