

December 13, 2025

Bridge with Richard Ward

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

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

This is a sophisticated bidding sequence in which South showed: a reasonable opening hand; a control in hearts; one key card (already shown); then 5D and 6D asked for specific kings which revealed the club king and no other kings. West led the jack of hearts and the question declarer should have asked is, "Would West have led from a king-jack-ten combination once North had made a grand slam try?" Surely not. So East was a heavy favourite to hold the king of hearts. Consequently, a better approach at trick one is to play the eight of hearts from dummy. This would be an immediate winner if East had the singleton king of hearts. It also succeeds on this layout too. Declarer draws trumps, eliminates the clubs with a ruff and then exits with a heart to the queen. East, having begun with a doubleton king of hearts, is end-played into giving away the twelfth trick, either with a ruff-and-discard or by leading a diamond.

International news: In one of the best performances for Australian and New Zealand players of all time, the SHOURIE Team (Raj Shourie (UK), Gavin Wolpert (Canada), Sartaj Hans (Australia), Andy Hung (Australia), Michael Whibley (NZ), and Nabil Edgtton (Australia) recently won the prestigious 2025 Soloway Knockout Teams ahead of a star-studded line-up of formidable experts.

REDLAND TEAMS [Director – Jo Neary]: 1 Ann Liu / Usher Zeng / Rachel Langdon / Nikolas Moore; 2 Margaret Millar / Sue O'Brien / Paul Collins / Ian Afflick; **B** Carmel Wikman / Margie Knox / Sue & Andrew Sharp; 2 Judith Corney / Jane Whelan / Nigel Cleminson / Shirley Burgess; **TOOWOOMBA TEAMS** [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Vanessa Brewis / Jenny McGowan / Vesna & Voyko Markovic; 2 Denise Hartwig / Mavis Simpson / Shanaal & Hema De Zoysa; **B** 1 Pauline Curin / Carol Wilson / Kerry Gibson / Anne Kirkpatrick; 2 David Roberts / Ngaire Wills / Wendy & Jim Smith.
