

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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The World Championships concluded in Marrakech last week with the four Australian teams finishing mid-field or below. The New Zealand Open team were the best performers in our region, hovering around the top 8 for most of the event. World Champions are Switzerland (Bas Drijver, Fernando Piedra (npc), Jacek Kalita, Michael Klukowski, Pierre Zimmerman, Luis Lantarón and coach Sjoert Brink who convincingly defeated USA2 in the 96-board final. Other winners were Women – Israel, Seniors – Denmark, Mixed – USA2

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

South opens a strong one no trump and, with a perfectly balanced hand and ample strength, North wisely chooses not to look for a major suit fit, bidding the obvious 3NT which cleverly avoids the doomed heart game contract. West leads the equally obvious queen of hearts and East, allowed to win the king of hearts, switches to the jack of clubs. There are eight top tricks and, if the diamond finesse works, that will be the ninth. But there is no rush to do that immediately. Cashing the ace of hearts confirms East's singleton and now, after all the spade and club winners are cashed ending in hand, East is known to have at most two black suit winners remaining. When South is able to duck a diamond to East by covering whatever card West plays, East is end-played.

**QUEENSLAND GRADED PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson] : 1 Lyn & Jim Martin; 2 Paul Collins / Ian Afflick; **UNDER 750**: 1 Winny Chan / Sheila Wills; 2 Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; **UNDER 150**: 1 June McNamara / Lee Pitt; 2 Lois Munro / Anna De Borah; **TROPICAL WINTER CONGRESS – MALANDA** [Director – Steve Murray]; 1 Angela Little / Robyn Nolan; 2 Tony Lusk / Peerapan Maslen; **B** Ann Smith / Heather Colbert; **C** Kate Gargan / Patricia Ottone; **MACKAY PAIRS** [Director – Geoff Taylor]; 1 Diane & Max Holewa; 2 Jan Randall / Don Cameron; **B** Faye Wright / Christine Nice; **C** Sandra Morris / Annie Lynch.

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