

June 20, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

---

The Youth Team to represent Queensland for the ABF On-line Youth Tournament in June-July is: Darren Brake, William Han, Sebastian Langdon Macmillan, Ben Leung, Paddy Taylor, Ellen Visscher and Andrew Gosney (NPC).

To give accurate count signals in defence or not? That is the question. Some defenders routinely give count signals in their non-trump suits. Others believe that this gives declarer too much information and prefer to keep everyone in the dark by randomising their play of the small cards. Experts believe that they only give count when partner needs to know.

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

On this hand 3NT was easily reached via 1NT-3NT. West found the best lead of the 4<sup>th</sup>-highest five of spades won by the king over the queen. This is a complicated hand. If spades and clubs both break badly you are going down. If both suits break evenly you cannot go wrong. If just one suit breaks evenly, there will be nine tricks if you can guess which to play first. The danger is that, if you try the clubs first and they do not break, it will now be too late to try the other option – losing 3 spades, 1 diamond and 1 club. One way to increase your chances is to start with a club to the king then a club back to the ace. If your opponents are automatic count-givers, they will signal their club length to you. On the layout above, with both East and West showing an even number of clubs, there is still time to knock out the ace of diamonds and hope for a 4-4 spade break. Voila!

The largest online event in Australia is the Queensland Wide Pairs which has consistently attracted 160 players every Saturday afternoon. This is bigger than any of the Sydney or Melbourne tournaments. To find out more, email Charles Page at [pele196519651965@gmail.com](mailto:pele196519651965@gmail.com).

---