

January 10, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Congratulations to Rachel Langdon, the highest-scoring Queensland player by masterpoints-earned for 2025 ahead of Tony Hutton, Nikolas Moore and Therese Tully. The national winners were Pauline Gumby from Warren Lazer, Axel Johannsson and Kate McCallum.

Young bridge players in Queensland have become a force to reckon with after a podium finish at the Australian National Championship. Thirteen of them are currently attending Youth Week in Canberra where they are tipped to do well. Today's hand illustrates an imaginative defence from a Chinese youth player at the World Championships.

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

At one table East chose to overcall one spade which led to a contract of two spades making just seven tricks. At the other table North-South were left to play in two diamonds by South to which West led a small club won by the jack. Youthful South was the heroine of this story finding two great plays. Firstly, when in with a top diamond, she led away from her ace of hearts to partner's king so as to receive a club ruff. Secondly, she now found the only correct switch: the ten of spades! It was a beautiful play, only wrong if declarer had the jack-eight third of spades. But, as it turned out, partner's spade eight justified this nice coup.

GOLD COAST TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Jenny Michael / Edward Hahn / Alan Race / Pat Beattie; 2 Ann Liu / Usher Zeng / Eva & Tony Berger; **B** 1 Erin Waterhouse / Paul Jenkins / John Rivers / Peter Lyons; 2 Heather Reid / Lorraine De Nett / Trevor Fletcher / Dot Piddington; **C** 1 Beverly Jarvis / Lindell Day / Darren Drake / John Glennie; 2 Jan Rees / Anne Cosgrave / Annette Ryan / Sew Yoon Yap.

SUMMER YOUTH BRIDGE LESSONS for ages 10-25 at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, Woolloongabba Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd January mornings – **FREE**. Contact Michael Gearing 0419 733 930.
