

June 27, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

More helpful hints from Kate McCallum: “Bid your long suits – don’t make a takeout double”; “Bid your 5-card majors – don’t make a takeout double”; “If you have a choice of bids and one of them is 3NT – bid 3NT (also known as Hamman’s Rule after US star Bob Hamman); and “Never make a penalty double of a part-score without four trumps. That means never!!”

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	2D	PASS	2C
PASS	6NT	ALL PASS	2NT

2C showed a big hand and 2D was a ‘waiting’ bid to see what partner would rebid. 2NT showed a balanced 23-24 point hand (well, it was almost balanced) and so North went straight to the no-trump slam. West led a helpful 4th highest club won by the jack in dummy. Time to count top tricks: two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs = 10. Assuming that West holds the club king, you can build one more certain trick in either spades, hearts or clubs but that makes only 11 tricks. It looks as if your best bet is to guess successfully who holds the spade queen but our declarer, Bas Temmans a 14-year old Dutch player, was in no hurry to test the spades. He cashed the heart ace and then won the next three diamond tricks with the ace, king then jack. Next came the heart king, throwing the diamond queen, and the heart jack, throwing a club. West was end-played with only clubs and spades remaining. Whichever suit he led, Bas could claim 12 tricks. This was quite fortuitous, but, if the cards lay slightly differently, he could always fall back on the spade guess for his contract.

And finally: Count your winners and count your losers. If the total doesn’t come to 13, count your cards. (Alfred Sheinwold)
