

July 12, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

All the big guns are in town this week for the Australian National Championships. In the Interstate Teams there are four categories – Open, Women, Seniors and Youth – and at the time of writing our Youth players are doing us proud well ahead of everybody else. Concurrently with the Brisbane events are the World Youth Team Championships in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy where Queensland will be well represented by Kate Macdonald, Zac Ross and Tom Langdon Macmillan. Catch up with the results for all of these next week.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	PASS	PASS	1S
2H	2S	3H	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

As location is very important in real estate, so planning is in declarer play as today's hand illustrates. It is a fine example of how important it is to make a plan before playing any cards.

South cashed the heart ace on the opening lead and continued with the heart queen to dummy's king as declarer pitched a diamond. Next came the spade ten, carefully following with the seven, losing to the king. South shifted back to hearts, ruffed with the eight, preserving the three. Now declarer was ready. The ace of spades was cashed then across to dummy with the ace of diamonds to take the first successful club finesse. The early care paid off handsomely here – now being able to get back to dummy by leading the spade three to the six to take a second club finesse. Then the club ace established the 13th club for the 11th trick and a shared top score on the board.

BOWEN PAIRS CONGRESS [Directors - Leigh Owens & Jan Smith]: 1 Janet Hansen / Diane Morgan; 2 Jan Harris / Helen Van Den Broek; 3 Tex Sheidy / Noel Bugeia; **B** 1 Joan Elliott / Margaret Dousset; 2 Ann Smith / Andree / Galeano; 3 Martin Pearce / Sandra Morris.
