

May 16, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

With all bridge clubs closed for the foreseeable future, many players are taking to online sites such as Bridge Base Online to participate in duplicate tournaments or simply to have casual games with friends. Many Queensland clubs run member-only games so you should contact them for details. For more information, Charles Page pele196519651965@gmail.com has been running events for a number of clubs using BBO.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
PASS	2D	PASS	2H
PASS	3NT	PASS	PASS
PASS			

North transferred to hearts and then offered a choice of contracts. West led the two of spades which South won with the ace. She then led a heart to the queen which won the trick – good defence by East. She then returned to her hand with a diamond for another heart finesse. When that lost to the king she was still OK if the hearts broke 3-3. When they didn't the contract was down one. As this occurred in a teams match, overtricks were irrelevant. There were six tricks outside the heart suit so only three more were needed. She should have played low from both hands on the first heart trick and then, provided they broke no worse than 4-2, three tricks were always available with the ace of clubs providing the entry.

And if all of that was too much for you, here is some sage advice from UK expert Tony Forrester: "Never smile during the play, always frown, this gives your opponents (and your partners come to that) the impression that you are thinking"; and "Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster".
