

April 25, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Four of the Queensland teams for the Australian National Championships have been finalised with the Youth Team yet to be decided shortly. Meanwhile there will be four Australian teams competing in the Asia Cup, Goa, India in June while five Youth teams will be attending the World Youth Transnational Championships in Hefei, China in August. This would be the largest ever Australian contingent doing battle on our behalf and we wish them every success.

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

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

When North doubled the weak two-bid for take-out, South showed values with a leap to three spades. As there was no attractive continuation, North raised this to game and West began by leading the ace-king of hearts. While five diamonds might have been easier to play, that is no reason to fail in four spades and declarer showed how to survive the moderately unfavourable layout shown. Ruffing the second heart and crossing to dummy with a trump to the ace, dummy's last heart was ruffed. Then, after drawing two more rounds of trumps with dummy's king-queen, declarer simply played on diamonds. This gave East the choice of two evils. The first was to ruff the fourth round of diamonds with the ten of trumps and then to have to return a club into dummy's ace-queen, thereby conceding the contract. The second was to discard a club, which would allow declarer to simply cash the ace of clubs for the tenth trick.

QUEENSLAND TEAMS SELECTION TRIALS [Director – Chris Snook]: **WOMEN'S** 1 Annette Corkhill / Wendy Gibson; 2 Sarah Strickland / Jan Malinas; 3 Ivy Luck / Meta Goodman; Reserves Margaret Millar / Sue O'Brien; **SENIORS** 1 Pele Ranking / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Neven Burica / John Morris; 3 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; Reserves Tony Hutton / David Smith.

Entries for the inaugural Brisbane Gold Congress in 2027 will open on 1 July and, with limited spaces available, players should enter promptly.
