



Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre



Newsletter August 2026

Change to our Banking Details – New BSB 671-000

We have our own prepayment scheme which allows members to pay their table fees in advance., rather than having to pay at the table. Players then get an email each time they play advising them of their balance and where they can see their account summary.

Peoples' Choice is now a part of Peoples First, and the BSB code is changing from 805-050 to 671- 000. The account number is unchanged at 102-790-715

When making an online deposit, please make sure that you give your name.

Farewell Antonina

After more than two years Antonina has retired from Monday afternoon directing. The attendances are an indication of her popularity, hard work and unfailing good humour. David Anderson will be directing this session until a suitable replacement is found.

Congratulations, David!

Congratulations to David Anderson on his outstanding success at the Australian National Championships (ANC).

Representing South Australia alongside Phil Gallasch, Chris Lorimer, Russell Harms, Zoli Nagy, and Kevin Lange, the team competed against Seniors State teams from across Australia in 14 hard-fought matches. Their superb performance saw them crowned Senior's Australian National Champions—a remarkable achievement.

Adding to this success, David Anderson and Chris Lorimer won the award for the best performed pair in the competition.

Winning a national championship against Australia's finest bridge players is a tremendous honour, and we are incredibly proud to have David as our Director at Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre.

On behalf of all our members, congratulations, David, on this wonderful achievement.

Carmel Thompson on behalf of the Committee

Clarence Gardens GNOT Qualifying

Sunday August 9th, 10:00 am start, finish by 4:30

Entry fee \$20 per head, bring your own lunches.

Team Bridge Tactics

Playing Teams is different from playing Matchpoints (Pairs). The goal is not to achieve the best score on every board, but simply to score better than the other team. Here are some useful tactics:

- **Bid vulnerable games and slams confidently** when the odds are in your favour. Making game gains IMPs; overtricks are relatively unimportant.
- **Don't chase overtricks.** Once your contract is secure, focus on making it rather than risking the contract for an extra trick.
- **Defend safely.** Avoid speculative defence that could turn a plus score into a minus.
- **Avoid thin doubles.** A small penalty is rarely worth the risk.
- **Be cautious with sacrifices.** Only sacrifice when you're confident it will cost less than the opponents' likely game or slam.
- **Value every part-score.** Winning a part-score battle can produce useful IMPs.
- **Choose the percentage action.** At Teams, steady, percentage bridge usually beats brilliant but risky plays.
- **Stay calm after a bad board.** One poor result is only one board. Concentrate on the next deal and avoid trying to "win it back."
- **Trust your partnership agreements.** Good communication and sound system knowledge are more valuable than aggressive bidding.

Golden Rule: *At Teams, making your contract is far more important than making an extra trick.*

Contract 6NT: Plan Your Play

You need a certain four tricks from the following suit combination.

♦ KJ765

♦ A982

Plan your play, answer last page.

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 12TH
AT THE CLARENCE GARDENS BOWLING CLUB
ENTRY FEE \$10 PER HEAD,
NOMINATIONS TO NOLA STONE
DONATIONS FOR USE AS PRIZES APPRECIATED

Splinter Raises

There was a major shift in the thinking in top level bridge about 25 years ago. Up to then bidding had been mainly based on high card points, since then the emphasis has been on distribution, particularly shortages.

The better pairs now invariably play splinter raises in some form or another, showing four card support and a shortage in the bid suit.

This approach worked against me on the following deal, when my opponents had no difficulty in bidding the slam

♠KQ1082

♥Q

♦AKJ83

♣108

♠A753

♥AK54

♦Q1054

♣5

Their auction:

North	South
1 ♠	4 ♣(splinter, game values)
4NT	5 ♥(two key cards)
6 ♠	

Monthly Place-Getters

MONDAY JULY PAIRS

- 1 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 2 Geoff Colmer & Kira Kudinoff
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY JULY PAIRS

- 1 Mary Drikas & Phil Thomas
- 2 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley
- 3 Helen Rollond & Eleonora Truskewycz

FRIDAY PINK JULY PAIRS

- 1 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 2 Frances Berry & June Kleeman
- 3 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy

SUIT COMBINATIONS AND SAFETY PLAYS

Rather than having to work them out at the table each time they occur, it is useful to know the standard 'odds' plays with various common suit combinations. For the moment we will look at suits in isolation i.e. ignoring any special problems that be created by the rest of the hand.

AJ432 K1098

Holding nine cards, missing the queen it is correct to play for the drop.

AJ43 K1098

With only eight cards you would cash either the ace or king then finesse.

J1098 A7654

Running the Jack and then the ten is best. Of the times when you could have succeeded, this only loses to KQ doubleton offside.

AKJ1098 32

You should take a first round finesse. To cash the ace then finesse gains when North has the bare queen but loses when he has any of the four small singletons (four times as likely) as you can no longer pick up South's Qxxx.

AQ92 543

Needing three tricks you should finesse the 9 first, then the queen. This gains over a first round finesse of the queen when South has J10x.

A32 KJ54

Needing four tricks, ace then finesse the jack. Needing only three tricks, king, then ace, then low to the jack. This gains when South has queen doubleton.

A432 KJ65

Needing four tricks Ace then low to the Jack.

A432 QJ76

Needing three tricks you should play the Ace then low to the Queen. Finessing doesn't help at all, you may instead drop a singleton King or, more likely, find K10xx on your left.

Friday Mayhem

Your hand is

♠AK1092

♥-

♦AJ63

♣AKJ2

Playing with a new partner, as dealer you open two clubs, partner responds two hearts, you rebid two spades, partner asks for Aces, you show three, then bids six hearts. Your call?

Terry Earle did the right thing – he passed! At most other tables South converted to 6NT, for a horrible result – down four was the average score, one player going six off, another five. Partner's hand:

♠3

♥AQJ98543

♦1095

♣3

An unfortunate tale.

♠AKQJ53

♠62

♥K953

♥-

♦4

♦AK85

♣KQ

♣AJ76542

Dealer East, initial auction

West

East

1♣

1♠

2♣

2♥

3NT

West called for Aces, then triumphantly bid 6NT, forgetting that partner had bid No Trumps first. The inevitable heart lead came, a valiant King from dummy, Ace, down four.

Not nice people after all!

You arrive at table, Sally Keeley and Chris Lever greet you, then proceed to bid as follows:

Sally

Chris

1♣

1♠

2♣

4♣

4♥(1 Ace)

4NT

5♠(3 Kings)

7NT

Their two hands:

♠A63	♠KQJ10852
♥K4	♥A7
♦K9	♦A8
♣KQ8764	♣A5

The Monster

Finally, a monster deal from today. How do you bid this hand as dealer?

♠KJ2
♥A6
♦-
♣AKQJ8743

Let's say you open 2♣, pass, 2♦ negative from partner, 2♠ overcall. Norma Merrett elected to call for Aces, planning to sign off in 5♣ if partner had none. Partner had one, so she bid 6NT, expecting a helpful spade lead. The full deal:

♠10	
♥1084	
♦AJ109653	
♣102	
♠Q753	♠A9864
♥KQ975	♥J32
♦74	♦KQ82
♣65	♣9
♠KJ2	
♥A6	
♦-	
♣AKQJ8743	

The spade lead came but alas, the contract failed by one trick. Interestingly 6♣ can always make, even on a trump lead – win the ♣10 in dummy, ♦Ace discarding a heart, spade won by East's Ace, win East's exit in hand, ruff a spade in dummy, contract!

Clarence Gardens GRADED Pairs Congress
10:00 am Sunday September 27th
A & B Sections,
Morning & Afternoon Tea Provided
Bring your own lunches
Entry Fee \$60 per pair

Returning Partner's Led Suit.

You are South, defending East's no Trump contract. You lead the ♠2, dummy comes down, partner wins the ♠King, and returns a spade, declarer's 10 and your Jack. Continue.

	♠Kx	
♠75		♠10 4
	♠AJ92	

You can assume that East has the ♠Q, partner having played the King (and denying that card).

Now you have a problem. If partner also started with four spades you can cash the ♠Ace, dropping the Queen, then take your ♠9. If however declarer started with four spades you need to switch to another suit, hoping that partner can gain the lead and put another spade through.

The answer is in a convention – when returning partner's led suit holding four or more you should return your original fourth best, otherwise lead your highest.

So, in the above instance, if partner returned the ♠3 you should cash your ♠Ace, if instead the ♠7 or similar then switch.

Similarly, when defending a suit contract this convention, if followed, will often tell you which of partner or declarer has a doubleton.

T'was the Mabel before Christmas by Richard Pavlicek

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, 'cept me and my spouse

And one other couple who came over to play

In a rubber bridge game that had lasted all day.

The night lingered on and the cocktails they came

As my wife was declarer in a contract of game.

Our bidding was awful and very much troubled,

But the ultimate bid was left undoubled.

The opening lead saw my hand hit the table;

My thoughts at the time were, "Come on, Mabel!"

She handled the play with the greatest of ease,

And scored up her contract as swift as a breeze.

The defence, I might add, was top of the line;

Not one trick was dropped, unmistakably, fine!

So here is the deal that made us a winner,

And gave Mabel's eye that perpetual glimmer.

Dlr: South ♠ A98
 All vul. ♥ 87
 ♦ A6432
 ♣ K52

 ♠ KQJ ♠ 76543
 ♥ QJ106 ♥ 92
 ♦ QJ87 ♦ 95
 ♣ 94 ♣ QJ107

 ♠ 102
 ♥ AK543
 ♦ K10
 ♣ A863

What was the final contract?

Solution

The puzzle could also be stated, "What is the only game contract that is makeable against best defence?" The most obvious candidate is 3NT. There are seven top tricks, and declarer can establish an eighth by playing on hearts or diamonds; but there is no way to come to a ninth trick against proper defence. No matter how well you play, it can't be made.

What about four hearts in the 5-2 trump fit? Eight tricks are easy - three natural trump tricks plus the aces and kings in the side suits - and declarer can score a ninth with careful play; but a 10th trick will elude even the finest declarer. Try again.

Five clubs? Or five diamonds? Either seems highly improbable since an additional trick is required. And you're right; five of a minor is out of the question. Well, what's left? You guessed it! After a few cocktails, Mabel was feeling a little tipsy and accidentally opened the bidding in the wrong suit. The auction went:

S	W	N	E
1S!	p	2D	p
2H	p	4S	

Yes, the game in spades is the only one that makes - on a 3-2 fit! The opening lead was a trump (best) and Mabel won the ace in dummy. She cashed the top cards in each side suit ending in her hand, then ruffed a heart with the eight, ruffed a diamond with the ten, and ruffed a heart with the nine. The defence was helpless to stop it.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Behind every successful club is a team of dedicated volunteers, and we are incredibly fortunate to have so many generous people who give their time, skills, and enthusiasm to the Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre.

Our volunteers are the heart of our club. They quietly take care of countless tasks—setting up the room, preparing refreshments, directing play, serving on the committee, welcoming new members, organising events, managing administration, and so much more. Their willingness to help ensures our club runs smoothly and efficiently every week.

While their contribution certainly saves the club money, its true value goes far beyond that. Our volunteers create the warm, welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community that make the Clarence Garden Bridge Centre such a special place. They foster friendships, encourage participation, and help make every member feel valued. A heartfelt thank you goes to our committee for their dedication, leadership, and many hours of behind-the-scenes work. We also extend our sincere appreciation to every volunteer whose efforts, big or small, help make the Clarence Garden Bridge Centre the friendliest bridge club in Adelaide.

Your kindness, generosity, and commitment are truly appreciated. Thank you for all that you do.

Plan Your Play – The Answer

You need a certain four tricks from the following suit combination

♦ KJ765

♦ A982

You should play the King first. The only layouts that worry you are the four-nil breaks, if left hand opponent has that holding you go to the Ace, then lead towards the Jack, while if the opponent has the four cards you next lead towards the Ace.

If you play your Ace first, you will lose two tricks if East has the four cards in that suit.