

October 17, 2020

**Bridge with Richard Ward**

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**NORTH**  
♠ 5  
♥ J 9 8 7 6 4 2  
♦ Q 5 3 2  
♣ 5

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

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ 8  
♥ A K Q 10  
♦ 9 6 4  
♣ A K Q J 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<b>OPEN ROOM</b>			
4S	PASS	PASS	DBL
PASS	5H	5S	6H
6S	DBL	ALL PASS	
<b>CLOSED ROOM</b>			
4S	PASS	PASS	DBL
PASS	5H	DBL	PASS
PASS	PASS		

East's 5S bid in the Open Room may have worked well on some occasions but not this time. Then West thought he would bid his hand again – testosterone does that apparently. North, with no defence at all, put an end to the nonsense by doubling. The singleton club lead led to three quick tricks and +500 to North-South. Meanwhile in the Closed Room the auction was more sedate. East could see two tricks and just hoped that partner could provide at least one more so she doubled 5H and led her ace and king of diamonds. What should West discard? It is very easy to take your eye off the ball in circumstances like this one where you think that your only concern is whether the contract is going down one or two. When West threw a discouraging club, East played a third diamond expecting partner to ruff it and to then cash a spade winner. Unlucky! +950 to North-South and 10 imps in.

How could the defence have communicated better here? How about: if West holds a heart, he should discourage spades at trick 2 so partner will continue diamonds; or, with the hand as here, he should strongly encourage spades and partner just might get the message.

Details of a new online event, the Bridge International Championship (October 26<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>) are available on the Queensland Bridge Association website. It is a unique concept in that players enter as individuals and play with robots. The promotional material states that 'every player anywhere in the world, good or bad, young or more senior, could participate and become an international champion'. Entry is not expensive so why not give it a go?

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