

January 11, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

Bridge is a game of mistakes - the fewer you make, the better your results. Conversely, you will also do well when your opponents lose their way and, as declarer, it is sometimes possible to lead them astray. On this hand, North-South bid to a hopeless slam but the declarer found a small bit of misdirection to bring it home.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1NT	PASS	3H
PASS	4H	PASS	6H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

This was an old-fashioned auction with South setting hearts as trumps and then becoming a tad over-excited. West started with a safe trump lead and declarer's prospects were grim. Undaunted, she won the first trick, and immediately led a spade to the ace. Next came the spade queen which ran around to West's king. Rather than highlighting the diamond flaw by discarding one, declarer instead discarded a low club. An expert West would not have been fooled by this play, the clues were there and he could see the coming discards on the spade suit, but he chose to return a club and that was 12 tricks. Note the importance of not drawing trumps early, which would have given East a chance to signal the diamond strength.

Entries for the QBA Open Team Selection Trials, Northern Suburbs Teams and the Kenmore Pairs and Teams close soon.

GOLD COAST TEAMS: 1 Paul Gosney/ Anne Lamport/ Ewa Kowalczyk/ Gheorghii Belonogov; 2 Eva & Tony Berger/ Kathy Johnson/ Lois Steinwedel; **B** 1 Philip Chang/ Ying Liu/ Janet Price/ Richard Spelman; 2 Judy Forsyth/ Rebecca Rogers/ John Paynter/ Graham Carson; **C** 1 Narelle McIver/ Bernadette O'Connell/ Daria Williams/ Sameer Pandya; 2 Vesna & Voyko Markovic/ Lucia & Martin Grgic
