

December 6, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Queensland Bridge Association management has spent the past 18 months investigating venue possibilities as a replacement for the Gold Coast Congress which came to an end in February after 63 memorable years. As a result, it has been recently announced that the inaugural Brisbane Gold Congress will be held at a hotel in the Brisbane CBD from 30 January to 6 February 2027.

Bridge experts tend to find bids and plays which are usually reserved for post-mortems or in bridge columns after all four hands are on display. Consider this one played in real life by US star Michael Rosenberg.

You reach 6NT holding **S** AQJ9 **H** KQ42 **D** K9 **C** AQ5 opposite a dummy holding of **S** 64 **H** A5 **D** AQ852 **C** 10962 on the lead of the jack of hearts. In which hand would you win the opening lead - and what would you play to trick two? Let's say you decide to win in dummy and take the spade finesse - it wins. What do you play to trick three?

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

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

1 Minor suit Stayman; 2 Invitational to slam

If the diamonds break 3-3 the contract is laydown but, if not, there are difficulties ahead. In an effort to combine multiple chances Rosenberg next played the queen of clubs! – a card that would not occur to most of us. This kept all possibilities open. What a success it was! 6NT making via three tricks in each of all four suits.

HERVEY BAY CONGRESS [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Judy & Elizabeth Zeller; 2 Rhonda Chantler / Kevin Chapman; **B** 1 Gillian Mason / Ann McGhee; 2 Sa & Paul Smith; **C** 1 Maria Wood / Kelly Greaney; 2 John Molloy / Pierre Martin; **TEAMS** 1 Lyn & Jim Martin / Adrienne Kelly / Peter Busch; 2 Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting / Margaret Giebels / Mick Fawcett; **B** 1 Gillian Mason / Ann McGhee / Annie Shotter / Paul Jansen; 2 John Molloy / Pierre Martin / Jocelyn Cooper / Ariane McLean.
