

January 18, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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Queensland's Jessica Brake has come a long way in a very short time from being a talented youth player quite recently to qualifying in the Australia Women's Team at the World Bridge Games, Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy in August 2020. Last week in Canberra at the Summer Festival of Bridge, Jessica played in a team with Susan Humphries, Lauren Travis and Sophie Ashton to win the National Women's Teams Championship by a comfortable margin. A great achievement.

Some hands are deemed to be so instructive that they merit multiple airings. This one arose in the annual UK House of Commons vs House of Lords encounter in 2001. It was reported by prolific UK author David Bird who passed it on to Sydney star, Ron Klinger, who put it in the Summer Festival Daily Bulletin.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1H	PASS	2C
PASS	2S	PASS	3NT

West led the six of diamonds and declarer looked no further than a successful guess in the club suit. So, at trick two, a club was played to the jack and West's queen. Diamonds were continued, South taking the third round. Needing one additional trick, declarer crossed to dummy to lead the spade queen, finessing against East. When West had the king, 3NT was down one. Declarer should have taken the spade finesse into "danger hand" with the long diamonds at trick two. Diamonds are continued as before but, after the king wins the third round of that suit, a club finesse into the "safe hand" ensures ten tricks even if this loses to East's queen. On the layout shown, this avoidance play makes a three trick difference.

**QCBC PAIRS: OPEN** 1 Larry Moses/ John Gough; 2 Martin Qin/ Charlie Lu; **NOVICE** 1 Joan Mladen/ Robert Fulcher; 2 Sameer Pandya/ Kathleen Clifford

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