

November 8, 2025

### Bridge with Richard Ward

In the Queensland annual masterpoint race it will be a close finish between Rachel Langdon, Therese Tully, Kim Morrison, Tony Hutton and last year's winner, Pele Rankin. At a national level, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer, Diamond and Emerald Grand Masters respectively, are miles ahead of the rest on 474 points earned in just ten months.

|              |            |                    |            |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| <b>NORTH</b> |            | <b>S / ALL VUL</b> |            |
| ♠            | J 9 4      |                    |            |
| ♥            | 9 4 3      |                    |            |
| ♦            | A 6 5 2    |                    |            |
| ♣            | A 5 3      |                    |            |
| <b>WEST</b>  |            | <b>EAST</b>        |            |
| ♠            | 8 5 3 2    | ♠                  | 6          |
| ♥            | J 8 6      | ♥                  | Q 10 7 5 2 |
| ♦            | Q 10       | ♦                  | K J 9 8 3  |
| ♣            | K Q 9 7    | ♣                  | 10 6       |
| <b>SOUTH</b> |            |                    |            |
| ♠            | A K Q 10 7 |                    |            |
| ♥            | A K        |                    |            |
| ♦            | 7 4        |                    |            |
| ♣            | J 8 4 2    |                    |            |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST     | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1S    |
| PASS | 2S    | PASS     | 3C    |
| PASS | 4S    | ALL PASS |       |

There are nine top tricks and, without a trump lead, the play would be straightforward. For example, on a heart lead, declarer takes three red suit winners before playing ace and another club. The defence returns a trump won in hand to play a third club. No matter what the defence does, the tenth trick is assured by ruffing the last club with dummy's jack of trumps. The average player might not find a plan to make a tenth trick after a trump lead, but it is simple to do so using a dummy reversal. The idea is to score as many trumps as possible so, with this in mind, declarer cashes the ace and king of hearts at trick two then plays a diamond to the ace to ruff dummy's remaining heart with the ace. A diamond play follows. Suppose West wins the second diamond and exits with another trump. South wins with dummy's nine and ruffs a diamond. After a club to the ace and another diamond ruff, declarer has made five trumps in hand, two heart tricks, the minor suit aces and there is still the good jack of trumps in dummy for the tenth trick.

**NORTHERN SUBURBS BRIDGE CLUB PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson; 2 Neville Francis / Kim Morrison; **B** 1 June Glenn / Alan Hamilton; 2 John Rivers / Sameer Pandya; **C** 1 Peter Schmidt / Peter Lyons; 2 Vesna & Voyko Markovic.

The Sunshine Coast Bridge Club is holding the final two State championships for the year with the Qld Senior Pairs on this weekend and the Qld Senior Teams on Sunday 14 December.

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