

May 2, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

In a teams event, declarer's fundamental goal is to make the contract. Overtricks are superfluous as today's hand illustrates.

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

South is declarer in 3NT as West leads the two of spades taken in hand with the king. The unsuccessful declarer cashed the winning diamond honours and crossed to dummy with the ace of spades to cash the ace of diamonds. When East discarded, declarer could no longer make the contract. Instead of playing quickly, South should have formed a plan before playing to the first trick. This is a novel idea, highly recommended but rarely practised. After counting eight top tricks, the idea is to find the best way to obtain just one extra trick in diamonds. This is achieved by cashing the king of diamonds then overtaking the queen of diamonds with dummy's ace to play the nine of diamonds. This line requires diamonds breaking 3-3 or either opponent holding a doubleton jack or ten of diamonds. Now the nine of diamonds establishes dummy's remaining diamond as the ninth trick. Whilst this gives up the chance of an overtrick when diamonds are 3-3, it increases the overall chance of success from 36% to around 65%.

ANZAC DAY TEAMS [Director – Jan Peach]: 1 Agnes & Barry Kempthorne / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Kim & Ray Ellaway / Abby Wanigaratne / Carmel Martin; **B** 1 Maria Mills / Gray Renwick / Carol Wylie / Brian Patterson; 2 Robyn Stevens / Simon Fleming / Kathy & Warren Males; **C** 1 Jassy & Ricky Carthew / Remco Spencer / Zac Ross; 2 Sue Sherrell / Joshua Davis / Carla Ferro / Cathy Mathieson; **MACKAY PAIRS** [Director – Ian Cruikshank]: **PAIRS** 1 Jan Randall / Don Cameron; 2 Renate Fiege / Lydie Martin; **B** 1 Adrian Westcott / Mick King; 2 Helen Van Den Broek / Jan Harris; **C** 1 Joy Hold / Sandy Patterson; 2 Cathy McKenzie / Michele Rau; **HERVEY BAY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Maurice Williams / David Priol; 2 Peter Lyons / John Morris; **B** 1 Mary & Graeme Allan; 2 John Molloy / Pierre Martin; **TEAMS** 1 Peter Lyons / John Morris / Patricia Mann / Gordon Kellerman; 2 Adrienne Kelly / Peter Busch / Siobhan & Bob Davies; **B** 1 Les Crossman / Lois Martin / Sylvia Mason / Barbara Studholme; 2 Colleen Kinden / Brenda McLean / Brian Smith / Des Ward.
