

October 18, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Queensland Bridge Association Festival of Bridge attracted 50+ teams from all over the State with a few players travelling interstate to Brisbane for the occasion. The bidding on today's hand from the Open Pairs featured a most unusual takeout bid of 6NT by local expert Jim Wallis. Not surprisingly, his message was not received by his partner although the damage was minimal.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3S	4C	4S ¹	5S ²
PASS	6C	6S ³	6NT ⁴
PASS	PASS ⁵	PASS	

1 Most players would take one look at this poor, featureless hand and pass throughout. This East however liked the favourable vulnerability so was undaunted.

2 This bid was intended to show the unbid suits but North took it as a cue bid, probably a void in spades with club support. A reasonable interpretation.

3 Either very brave or insane depending on the outcome.

4 Intended as takeout at the seven level!

5 Bewildered and hoping for the best.

Despite missing the grand slam in hearts or diamonds (which no pair reached), 6NT making twelve tricks for 1440 was worth 71%. Those allowed to play in six hearts making all the tricks for 1460 scored 90% while those intrepid East-West pairs who were doubled in six spades for -1400 scored an average board.

QBA FESTIVAL [Directors Daryl Whitfield, Peter Busch, Jan Peach, Jo Neary]: **REG BUSCH OPEN TEAMS** 1 Neville Francis / Ralph Parker / Magnus Moren / Sanmugaras Kamalarasa; 2 Eva & Tony Berger / Ann Liu / Usher Zeng; **B** Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Barry Koster / Barbara Mackay; **REGIONAL** Chris Snook / Denise Hartwig / Shanaal & Hema De Zoyza; **RESTRICTED** Jeremy Lin / Alexandra Mills / Jassy & Ricky Carthew; **JOAN MCPHEAT OPEN PAIRS** 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Pamela & Jim Evans; **B** Michael Byrne / Tony Lusk; **C** Jacqui Dudurovic / Andrew Slater; **D** Barbara Mackay / Barry Koster; **E** Peter Farley / Bruce Headey; **REGIONAL** Karin Le Roux / Adrian Lohmann; **RESTRICTED** Jenny Thompson / Peter Munro; **NOVICE** Suzy Brownlow / Brian Clark.