

May 30, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

Dr Andrew Slutzkin has recently provided a discussion paper for the Australian Bridge Federation regarding COVID-19 and the impact it is likely to have in the medium-term on bridge clubs. In it he states: Bridge players fit the at-risk demographic in many ways; they sit well within 1.5m of each other for significant periods of time; bridge clubs are usually closed, air-conditioned spaces; many items at bridge sessions are touched by many people – cards, pens, cups and plates. He concludes that it is unlikely that club and congress bridge will resume any time soon. The Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Sport, Peter Commiskey, concurs. “Until the restriction on social distancing is lifted, bridge cannot be played in a club room.”

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

In a recent pairs event, everyone reached the normal four heart contract. West started with the three of clubs to her partner's queen and declarer's ace. Trumps were drawn in two rounds followed by the ace of spades just in case there was a singleton queen somewhere. Next came a trump to hand and the jack of spades was won by East's queen. A club to West's king and the obvious diamond switch then put the contract down one. "That was unlucky," said South. "I needed the spade queen or the diamond ace to be well placed." Perhaps he should have stopped to think at trick one and allowed the club queen to win. Now West can never gain the lead to put a diamond through and he will get three spades, five hearts, one club and a club ruff = 10 tricks. The jack-ten of clubs was a distraction. Had he held A32 of clubs instead of AJ10 he probably would have got this one right.
