November 7, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

Today's hand appears to be just too easy. It is not.

NORTH
♠ A K 8 **S/ ALL VUL**
♥ 5
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ A Q J 10 5

WEST
♠ Q 5 3 2
♥ K Q J 9
♦ J 5 3
♣ 9 4

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

SOUTH
♠ J 10 9 7 6
♥ A 8 3
♦ A 10 7
♣ K 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1S
PASS	2C	PASS	2S
PASS	4NT	PASS	5H
PASS	6S	ALL PASS	

The declarer did not do well here. The king of hearts lead was taken with the ace the jack of trumps held the next trick. Next, a trump to the ace revealed a problem. Hoping for the best, declarer drew a third round of trumps with dummy's king and played on clubs. However, West ruffed the third round of clubs and cashed a heart to defeat the contract by a trick. It would have done declarer no good to switch to clubs after the second round of trumps. West would ruff the third club low and play a high heart, thereby promoting his queen of trumps into a trick. The successful line is to ruff a heart at trick two with dummy's ace of spades. After returning to hand in a minor suit, ruff the last heart with dummy's king. Next, the eight of trumps is led to the jack. What can West do? Only the queen of trumps will win a trick and declarer will be able to get back to hand and draw trumps before discarding his diamond loser on a club winner. A deceptively difficult hand indeed.

SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS: GUMBY-LAZER MIXED TEAMS 1 Kate Macdonald (QLD) / Heath Watkins (QLD) / Zachary Yan (NZ) / Lysandra Zheng (NZ) defeated Dagmar Neumann (NSW) / Maurits van der Vlugt (NSW) / Jodi Tutty (ACT) / George Kozakos (ACT) 109-100

NORTHERN SUBURBS PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Kim Morrison / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Paul Collins / Ian Afflick; 3 Lyn & Jim Martin; **B** 1 Magdalena Kowalczyk / Sameer Pandya; 2 Jennifer Vickers / Wal Brake; 3 Debbie McKenzie / Paul Brake.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER: Central Queensland Teams Mackay 14th -15th; Noosa Pairs 14th – 15th; Congress Directors Exam 14th; Gold Coast Teams 15th; Redcliffe Under 500 Teams 15th; Hervey Bay Congress 21st – 22nd; Toowong Pairs 22nd.