

November 7, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

This hand was played at the prestigious US Vanderbilt Knockout Teams in 2018.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	3NT	PASS	1NT
PASS			PASS

The bidding was identical in both rooms as was the opening lead of the queen of hearts, won by the ace. When the six of hearts was returned one declarer ducked to the jack of hearts then won the king of hearts as East threw his king of diamonds! What a masterstroke! As declarer need some diamond tricks to bring his contract home, there was now no way that this could happen without allowing West to win and to cash two more heart tricks.

The other declarer found a way home by realising at trick two that, if hearts were breaking 4-3, there was no need to duck the king of hearts. So he won the king immediately, crossed to dummy with a club and led a diamond. If East played low, declarer would win the ace and play another diamond. If East played his king of diamonds, he would be allowed to hold the trick. Either way, West was denied an entry. An elegant and sophisticated solution to a difficult problem.

October QBA Qld-Wide Online Pairs winners (every Saturday at 1pm): Jan & Peter Randall (three times); Edda & Tom Strong; Margaret Plunkett & Greg Gosney; Kathleen & Mike Le Voi; Margaret Azar & Sonja Ramsund; and Ellen Duggan & Don Saunders.

Coming up: The next QBA Online Pairs 2-session event will be held on Bridge Base Online Sunday 29 November starting at 9.30am. Entry details are on the QBA website.
ABF Online Teams qualifying 28-29 November; Sydney Spring Nationals Online Pairs 12-13 December
