



◆ Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre

Newsletter November 2026



Etiquette

It's simply bad manners to expect the other players at your table to wait while you record the contract on your personal scorer.

If you are dummy put your hand down first, then do your recording. If it's your opening lead, play your card then update your record.

When you Pass a Hand In.

Passing a hand in, and getting an average score, are two very different things. If you pass a hand in you may get anything from a top to a bottom, it depends on what happens at the other tables.

Getting an Average is exactly that. Each of the two pairs gets average matchpoints, regardless of what has happened elsewhere. An Average is usually only awarded if a hand is taken away due to slow play, and should only be awarded with the director's consent. Scorers please note. The Bridgemates have a special key when a contract is passed in, being underneath the K, see below.



OC Real Estate – Daniel Richardson

We are pleased to have had OC Real Estate as the major sponsor (\$500!) for our Quiz Night on Saturday, 12th September. Daniel Richardson is the local OC Property Consultant and Auctioneer, his number is 0424332564

Adam Meredith

Adam (Plum) Meredith was an eccentric English player in the 1960's who was in his time regarded as the best card player in the world .

His bidding was unusual, particularly for those times. He would pre-empt on five card suits, and frequently overcalled one spade on a three card suit – all this in the days when doubles of pre-empts and overcalls were for penalty. Victor Mollo in fact wrote “*No man, no three men, for that matter, have bid spades so often or so devotedly as Plum*”

It was his innovative card play that drew the admiration of his peers. In his book *The Bridge Immortals* Mollo writes of Meredith making a 3NT contract by three times leading the diamond suit of Jxx opposite xxx forcing the opponents to take their four tricks and establish a squeeze for his contract.

On the following hand Meredith made 3NT, his opponent at the other table failed in 1NT.

♠ A86	
♥ AKJ3	
♦ AJ84	
♣ J6	
♠ K742	♠ 754
♥ Q109	♥ 854
♦ 752	♦ KQ10
♣ A84	♣ 1053
♠ J5	
♥ 762	
♦ 963	
♣ KQ972	

With South declarer in 3NT the defence led spades, declarer winning dummy's Ace on the third round. After some thought (Meredith was a very slow player) declarer called for the club Jack from dummy, low from East, and King from his hand.

Thinking that declarer was trying to get to hand to take the heart finesse West played his Ace, led another spade, East then returned a high diamond.

Meredith won this in dummy, club from dummy, finessing East's 10, took his four club tricks, followed by the heart finesse, contract!

Meredith suffered from diabetes and asthma, so life wasn't easy for him. However, at the 1955 World Championships in New York, an elderly lady was so taken by his play that she eventually approached him and said “Mr Meredith, I am a wealthy woman and don't have long to live. If you come and play with me in New York I will leave you my fortune when I die”.

His response? “Hello partner.”

Two Level Openings

Everybody should play a version of the multi 2♦ opening – it's just silly not to. By using the call to show either a weak two, or a strong balanced hand, you can then:

- Show a hand with a five card heart suit and four plus other, less than opening values, via the 2♥ opening.
- Show a hand with a five card spade suit and a four card or longer minor via the 2♠ opening.
- Use the 2NT opening as pre-emptive, showing both minors or similar.

If I am dealt a hand such as QJxxx, xx, x, KQxxx I want to open the bidding. It's plainly not a weak two, so a weak 2♠ opening is plainly out of the question, however if instead my 2♠ opening shows spades and a minor then this bid is exactly what is needed.

Two level opening calls:

2♣ Opening

Either strong, 20-22 balanced (2NT rebid) or 25-26 balanced (3NT rebid). I recommend that players respond as follows:

- 2♦ - negative, a positive response needs 7+ points including an Ace or two Kings
- 2♥ - artificial positive, may have an ordinary five card major – doesn't show hearts.
- 2♠ - positive with a good 5+ cards spade suit
- 2NT – not used – don't want the hand played from the wrong side.
- 3♣ - positive, 5+ cards, excellent suit
- 3♦ - positive, 5+ cards, excellent suit
- 3♥ - positive, 5+ cards, excellent suit

These responses allow opener room to properly describe their hand, usually then becoming declarer.

2♦ Opening

Is either a weak two in one of the majors, or a strong balanced hand, partner's response are:

- 2♥ by partner is pass or correct
- 2♠ by partner shows a liking for hearts, game interest, doesn't like spades.
- 2NT – enquiry
 - 3♣ hearts, upper range
 - 3♦ spades, upper range
 - 3♥ hearts, lower range
 - 3♠ spades, lower range
 - 3NT strong, balanced, 23-24 balanced
- 3♣ natural, forcing for one round

- 3♦ natural, forcing for one round
- 3♥, 3♠, 4♥ all correctible.

If opponents overcall a major double by partner is takeout, if a minor it is penalty.

2♥ Opening

Shows five or more hearts, four or more cards in another suit (five if vulnerable), less than opening values. Partner's responses

- Pass
- 2♠ Pass if spades are the second suit, otherwise correct
- 2NT What is your second suit? (3♥ says spades)
- 3♣, 3♦ - to play. Responder has his own suit.
- 3♥ Invitational

2♠ Opening

Shows five or more spades, four+ cards in a minor. Responses

- Pass
- 2NT - what is your other suit?
- 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ all natural, to play.
- 3♠ Invitational

2NT Opening

Shows 5-5 in the minors, responses:

3♣, 3♦ to play

3♥, 3♠ natural seeking doubleton or singleton honour support, otherwise rebid 3NT

4♣, 4♦ pre-emptive.

EVENING AT BRIDGE - from The Lady's Realm, 1904

It is far better to ask your guests to come punctually, and start them playing at once; and then at five o'clock, when tea is ready, they can either go and have it singly while their dummy hand is being played by their partner, or all four together when the rubber is finished. There ought to always be some coffee as well as tea, as some people much prefer it.

If people want to have a bridge evening, they had better make up their minds to give a dinner first, which should be short, simple, and well chosen, and a strong hint given to the gentlemen that a quarter of an hour is to be the limit of their stay in the dining-room. At ten-thirty or eleven the refreshment-tray should be brought in, and ought always to include a plate of thin savoury sandwiches, as playing bridge promotes both hunger and thirst.

Puppet Stayman

It's a given that your One No Trump openings should include the possibility of having a five card major. It does go against your regular instincts, however otherwise your hand becomes unbidable on the second round of the auction, as follows:

1♥ 1♠

1NT shows 12-14, 2NT shows 18-19, there's no provision for 15-17.

Fortunately, there is convention that allows opener's five card major to be re-discovered, being an immediate 3♣ response, as follows:

1NT 3♣

3♦ = opener has at least one four card major

Further bidding: responder bids the major he doesn't have, 3NT with neither, or 4D with both.

1NT 3♣

3♥, 3♠ – opener has the bid five card major

1NT 3♣

3NT – no four nor five card major.

This convention should also be used after partner's strong 2NT opening, or strong 2NT rebid, e.g.

2♣ 2♦

2NT

Recent Placegetters

MONDAY OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 3 Margaret Dawson & Ingrid Payne

FRIDAY OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 Peter Dieperink & Robyn Hargreaves
- 2 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 3 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey

FRIDAY PINK OCTOBER PAIRS

- 1 Ron Liddy & Sue Riddle
- 2 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy
- 3 Nikki Mortier & Heather Sloan

Last Month's Puzzle – The Answer

DMPRO says that the six spades or even six No Trumps slam can always be made, even on a club lead.

♠5	
♥A109743	
♦AK8	
♣1086	
♠72	♠963
♥K62	♥J5
♦Q654	♦J9732
♣J732	♣KQ5
♠AKQJ1084	
♥Q8	
♦10	
♣A94	

Win the club lead, take your Ace and King of diamonds, then take your seven spade tricks. The remaining cards are:

♠-	
♥A109	
♦-	
♣-	
♠	♠-
♥K6	♥J5
♦-	♦-
♣J	♣K
♠-	
♥Q8	
♦-	
♣9	

Both East and West need to keep two hearts, so can only keep one club. Declarer now exits with a club and whoever wins this trick is forced to lead a heart, contract.

2026 State Wide Pairs

Monday 23rd November.

Selected hands, scored across all competing clubs

Red masterpoints, booklets provided

Bridge Humour by Eddie Kantar

The late Eddie Kantar was a top American Bridge player, an excellent Bridge teacher and writer, and a very funny fellow. Here are some of his witticisms.

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Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster. One gets used to abuse. It's the waiting that is so trying.

~~~~~

The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits.

~~~~~

I'd like a review of the bidding with all the original inflections. (George Kaufman)

~~~~~

Learn from the mistake of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.
-Alfred Sheinwold.

~~~~~

Your play was much better tonight and so were your excuses.

~~~~~

We play forcing hesitations.

~~~~~

If I did everything right, I wouldn't be playing with you.

~~~~~

A lady is playing in her first duplicate hears an opponent say: "Alert". The lady says: "I am alert".

~~~~~

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "Relations of yours"? "Yes" she says, "In-laws".

~~~~~

Guy going out with this girl for some time and they play bridge regularly, but not much is happening romantically. Finally, she puts him in this God-awful slam and says: "If you make this contract, I'll sleep with you." He tries his hardest, but trumps don't break and a couple of finesses don't work and he winds up going down three! She says: "That's close enough".

~~~~~

Student in class has xxx facing AQJ in dummy. She leads low and puts in the jack which holds. She plays the ace next. Teacher asks why she didn't take the finesse again? She says: "You told us that only one of two finesses work."

~~~~~

P. Hal Sims a great expert of yesterday, had the reputation of never mis guessing a queen in a two-way finesse position. He finds himself playing against two ladies missing a queen and finally announces that neither one of them has it. Sure enough the queen was on the floor.

~~~~~

I am called over to a table by one of my students who tells me she only has 12 cards. Sure enough she is right. I look around and find the ♠A on the floor and give it to her. She was previously void in spades. She says to me: "Now you've gone and ruined my entire hand."

~~~~~

Alvin Roth a very ethical player is defending 7NT, vulnerable, in a money rubber bridge game where the declarer reduces to a three card ending. Dummy has the Axx of spades and declarer the KJ10. The lead is in declarer's hand and he leads the SJ. Second hand has xxx and Roth Qxx. Second hand goes into an act trying to make declarer think he has the queen and finally plays low. Declarer, taken in by the hesitation, also plays low. Roth, holding the queen, also plays low allowing the jack to take the trick and the declarer to make 7NT. When Roth's partner asks him why he didn't take the SQ, Roth says: "Because I thought you had it!"

~~~~~

Howard Shenken never made a hand in a Truscott column. They were not on such good terms. Ditto with Stayman and Goren. In the Goren columns, a 2C response to 1NT was never referred to as Stayman. It was always 'the two club convention'.

~~~~~

David Bruce, Life Master #1, was on lead against a grand slam in a suit contract holding two aces and he knew the dummy had to be void in one of those suits. The dummy was Ozzie Jacoby, who always left the table the moment a card was led. David Bruce decided to lead his gum wrapper. When Jacoby saw something hit the table he put this dummy down and David Bruce saw which ace would cash.

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Hugh Ross is playing 7NT and the fellow to his right is dying to lead an ace. Hugh says to him: "I have some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that I know you have an ace to lead, the bad news is that your partner is on lead." Partner leads the wrong suit and Hugh makes the contract.

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Billy Eisenberg tells me after we go over our system: "Our convention basket is overflowing, we are leaking conventions."

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Another thing to tell your partner after dummy comes down weaker than expected: "Where is the hand you held during the bidding?"

In a novice game declarer calls director over to the table and tells him he is playing a slam contract and he has won the opening lead and played the ace and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and ruffed a diamond. The director, impressed, asks him why he has been called over. The declarer tells him that the contract is 6NT.

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Lady phones me and asks me if I can teach her mother and her friends in November. I tell her I can't until January. She says: "Never mind, they won't last that long."

~~~~~

In a novice game the wife leads a low club and her husband alerts. They ask about the alert. He says "She is leading a singleton." "How do you know", one opponent asks. "Because she led it with her left hand. If it were from a doubleton, she would have led it with her right hand."

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Patrick Jourdain, a famous bridge player-teacher from Wales is called over to a table at one of his classes where a hand has just passed out, but 4th hand had 17 high card points. "So why did you pass?" asks Patrick. "Because you told us after three passes the bidding is over, so I had to."

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This lady, Charlotte, plays very slowly. She is asked to speed it up a bit. She says: "I'm sorry, but I can't think and play bridge at the same time."

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When your partner is playing even worse than usual you might say: "You know, you may not be the worst player in the world, but if that person should die...."

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Two great players, both good friends of mine from England, Robert Sheehan and Jonathan Cansino, have a terrible game. Of course each thinks it is the other's fault. Finally Sheehan hands Jonathan a tiny piece of blank paper and says: Here Jonathan, write down everything you know about bridge." Jonathan replies: "Well, it's a bigger".

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When Oswald Jacoby was in his eighties, he bid every time it was his turn. His partners asked why. He said: "At my age the bidding may not get back around to me again."

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A bridge teacher explaining duplicate bridge protocol tells this lady to make her opening lead face down. She promptly puts her head on the table and leads a card face up.

~~~~~

Helen Sobel, the greatest woman player of her time, was a chorus girl before taking up bridge. Not forgetting her roots she used this little ploy when she was missing an important queen in a slam or grand slam contract playing against two men: she raised

her skirt a little above her knees before playing. It never failed that the fellow without the queen would look and the one with the queen was so intent on taking a trick with that card that he didn't. Helen always found the queen.

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Helen Sobel was once asked how it felt playing with a great expert (Charles Goren). "Ask him," she replied.

## My Hand of the Month

Monday evening teams at Unley, as dealer I held ♠AK1065 ♥AKQ104 ♦J ♣A6

I opened 2♣, next hand overcalled three clubs, partner passed (showing a negative response), back to me. I bid four clubs, which, when asked, partner described as a game forcing two suiter.

West bid five clubs and partner, having spades and diamonds, so therefore assured of a fit, bid five diamonds, five hearts by me, five spades by partner, making eleven tricks when trumps divided three – zero. The full deal

|            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| Nil vul.   | ♠98743  |        |
|            | ♥65     |        |
|            | ♦K983   |        |
|            | ♣53     |        |
| ♠-         |         | ♠QJ2   |
| ♥J8        |         | ♥9732  |
| ♦Q105      |         | ♦A7642 |
| ♣KQJ109742 |         | ♣8     |
|            | ♠AK1065 |        |
|            | ♥AKQ104 |        |
|            | ♦J      |        |
|            | ♣A6     |        |

P.S. West's 3♣ bid is anaemic, surely 4♣ at the very minimum is the call.

## Masterpoint Promotions

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Robyn Hargreaves     | <b>Life</b>     |
| Veronica Knauerhause | <b>State</b>    |
| Judy Larsen          | Bronze Regional |
| Brenda McCarthy      | <b>State</b>    |
| Maja Reed            | <b>National</b> |
| Greg Staker          | club            |
| Jenny Wishart        | Local           |