

January 17, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Today's hand comes from the Australian Open Par Point Pairs competition which was popular from 1937 to 1962. The emphasis was on declarer play rather than defence. Players received pre-dealt hands with the aim of finding the optimal makeable contract as viewed by the judges. Once bidding was finished, players would be told what the contract should be. They would then play in that contract, regardless of the bidding, often with a prescribed lead by the defence. Marks would be given for both the bidding and the making of the contract. A perfect score was a 'par'. The contract here is six hearts played by South on the lead of the queen of diamonds. See below for the winning play.

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

2025 Queensland Masterpoint Awards by category: **SILVER GRAND** Tony Hutton; **GRAND** Rachel Langdon; **GOLD** Eugene Pereira; **SILVER** Richard Spelman; **BRONZE** Raelene Clark; **LIFE** Kate Macdonald; **SILVER** Peter Schmidt; **BRONZE** Peter Lyons; **NATIONAL** Lauren Morgan; **BRONZE** Mark Harnack; **STATE** Julie Pigdon; **BRONZE REGIONAL** Jackie Hendrix; **REGIONAL** Mary Hinves; **SILVER LOCAL** Brian Clark; **BRONZE LOCAL** Peter Grinlaubs; **LOCAL** Kit Duncan; **CLUB** Remco Spencer; **GRADUATE** Ada Sun; **NIL** Arthur Ter Hofstede.

QUEENSLAND CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB PAIRS [Director – Jan Peach]: 1 Peter Evans / Tony Treloar; 2 Maha Hoenig / Greer Tucker; **B** 1 Barry Coster / John Morris; 2 Annette Corkhill / Wendy Gibson; **NOVICE**: 1 Sue Sherrell / Joshua Davis; 2 Vina & Naren Shah.

FREE bridge lessons for youth players start on Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd 9.30am-11.45am at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, Woolloongabba. Phone: 0419 733 930.

SOLUTION: Play the ace-king of diamonds, throwing the ace of spades away. Next, lead the spade queen discarding a club from hand. West wins the king of spades but, with spades 4-3 and hearts 3-1, declarer now has twelve tricks.
