November 14, 2026

Bridge with Richard Ward

The Grand National Open Teams Finals have returned to Brisbane from Sydney after a two-year absence. It will be held at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, Woolloongabba 27-29 November. There will be 8 teams in the Open final, 12 teams in the Non-Metropolitan final and 30 additional teams in the new event, the GNOT Plate. Queensland does not have a distinguished record in this event but we will be well-represented in all of these sections. The finals will be shown online.

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 3
♥ 7 6
♦ 7 5 4 3
♣ K Q 8

S / ALL VUL

WEST
♠ 6 2
♥ A J 8 5 3
♦ J 9
♣ J 10 9 7

EAST
♠ 7
♥ Q 10 9 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A 6 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 8 5 4
♥ K 4
♦ A K 8 6
♣ 2

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

West led the jack of clubs: queen, ace, two. Next came the obvious heart switch. Declarer tried the king, but West took the ace and played a second heart to East's queen, who then exited with a trump. As declarer had an unavoidable diamond loser, the contract was down one. Astute readers will have no problem with this one. Simply play low from dummy at trick one. If East overtakes the jack with the ace and shifts to a heart, two small diamonds can be discarded on the clubs. If East allows West to win the first trick, there is no defence provided the diamonds break 3-2. Suppose West continues with a club to the queen and ace. Ruff this, draw trumps, and cash the ace and king of diamonds. When they prove to be 3-2, cross to dummy with a trump and discard a heart loser on the king of clubs.

QUEENSLAND SENIOR PAIRS [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson; 2 Beverley & John Stacey; **B** Jilliana Bell / Sue Gardner **SUNSHINE COAST UNDER 300 PAIRS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Moira Smith / Drew Campi; 2 Chris Loton / Terry Davies; **B** Christine Pozzi / Andrew Mayne; **TOOWOOMBA TEAMS** [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Denise Hartwig / Mavis Simpson / Mohan Trada / Will Higgins; 2 Hema De Zoysa / Shanaal De Zoyza / Anne Kirkpatrick / Trevor Henderson; **B** Tim Porter / Roger Green / Andrew Mollison / Debra Coward; **C** Marie Steger / Adrienne Montague / Pauline & Alan Robinson.