

March 28, 2026

### Bridge with Richard Ward

At teams it is important not to be distracted by what might have been. On today's hand, thirteen tricks seem likely when dummy appears but, since the contract is 'only' six hearts, it will be a good idea to make it.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST     | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 2C    |
| PASS | 2D    | PASS     | 2H    |
| PASS | 3H    | PASS     | 3S    |
| PASS | 4D    | PASS     | 5NT   |
| PASS | 6H    | ALL PASS |       |

This partnership had an agreement that 5NT was asking for the queen of trumps and, when 6C denied it, 6H was high enough. West led the spade jack and the most likely problem was a possible trump loser plus a 4-1 club break creating a deep club loser as well. This could be overcome by making a trick with the ace of diamonds but this requires an entry to dummy. The only way to get there is with the eight of trumps. So, win the spade lead and play the jack of trumps. What can West do? If this is taken with the queen, there is an entry to dummy's ace of diamonds. If West ducks, continue with the ten of trumps. This time, whatever West chooses, there will be twelve tricks. Careless players will not make this slam.

**TOOWOOMBA CROSS-IMP PAIRS** [Director – Jo Neary]: 1 Roberta Tait / Lex Ranke; 2 Neven Burica / John Morris; **B** 1 Trevor Henderson / John Churchett; 2 Kathy Duke / Julie Pigdon; **C** 1 Terry Sheedy / Trevor Corthorne; 2 Brooke Anderson / Joanne Sinclair;  
**SURFERS PARADISE PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **NOVICE** 1 Joe Pearce / Fiona Beattie; 2 Kathy Marles / Claire Langford; **UNDER 500** 1 Mary Simon / Kevin Hamilton-Reen; 2 Deb Carroll / Elizabeth Ward.

The Tasmanian Festival of Bridge has recorded record entries with podium finishes from Queenslanders Yolanda Floris, Toni Bardon, Pele Rankin and Kim Morrison.

The latest **Queensland Bridge Association Bulletin** is available on the QBA website as is the correct bidding from last week's column under the heading "Players".