

February 15, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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There are some things in this world, such as unicorns, dragons and trump reduction plays, that you never expect to encounter in your lifetime. So it was a rare moment to witness the latter occurring in the recent Australian Mixed Teams play-offs, flawlessly executed by Sydney's Julian Foster against Pele Rankin (QLD) and Stephen Fischer (ACT), members of the winning team.

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

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
P RANKIN	G MUNDELL	S FISCHER	J FOSTER
			1S
PASS	2C	PASS	2S
PASS	3S	PASS	4D
PASS	4H	PASS	4S
PASS	4NT	PASS	5H
PASS	6S	ALL PASS	

This is a "2-over-1" auction featuring a game-forcing 2C, setting trumps, cue bidding then Roman Key Card Blackwood to a marginal slam. Looking at all four hands it seems doomed with a club and a spade to lose but Foster made the most of the tiny window of opportunity provided by the defence. He won the diamond king then played the spade queen and the ace as East split his J-10, a minor error since declarer could hardly afford to finesse the spade nine. To bring off the trump coup, declarer now needed to ruff twice so as to finish with the lead in dummy at the 12<sup>th</sup> trick and the spade K-9 sitting over West's J-8. Watch carefully. He led a club, taken by West's ace, won the diamond ace, threw a diamond on a top club, ruffed a diamond, finessed the heart queen, threw a heart on another top club and ruffed a winning club. Now a heart to the ace and the stage was set. Slam made!

**TOOWOOMBA NOVICE PAIRS:** **A** Dennis Lincoln/ Pamela Steele; 2 Carol Wright/ Teena Haslam; **B** 1 Sharyn Gierke/ Jan Flynn; 2 Ian Moody Costin/ Simon Wicks **C** 1 Nuala O'Sullivan/ Grant Humble; 2 Murray Pietsch/ Michael Rose-Miller

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