

October 13, 2018

Bridge with Richard Ward

Your opponents bid 3C on your right, then 6S on your left, a remarkable sequence that you will not hear too often. Partner leads the H2 and this dummy is tabled:

S - H 6 5 4 **D** 10 8 2 **C** A K J 10 8 7 6.

You hold: **S** 3 2 **H** K 10 8 3 **D** K Q 9 **C** 9 4 3 2. The first trick goes: H2 - H4 - HK - HQ. What is going on? Decide now before reading on.

The New Zealand National Congress has just finished – a big event with multiple competitions and an entry of 108 in the Teams Championship. Two Australian pairs, Liam Milne/ Justin Mill and Warren Lazer/ Pauline Gumby featured in opposing teams in the final with the latter winning by the tight margin of 156-148.

In Brisbane last weekend there were 44 teams competing for one of three places in the Grand National Open Teams Final to be played at Tweed Heads in November. Successful teams were: 1. GIBSON (Alan Gibson/ Elizabeth Zeller/ Alison Dawson/ Brian Patterson); 2. BUGLER (Patrick Bugler/ Toni Bardon/ Pamela and Jim Evans); 3. MAGEE (Jill Magee/ Terry Strong/ Lyn Carter/ Martin Doran).

Back to the defensive problem which comes from the Bridge World (February, 2017). When your HK wins the first trick it seems clear that partner has led away from the HA. When partner does something risky like this, especially against a slam, the card they have led indicates the suit they want partner to return. So the H2 is asking for a club return which partner will presumably ruff. Sound logical? Well, yes, it is, but this was the whole hand:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	3C	PASS	6S
PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

What a masterstroke by South!

DROUGHT APPEAL UPDATE: The total raised by Queensland bridge clubs has reached \$25,000.
