

October 24, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

44 pairs entered the QBA Online Congress on 18 October. It was conducted through Bridge Base Online with tournament directors Peter Busch and Chris Snook presiding. The winners by the tiniest of margins were Pippa and Andrew Hooper from Cairns with Brisbane's Rachel Langdon and Nikolas Moore runners-up. Third place went to Hervey Bay pair, Lynne Layton and George Gibson. The best pair with fewer than 400 masterpoints was Maree Fillipini and Melva Leal from Redcliffe whilst the best pair under-200 masterpoints was Domini Hummel and Sarah Huntington-Wynne from Caboolture.

Reaching game on this hand proved too difficult for many East-West pairs:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	P HOOPER		A HOOPER
	2D	DBL	2H
DBL	3H	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		
	R LANGDON		N MOORE
	2D	DBL	2H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

2D was a "multi-two" bid promising amongst other options a weak single-suited major. The winners, sitting North-South, did their best to disrupt their opponents by pushing all the way to the 3-level with but East-West ignored them anyway and went on to 3NT. This contract can be made but it is not easy, requiring the jack of spades to fall short, as it obligingly did. The Hoopers scored 85% for defeating it when East tried an inferior line. Meanwhile the second placegetters had an easier ride, being allowed to play peacefully in 2H making 7 tricks for a 76% score. The pairs who found themselves in strife were those who had not discussed what to do after a weak two is doubled by partner.
