

January 24, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Queensland youth players have produced stellar results at the Australian Youth Bridge Championships: **YOUTH TEAMS** Zac Ross, Remco Spencer, Paddy Taylor, Bertie Morgan (SA); **YOUTH PAIRS** 4th Taylor-Morgan; 5th Alex Wu – Ada Sun; 8th Jeremy Lin – Alexander Mills; **AUSTRALIAN UNDER 26 TEAM SELECTION** 1st Paddy Taylor – Bertie Morgan; 2 Kate Macdonald / Heath Watkins; 3rd Adrian Le / Fletcher Davey.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2H	DBL	3H	3S
PASS	4S	ALL PASS	

How should declarer play when West leads the nine of clubs? As there is little chance of success if this is a singleton, declarer should play dummy's three. East wins with the jack and plays a heart to West's queen. When another club comes back declarer must rise with the ace, hoping that clubs are 5-2. After drawing trumps, declarer should place West with a 2-6-3-2 distribution. That being the case, there is a 100% play to make ten tricks, rather than the anti-percentage one of finessing the ten of diamonds, which relies on West beginning with both the queen and jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffs dummy's last heart and continues with ace, king and another diamond. When, as expected, West wins the third round with the jack there are only hearts remaining. On the heart exit, dummy ruffs and declarer discards the losing club from hand.

NORTHERN SUBURBS TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Natalie Bloch / David Lehmann / Berts Luchjenbroers / Richard McLauchlan; 2 Carmel Martin / Gary Malinas / Kuldip Bedi / Abby Wanigaratne; **B** Carmel Wikman / Lesleigh Egan / Margie Knox / Narelle Mclver; **C** Michelle Lewis / Deanne Gaskill / Sandra Mulcahy / Inta Devine; **TOOWOOMBA PAIRS** [Director – Sue Holbert]: **UNDER 500** 1 Shanaal & Hema De Zoyza; 2 Trevor Henderson / Dennis Lincoln; **NOVICE** 1 Debra & Bruce Coward; 2 Alison Banks / Teena Haslam
