

November 3, 2018

Bridge with Richard Ward

Today's hand from the 2018 Sydney Spring Nationals features a shrewd deceptive play by Queensland Grand Master Paul Wyer who, thanks to many decades of top-level rubber bridge plus state, national and international honours, has a plethora of astute plays at his disposal.

Dealer W / All vul

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

The bidding was relatively straightforward to 6D played by South, although only 20 of the 63 teams got there.

Looking at all four hands it is difficult to see what the defence could do to defeat the slam. Declarer, South, won two rounds of trumps and then cashed the SA on which Paul Wyer, East, played the SJ! Had he played small, declarer would have no choice but to play for a 3-2 spade break, but the inspired SJ play complicated matters. The "theory of restricted choice" comes under consideration now – deciding whether East holds a singleton SJ or a doubleton S Q-J. This declarer, fully aware that East could be false-carding, decided to play west for S Q-5-4-2 – so East won his SQ and cashed the CA. "Well that went down well - like the Titanic" frowned North. South scowled, West smiled and enigmatic East tried unsuccessfully to look innocent. All credit to Paul for creating this losing option out of nowhere.

RECENT RESULTS: BBC Novice Pairs: 1 Aijun Yang/ Sameer Pandya 2 Rod Wilson/ Bernard Trefeu; **Surfers Paradise Graded Teams:** A Grade Margaret Pisko/ Trish Anagnostou/ Sue Spurway/ Krystyna Homik; B Grade Mick Fawcett/ Lyn Tracey/ Richard Spelman/ Janet Price **QCBC Teams:** Open 1 Neville Francis/ Murray Perrin/ Jill Magee/ Terry Strong 2 Agnes & Barry Kempthorne/ Lindy Vincent/ Richard Ward; Novice Susan & Andrew Sharp/ Jill Dunning/ Sue Ziegenfuss
