

July 19, 2025

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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The Australian National Championships have come to an end after a hard-fought couple of weeks in Brisbane. Interstate Teams results were: OPEN: SA [Roger Januszke, Peter Chan, Arjuna de Livera, Nicolas Croft, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum, Jon Hunt (captain)] defeated VIC 171-155; WOMEN WA [Marnie Leybourne, Leone Fuller, Gwyneira Brahma, Stella Steer, Pauline Collett, Cathy Hood, Allison Stralow (captain)] defeated SA 150-144; SENIORS NSW [Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill, Peter Buchen, Michael Hughes, Ted Griffin, Julian Foster (captain)] defeated ACT 167-103. In the Youth event, Queensland's Lauren Morgan, Paddy Taylor, Jasmine Skeate, Remco Spencer, Ada Sun, Alex Wu, Michael Gearing (captain) reached the final easily but were then defeated by VIC [Samuel Goss, Alex Goss, Sebastian Wright, Samuel Angove, Finn Rennie, Conor Hosking, Rebecca O'Reilly (captain)] 192-124. A great effort by both teams. In the Interstate Pairs, the best Queensland pair was Jill Magee and Terry Strong who placed second overall.

Life can be tough at the top. Today's hand features a brutal result in the Interstate Teams Seniors Finals last week.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2D	PASS	2H	DBL
RDBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

2D was a version of the 'multi-2' convention usually showing a weak hand with a six-card major but could also be a very strong balanced hand as here. Therefore, it is almost routine for the South hand to enter the bidding immediately because it is quite likely that partner will have sufficient strength for a vulnerable game to be on the cards. Not in this case. West redoubled to show the big hand and North-South were in strife, choosing to defend a redoubled part-score. When East made nine tricks that meant the unusual score of +840 to them and 12 imps away. South could have reduced the damage slightly by escaping to a spade or diamond contract but that was unclear at the time.

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