

October 20, 2018

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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42 pairs competed in the Queensland Open Pairs last weekend. Results were: 1. Lindy Vincent/ Richard Ward 2. Eileen Li/ Charlie Lu; B Grade: Ann McGhee/ Michael Stoneman; C Grade: Winny Chan/ Aijun Yang; Best regional pair Terrence Sheedy/ Ian Afflick.

Meanwhile in Gympie, 24 teams competed. Results were: 1. WHITAKER (Fred Whitaker/ Martin Doran/ Luc Turschwell/ George Cuppaige) 2. PERRY (Richard Perry/ Bev Stacey/ Vivienne and Paul Maddigan); B Grade: PETERSEN (Fay Petersen/ Barbara Nioa/ Gillian Mason/ Desley Summers); C Grade: And in North Queensland, Townsville's Rosemary Glastonbury/ Ian Patterson/ Bill Bishop/ Betty Hobdell have won their zonal heat to qualify for the Grand National Open Teams Finals in November.

Bridge players are always entertained by the misfortunes and disasters of others, so this hand from a congress in Toowoomba back in 2016 should serve to keep them happy.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1D
1S	DBL	PASS	3D
PASS	4D	PASS	4H
PASS	4S	PASS	6D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

After West's rather timid intervention, North asked for key cards with 4D, South showed 0 or 3 – clearly 3 after his 3D jump, 4S asked for the trump queen and 6D showed that card. This is not a bad slam to reach, nobody else in the large field found it, and it was made even better when West led the singleton club around to declarer's ace-queen.

It takes ingenuity and a blind spot to make just 11 tricks after this start but our hapless declarer found a way! He paused to count his tricks – one spade, two hearts, six diamonds, two clubs and a spade ruff in the short trump hand brings the total to 12. Apart from an unlikely 4-0 trump break, what could possibly go wrong? After winning the CA over the CK, he drew two rounds of trumps and was sufficiently alert to note the 3-1 break. Unconcerned, he then played SA and ruffed his spade with dummy's last trump. Then the roof caved in. Needing to draw West's last trump, the only way back to hand was to play H A-K and ruff a heart which West over-ruffed. With a club still to lose that was one down. "Butchery!" exclaimed North. Astute readers will already know the simple solution which would have avoided partner's wrath.

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