

December 12, 2020

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4H	4NT	PASS	5D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

West opens four hearts because she has an eight-card suit. In the absence of a firm partnership agreement, the meaning of North's 4NT overcall can be determined by logical elimination. If she held a spade-minor two-suiter she would probably have bid spades directly. If she had a strong semi-balanced hand, she would double and then the spotlight would be on South to decide where to bid a suit or pass for penalties. 4NT then must show a minor 2-suiter. South gets the message and bids her 'best' minor, diamonds. Now to the play.

West leads the two of spades. Where there be pre-emptive bids, there also be singletons. Declarer beware! Grab the ace of spades and lead a high diamond. East will take this and cash the king of spades. What should West discard? How about the king of hearts? This card will deny the ace and might force partner to look elsewhere for the setting trick. With no more tricks coming in hearts or clubs, all that is left is to try for a trump promotion. So, East plays a third spade which West, bless her cotton socks, ruffs with the nine of diamonds, over-ruffed. Now the ten of diamonds is the setting trick.

The Australian Bridge Federation Online Teams using the UK-based RealBridge platform concluded last weekend with GUMBY (Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill, Ron Cooper) defeating OZENIR (Serhat Ozenir, Bulent Kaytaz, Eva Samuel, Burak Baskan, Sinan Tatlicioglu) 154-68 over a 48-board final.

Continuing weekly Bridge Base Online opportunities include: QBA Qld-Wide Saturdays at 1pm; and the ABF Nationwide Pairs Fridays at 6.30pm and Sundays at 1.30pm
