

June 6, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

There are times when it is dangerous to re-open the bidding after the opponents have settled in a part-score. On to-day's hand, East lived to regret interfering with a one heart contract.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | 1H |
| PASS | PASS | DBL | 3H |
| PASS | 4H | ALL PASS | |

West led the six of trumps. East took this with the ace and returned the three of trumps, West following. Assuming from the bidding that East has most of the outstanding high-card points including the king of spades, what is your plan to make ten tricks? If the five of trumps is still in your hand, as it should be after trick two, there are five trumps, two diamonds and presumably two spades. As the seven of hearts is an entry to dummy, then, if a club trick can be set up in dummy, that trick and the spade finesse will be enough for the contract. It seems that this may require West to hold the ten of clubs. However, there is an extra chance! Cash the ace-king of diamonds before leading the jack of clubs. East will win with the queen but have no good return: a spade allows a finesse then a spade ruff; a diamond creates two discards on dummy's diamond winners; whilst a club sets up dummy's king. Note that, had the diamond five been played at tricks one or two, then all legitimate chances of making four hearts would have expired by trick three.

ARANA CONGRESS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **PAIRS** 1 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Tony Hutton / Richard Ward; **B** 1 Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; 2 Peter Farley / Bruce Headey; **TEAMS** 1 Pele Rankin / Paul Hooykaas / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Maha Hoenig / Janeen Solomon / Kerry Wood / Charlie Howard; **B** 1 Sheila Wills / Jenny Williams / Sue Norton / Charles Page; 2 Gary Charlton / Mary Staley / Valerie & Peter Robbins; **C** 1 Ian Broadley / Ben Ludik / Nat Kay / Jane Geutjes; 2 Robert Pearce / Caroline Black / Pam Langford / Dawn Benes.
