

October 11, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

High level competitive bidding can be hit-and-miss at times although it usually pays to bid as high as you dare as quickly as you can then allow your opponents to make the last guess. Other 'rules' which work most of the time include: the 5-level belongs to the opponents; and the pre-emptive opener should not bid again. Today's hand has some more advice from Australian expert David Beauchamp.

You hold as dealer South at favourable vulnerability (not vulnerable vs vulnerable)

♠ - ♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ 5 2 and the bidding goes:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4S	PASS	PASS	4H
			?

Do you bid? Around 80% of players surveyed suggested that there was no alternative but to pass. David suggested that a double, showing a desire to compete, was a very serious alternative. A double by a pre-emptor, by arrangement of course, asks partner to either pass for penalties or to push on to five hearts. Suppose partner had:

♠ Q 9 8 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ Q J 4 3

not much thought would be given to doubling initially but North should now be delighted to defend in the knowledge that partner is likely to contribute a defensive trick. Had this hand been less defensive, bidding five hearts should be a successful sacrifice. Fortune favours the brave.

A number of Queenslanders travelled south last week to play in the Canberra in Bloom Congress whilst taking in the sights of Floriade. Best performance came from Pele Rankin playing with Marianne Bookallil, Stephen Fischer and George Kozakos winning the Mixed Teams finals whilst Janeen Solomon with Chris Stead came third in the Open Pairs.

GYMPIE TEAMS [Director – Steve Murray]: 1 Lyn & Jim Martin; Verna & Stephen Brookes; 2 Gordon Kellerman / Patricia Mann / Neven Burica. John Morris; 3 Debbie & Gary Gibbards; Margaret & Don Robertson; **TOOWOOMBA CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Marjorie Askew / Bill Powell; 2 Patrick Bugler / Tim Runting; **B** 1 John Churchett / Trevor Handerson; 2 Gillian Mason / Ann McGhee; **C** Anna Jadach / Prunella Adams; 2 Jill Dunning / Sie Ziegenfuss; **TEAMS** 1 Larry Moses / Nikolas Moore / Patrick Bugler / Tim Runting; 2 Kim Morrison / Rachel Langdon / Neville Francis / Tony Hutton; **B** 1 Jill Dunning / Sue Ziegenfuss / Margaret Giebels / Mick Fawcett; 2 Eileen Josey / John Churchett / Trevor Henderson / Ngairé Wills; **C** 1 Gwendoline Francis / Diana Drummond / Carol & David Edwards; 2 Vicki Ivoševac / Jennifer McDowell / Kay Pearson / Ken Jones.
