

September 12, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

It is the duty of opponents to make life as difficult as possible by taking up maximum space during the bidding. West opens three clubs. North doubles, obviously, so West leaps to five clubs which is passed back round to North who decides to punt on a slam by bidding six clubs (pick a slam), converted to six diamonds by South who had not expected to be bidding at all with this hand.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3C	DBL	5C	PASS
PASS	6C	PASS	6D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

The vulnerability dissuaded East from sacrificing in seven clubs, which would have finished only down one. West tried the jack of clubs as the opening lead, hoping that East would win and return a heart. Those hopes were dashed upon viewing the dummy, but declarer was not up to the task anyway: jack of clubs was ruffed with a low trump; trumps were drawn in four rounds; then came the hearts. As East had kept all five hearts, a club and the king-ten of spades, declarer could not avoid losing two tricks. To make the contract, declarer should have ruffed the opening lead with dummy's ace of trumps and crossed to hand with a low trump. Next ruff a second club with dummy's king of trumps. Finally, overtake the ten of diamonds with the jack and draw West's trumps. The only loser is the king of spades. Note that only a club lead allows the slam to be made. If West had started the defence with the lead of a trump or a spade, declarer would be held to eleven tricks, even without careless play.

QUEENSLAND GRADED PAIRS [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Remco Spencer / Zac Ross; 2 David Smith / Tony Hutton; **UNDER 750** 1 Shanaal & Hema De Zoysa; 2 Brodie Loxton / Ian Bannister; **UNDER 150** 1 Sue Sherrell / Joshua Davis; 2 Laura & Helen Tomlin; **MAGNETIC TEAMS** [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Leigh Owens / Kelly Walker / Bill Bishop / Tamati Greig; 2 Betty Hobdell / Robyn Nolan / Ian Patterson / Ched Twyman.