

June 22, 2024

Bridge with Richard Ward

There are times when the best way to bamboozle your opponents as declarer is to lead the suit that they should be attacking! This hand from the 2012 Gold Coast Congress teams final saw Irish international Tom Hanlon successfully applying this principle.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1C
PASS	1D	PASS	1H
PASS	1S	PASS	1NT
PASS	3NT	ALL PASS	

If both minor suits behave, there are nine tricks for the taking but that is not very likely. You can build some spade tricks for the contract, but wouldn't the defence find the obvious heart shift? Hanlon found a nice counter-move when, after winning the first trick with the diamond ace, he put the heart king on the table! East did not want to help declarer establish a couple of heart tricks, so he won the heart ace and switched to a club. South won the king then knocked out the spade ace. West played another diamond, and Hanlon had his nine tricks for plus 400. At the other table, West started with the three of hearts and declarer was immediately down one.

CAIRNS NOVICE PAIRS [Director – Rick Gryg]: 1 Jan & Mark Firth; 2 Deb Morison / Bridget Findley; **B** Sonja de Rooy / Annemarie Stevenson; **TOOWOOMBA CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **Under 500** 1 Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / Marge Henry / Sally Hall; 2 Mavis Simpson / Robert Fulcher / Joan Mladen / John Erlandson; **NOVICE** 1 Kerry Gibson / Andrew Mollison / Pauline Curin / Debra Coward; 2 Gretchen Graf / Judy Bodkin / Jenni Darlington / Marie Steger; **GOLD COAST CONGRESS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: **PAIRS** 1 Watson Zhou / Charlie Lu; 2 Kerry Wood / Charles Howard; **B** Zenon Olszewski / George Topfner; **C** Kevin Gosling / Angela van Daal; **TEAMS** 1 Sue & David Smith / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 Eva & Tony Berger / Usher Zeng / Ann Liu; **B** Paul Han / Davis Zhang / Richard Spelman / Lyn Tracey; **C** Lesley Berry / Mary Simon / Jennifer Sawyer / Kevin Hamilton-Reen.
