

February 8, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

Philip Alder, New York Times columnist, has written a number of articles for the Australian Bridge Federation daily bridge column service on the topic of when, as a defender, you should over-ruff declarer. The simplest example has you holding A-J doubleton in trumps sitting over declarer who holds K-Q-10-9-8-7. If during the play declarer ruffs with the king, you should not over-ruff, obviously, ensuring that you make both the ace and the jack. This hand has a similar theme.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	2C	4H	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

You are West and lead your singleton heart, partner's eight winning the trick. She returns the heart three which declarer ruffs with the spade queen. How do you defend? Alder writes: 'Clearly partner has the ace of clubs. However if you over-ruff at trick two, it isn't going to help because your trump spots are so pathetic'. Play it out for yourself and you will see that declarer comes to 10 tricks if you take your king now. The solution is deceptively simple and easily missed. Discard a club at trick two, and then, when you win the spade king later on, lead your now singleton club to partner's ace. If she is on your wavelength, you will score a club ruff for the fourth trick for the defence.

QUEENSLAND SENIOR TEAMS: 1 Rosemary Crowley/ Richard Perry/ Elizabeth Zeller/ Alison Dawson; 2 Vilma Laws/ Jilliana Bell/ Ken Rogers/ Wendy O'Brien; **B** 1 Jack Rohde/ Lex Ranke/ Greg Gosney/ Margaret Plunkett; 2 Pepe Schwegler/ Peter Hill/ Lex Bourke/ Harry Walsh; **TOOWONG PAIRS:** 1 Janeen Solomon/ Kuldip Bedi; 2 Phil Hale/ Laurie Skeate; **B** 1 Janelle & James Williamson; 2 Sue Ziegenfuss/ Tim Runting; **C** 1 Wendy Casey/ Barbara Moni; 2 Clary Harridge/ Jim Fouras
