



Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre



Newsletter October 2026

Monday Afternoon Excesses

The Monday afternoon field is reasonably uniform. They all have their moments, and just one pair aren't playing Standard American. Therefore, board nine on September 7th was a surprise – 11 scores, and nine, I repeat nine, different contracts.

Board 9	♠ J752	Dir: N	Makeable Contracts						NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	%	
	♥ J6542	Vul: E-W		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	Top = 10						
	♦		N	1	-	1	1	1	1	11	2NTS-1	♣ 3		50	85%
	♣ KJ52		S	1	-	1	1	1		2	1	3♦ S-5	♠ 3	250	0%
♠ 3		♠ AQ964	E	-	2	-	-	-		3	3	4♥ N-3	♣ 10	150	30%
♥ 97		♥ KQ83	W	-	2	-	-	-		4	8	2NTS-2	♠ 3	100	65%
♦ QJT543		♦ 96	Hand Solver							5	10	2♦ S-4	♠ 3	200	15%
♣ A863		♣ QT	All Hands Solver							6	12	2♦ S-4	♠ 3	200	15%
	♠ KT8														
6	♥ AT														
7 13	♦ AK872														
14	♣ 974														

1	11	2NTS-1	♣ 3		50	85%
2	1	3♦ S-5	♠ 3		250	0%
3	3	4♥ N-3	♣ 10		150	30%
4	8	2NTS-2	♠ 3		100	65%
5	10	2♦ S-4	♠ 3		200	15%
6	12	2♦ S-4	♠ 3		200	15%
7	5	2NTW=	♣ 2		120	45%
8	7	3NTS-2	♠ 3		100	65%
10	2	2NTW=	♥ 5		120	45%
11	4	2♥ N-1	♣ 10		50	85%
12	6	3NTW-1	♣ 2	100		100%

The Sue Phillips Club Championship Awards

We are delighted to announce that Sue Phillips has generously offered to sponsor two annual Club Championship Awards:

- Monday Club Championship Pair
- Friday Club Championship Pair

To be eligible, players must be financial members of the Clarence Garden Bridge Centre for that year.

Players must also have competed in at least:

- 25 Monday sessions to qualify for the Monday award, or
- 25 Friday sessions to qualify for the Friday award.

At the end of each year the results will be collated to determine the leading eligible pair for each day.

The winning pairs will be invited to receive their awards from Sue Phillips at the Club's AGM in February of the following year.

We sincerely thank Sue for her generosity.

Minimum Requirements for One and Two Level Openings.

A few years ago, the ABF Systems Regulations included the concept of Opening Points, being the sum of a player's high card points and the length of the two longest suits.

Whilst the ABF no longer uses this scheme we have decided to re-introduce it at Bridge in the City where at least one of the opponents is under Regional Master (50 masterpoints in total), as follows.

- A one level opening must have at least 18 opening points.
- A two-level opening must have at least 15 opening points.

Examples:

♠J109876 ♥Q73 ♦Q64 ♣2 - has only 14 opening points, so doesn't qualify for a weak two,
♠J109642 ♥Q7 ♦Q643 ♣ 2 has the 15 points, due to the extra card in the second suit, so qualifies as a legitimate two level opening.

Similarly, a 10 point 4-3-3-3 hand can't be opened 1NT, having only 17 opening points, however a 4-4-3-2 10 point is alright.

These rules have been introduced to counter a few players who have been making excessively light openings, often to the discomfort of their inexperienced opponents.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the offending pair getting 0% on the board, whilst their opponents will get 60% or their score on the board, whichever is the better.

Psychic calls will be subject to the same restraints and treated accordingly.

Ruling the Game – Dummy’s Rights

The player looking after dummy is declarer’s agent, and may only act as directed. The Laws of the Game apply particular restraints on this person, as follows:

What dummy can do.

- Advise declarer that they are about to lead from the wrong hand.
- Advise declarer that they have turned the immediate trick the wrong way.
- Ask declarer if they have a card in the lead suit.

What dummy cannot do.

- Suggest a line of play, by whatever means (including touching a card in dummy).
- Advise declarer or an opponent that a previous trick has been turned the wrong way.
- Draw attention to an irregularity during play.

Finally, if there is an infraction at your table, always call the director.

This Month’s Puzzle – from the Gawler Congress

DMPRO says that the small 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	

Double dummy, can you make this contract? A free game for the first correct answer.

Can You Make Four Hearts?

Opening lead a club, won by your Ace, draw trumps in two rounds.

♠AK3	♠865
♥J9762	♥AKQ108
♦K105	♦Q94
♣93	♣A7

Answer last page.

Another Hand from the Gawler Congress

What would you bid on the South cards after partner's one heart opening?

♠J854	Dlr:N
♥AK643	Vul:E-W
♦Q93	
♣8	
♠-	♠973
♥7	♥Q
♦AJ6542	♦K1087
♣Q109762	♣KJ543
♠AKQJ1062	
♥J109852	
♦-	
♣A	

Players who temporised with a one spade call, or even a strong 2NT (showing support), will get energetic interference from West, who also has a 6-6-1 distribution. (East West can make eleven tricks in either minor).

Our very own Jackie Ward was the only player to bid the grand slam, then had good fortune when a spade was led and West forgot to ruff!

If this hand was played at the top tables of a Thursday evening State Championship, South, after showing strong support may well have used an Exclusion Blackwood call of five diamonds. Such a bid asks partner for the number of key cards (Aces and trump King) held outside that suit. Opener would then show two, the top two heart honours, so seven hearts would be the contract.

West could then double, asking partner to find an unusual lead, i.e. not one of the previously shown minor suits and South, recognising the possibility of a spade ruff, convert to seven spades, making.

BERGEN Raises Modified

Marty Bergen was at the forefront of the move away from counting your points to instead counting your trumps and shortages. Amongst other things he recommended that, in response to partner's one of a major opening, the 3♣ and 3♦ responses should show four plus card support and less than opening values. This was a direct contrast to the old

ways, where a jump in a new suit by responder typically showed an excellent suit and 15+ high card points.

Knowing that partner has at least four trumps certainly changes the assessment of opener's hand. With a five-three fit you will often need to draw trumps before the opponents get a ruff, thereby often foregoing your own ability to trump losers in dummy. With a five-four fit you can do both. The new approach has received practically universal acceptance amongst the stronger players.

Bergen also suggested that with a near opening and just three card support responder should jump to three of the other major. This, while being convenient, didn't work nearly as well. It meant that with a moderate opening partner's response you were committed to the three level. Also, weak jump responses, showing three to seven points and a six-card suit were useful calls to have in your armoury.

So, the modern approach is that after partner's one of a major opening a 2♣ response is either natural, or a prepared three card raise. Opener then finds a rebid (two of the major being a guaranteed minimum, other two level suit calls being natural), and responder either passes two of the major, rebids two of the major showing this specific hand, or finds another call, announcing that responder has a genuine 2♣ response.

Examples

1♠ 2♣

2♠ - minimum opening

1♠ 2♣

2♦ 2♠ responder has three card support, near opening

1♠ 2♣

2♥ 2NT natural, at most two spades

1♠ 2♣

3♣ extra values, with clubs

1♠ 2♣

2NT would accept an invitation

Score of the Month

Ann Wagner and Marek Pawlak earned themselves a free game with their score of 68.98% on Monday September 14th, just shading the 68.72% by Robyn Hargreaves and Pieter Dieperink on Friday September 18th. Well done to both pairs.

My Hand of the Month

Monday evening teams at Unley, as dealer I held

♠AK1065

♥AKQ104

♦J

♣A6

I don't usually open two clubs with two strong suits, however this was an exception.

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 hand with two strong five or more card suits.

West bid five clubs and partner, having spades and diamonds (and therefore assured of a fit) bid five diamonds, five hearts by me, five spades by partner, making eleven tricks.

♠98743

♥65

♦K983

♣53

♠-

♥J8

♦Q105

♣KQJ109742

♠QJ2

♥9732

♦A7642

♣8

♠AK1065

♥AKQ104

♦J

♣A6

QUIZ NIGHT 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

Our third quiz night has come and gone and turned out to be another roaring success, everyone had a great night and it was lots of fun. The money raised goes into our social fund which helps to provide funds for ongoing sausage sizzles that we all enjoy.

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who generously donated prizes for the raffle, ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!!!! Also, a great big thank you to Darrell and Pam for giving your time to help wrap the prizes, as you do every year. We have a few wines, lots of laughs and still manage to get the job done. A big thank you to Veronica who opens her home to us each year, stores the prizes, feeds and waters us and puts up with us, you rock girl!!!! Thank you also Darrell for all the running around you do each year, it is such a great help. A big thank you to Jinny, who every year, does all the photocopying of the question sheets and organises them into envelopes for each round. Researching

questions and choosing questions takes a lot of time but I enjoy it and I also learn a great deal of trivia from this process. Once I have completed this process, I hand the questions over to Glen who also researches them to make sure there are no questions with any ambiguity or that may have more than one answer, so thank you Glen for giving your time to this process, we make a great team.

Secondly, I would like to thank everyone who helped on the night:-

Jill Stone and Lyn Cotton who manned the door.

Ingrid Hebenstreit and Jill L. who handed out the question sheets.

Pam who helped mark the question sheets.

Glen, our fabulous Emcee, you follow the important set agenda for the night with such precision and your dad jokes gave everyone a great laugh again this year. You do such an exceptional job.

To all of you, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! The help and support you give me is vital to the success of the night and you do this with enthusiasm and positivity. I have nicknamed us the 'Quiz Team' and together we put on a successful fun night for our

Bridge family as well as our own friends and families. ❤️ 💙 💚

Thirdly, a great big thank you to all who attended and supported our club. We are so lucky to be a part of the best bridge club in the state (maybe the world), not only playing Bridge but also for the friendships and social connections we have all formed within the club. Our club is not just a place we come to to play bridge, we are a community, we are a family and we support each other in so many ways as we all navigate our way through the ups and downs of life and I feel privileged to be a part of this. 🙏

Thanks also to the Maid of Auckland for your generous donations of meal vouchers each year and for looking after us at our Christmas lunches.

Thank you to OC Real Estate and Auctioneers for your generous sponsorship again this year. Your support and generosity are very much appreciated. If anyone is thinking about buying or selling their property give Daniel a ring on **0424 332 564**.

Once again, a big **THANKYOU** to everyone who helped and supported the quiz night and I hope you all enjoyed the night. I will be taking a short sabbatical from bridge and look forward to seeing all your happy smiling faces when I return.

Love and hugs to you all,

Nola ❤️

Recent Placegetters

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Peter Dieperink & Robyn Hargreaves
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- 3 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley

FRIDAY PINK SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield
- 2 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy
- 3 Lynne Cotton & Cynthia Hickey

CLARENCE GARDENS CONGRESS - A GRADE

- 1 Sharmini Anderson & Anne Harris
- 2 Susan Phillips & Jackie Ward
- 3 Adel Abdelhamid & Kevin Lange

CLARENCE GARDENS CONGRESS - B GRADE

- 1 Cecilia & Kent Makin
- 2 Merilyn Paris & Carolyn Toh
- 3 Penny & Phillip Williams

MONDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- = 3 Earlene Aufderheide & Maja Reed
- =3 Cynthia Brinkman & Graham Stucley

Did You Make Four Hearts?

♠AK3
♥J9762
♦K105
♣93

♠865
♥AKQ108
♦Q94
♣A7

It's a simple elimination play. After drawing trumps take your spade honours then exit a spade. The defenders either lead the diamond suit for you, or else give a ruff and slough.

2026 State Wide Pairs

Monday 23rd November.

Selected hands, scored across all competing clubs

Red masterpoints, booklets provided