October 10, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

The ‘Rule of 11’ applies when the defence have agreed to lead fourth highest of their longest suit: “11 minus the card led equals the number of higher cards in the other three hands”.

NORTH
♠ J 9 5
♥ K Q 6 5
♦ J 8 5
♣ J 9 5

S/ ALL VUL

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 7 3
♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ 10 6 4 2
♣ -

EAST
♠ A 4 2
♥ A 9
♦ Q 9 7 3
♣ K 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6
♥ J 10 2
♦ A K
♣ A Q 10 8 7 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1C
PASS	1H	PASS	2NT
PASS	3NT	ALL PASS	

Today’s hand is a ‘think-before-playing-to trick-one’ example - a rule which this declarer failed to follow. West led the seven of spades. At the table, declarer played low from dummy and, using the ‘Rule of Eleven’ to determine that declarer had exactly one spade higher than the seven, so did East. Declarer won the trick with the king and led a low heart to the king. East took this with the ace of hearts to play and another spade, defeating the contract by one trick. Declarer should also have applied the ‘Rule’ by playing dummy’s nine at trick one. If East ducks, the clubs can be finessed for nine tricks. If East plays the ace, then the king can be safely unblocked. No matter what the defence does, declarer will be ahead in the race for tricks.

KING’S BIRTHDAY TOOWOOMBA CONGRESS [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Helen & Peter Tootell; 2 Sonya & Shayne Palfreyman; **B** Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; **C** Jennifer & Chris McDowell; **TEAMS** 1 Christine Newbery / Richard Fox / Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Marjorie Askew / Bill Powell / Paul Smith / Winston Guymer; **B** Trevor Henderson / John Churchett / Hema De Zoysa / Shanaal De Zoysa; **C** Sue Ziegenfuss / Jill Dunning / Mick Fawcett / Margaret Giebels; **DEL RYAN MACKAY CONGRESS** [Director – Bill Bishop]: **PAIRS** 1 Jan Randall / Don Cameron; 2 Val Holbrook / Noel Bugeia; **B** Faye Wright / Marilin Robins; **C** Annie Lynch / Andrew Canavan; **TEAMS** 1 Karin Le Roux / Jan Randall / Don Cameron / Adrian Lohmann; 2 Val Holbrook / Noel Bugeia / Ian Afflick / Tex Sheedy; **GYMPIE TEAMS** [Director – Steve Murray]: 1 Ines Daws / Brett Middelberg / Di Jones / Doug Byrnes; 2 Adrienne Kelly / Pippa & Andrew Hooper / Peter Busch; **B** Nicky Maguire / Kathi Vince / Ruth Greentree / Lesley Wilson.