

February 28, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Somewhere, some place, a long time ago when you were first learning to play bridge with your grandfather, somebody taught you to hold up on the first lead of a danger suit. Here's why.

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

South opened 2NT showing a balanced hand with 20-22 high card points. North, similarly balanced, sensibly chose not to investigate for a possible heart fit and bid a simple 3NT. West started proceedings with the obvious queen of spades and declarer could see that the only danger to the contract was if the defenders could cash three spades as well as two kings. Consequently, declarer let the queen of spades hold the first trick. After winning the spade continuation, declarer ran the ten of hearts. East ducked the first heart but took the second round of hearts and shifted to the two of clubs. Declarer was not about to risk the contract by taking the club finesse for, as the cards lay, it would set up only one extra club trick and lead to defeat. South could count seven tricks (two spades, three hearts and the two minor-suit aces) so rose with the ace of clubs and played on diamonds. This guaranteed an extra two tricks in diamonds and the contract. The defenders scored one spade and the three missing kings.

CALOUNDRA CONGRESS [Director – Bob Davies]: **PAIRS** 1 Richard Fox / Nikolas Moore; 2 Kate Macdonald / Michael Gearing; **B** 1 Joyanne Gissing / Raelene Clark; 2 Upasana Shanti / Glenda Vincent; **C** 1 Myles Kapatan / Peter Zanki; 2 Kim Mikolic / Margo Solomon; **TEAMS** 1 Ivy & John Luck / Sue O'Brien / Paul Collins; 2 Kate Courts / Jackie Hendrix / Mark Harnack / Fay Stanton; **B** 1 Di Jones / Debbie & Gary Gibbards / Gary Petterson; 2 Frances Price / Upasana Shanti / Glenda Vincent / Peter Keys; **NORTHERN SUBURBS PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Martin Qin / Charlie Lu; 2 Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; **B** 1 Chris Woolley / Wendy Gibson; 2 Daria Williams / Ross Murtagh; **C** 1 Jacinta Lee / Jenny Thompson; 2 Mike Martin / Barry Williams.
