

February 7, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Of all the declarer play techniques, apart from complicated squeezes, the one most often overlooked is the dummy reversal.

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

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

After a strong one no trump opening, a game-forcing transfer auction and a slam-going cue bid, this good slam was reached. West's high-card strength suggested the neutral lead of a trump. With eleven top tricks the slam appeared to depend on finding the ace of clubs or the king of diamonds well placed. Declarer called for dummy's ten of trumps in order to lead dummy's singleton club at trick two. When West took the king of clubs with the ace, declarer's chances of twelve tricks seemed to rely solely on the diamond finesse. However, declarer saw a better chance. The second trump was won in hand to ruff a club in dummy, noting the likely 3-2 trump break. Then, by crossing to hand twice in hearts, the two remaining clubs were also ruffed. After a diamond to the ace, the last trump was drawn with the ace: three trumps, three club ruffs, five hearts and the ace of diamonds for twelve tricks in all. Notice that declarer needed use the hearts as entries to ruff the clubs, otherwise East could discard a heart on the fourth club and, when declarer tries to return to hand with a second heart, East ruffs in to defeat the contract. This line relies on hearts breaking 3-2, a 68 percent chance, as opposed to the 50 percent chance of the king of diamonds with East.

TOOWONG PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 David Smith / Tony Hutton; **B** 1 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Vesna & Voyco Markovic; **C** 1 Robyn Stevens / Simon Fleming; 2 Bill Thomson / Bernardo Gama Silva; **NOVICE** 1 Jill Duffield / Michelle Lewis; 2 Helen Klieve / Christine Bolger; 3 Anne Cosgrave / Annette Ryan; **B** 1 Kath Armstrong / Peter Grinlaubs; 2 Karen & Andrew Hay; 3 Debbie & Ian Paltridge.
