

May 24, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

Today's hand features the joy of finding a "surround play" in defence.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	PASS	1NT
PASS	2H	PASS	3S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

Many pairs play some form of 'super-accept' responses holding 4-card support after a transfer bid, but there are dangers associated with this as is shown here. North was not even remotely tempted to bid on, leaving South as declarer in this hopeless three spade contract. West led a trump so a second spade winner was followed by a diamond to the queen and king. Taking five top tricks would be easy enough but, to get the maximum, East must now shift to the jack of clubs – 'surrounding' dummy's ten. South covers, and West wins then returns a low club to East's nine. Now the heart shift sets up the sixth winner for the defence. Of course, if East shifts to hearts before playing clubs, declarer can escape for down one by setting up a diamond for a club discard. And a low club shift at trick four fails to set up three defensive winners in the club suit.

On this hand from the BBC Pairs, South for the eventual winners opened a vulnerable four spades holding AQ10975 9 1086542 void. This is not for the faint-of-heart. He was doubled for penalties by the opponents who held a combined 27 high card points. This contract proved unbeatable when dummy tabled with J4 J53 KQ J107652. Well done Andrew Woollons for a well-timed pressure opening.

GOONDIWINDI PAIRS [Director – Jo Neary]: 1 Malcolm Saunders / Ian Price; 2 Sue O'Brien / Paul Collins; **B** 1 Julie & Kevin Willcocks; 2 Barbara Whitmee / Danah-Lee Gibson; **C** 1 Janine & Peter Cumming; 2 Michele Rau / Lee Chenoweth; **BRISBANE BRIDGE CENTRE PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Andrew Woollons / Nikolas Moore; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** 1 Leith Cameron / Rod Wilson; 2 Gray Renwick / Maria Mills.
