

March 21, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

To-day's hand comes from an online game described in an article from the International Bridge Press Association as 'Perfect Choreography'. It could also have been titled 'Living on the Edge'.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	PASS	PASS	1D
DBL	1H	PASS	PASS
DBL	PASS	1NT	PASS
PASS	DBL	ALL PASS	

The bidding was fairly routine until North decided that they had more high card points than East-West and so made a not-for-the-timid penalty double. East had seven tricks available – five clubs and two spades via the finesse once declarer gained the lead. However, after the active lead of the two of diamonds won by the king, not only would the diamonds have to be led twice to establish four tricks there, but the heart suit also had to be dealt with. North found the only winning card: the jack of hearts surround play. This caught the queen, and on the way back, partner's eight of hearts was overtaken with the nine, to lead a diamond. Then regaining the lead in hearts and cashing the last heart a third diamond was led, collecting four tricks in each red suit. In addition to the technically correct play in the heart suit, the precise timing of the diamond leads was essential to achieve two down for +500. Any change in the order would have resulted in fewer tricks. Such defences are rare and hugely satisfying.

QUEENSLAND OPEN TEAM TRIALS [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Pamela & Jim Evans; 2 Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 3 Nadya Tuxworth / Lech Kaszubski; 4 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson; **ROCKHAMPTON CONGRESS** [Director – Les Bonnicks]: **PAIRS** 1 Karin Le Roux / Adrian Lohmann; 2 Annie Shotter / Paul Jansen; **B** 1 Ann McGhee / Glenys Tipler; 2 Alanna Waugh / Veronica Cullen; **C** 1 Sue Asher / James Honek; 2 Michele Rau / Cathy McKenzie; **SUNSHINE COAST GRADED TEAMS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Fay Stanton / Susie Warren / Di Rogers / Shirley Phillips; 2 Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; **B** 1 Kate Courts / Jackie Hendrix / Margo Solomon / Kerry Thorp; 2 Upasana Shanti / Glenda Vincent / Cathy Clarke / Peter Keys.
