

June 20, 2026

### Bridge with Richard Ward

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Today's hand is a beautiful curiosity which requires more declarer-play imagination than most of us will ever possess.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3D	DBL
PASS	4S	PASS	6H
PASS	PASS	PASS	

South was not backward in the bidding and dummy was a disappointment. West led the two of diamonds, an obvious singleton, won with the ace. Needing two entries to dummy, it appears that the only chance is to lead a club to the ten hoping that, not only does West hold the jack, but that it is not played to force the king and block the suit. But there is a 100 percent line if, as seems likely on the bidding, West holds the ace of spades. Draw trumps in three rounds then lead the queen of clubs overtaking this with the king. Now the king of spades will put West on lead with only black cards remaining. Contract made regardless of who holds the jack of clubs.

**QUEENSLAND BUTLER PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Magnus Moren / Justin Mill; 2 Charlie Lu / James Walls [Title Holders]; 3 Andrew Woollons / Nikolas Moore; 4 Ian Afflick / Paul Collins; **B** 1 Matt Sun / Martin Qin; 2 Wendy Gibson / Chris Woolley; 3 Jacqui Dudurovic / Andrew Slater; **C** 1 Jacinta Lee / Jenny Thompson; 2 Emma Langford / Robert Cumming; 3 Helen Baran / Jamshid / Vazirzadeh.

The inaugural 2027 Brisbane Gold Congress will be held at the Voco Brisbane City Centre, North Quay from Saturday 30 January. Entries open on 1 July on MyABF and organisers are confident that the 'House Full' sign will be going up shortly afterwards. Advice is to enter promptly with the names of all entrants together with full payment.

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