

February 29, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1D
1S	3S	PASS	5D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

North's 3S bid is a 'splinter' – a game force in diamonds with a singleton spade. South has a minimum hand, although the two aces are a positive feature, and settles in 5D. West leads the spade king and, when dummy appears, declarer notes that he would have to be terribly unlucky not to make 11 tricks, maybe even 12. The percentage play in trumps is to finesse for the diamond king but, if it loses, there is a two-way guess in clubs which would be best avoided. The optimal solution is to win the spade ace, ruff a spade, cash the diamond ace hoping for a 2-1 break (key play), then take the three heart winners. Now the defenders can be put on play with their diamond king, whoever has it, and then either a club or a spade return will solve all problems.

March will be a busy month for bridge players with the Qld Mixed Teams at Noosa, the Qld Open Trials Stage 2, Dalby Pairs and Teams, Toowong Novice Pairs, Rockhampton Pairs and Teams and Sunshine Coast Teams.

GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS PAIRS - QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS:
OPEN PAIRS Di & Hugh McAlister; F Charlie Lu/ Martin Qin; G Richard Fox/ Andrew Woollons; **INTERMEDIATE PAIRS** Chris Larter/ John Lahey; B Gabrielle Elich/ David Christian; D Ross Murtagh/ Helen Chamberlain; **RESTRICTED PAIRS** Elaine Crommelin/ Barbara White; B 1 Gary Petterson/ Laurie Bell; 2 Debbie & Gary Gibbards; E Joan Elliott/ Margaret Dousset; F Christine & Bob Thomas; **NOVICE PAIRS** Lesley Sutherland/ Lindell Day; B Elizabeth Van Vugt/ Julie Scott; D 1 Ming & David Ting; 2 Pamela Steele/ Dennis Lincoln
