Bridge with Richard Ward

NORTH
♠ J 9 4 3   **S/ NS VUL**
♥ 9
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ A Q J 4

WEST
♠ 7 5
♥ K Q J 10 7 4
♦ K 10 8
♣ K 9

EAST
♠ Q 10 8
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 2
♥ A 5 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ 10 7 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1C
1H	DBL	PASS	1S
2H	4S	ALL PASS	

West led the king of hearts. Declarer saw that, to have any chance at his contract, he needed to hold his black suit losers to one. Consequently, he needed spades to be 3-2 and either a doubleton queen of trumps or the king of clubs onside. So, after winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, he led a low club to West's nine and dummy's jack. Once this held, declarer crossed back to hand with a trump to the ace to lead a second low club toward dummy. When the king of clubs appeared, declarer called for dummy's ace of clubs. Next he played a low trump to his king, gratified to see that the suit had broken 3-2. Declarer now had the contract in sight. He continued by ruffing a heart, then played a low club to his ten. After ruffing his remaining heart in dummy, declarer cashed the queen of clubs, throwing a diamond from hand. Declarer had made nine tricks and, as he had two diamonds and two trumps left, the defenders could score only two diamonds and one trump. You should note that it was essential to play low clubs from hand on the first two rounds of the suit. If declarer had led the ten of clubs at trick two, West would have covered it with the king, thereby restricting declarer to three club tricks and leaving him a trick short of his contract.

CLEVELAND BAY TEAMS: [Director – Jan Smith] 1 Jayne Dalton / Vivienne Otto / John Page / Ursula Graham / Jan Smith; 2 Dusk Care / Audrey Ledbrook / Robyn Nolan / Angela Little; **GOLD COAST PAIRS:** [Director – Julie Jeffries] **RESTRICTED** 1 Lyn Tracey / Winny Chan; Kevin Hamilton-Reen / Mary Simon; **NOVICE** 1 Elizabeth & David Ward; 2 Thais Morgan-Pertus / Sean Quinn; **REDCLIFFE PAIRS:** [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Ivy & John Luck; 2 Pam Schoen / Phil Hale; **B** Debbie & Gary Gibbards; **C** Jane Tagney / Marge Henry.