

August 9, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2C
PASS	2D	PASS	2S
PASS	4S	PASS	6S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

After the strong 2C opening North showed a weak hand with 2D and then a pathetic hand with 4S. South battled on regardless and West led the queen of hearts. Declarer could count nine tricks with possibilities in diamonds and clubs for more. One plan was to draw two rounds of trumps and play the ace and queen of clubs. Here, West could duck the club king, or take it and play a third club for East to ruff. Declarer could overruff, but a winner would have gone by the wayside. Either way, the defence would prevail. A better plan was to concede a diamond and ruff two diamonds in dummy, relying on the club finesse for a twelfth trick. As it happens both of these approaches would fail on the given layout. Our South found a line that would succeed as long as clubs were no worse than four-two and trumps were not four-zero. At trick two the club queen appeared! If West had taken this, declarer would have succeeded easily so West ducked. South countered by cashing the ace of clubs and the ace of diamonds then conceded a diamond. Two diamonds could then be ruffed high in dummy to ensure the contract.

WARWICK PAIRS [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Hema & Shanaal De Zoysa; 2 Laurie-Marie McRoberts / Elizabeth Zeller; **B** 1 Keith Barnett / Michael Fox; 2 Kerry Gibson / Pauline Curin; **CLEVELAND BAY TEAMS** [Director – Jan Smith]: Bill Bishop / Kelly Walker / Luthile Arlett / Ruth Morris; **SUNNYBANK TEAMS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Barry Koster / Lilly Jia / John Morris / Barbara Mackay; 2 Leck Kaszubski / Nadya Tuxworth / Maha Hoening / Janeen Solomon; **B** 1 Mick Fawcett / Margaret Giebels / Sue Ziegenfuss / Jill Dunning; 2 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman / Kathleen Clifford / Tere Wotherspoon; **C** 1 Tomasina De Luca / Sheila Parsons / Andrea & Speros Pappas; 2 Margaret Low / Pat Bos / Marie Elkington / Daphne Young.
