

October 10, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
2H	3H	DBL	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

The bidding was the same at both tables in a teams event. North's 3H was an invitational limit raise in spades. East's double looks fatuous but was, in fact, lead-directing, promising an honour in hearts. 4S was automatic with an extra trump, a shortage and crisp values. The play was also identical for a while. West started with the ace and king of clubs. Both declarers ruffed the second club and drew trumps with the king and ace. At that point play diverged. At table 1, declarer continued with the ace and another diamond and so had three red suit losers to go with the club. Down one.

At table 2, declarer decided to delay playing on diamonds. Instead she continued with ace and another heart. West astutely hopped up with the king of hearts, knowing from East's double that she had started with the doubleton queen. Had she not done this, East would have been obliged to open up the diamonds, a disastrous outcome for the defence. Declarer ruffed the jack of hearts return and this was the position with South on lead:

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

If the diamonds were breaking 3-2 all plays would be successful but, as you can see, there was work to be done. Declarer played a low diamond to the 4-9-10. East was stonkered. No matter which diamond she returned, declarer could make three more diamond tricks and her contract. Try it for yourself.

Entries are coming in for the first Queensland Bridge Association Online Congress on Sunday 18 October. Details are on the QBA website.
