

April 4, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

With all bridge clubs closed for the time being, the Australian Bridge Federation has published on its website a list of on-line opportunities which might help tens of thousands of players to pass the time from home. Cost-free options are: Ron Klinger's daily bridge columns; Paul Marston's historical weekly columns; Joan Butts' one month's access to her Online School of Bridge and Bridge Base Online (BBO). Also there is Barbara Travis's weekly column which contains advice on how to use BBO 'pre-set' matches using hands from World Championships, Stepbridge, Funbridge and Bridge Club Live amongst several other possibilities.

A new record of 41,700 has been set for the number of users simultaneously logged in to BBO. This is an impressive achievement by the software technicians who, in no time at all, have been able to boost the capacity of the servers to accommodate all of those players. Not too long ago the limit was just 9,999.

This hand was beautifully defended at the USA Fall Nationals.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 9
♥ A J
♦ A J 6 2
♣ J 9 5 4

E/ EW VUL

WEST

♠ 6 5 3
♥ K Q 10 9 7 2
♦ 10 9
♣ K 2

EAST

♠ K J 4
♥ 5 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 8 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K Q 8 5
♣ A 7

North-South reached the normal 3NT contract played by South. West, who had overcalled in hearts, led the heart king, winning, then a low heart won by dummy's ace. Needing East to hold the spade king, declarer crossed to hand with a diamond and led a low spade to the ten. If East had won this with the jack to switch to a club, South would have finessed against East's spade king and made his contract. But, when the ten lost to the king (!!), he won the club return to play a spade to the nine. East pounced on this with the jack and played a club to partner's king. Down four and minus 400 for North-South.
