

August 1, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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With eight hands remaining in the final of the 2020 Australian Youth Online Tournament, the SA team was leading QLD by a mere 15 imps, after being behind by 13 imps at the halfway mark. But then SA scored an extraordinary, unanswered 40 imps to put the result beyond doubt. They thoroughly deserved the win in an exciting 48-board match epitomised by impeccable sportsmanship and fearless enthusiasm. Not only will these young people be likely Australian stars of the future, but they have also set a positive example of how bridge should be played – animated, competitive and determined.

Last week we looked at pre-emptive 3-level opening bids at favourable vulnerability – not vulnerable vs vulnerable. Whilst it may be fun to be frisky when holding a dreadful 6-card suit, it is important to be consistent with your style so that partner has some chance of bidding constructively. Bridge is, after all, a partnership game. This hand occurred in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of the Youth Teams finals with SA leading by 9 imps.

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

OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
QLD	SA	QLD	SA
	1C	PASS	1H
2D	3C	PASS	3NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	

CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
SA	QLD	SA	QLD
	3C	PASS	PASS
PASS			

In the closed room, QLD opened 3C and played there when South could not possibly envisage such a chunky pre-empt not vulnerable. In the open room, SA solved the problem by opening 1C. Whilst light on high card points, this was more than compensated by the playing strength of the hand. 3NT made 11 tricks. 3C made all 13 tricks on a non-spade lead but that was 8 imps to SA.

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