

April 13, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Australian National Championships will be held in Orange, NSW this year. The Queensland teams have all been confirmed. **OPEN TEAM:** Maha Hoenig, Janeen Solomon, Kim Morrison, Tony Hutton, Christine Newbery, Richard Fox; **WOMEN'S TEAM:** Pele Rankin, Greer Tucker, Elizabeth Zeller, Alison Dawson, Toni Bardon, Yolanda Floris; **SENIORS' TEAM:** Agnes & Barry Kempthorne, Therese Tully, Richard Ward, Kevin Steffensen Carolyn Miller; **YOUTH TEAM:** Paddy Taylor, Seb Langdon Macmillan, Tom Langdon Macmillan, Zac Ross, Michael Gearing (NPC).

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | NORTH | | E / EW VUL |
| | ♠ J 10 7 3 | | |
| | ♥ A 7 | | |
| | ♦ J 8 5 | | |
| | ♣ A K 8 6 | | |
| WEST | | EAST | |
| ♠ 9 5 | | ♠ 8 6 4 2 | |
| ♥ K 9 8 3 2 | | ♥ J 10 6 | |
| ♦ 10 7 3 | | ♦ A | |
| ♣ 5 4 3 | | ♣ Q J 10 7 2 | |
| | SOUTH | | |
| | ♠ A K Q | | |
| | ♥ Q 5 4 | | |
| | ♦ K Q 9 6 4 2 | | |
| | ♣ 9 | | |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | 1D |
| PASS | 1S | PASS | 3D |
| PASS | 3H | PASS | 4S |
| PASS | 6D | ALL PASS | |

3D showed a 6-card suit and 16+ high card points. 3H was a feature on the way to a possible 3NT contract. 4S showed just 3-card support so West whooshed into the diamond slam. Sometimes this kind of leap is a reasonable gamble and avoids any confusion about which suit is to be trumps. West led a club won by the ace and a low diamond from dummy went to East's ace. Next came the heart J-Q-K-A. Had trumps split 2-2 there would have been no problem, but, as it is, the spades need to be unblocked (yes?) before drawing the last trump. This will lead to defeat when West ruffs the third spade. But there is a solution. Simply cash two spades, cross to dummy's jack of diamonds and discard the blocking spade on the king of clubs.

DALBY CONGRESS [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Jenni Buckley / Jim Wood; 2 Denise Hartwig / Gabrielle Elich; **B** Brian Wharton / Peter Schettler; **TEAMS** 1 Diane Wenham / Margaret Keating / John Erlandson / Rhondda Dean; 2 Jim Wood / Oliver Dashwood / Joan Mladen / Julie Pigdon.
