

January 25, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

Bridge players across the state have a distinguished history of supporting those Australian communities suffering from the effects of natural disasters. In 2011 over \$20,000 was sent to the Red Cross for their flood crisis appeal and, in 2018, over \$25,000 went to victims of drought. The recent nation-wide bushfire tragedies have triggered a similar appeal with clubs preparing to conduct local fund-raising events. Expectations are high.

Penalty doubles at the 1-level can be hugely satisfying. To achieve this rare result, partnerships need to be on song with their bidding and alert to the realisation that their opponents are in trouble.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C	DBL	RDBL	PASS
PASS	1D	DBL	1H
PASS	PASS	DBL	ALL PASS

The bidding is instructive. North had a choice of overcalling 1NT or doubling for takeout. The former can be an easy target for a penalty double whilst the latter is more flexible and less likely to lead to disaster. Not this time! East's redouble shows 10+ points so, unless West has opened with sub-minimal values, they know that they have the majority of strength. When North scrambles to 1D, East goes for the jugular with a penalty double. South is obliged to show his pathetic heart suit and, Dracula-like, East pounces again. North-South have run out of options. The defence is merciless with West starting off with a trump lead which leads to +800.

NORTHERN SUBURBS TEAMS: 1 Murray Perrin/ Janeen Solomon/ Nikolas Moore/ Rachel Langdon; 2 Tony Treloar/ Andrew Woollons/ Therese Tully/ Richard Ward; 3 Evelyne Mander/ Terry O'Dempsey/ Robyn Clark/ Cheryl Stone; **B** 1 Joan Jenkins/ Alan Boyce/ Barbara Kent/ Ross Murtagh; 2 Philip Chang/ Martin Qin/ Janet Price/ Richard Spelman; **C** 1 Keith Cohen/ Michael Lukowski/ Lorraine Carr/ Robert Sutton; 2 Debbie & Gary Gibbards/ Peter Gruythuisen/ Margaret Jennings
