

July 25, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Australian Bridge Federation is currently holding monthly virtual meetings to reconfigure and readjust our response in real time as Covid-19 restrictions are tightened in some states and eased in others. Our thoughts are with our Victorian members and their families who have recently gone back into lockdown.

The 2020 Australian Youth Online Tournament concludes today. Queensland (William Han, Paddy Taylor, Sebastian Langdon Macmillan, Darren Brake, Ben Leung, Ellen Visscher and Andrew Gosney (NPC)) will be playing a 48-board final against South Australia on Bridge Base Online starting at 10.30am. It promises to be an entertaining match and we wish them the very best of luck. Kibitzers are welcome.

As a beginner you were taught many rules about the requirements for an opening 3-level bid. These included: a 7-card suit; reasonable quality; at least 6 tricks not vulnerable, 7 tricks vulnerable; and, no outside 4-card major suit. It seems that such "rules" are meant to be broken as this recent hand from the QLD v VIC youth teams match illustrates.

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

If North-South are allowed an uninterrupted auction, the bidding will probably go 1NT-3NT making easily. But here, both youth East players, aware of the favourable vulnerability, decided to break every single one of the "rules" by opening 3C. In one match, South reasonably chose to double for takeout, West raised to 4C and played there making 8 tricks. In the other match, the Victorian South gambled an immediate 3NT over 3C and was rewarded with +11 imps. Tough game.
