

March 9, 2024

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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Today's hand repeats the age-old lesson to count your winners and losers before playing to the first trick. The correct play here is obvious but counter-intuitive.

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

The auction was a straightforward 1H:2H:4H. West led the nine of spades, covered by the ten and allowed to win. Now the obvious ten tricks (three spades, six hearts and one club) were no longer available. Declarer should simply play low from dummy and win the ace. Draw trumps with the king and queen then play a spade. The defence will take one spade and two diamonds but the club losers will disappear on the winning spades with the ace of hearts available as an entry to reach them.

Best Queensland teams results from the Gold Coast International Congress: **OPEN:** Ben Leung / Kate Macdonald / Pele Rankin / Michael Gearing; **UNDER 1500:** Ed Hahn / Trish Anagnostou / Janelle Conroy / Margaret Pisko; **INTERMEDIATE:** Oliver Goodman / Ming Shu Yang / Winnie Chan / Sameer Pandya; **RESTRICTED:** Eliza Hemphill / Rick Webster / Robert Olander / Jan Flanigan; **NOVICE:** Hanna Majewski / Carla Ferro / Annie Shotter / Cathy Mathieson.

**TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Christine Newbery / Richard Fox; 2 Larry Moses / Phil Hale; **B** David Sydes / Robyn Bishop; **NOVICE** 1 Gloria Newton / Lyn Edeson; 2 Debbie Carroll / Jacinta Lee; **B** Jenny Easey / Jen Borowski; **QLD MIXED TEAMS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Ken Dawson / Alison Dawson / Janeen Solomon / Ian Afflick; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** Ian Pitts / Bob Hannam / Sobhan & Bob Davies.

Stage 2 of the Queensland Open Team trials starts today. Only fourteen of the thirty-two entrants have played in the Open Team in the past, but very few regular partnerships are fronting up this year.

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