

May 30, 2026

### Bridge with Richard Ward

---

Sitting East you hear your opponents bid confidently to four spades and, when dummy appears, it is clear that the contract is almost certainly iron-clad. UK international Michelle Brunner won the 2008 International Bridge Press Association award for her imaginative defence proving that nothing is impossible.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		PASS	1NT
PASS	2C	PASS	2S
PASAS	4S	ALL PASS	

The North-South bidding system included a weak no-trump opening of 12-14 high-card points which resulted in South declaring four spades on the lead of the jack of hearts. Declarer ducked in dummy and Michelle won with her king. She envisaged a position where her partner, who could not hold more than four high-card points given the bidding, held the king to three spades and a doubleton club. Even that was not enough. She also had to paint a false picture for declarer. So – she returned the nine of clubs, which, with dummy's assets on view, surely could only have been a singleton. Dummy won and, fearing a club ruff, continued with ace and another spade. West won with the spade king and returned a club, South playing low from dummy. Michelle captured this with her king, then gave her partner the club ruff that defeated the game.

**RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS** [Directors – Chris Snook, Ed Roggeveen]: 1 Sophie Ashton / Liam Milne; 2 Dagmar Neumann / Maurits Van Der Vlugt; 3 Pauline Gumby / Warren Lazer; **B** 1 Jan & Gary Malinas; 2 Linda Norman / John Rivers; **C** 1 Jade Wilkinson / Seb Landon Macmillan; 2 Kate Macdonald / Heath Watkins; **D** Robin Bishop / David Sydes; 2 Anne Davey / Zac Ross; **QUEENSLAND MIXED PAIRS: Open** – 1 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Pele Rankin / Paul Hooykaas; **Novice** - 1 Emma Langford / Robert Cumming; 2 Sue Sherrell / Joshua Davis.

---