

July 4, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

---

The 2020 Australian Online Youth Tournament started last weekend and will continue throughout July. Queensland started well with a substantial win against ACT and a small loss to SA. They are playing VIC and NSW today.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1H	2H
3S	4S	4NT	PASS
5C	PASS	6H	PASS
PASS	6S	7H	ALL PASS

South's 2H overcall was a Michaels cue-bid promising at least five spades and five of a minor. West's 3S was a "splinter" - game forcing in hearts with spade shortage - possibly frowned on by purists who never splinter with an ace or king. At such favourable vulnerability, North was happy to take the sacrifice against East-West's game. East asked for key cards and, receiving the welcome news of "0 or 3" - assumed there were three and bid the small slam. North, bless him, was not finished yet, pushing on to 6S - a bid he was to regret. East who had nearly bid higher on the previous round needed no further encouragement and the grand slam was reached. Good to see everybody having such a good time!

Care was required on the way to thirteen tricks. When South turned up with two hearts to go with his minimum of ten black cards, he was marked with a diamond singleton or void. So the diamond queen was cashed and a diamond to the eight brought in the suit without loss. +2210.

And how would North-South have fared if doubled in their spade sacrifice? East would lead the singleton club to partner's ace and ruffed the nine of clubs return - signalling a heart entry. A low heart to the king and another club ruff would leave declarer with just seven tricks which means that even a 7S sacrifice would cost "only" 1400.

---