

October 3, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	PASS	4H	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

The East-West pair showed admirable restraint on this hand, deciding to try to defeat South's 4S contract which was bid under pressure, rather than venture to the 5-level where they could make only nine tricks. West led the normal king of hearts and, with no alarm bells ringing, South could see only three losers and an easy ten tricks. So she won the ace of hearts and led a spade to the king and ace, pleased to see trumps breaking 2-1. Can you see what happened next? The bidding told West that there were no cashing hearts tricks so he switched brilliantly to the king and another diamond. East won with the ten and played the ace of diamonds which promoted West's jack of spades for the setting trick. How could this have been avoided? At trick two, lead the three of hearts and discard a diamond. Now the uppercut cannot happen. This farsighted play is the equivalent of a degree of difficulty of 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. We mere mortals will not find this line.

The Queensland Bridge Association will be holding an online one-day congress on Sunday 18 October. Entry details can be found on the QBA website. Meanwhile, the Saturday Qld-wide online tournaments have been attracting large fields. Winners last month were: Diana & Hugh McAlister; Jim Wood & Ian Jesser (three times); Wendy Gibson & Linda Norman (twice); Kim & Ray Ellaway; and Jan & Peter Randall.

Fifteen of Queensland's fifty-three bridge clubs have been unable to re-open despite some easing of the Covid-19 restrictions. However, efforts are being made across the state to continue with lessons for beginners online or, in some cases, face-to-face with appropriate social distancing. For details contact your local club.

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