



# Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre

## Newsletter September 2025



### Hand of the Month

Partner opens 1♥ and your hand is

♠AQJ754

♥6

♦-

♣AK8763

How do you show your 6-6-1 distribution?

Your first call should be 2♣ (not 1♠, remember four card suits up the line, five cards or more down).

Partner rebids 2♦ (of course), so your next bid should be 2♠, which at this stage of the auction isn't natural, instead being fourth suit forcing. This call promises game values while asking for a spade stop or further details about partner's distribution.

Partner bids 3♦, showing a 5-5 shape and you now make the key bid of 3♠, indicating five cards in that suit, and hence at least that number of clubs.

Now 3NT from partner, and 4♠ by you, showing a six card spade suit and, since you bid them first, at least six clubs! Mission accomplished! Partner's hand:

♠9

♥AK874

♦Q10975

♣QJ

### Post Mortems

Bridge is a thinking game, so we all on occasion take longer than usual to bid or defend a hand. Any discussion after the hand has taken place however should be short and to the point, and should not delay the game, particularly if your table has fallen behind.

Clarence Gardens Graded Pairs Congress

10:00 am Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>

A & B Sections,

Morning & Afternoon Tea Provided

Bring your own lunches

Entry Fee \$50 per pair

## Another Bidding Problem

Partner opens 1♣ and your hand is:

♠K6  
♥AK10  
♦AKQ972  
♣Q6

What do you bid?

You should respond one diamond, giving partner the further opportunity to describe their hand, i.e. extra values, or an extreme distribution.

In practice partner rebids 1NT, indicating a balanced minimum opening, so with a minimum of 33 points between you, and partner having at least two diamonds, your next bid should be 6NT!

Partner's hand:

♠AQJ  
♥QJ86  
♦1043  
♣K72

## That First Discard

Try this method of signalling, when you make your first discard.

- An odd card, unless exceptionally high, shows an interest in that suit.
- A low even card suggests a holding in the lower of the other two suits.
- A high even card suggests a holding in the higher of the other two suits.

This method doesn't conflict with any other signalling system that you may play, however it may help partner to find that crucial switch.

You can also use these signals at an earlier stage when defending suit contracts, as follows: When partner's lead is going to win the trick, and dummy has a singleton in that suit, the card that you play can give a very clear signal. Providing that you are known to have some length in that suit, i.e. have a choice of cards to play, an odd card tells partner to continue that suit, low even calls for a low suit to be led, high even for a high suit.

## Cover an Honour with an Honour? Not Always!

One of the oldest adages in Contract Bridge suggests that you should always cover an honour with an honour. Unfortunately, it's not always true!

You should only do so when you are likely to get a compensating trick, otherwise you're just conceding a trick unnecessarily.

For example, when dummy, sitting over you, has, say A10987 and declarer leads the Queen of that suit then covering with the King is pointless, particularly if you have three or more other cards in that suit.

## Bridge – A Game for Life by Monica Pritchard

Stuck behind some traffic lights on Ipswich Road one day  
I saw a QCBC sign detailing hours of play  
I'd lots of time to contemplate while waiting for the green  
And I visualised me sitting there placid, calm, serene.  
I thought 'That seems the game for me, a lovely, gentle sport!'  
And over the following day or two I gave it a lot of thought  
I'd devoted myself to my family, and I thought it was now my turn  
This pleasant little game of Bridge was one I wanted to learn.

Well I started with the lessons and they were really good  
But I didn't seem to be getting along as quickly as I should  
So I borrowed some books from the library and some videos I could share  
I bought every one of the pamphlets and studied them all with care  
I attended nights on improving play I absorbed every thing I heard  
When recognised players were talking Bridge I hung on every word

I ordered a couple of Bridge games to play on my PC  
I had some private coaching at some exorbitant fee  
I learnt every new convention, I played whenever I could  
And even though I say it myself, I was exceptionally good  
I played at clubs, I played on line, I played every chance I got  
I played most mornings and afternoons, I played an awful lot.

Because I practiced constantly it wasn't very long  
'Till I could tell Keith helpfully where he was going wrong  
I know that he was grateful but selfless to the core  
He said 'Please don't come back, I can't teach you any more.'

So moving up the ladder, I went into supervised play  
I know Clare was glad to see me, as I helped her a lot that day.  
She made quite a lot of bad mistakes and I was shocked to find  
I had to correct her several times, but she didn't seem to mind.  
And she obviously saw my potential; she knew I had nothing to gain  
At the end of the day she drew me aside and suggested I not come again.

So I started outside with one partner but she wasn't terribly bright  
And no matter how many times I corrected her she never got anything right  
She must have felt embarrassed to be causing me all that pain  
She rang one night in tears to say she'd never play with me again  
I've had trouble finding partners since, I'm simply far too strong  
I try to help by pointing out what people are doing wrong  
Some don't take it all that well, they've no humility  
Things would be so much easier if people were more like me.

I have a lot of friends at the club I see them every day  
Everyone's terribly busy though; they're always rushing away  
I'm always up for a bit of a chat, I'm happy to give advice  
I'll tell them about the mistakes they've made  
You see I'm terribly nice.  
If everyone wasn't so busy, they could learn from me now and then  
I'm not trying to say that I'm perfect, but I'm certainly better than them.

I missed my daughter's wedding; it clashed with a teams event  
She didn't seem to understand it was purely an accident  
I said she could postpone the wedding, but that didn't go down well  
I was so upset by the silly row I didn't play terribly well  
My partner seemed almost demented, the Director was dreadfully rude  
And some of the opposition's remarks were verging on the crude.

So of course I had to appeal the result and that took an hour or so  
I arrived at my daughter's reception just when they were ready to go  
My husband was not very happy, he said I'd become obsessed  
No longer the wonderful love of his life, I'd turned into a selfish pest.  
He'd thought about the solution, there was only one he could see.  
He issued an ultimatum, "It's either Bridge or me."

I miss him every now and then, he was a lovely bloke  
But when you make a call like that you really can't revoke  
I let him have the house of course, I wasn't home that much  
I let him have the kids as well, and I don't keep in touch  
I find them frankly rather boring and dreadfully self-absorbed,  
If I try to describe how I played a hand they look like they're totally bored.

So even though I'm now alone, I'm homeless and I'm poor  
I visit friends and relatives and I am shown the door  
My bank account is empty, my problems they are rife  
Still I'm grateful that the game of Bridge has brightened up my life.

*When she wrote the above Monica Pritchard was one of the newer members at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, while Keith and Clare were her teachers. Our gratitude goes to Monica for the article, also to Toni Bardon, the QCBC manager, for providing it.*

## Do You Want a Nametag

By now you should have all seen our new nametags, featuring our new club name and logo. An order will be going in shortly, if you want one, at a cost of just \$8, please tell David or Antonina

## Recent New Members

Meredith Coleman, Vicki Djurasevich, Blair McKenzie, Helen Rollond and Anne Wagner have all recently joined our club. Please help them to feel welcome.

September is RED Masterpoint Month  
at Clarence Gardens

## Keycard Anyone

Keycard is a form of Ace ask where there is an agreed suit, so the trump King becomes the fifth Ace, while the trump Queen can also be revealed. The usual responses are:

- Step 1            0 or 3 keycards
- Step 2            1 or 4 keycards
- Step 3            2 keycards, no trump queen
- Step 4            2 keycards and the trump queen

(Some players swap the first two steps, possibly so they can use the term 1430!)

The first non trump step after steps 1 or 2 asks responder whether or not they hold the trump queen – if yes bid an outside king or no trumps, if no sign off.

Consider the following recent deal from a club session. Partner has opened 1♦, next hand has passed, and your hand is

♠7 ♥AKQJ5 ♦Q109432 ♣A

Your bid? My choice is an immediate 4♦, Keycard (if playing that convention, otherwise 4NT, Keycard agreeing diamonds, asking how many of the four Aces and the trump King partner has.

If partner shows one sign off in 5♦, two 6♦, and all three 7NT.

## Recent Placegetters

### 2025 CLARENCE GARDENS GNOT

- 1 Sharmini Anderson/Rosemary Grund/Anne Harris/Kevin Lange
- 2 Jinny Fuss/Sue Martin/John Pearson/Terry Pearson
- 3 Meredith Coleman/Blair McKenzie/Helen Rollond/Eleonora Truskewycz
- 4 Julie Boyce/Lewis Jones/Peter Solomon/Christine Thomas
- 5 Genevieve Donnelly/Terry Healey/Dennis Reynolds/Roger Waters
- 6 Noel Gaston/Jenny Kernbach/Stuart Tuck/Jackie Watkins

### MONDAY AUGUST PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 3 *Cynthia Hickey & Ron Liddy*

### FRIDAY AUGUST PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Brenda Parker
- 3 Susan Phillips & Judith Roberts

### FRIDAY PINK AUGUST PAIRS

- 1 Frances Berry & June Kleeman
- 2 Janet Hegarty & Janice Paltridge
- 3 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed