

March 7 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

The 2020 Gold Coast International Congress broke all attendance records in the face of some cancellations caused by the coronavirus crisis – over 9000 tables in play throughout the week compared with 8800 in 2019. The Open Teams Championship saw WARE (Michael Ware/ Nick Jacob/ Geo Tislevoll/ Terje Lie/ Max Henbest/ David Wiltshire) pitted against CORNELL (Ashley Bach/ Matthew Brown/ Michael Whibley/ Alex Antonios/ Nabil Edgtton). With three hands to play WARE was leading by 30 imps, but then CORNELL stormed home with scores of 13, 15 and 14 to take the title by 12 imps. This was one of those swings:

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

TABLE 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
EDGTTON	WILTSHIRE	BACH	HENBEST
1S	DBL	3C	PASS
4S	PASS	PASS	PASS

TABLE 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
WARE	WHIBLEY	JACOB	BROWN
1S	DBL	3C	PASS
3S	DBL	PASS	4H

Both Easts showed a mixed raise with 6-9 points and four trumps. Edgtton managed to steal the board in 4S and may have been surprised that, not only was there no more bidding, but also 10 tricks were available. At the other table neither East nor West chose to disturb 4H which was cold for 10 tricks – so a double-game swing went to CORNELL. These 15 imps brought them within 2 imps of the title with one hand to play.

Queensland result highlights from the Gold Coast Congress will be published next week.
