

July 5, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

North-South were playing the Precision bidding system so North opens 1C showing 16+ high card points, South bids 1NT showing a balanced 8+ points and they are promptly in the 3NT game.

On a heart lead declarer naturally plays low from dummy and, after West wins the king and returns a heart the queen of hearts wins trick two. Now it is worthwhile considering the best way forward. To make nine tricks, declarer must play to generate five tricks from the minors. Consider the consequence of taking the club finesse at once: if the club finesse is wrong, the defence might be able to take the king of clubs and clear the hearts. If that suit splits 5-3, with West retaining the ace of diamonds as an entry to the long suit, declarer's goose is cooked. So the right play is to attack the diamonds first, and, after West takes the ace, declarer can later finesse clubs into the safe hand. If the club finesse is right, you have plenty of tricks, and if it is wrong East has the lead, and cannot cause any damage.

DARLING DOWNS CONGRESS [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Neville Francis / Kim Morrison; 2 Rachel Langdon / Richard Fox; **B** Jeff Aitchison / Lesley Meyer; **C** Cynthia Palmer / Elizabeth Anderson; **TEAMS** 1 Richard Fox / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison / Neville Francis; 2 Shanaal & Hema De Zoysa / Kathy Duke / Laurie-Marie McRoberts; **TOWNSVILLE JUNE CONGRESS** [Directors – Bill Bishop, Leigh Owens, Jan Smith]: **PAIRS** 1 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson; Gladys Tulloch / Terry Hughes; **B** Ann Smith / Robyn Green; **C** Jayne Dalton / Judith Threlfall; **TEAMS** 1 Di Garside / Donna Fitch / Judy Hunt / Jackie Segantreddo; 2 Ian Patterson / Betty Hobdell / Jan Smith / Leigh Owens; **TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Maha Hoenig / Janeen Solomon; **B** Sheila Wills / Dewi Eastman; **C** Gray Renwick / Maria Mills; **UNDER 150 MPs** 1 Emma Langford / Robert Cumming; 2 Linda & Peter Neil; **B** 1 Wendy & Granville Gay; 2 Trish Wright / Kit Duncan.
