

September 2, 2023

### Bridge with Richard Ward

---

It is possible to make a good living as a bridge professional, especially in the United States where average players will pay very well in their quest for more masterpoints. Most professionals know that their livelihood depends on how well they treat their paying partners but sometimes snippets of sarcasm emerge. An apocryphal tale is told of an expert despairing of partner's unwillingness to draw all of the opponents' trumps. The final advice was: 'just keep leading trumps until both opponents stop following suit. Then you will know for sure that they have run out.'

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
DBL	4S	ALL PASS	3S

West starts with the king of clubs and declarer, seeing the obvious danger in the diamond suit if East gains the lead, allows West to win the trick as East follows with the ten - a suit-preference signal for a heart switch, duly led and won by dummy's ace. Next comes a spade to the ace and another back to the king just to be sure! Yes, trumps are all drawn. Tick! The heart loser is discarded on the ace of clubs and then the jack of hearts is played -H6-D6-HQ. The contract is now assured.

Bridge in Queensland is divided into eight Zones and all have been conducting heats to determine those teams which will be playing at the prestigious Grand National Teams Final in November. Winners recorded so far are: **SUNSHINE COAST:** Maureen Jakes / Geoff Olsen / Lyn & Jim Martin; **DARLING DOWNS:** David Roberts / Paul Matthews / Kathy Duke / Laurie-Marie McRoberts / Elizabeth & Tony Thorne; **BRISBANE:** Lauren Morgan / Ben Leung / Michael Gearing / Sarah Strickland / Tony Treloar / Peter Evans; **FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND:** William van Bakel / Michael Byrne / Sandy Long / Tony Lusk; **NORTHERN:** Pat Leighton / Barbara Hospers / Cathy Crawford / Gladys Tulloch.

---