

September 26 , 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

Variations of the popular multi-coloured two diamonds convention (shortened to simply "Multi") have been around for decades. It traditionally shows a weak two bid (6-9 points, 6-card suit) in either major suit OR a strong balanced hand (OR sometimes a strong, 3-suited hand). It is especially popular in Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Holland but less so in the United States where the number of options for a single bid are limited by regulation. Playing against a 'multi' is not usually problematic as, by simply waiting for one round of bidding, there will then be clarification as to which type is held. This hand was played in the 2019 European Mixed Teams Championship – Germany vs Russia.

NORTH
♠ A K 8 6 **E/ NIL VUL/ TEAMS**
♥ 6
♦ Q 10 7 2
♣ A J 10 5

WEST **EAST**
♠ Q 10 3 2 ♠ 9
♥ K 10 9 7 4 ♥ Q J 8 5 3 2
♦ 6 5 ♦ A 9 8 4
♣ 6 3 ♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ J 7 5 4
♥ A
♦ K J 3
♣ K Q 8 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
OPEN ROOM			
		2D	3C
4H	6C	ALL PASS	
CLOSED ROOM			
		2D	PASS
4D	PASS	4H	PASS
PASS	DBL	PASS	5C
PASS	PASS	PASS	

In the Open Room East opened a 'multi', South overcalled clubs and West leapt to 4H. Partner knew to pass if that was his suit or correct to spades otherwise. North gambled on the club slam, and West, still not knowing which major partner held, tried the more likely suit, spades. Declarer could see no better option than to play low from dummy and the rest of the play was easy for 12 tricks. In the Closed Room, South did not overcall, and West's 4D bid showed support for both majors. North re-opened the bidding with a double and South chose the sensible club game. Roy Welland won the heart lead, played three rounds of clubs ending in his hand and, guided by the bidding, advanced the spade jack-queen-ace-9. A subsequent finesse for the spade ten brought home the entire spade suit without loss. Well played, but 11 imps away.
