

August 29, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

To-day's hand is a lesson in counting the opponents' cards.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	PASS	PASS	1S
2H	3H	PASS	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

After North showed a sound raise to three spades, declarer pressed on to game. West began the defence by playing three top hearts. East discarded a diamond on the third round, and declarer ruffed. As there was a certain loser in clubs, the fate of the contract rested on managing the diamonds without losing a trick. As West had revealed nine cards in the major suits, the contract was odds-against making. Still, as there was no rush to play on diamonds, declarer led the queen of clubs. East took this with the ace and exited in clubs. After winning this with the ten of clubs, declarer cashed the king of clubs. This revealed that West had at most one diamond in a 3-6-1-3 or a 3-6-0-4 shape. So declarer continued by cashing the ace of diamonds, hoping that West had a singleton ten or queen in the suit. When West actually followed with the ten of diamonds, declarer led the seven of diamonds to the nine, finessing against East's known queen to make the contract. A lucky hand indeed, but declarer needed to be alert to take advantage of it.

The James O'Sullivan Trophy race for the most masterpoints earned in Queensland each year is well under way. Currently in the lead is the 2024 winner Pele Rankin, followed by Kate Macdonald, Paul Hooykaas and Ken Dawson. Category awards are: **GRAND** 1 Rachel Langdon; 2 John Morris; **GOLD LIFE** 1 Ann Liu; 2 Daria Williams; **SILVER LIFE** 1 Kate Macdonald; 2 Lilly Jia; **BRONZE LIFE** 1 Karin Le Roux; 2 Vanessa Brewis; **LIFE** 1 Peter Lyons; 2 John Rivers; **SILVER NATIONAL** 1 Ann Sauer; 2 Melva Leal; **BRONZE NATIONAL** 1 Paddy Taylor; 2 Michael Huddart; **NATIONAL** 1 Sue Mittermair; 2 Penny Cory; **BRONZE STATE** 1 Marina Green; 2 Peter Zanki; **STATE** 1 Jackie Hendrix; 2 Remco Spencer; **BRONZE REGIONAL** 1 Maurice Sanders; 2 Mary Hinvies; **REGIONAL** 1 Paul Jenkins; 2 Trish Wright; **SILVER LOCAL** 1 Ada Sun; 2 Diana O'Farrell; **BRONZE LOCAL** 1 Alexandra Mills; 2 Anthony Mills; **LOCAL** 1 Yuko Colthurst; 2 Sully Ruttiman; **CLUB** 1 Daisy Booth; 2 Rhys Dewar; **GRADUATE** 1 Fiona Beattie; 2 Martin Murray; **NIL** 1 Kevin Grace; 2 John Nothdurft.
