

October 3, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

How can your partner go down in four hearts on this hand when there are only three losers?

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

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

After cashing the king of spades, West continued with the ace and another spade. Declarer ruffed East's queen of spades with the eight of trumps then, without any apparent thought, played the ace, king and jack of trumps. West took the latter with his queen of trumps and played a fourth round of spades, ensuring a two-trick defeat. Declarer needed to foresee the problem by simply leading the jack of trumps at trick four. As long as trumps are no worse than 4-2 all will be well. If West takes his queen of trumps and plays a fourth round of spades it will be ruffed in dummy. After returning to hand with the king of clubs, the remaining trump is drawn, making four trumps, four diamonds and two clubs. West would do no better to duck the jack of trumps. Then the ace-king of trumps are cashed followed by minor suit winners. All West makes are two spades and the queen of trumps which is how this hand appeared from the start.

SUNSHINE COAST PAIRS [Director - Peter Busch]: 1 Lyn & Jim Martin; 2 Sue O'Brien / Paul Collins; **B** 1 Bev Connell / John Reiter; 2 Jenny Mawson / Stephen Ronay; **C** 1 Peter Logan / Geoff Johnston; 2 Joanne Scott / John Nothdurft.

Tournament bridge continues to thrive across Australia with many congresses becoming fully booked out long before the closing date. The inaugural Brisbane Gold Congress from 30 January to 6 February 2027 at the Voco Brisbane City Centre has reported that six of its nine events are full but space is still available in the Intermediate and Rookie categories. Meanwhile, just a week away, the TBIB Qld Festival of Bridge at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, Woolloongabba has, at the time of writing, just a few spaces left in the Open Pairs with players travelling from all over the state to compete.
