October 31, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

NORTH
♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 8 4
♣ A K 5

S / ALL VUL / TEAMS

WEST
♠ 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ K J 6 3 2
♣ J 10 9 3

EAST
♠ 8 2
♥ A 10 9 4
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 9 6 3
♥ Q 7 5
♦ A Q
♣ Q 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	2NT	PASS	4S
PASS	PASS	PASS	

2NT was the Jacoby convention, promising a game-forcing hand with four plus trumps. South's response showed a minimum opening with no shortages.

West led the jack of clubs taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer drew the trumps in two rounds and then finessed the queen of diamonds. West took this with the king and exited with a second club. Eventually declarer had to play the heart suit and lost three tricks in the process, complaining that it needed either the diamond finesse or the same defender holding both heart honours. Partner, always knowing best, was quick to remark that the contract was ironclad by drawing trumps, clearing clubs and then playing ace then queen of diamonds. Whoever wins that would be forced to open up the heart suit or give a ruff and discard. Two points: the presence of the diamond queen was an unnecessary distraction; and, if declarer was forced to play on hearts, the desperation play of leading the jack from dummy may succeed. If East fails to play the ace on the jack, a heart trick can still be established with only two losers.

CALOUNDRA PAIRS [Director – Steve Murray]: 1 Stephen Brookes / Jim Martin; 2 Jan Hoffman / Andrea Smith; **B** 1 Jenny Hays / Charlene / Fredriksen; 2 Ann Quarmby / Jean Coffey; **C** 1 Kate Courts / Kim Mikolic; 2 Jen Borowski / Jenny Easey; **CLEVELAND BAY ANNIVERSARY PAIRS** [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Gloria Macdonald / Betty Hobdell; 2 Pat Leighton / Leigh Owens; 3 Annette & Stephen Lee; **BRISBANE BRIDGE CENTRE RESTRICTED PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **UNDER 500** 1 Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; 2 Linda & Peter Neil; **B** Jo Neary / Wendy Casey; 2 Michael Clibbon / Margot Fabian; **NOVICE** 1 Daisy Booth / Fiona Beattie; 2 Tracey Armour / Janet Smith; **B** 1 Karen Moss / Michelle Nally; 2 Julie Collins / Pamela Deakin.