

October 4, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Queensland Bridge Association hosted an online Directors Workshop last week organised by Jan Peach and assisted by Laurie Kelso, Chris Snook and Peter Busch. Directors are responsible for the conduct of bridge events at all levels from club sessions, to weekend congress and State championships. As such they are the life blood of the game, needing extensive training to become experts in event structures, scoring, regulations and laws. Without their generous support, bridge clubs could not function. Over 90 players from all over Australia and New Zealand participated.

USA legend Bob Hamman once said that: 'on average, you will make twenty mistakes per session'. We can take that advice as either disheartening or challenging. Sometimes our errors are caused by failing to notice the power of the smaller cards.

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

South was declarer in 6NT at all tables in the room on the usual lead of the jack of clubs. Declarer has eleven top tricks with a multitude of choices for developing a twelfth. For example, playing the three top spades succeeds when that suit is four-three or an honour falls from the defenders. However there is a 100% line. Just lead a spade from dummy and cover East's card. If it is a low card and West wins the ten or jack of spades, whichever suit is returned will set up the twelfth trick thanks to the helpful small cards in every suit. On the diagrammed hand, if East plays low then declarer has twelve tricks immediately. If East produces the ten or jack, the extra trick comes from winning and playing the three top spades followed by the nine, thereby establishing the eight as the contract-fulfilling winner.

SUNSHINE COAST PAIRS [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Elizabeth Zeller / Alison Dawson; 2 Anne Young / Di Rogers; **B** 1 Kerry Rutter / Julia Caldwell; 2 Melva Leal / Ted Morriss; **C** 1 Karen Gosney / Suzy Brownlow; 2 Rebecca Burnett Smith; 2 Joanne McCarthy.
