

June 6, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

World Champion Kate McCallum is an American bridge professional who has been living in Australia for the past few years. She is renowned for her adventurous but carefully-considered style and she has been sharing her wisdom with many of our top Australian players in recent times. Some of "Kate's Rules to Live By", a list of more than 40 handy hints include: 'Whenever possible, get it out of your system on the first round of bidding while it's still safe to do so'; 'On highly competitive deals, bid as high as you are willing to go immediately, then get out and watch them deal with the problem'; 'Don't play to trick one until you have a plan'; and 'It's only a card game – it's not life!' More next week.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	3C	PASS	2NT
PASS	4S	ALL PASS	3S

West led the obvious king of diamonds and both South players in a teams match astutely observed that, for this contract to succeed, the club finesse had to work. The first declarer drew trumps in four rounds, ending in dummy. Next he ran the ten of clubs and, after that held, played a club to the jack. When West showed out, he had to concede defeat losing one heart, two diamonds and one club.

The other declarer showed greater foresight. At trick two, instead of drawing trumps immediately, she played a low club to the queen which won. Now she drew all of the trumps ending in dummy and led the ten of clubs. East did not cover, so the ten won. Now the third club finesse was taken, claiming ten tricks - four trumps, the red aces and four clubs. Deceptively simple.
