

July 18, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

Bridge is not only about skill. There is also an element of chance and sometimes, when you are in dire straits, it is possible to create your own luck. South opens 1S and an unsophisticated auction leads to a hopeless 6S slam. West leads a safe spade won in dummy. Thankful to have avoided a club lead, your best hope is that East holds the king of hearts so you immediately play the ace and queen of hearts which West wins. Curses! What did you discard on this trick? Best is the eight of diamonds, creating the impression of weakness in that suit. West could very well lead a diamond next and then you're home. Note that it was not a good idea to draw trumps first as this would give East the opportunity to signal the best defence.

The Australian Online Youth Tournament continues with the qualifying matches concluding this weekend. Queensland is well-placed but not locked-in to the finals after three wins last Saturday. This hand was a good start against ACT:

SOUTH	NORTH	SOUTH	NORTH
♠ A K	♠ 7 6 5	2C	2D
♥ A K 8 7 6 5 4	♥ 9	2H	3C
♦ Q J 5 2	♦ K 10 9 4	3D	4D
♣ -	♣ A J 9 7 2	4H	4NT
D BRAKE	P TAYLOR	6C	6D

The key to the auction was Darren Brake's decision to open a game force on the South cards. Once he did, Paddy Taylor was always considering slam possibilities and, when the diamond fit came to light, 6D was reached. (The meaning of 6C? – anyone's guess!!) With all suits breaking well, there was nothing to the play. This was +920 opposite -500 when their team-mates, William Han and Sebastian Langdon Macmillan, were doubled in a part-score at the 3-level holding a combined 15 points. Such is youth bridge.
