

March 21, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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A record was broken at the Gold Coast Congress when Sydney's Alex Antonios, who started playing the game last November – yes, just three months ago – not only attended his first ever national tournament with zero masterpoints, but was a member of the team which reached the finals ahead of 234 other teams and went on to win the title! He now has over 60 gold masterpoints! Another great result occurred in the Novice Pairs Final, when Queensland's 16-year old Sebastian Langdon Macmillan finished a close second after leading most of the way. He was reportedly devastated to drop back to second after the last match, but he only learned to play 8 months ago!

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

In this hand from the 1950s the bidding was unsophisticated (2C – 2NT – 6C) with South opening a game-force, North showing at least an ace and a king, and South blasting in to the club slam. Very simple and much easier than the scenic route likely taken by today's experts. West led a spade to declarer's ace who drew trumps in three rounds then played ace and ten of diamonds noting West's jack then queen. A second spade went to the king and declarer crossed to dummy with a heart. The diamond nine followed. East played low and South confidently threw her spade loser. How did she know who held the king of diamonds? The opening lead was the clue. If West had started with K-Q-J it surely would have been led initially.

**ROCKHAMPTON 50 YEAR CONGRESS: PAIRS** 1 Diane Morgan/ Janet Hansen; 2 Jan Dooner/ Ron Lorroway; 3 Jan & Peter Randall; **TEAMS** 1 Donna Smith/ John Lanham/ Jan & Peter Randall; 2 Malcolm Allan/ Ken Cupples/ Dorothy Gehrke/ Errol Miller; 3 Kim & Ray Ellaway/ Elizabeth & Neil Gibson

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