



# Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre



## Newsletter February 2026

### Hand of the Month

Dealer East                    ♠9872

Nth-Sth vul.                ♥107532

♦4

♣A98

♠3

♠-

♥96

♥KQJ8

♦KQJ4

♦A98632

♣K107653

♣QJ2

♠AKQJ10654

♥A4

♦107

♣4

This month's hand features a 12 card trump fit. What do you bid on the South hand, after East's 1♦ opening? I'm bidding 4♠ every time - you want to play in 4♠, the doubleton diamond discourages thoughts of a slam, so bid it.

Now it's West's turn to call and, at the vulnerability (favourable), a 5♦ call seems a clear choice. North now joins the auction and, holding trump support, an Ace and a singleton a 5♠ call is a standout.

Back to East, should the opening bidder pass or sacrifice in 6♦? I'm for the latter, probably going one down.

Sharmini as West got an unjust reward when she played in 6♣ doubled on a spade lead. This was ruffed in dummy, club Queen won trick two and the club Jack taken by North's Ace. Reasoning that partner would have at most seven spades she continued that suit, ruffed by declarer, trumps drawn, heart losers discarded on dummy's fifth and 6<sup>th</sup> diamonds, contract!

The Annual General Meeting of Bridge in the City Incorporated will be held at 11:00 am on **Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>**

at the Clarence Gardens Bowls Club

Lunch will be served, with a free pairs game to follow.

**Nominations for elected positions close Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## 🌟 **With Thanks to Our 2025 Committee** 🌟

Let's pause and celebrate with thanks sincere,  
The committee who served us so well this year.  
With time and care, with skill and heart,  
Each played a valued, important part.  
**David**, our President, steady and true,  
Master Tournament Director through and through.  
With calm assurance, both firm and kind,  
He kept the club running smoothly—one of a kind.  
Two years well served—what a wonderful pair!  
**Cynthia**, with energy, kindness, and flair.  
Brightening events, a friendly face,  
Always helping to make this a welcoming place.  
**Stuart**, our barbecue king, we say,  
And spreadsheet master along the way.  
From lunches planned to details neat,  
Follow-ups done—no task incomplete.  
Our thanks to **Glenn**, reliable and precise,  
A treasurer punctual, accurate, and nice.  
We hope he continues—his work so sound,  
A steady hand our club has found.  
**Moira**, who stepped in when help was due,  
As secretary, even briefly, we thank you.  
Your time and effort did not go unseen,  
We're grateful indeed for all you've been.  
**Graham** continues another year ahead,  
With confidence and vision to help us be led.  
Building our future with thoughtful care,  
We're pleased to have him still there.  
**Jackie**, so busy, dependable too,  
From new club signs to cookies—she sees it through.  
Another year on committee, steady and kind,  
Always ensuring no detail's left behind.  
And **Carmel**, sharing news before each play,  
Listening, encouraging, lighting the way.  
With posters and messages, ideas so bright,  
Keeping our motto proudly in sight—  
*The friendliest club in Adelaide*, we say with cheer,  
Thanks to you all—what a wonderful year!

**February is Red Masterpoint Month at Clarence Gardens**  
**The February Monday and Friday sessions, also the AGM Pairs**  
**will be for red masterpoints.**

## Life at the Top

The following hand features expert play from the Summer Festival Grand Final in Canberra this year.

♠ AJ10	
♥ 8753	
♦ 1062	
♣ A93	
♠ 6	♠ KQ9872
♥ 104	♥ A6
♦ J98743	♦ KQ
♣ J874	♣ Q106
♠ 543	
♥ KQJ92	
♦ A5	
♣ K32	

After East's 1♠ opening South was in the contract 3♥ on the lead of the ♠6 from West. ♠Jack from dummy, ♠Queen, ♠five from declarer. Next ♦King from East, ducked, ♦Queen taken by declarer's Ace.

♥King from South, taken by East's Ace, ♥6 returned (you and I can both see that West can ruff a spade exit, however the opening lead, the ♠six, from East's perspective, could easily have been from a doubleton).

Declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy's ♣Ace, and ruffed a diamond, noting East's spade discard. At this stage east's distribution is known – the opening lead announces that East started with six spades, and had a doubleton in each of the red suits.

The rest was easy – declarer took the ♣King in hand and exited a trump. If East won the trick then that player had to lead a spade into dummy's A10, if West then a ruff and discard was coming.

Finally, if East had started with three or more diamonds then would have had at most two clubs. In this instance declarer would take the second club trick, spade to dummy's Ace, exit a spade, discard the club loser on the forced ruff and discard.

## A Plea to the Slow Pairs

When the change has been called and you are still midway through a hand, please do the right thing and pass your completed boards to the previous table.

It's the polite thing to do!

## Recent New Members

The following players have all recently joined, or re-joined our club. Please make them welcome.

Carolyn Cooper	Pat Draper	Vikki Djurasevich	Wendy Golder
Nikki Mortier	Mary Nancarrow	Lyn Parnell	Mary Payne
Kerena Phillips	Judy Roberts	Heather Sloan	Ann Wagner Angie
Williams	Penny & Phillip Williams		

## What is the Alcatraz Coup?

♠A10	
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ -	
♠J?	♠??
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -
♠Q7	
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ -	

It was a high stakes rubber game, and South was in 6NT. He had already lost one trick and was hoping to make his contract by throwing in West, forcing him to lead a spade away from the King.

Lead ♠Jack, ♠Queen from South, claim!

The award was posthumous.

## Monthly Place-Getters

### MONDAY JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Wendy Hopkins & John Smith
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 3 Jackie & Warren Ward

### FRIDAY JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- 3 Mary Drikas & Phil Thomas

### FRIDAY PINK JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Earlene Aufderheide & Trish Brooks
- 2 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 3 Patricia Draper & Jenny Kernbach

## Can you Make 6♦?

The following deal comes from the National Seniors' Teams in Canberra this month.

♠943	♦J62
♥AQ104	♣754
♠KQ752	♠J1086
♥732	♥KJ865
♦3	♦1084
♣Q986	♣J
♠A	
♥9	
♦AKQ975	
♣AK1032	

Most of the field reached 6♦ by South, got a spade lead, and were on occasion successful.

The problem lies with the club suit – clearing trumps and then playing on the club suit will only get eleven tricks. The more astute declarers won the spade lead, played the ♦Ace, ♦King, next the ♣Ace, and saw the ♣Jack come down on their right. They crossed to dummy via the ♥Ace, then led a club towards hand.

If East ruffs this then, with no further trumps outstanding, declarer can win the third round of clubs in hand, ruff the fourth round in dummy, and claim.

If East discards then declarer wins the ♣King in hand, concedes a club to West, and can then ruff the fourth round of that suit with dummy's ♦Jack.

How do you beat 6♦ from South? Open lead a heart, removing that entry prematurely. Finally, DMPRO states that North can always make 6♦. Why is this so? A heart lead from East isn't really helpful, since it allows declarer to pitch his fifth club – it's declarers' third and fourth clubs that are losers.

The necessary line of play for 6♦ by North on a heart lead to North's 10 is as follows:

1. ♥Ace, discarding a club
2. ♦Ace
3. ♦King
4. ♣Ace
5. ♦5, won by dummy's Jack
6. ♥4, ruffed in hand
7. ♦Queen

The remaining cards, the other two hands being irrelevant, are:

♠ KQ

♥ -

♦ -

♣Q98

♠ A

♥ -

♦ 9

♣ K103

South now leads the ♦9 and West is done for. If a spade is discarded then declarer plays the ♠Ace, then exits a low club, endplaying West. Should West instead discard a club then declarer concedes a club trick and then claims.

P.S.

To work out how to make 6♦ by North I used the problem solver facility which you can now access when looking at your session scores on our website.

## Sometimes it's Best to be Lucky

♠AKJ9

♥AK943

♦KQ103

♣ -

♠ 6

♠ 852

♥J10752

♥ -

♦ A964

♦ J8

♣A84

♣ QJ1097632

♠ Q10743

♥ Q85

♦ 752

♣ K5

Recently I was called to a table – a player was indisposed, could I take his place? I sat down, partner opened 2♣, I responded a comfortable 2♦, partner 2♥, and, hoping to show my suit before supporting partner, 2♠ from me.

This excited partner, who jumped to 4♠.

I reasoned that I had a much better hand than I needed to for this auction so 4NT from me, partner 5♦, 5♠ from me, 6♠ by partner.

Holding two Aces, and being fully aware of our uncertain auction West open led his ♣Ace, ruffed in dummy, contract.

Elsewhere players in my seat who were less ambitious stopped in 4♠ and received a heart lead, ruffed, diamond back, another heart ruff, just the ten tricks.

## Touching Honours - Which One Should You Play?

Too often I see players indiscriminately playing their touching honours. It doesn't matter much to them, however it certainly matters to their partners! I obey the following rules, and you should too.

- If you are going to **win** the trick, play the **lowest** of touching honours.
- When **leading**, you should play the **highest** of touching honours, suggesting to partner that you lack the honour card above, however, probably have the card immediately below.
- As **second** person to play you should play the **highest** of your touching honours. Again, this tells partner that you lack the card above, may have the card below.
- As **third** person to play you should contribute the **lowest** of touching honours. Partner will then know that you lack the card below the one played, however may have one or more of the cards immediately above it.

Try it – your defence will improve, and your partners will be grateful.

## OPENING LEAD GIVES DECLARER A RUFF TIME - by Richard Pavlicek

Dlr: South                    ♠ KQJ109  
E-W vul                    ♥ 5432  
                                  ♦ J1092  
                                  ♣ -  
  
♠ 87                            ♠ A32  
♥ -                            ♥ 76  
♦ K876                            ♦ Q5  
♣AQJ10984                    ♣ K76532  
                                  ♠ 654  
                                  ♥ AKQJ1098  
                                  ♦ A43  
                                  ♣ -

W        N        E        S  
                                  1H  
3C        3H        5C        5H  
6C        6H        All Pass

Today's deal occurred many years ago in the town of Dorfburg, West Germany, a small fishing village in the Black Forest. Or was it Katmandu, Nepal? I can't remember, it's been so long. but I was right there at the table.

The bidding was lively as both sides found their superb trump fits. East and West held the ultimate fit -- thirteen cards -- but they finally succumbed when North persisted to six hearts. This was a wise decision since six hearts appears to be unmakeable.

West led the ♣ace and the declarer surveyed his chances. Wow! A ruff and a sluff on the opening lead! He quickly made use of one of dummy's small trumps and discarded a small diamond from his hand. Trumps were drawn in two rounds, then spades were attacked.

Everything would have been cozy if East had taken his ace on the first or second round, but West gave a count signal with the eight, and East correctly held up.

After winning the third spade, East returned a diamond and declarer could not avoid a diamond loser. The dummy had two good spades, but there was no way to get there.

East was quick to point out that declarer should have ruffed the opening lead in his hand, throwing a spade from dummy. Then when East held up the spade ace twice, declarer could lead the diamond Jack to West's King and eventually discard his last spade on dummy's fourth diamond.

South rebutted that East could cover the diamond Jack with the Queen . . . East argued that it didn't matter since West would have to duck the second diamond, and then a spade lead would force East to concede another ruff-sluff . . . South agreed, but then realized that East could simply win the first spade if South played in this manner.

How to make it? Ruff the opening lead in both hands. Trumps are drawn in two rounds, then spades are led twice as East must duck. The diamond Jack is led, covered by the Queen (best), and won by the ace. The next diamond lead is ducked by West (best) and won by dummy's ten. Finally, a spade is conceded to East who has no more diamonds and must return a club.

## **Committee News**

I shall be retiring down from the position of club President, while Cynthia Brinkman and Stuart Tuck will be standing down from the committee, their two-year terms being over.

The positions of President, vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, nominations close the previous Monday.

## Another from Richard Pavlicek

A man is stranded on a deserted island for 10 years. One day he notices a speck on the horizon, and he watches intently as it draws near.

It can't be a boat; he thinks it can be a fish. Suddenly, a beautiful woman emerges from the sea wearing scuba gear and a wet suit.

Hi there, she says.

The man is amazed. But how did you get here?

Never mind, says the woman as she unzips the left pocket of her wet suit and hands the man a cigarette.

Wow, this is terrific! I haven't had a smoke in 10 years!

Enjoy says the woman as she unzips the right pocket of her wet suit and gives the man a flask of whiskey.

I can't believe it! This tastes so good!

Next the woman starts to unzip the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit. Now I've got something you must really want bad.

What! he says, don't tell me you've got a deck of cards in there too!

## Partner, You Trumped My Trick

I direct at Unley on Monday evenings and occasionally play with Zoli Nagy, my partner of days gone by. He showed that he has lost none of his old skills on the following hand.

♠8			
♥J9742			
♦AQ10			
♣A984			
♠KJ753	♠94		
♥K3	♥Q10		
♦53	♦KJ764		
♣J653	♣KQ107		
	♠AQ1062		
	♥A865		
	♦982		
	♣2		
E	S	W	N
1♦	1♠	P	1NT
P	2♥	P	4♥

Opening lead 5♦

Superficially it looks like a good contract, however where are the tricks coming from?

We don't have many losers (probably two diamonds and at least one trump), however where are the winners coming from? It's clear that the spade suit needs to be established.

At trick one Zoli played the 10♦ from dummy, losing to the Jack, and the 9♠ was returned. He won the Ace, ruffed a spade in dummy, heart to his Ace, and ruffed another spade in dummy, over-ruffed by the Queen, ♣King returned.

The layout now was:

♠ KJ	♠ -
♥ K	♥ -
♦ 5	♦ K764
♣ J65	♣ Q107
♠ Q10	
♥ 865	
♦ 98	
♣ -	

Club from dummy, ruffed in hand, spade from hand, ruffed in dummy. Next another club ruff, followed by the ruff of declarer's final spade. Ace of diamonds, all follow, club ruff, declarer's final card is a diamond, West's final card is a trump, ruffing partner's diamond winner, contract!

## Director!

As a tournament director I get the occasional call telling me that a player is a card short. A search ensues, it's usually in another hand or at the previous table.

There was one memorable occasion at a Broken Hill Congress where an entire hand was missing – we couldn't find the 13 cards anywhere. The late Kath George advised me to search in a particular player's handbag, and there it was – the lady in question in question had reached for her glasses, collected partner's cards as well, then put them all in her glasses case, in her handbag. I didn't have an answer when she wanted to know who had dobb'd her in.

Finally, and a new experience for me, on a recent Friday a certain person had an extra card in his hand towards the end of play – he'd kept a card from the previous deal!

## Recent Masterpoint Promotions

Pam Bowman & Jackie Watkins State Master

Jackie Ward      Gold Life