

June 13, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

After a routine bidding sequence South plays in four hearts on West's lead of the two of clubs. Being an experienced player, declarer decides to count the tricks before playing a card: 1 spade, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs = 10 – bingo! What can possibly go wrong?

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	PASS	PASS	1H
PASS	1S	PASS	3H
PASS	4H	ALL PASS	

Humming happily, declarer wins the king of clubs over East's seven and advances the queen of hearts to East's ace. The queen of clubs is returned. South tries to win the ace of clubs but this is ruffed .and now there are three club losers. If only the bridge gods could ring an alarm warning that the moment had come to pause for thought. Declarer should have realised that the club plays looked strange. East's club two then West's club queen made no sense unless the opening lead was from an unlikely J-9-2 or was a singleton. The clues were there. The four of clubs should be played under the queen. East would then have the J-9 left and no return could do any harm. Perhaps there is some consolation to discover that almost nobody brought this game home.

TOOWOOMBA NOVICE TEAMS [Director – Chris Snook]: **UNDER 500** 1 Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / Sue & Andrew Sharp; 2 Beverley & Ross McCasker / Susie & Sandy Fraser; **NOVICE** 1 Judy King / Genevieve Reeves / Murray Pietsch / Don Adsett; 2 Gretchen Graf / Michael Kaiser / Adrienne Montague / Marie Steger; **GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: **PAIRS** 1 Nadya Tuxworth / Tony Hutton; Robyn Fletcher / Pat Beattie; **B** 1 Paul Jenkins / John Rivers; 2 Lauren Somers / Bob Hunt; **C** 1 Fiona Beattie / Joe Pearce; 2 Judy Stephens / Kevin Gosling; **TEAMS** 1 Pamela & Jim Evans / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 Maha Hoening / Janeen Solomon / Kerry Wood / Charlie Howard; **B** 1 Juliet Rogers / Bob Hunt / Peter Schmidt / Lauren Somers; 2 Kathleen Clifford / Ed Roggeveen / Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; **C** 1 Lois & John Rolls / Annette Grimsdale / Brenda Hall; 2 Helen Betts / Joe Pearce / Debra Canning / Fiona Beattie.
