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Bridge with Richard Ward

Playing bridge provides many proven health benefits. The mental gymnastics involved in the game are believed to be an important component in warding off diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. Other benefits include meaningful social interaction, strengthening communication and teamwork skills, and maintaining mental sharpness. There are nearly 8000 registered players in Queensland belonging to more than 50 clubs located all over the state. Suitable for all ages, inexpensive lessons for beginners are sure to be available at a club somewhere near you. You can sign up as an individual or a pair and, before you know it, you will have made new friends and will be well on the path to playing competitive bridge. To find out more, start with the Queensland Bridge Association website.

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

A simple 1NT-3NT auction puts the spotlight on South to find that elusive 9th trick after West leads the heart queen. With hearts no danger, the obvious place to find the additional trick is the spade suit. If these break 3-3 all lines will work. If spades are 4-2, the most likely distribution, care must be taken. Best is to start with the ace and then play low spades from both hands. This will pick up any doubleton king without wasting the queen. If the king does not appear, cross to hand and lead a third spade towards dummy's remaining Q-7. If West had started with three or four spades to the king you will still be OK. As you can see, simply taking the spade finesse will lead to defeat on the layout as given.

QLD-WIDE PAIRS: North-South 1 Rita Groom/ Peggy Trenerry; 2 Sheena Pollock/ Denise Merrin; East-West 1 Unis Suliman/ Steve Parkes; 2 Eddie Heinemeyer/ Robert McCathie
