



Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre

Newsletter July 2025



SA Bridge Federation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Bridge in S.A

On Friday 13th June 2025 the President of SA Bridge Federation Michael Court attended our club and presented David Anderson with an award acknowledging his enormous involvement with Bridge in S.A.

David, who has been involved in many aspects of bridge over the years, is the first person to receive this award. He has represented Australia and S.A. many times playing at elite levels. He has organised tournaments nationally and has been instrumental in improving the masterpoint System. The list is long but always demonstrates an enormous love of the game of bridge and an awareness to improve its popularity.

At Clarence Garden Bridge Centre, we are very fortunate to have such an outstanding President and Director that has been recognised by SA Federation for his qualities. Congratulations from all at the Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre from the Committee representing Members.

A Hand for the Connoisseur

You are South in 6♠ after an embarrassing auction. Your right hand opponent opened 3♥, a very ordinary 3♠ by you (you weren't vulnerable, you said afterwards), 4♥ on your left and 6♠ from partner. Left hand opponent leads the ♦Ace, dummy comes down, and your two hands are:

♠AKJ86

♥A

♦Q87

♣8532

♠10975432

♥865

♦-

♣AQ4

Partner will be very disappointed if you don't make this one. The contract seems to rely on the club finesse, which on the auction is unlikely to work. Is there a better way? Yes, there is! Trump the diamond in hand, cross to dummy's ♥Ace and take the ♠Ace. Next ruff another diamond and trump your second heart in dummy. Back to hand with a spade, trump your last heart in dummy. Your two hands now are:

♠K
♥
♦Q
♣8532

♠1097
♥
♦-
♣AQ4

Next you lead the ♦Queen from dummy, low from East, and discard a club! West wins and is endplayed, having to either give you a ruff and discard, or lead a club into your Ace Queen. The full deal

Dir:East ♠AKJ86

East-West vul♥A

♦Q87
♣8532

♠Q
♥32
♦AK6532
♣KJ76

♠-
♥KQJ10974
♦J1094
♣109

♠10975432
♥865
♦-
♣AQ4

Clarence Gardens GNOT Qualifying

A gold masterpoint teams event.

Your opportunity to earn gold masterpoints.

Sunday August 3rd, 10:00 am start, finish by 4:30

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

Entries to David Anderson, or via the website

Gawler Bridge Festival

Pairs Saturday 19th July

Teams Sunday 20th July

Entries via MYABF or the Director David Anderson

A Hand from the Victor Champion

I recently played in the Victor Champion Cup in Melbourne, a National Championship that had 92 teams contesting. It wasn't all plain sailing, as shown by the following hand where as dealer you have ♠AKQ63♥1065♦J54♣K4

All vulnerable you open 1♠, double from your left, all pass. The ♠8 is led, and you think to yourself that it can't be too bad. Except it is, as all you get is just three tricks, for minus 1100! Explain that to your teammates.

The full deal:

	♠8	
	♥KQ8	
	♦K862	
	♣AQJ93	
♠AKQ63		♠4
♥1065		♥J9732
♦J54		♦Q93
♣K5		♣8762
	♠J109762	
	♥A4	
	♦A107	
	♣104	

Note the trump lead, which is obligatory in an auction such as this.

Bidding Queries

If you go to our website you will see that you can post your bidding queries for me to analyse and eventually respond to. Recently the two following hands were forwarded, and I'd like to share them with you.

Deal one, East the dealer

West	East
♠Q	♠AJ98763
♥A106	♥QJ543
♦A32	♦4
♣A97632	♣-

At the table East passed as dealer, not wishing to pre-empt in spades with a side five card major, and eventually played in a 3♠ part score. This is not unreasonable, however when you look at the hand, and count the losers, it's worth eight playing tricks!

This is an occasion where basing your actions on your high card points goes out the window – the hand has too much potential. If I held such a hand then my opening call would be either 1♠ or, if feeling frivolous, 4♠. My auction after a 1♠ opening would be:

W	E
	1♠
2♣	2♥
3♦*	3♠
3NT	4♠

*The 3♦ call is fourth suit forcing, asking partner to further describe their hand.

Next, East the dealer

West	East
♠J8	♠K73
♥Q54	♥K1032
♦J2	♦AQ974
♣KQJ954	♣7

East opened 1♦ (despite the extra points, the previous hand was much stronger) and West responded 2♣. East rebid 2♥, and eventually they reached 3NT, going several down. My preferred auction:

West	East
	1♦
2♣	2♦
3♣	PASS

I certainly wouldn't rebid 2♥ since, being beyond a rebid of the first called suit, shows extra values. It's not likely that you are going to miss a heart fit since with less than a game going hand partner will bid 1♥ initially, with a stronger hand can rebid 2♥ over your 2♦.

The 3♣ rebid is also of interest since it shows a decent six card suit and less than opening values. Knowing that game won't be on, opener should then pass.

My Bridge History

I have now been involved in the game of Contract Bridge for 60 years, at times being a leading player, administrator, and tournament director. This is my story.

My involvement with the game of Contract Bridge started at the University of Adelaide in my second year when the authorities banned card playing in the refectories. The gamblers therefore (I was more successful than most) had to join the University Bridge Club to continue. I had previously played trick taking games at home with my parents so when a threesome needed a fourth on a Friday afternoon I joined in.

The University Bridge Club had several active scholarship members in those days (we didn't have cars, Nintendo or the Internet, nor did we have to work at McDonalds) so the better players progressed very quickly, soon dominating the local bridge scene. Of this group at least a dozen went on to represent SA in the National Championships.

Tournament Directing has always interested me, and I first directed and played at SABA in their Currie St premises in the late 60's. Scoring was done manually with my mathematical skills being well tested. Much later I introduced scoring software to SA (where all the scores had to be manually entered) and later converted them to accommodate Bridgemates. Modern directors don't know how lucky they are.

I lived in Sydney during 1971 and when I returned SABA, through the late Bob Robertson's leadership, had moved from their rented premises in the city to Unley where they are to this day. The club membership changed overnight, with the people traveling on buses fading away, to be replaced by a younger group who came by car. The club's tournament direction hadn't improved, however - the director took the score sheets home and, if you were lucky, posted the results on the noticeboard a week later. I soon put paid to that!

Over the next several years I was usually on the SABA committee, also serving as an innovative Club Secretary and President. The late David Parker and myself also wrote the club's original set of tournament rules, most of which still apply today.

During this period my daytime job was at the Bureau of Statistics, and later Social Security. I loathed the workplace environment at the latter so when the job of Club Manager came up at SABA (at a very low salary) I took it on and had a great eleven years. This period also gave me the opportunity to develop my software to specifically suit the club members' needs. The club was extremely successful, my seven weekly sessions averaging 30 tables. It also included the emergence of Thursday nights as the session for top players, and those who wanted to get better. The subsequent success of so many of our players at the National level came about through this.

At this point SABA was both the major club, also the State Association, which wasn't healthy for the long-term development of the game, never mind the frequent sledging from Adelaide Bridge Centre in the local press. It was time to form a separate state governing body, to be known as the SA Bridge Federation. I did this, registering that body, creating a constitution, also choosing people for the various official positions.

I then moved to Queensland for four and a half years, directing local congresses most weekends, before returning to Adelaide for a second stint as club manager, also the SABF tournament head. I lasted at SABA for four years (the committee could not be called supportive), and held the SABF position until recently.

In recent times I have been doing local directing, whilst for the last two and a half years I have been managing Bridge in the City.

Playing Achievements

SA Open Team 1967, 15 times thereafter, winning 1974, 2010, 2017 & 2019

Qld Seniors Team 2012, 2013

NSW Open Team 1971

SA Seniors Team 1st 2016, 3rd 2018, 2nd 2024

Australian Open team 1972, 1974(2), 1986

Australian Seniors team 2010

VCC 1st 1984

National Open Teams 1st 1986

Spring Nationals 1st 1986

National Seniors' Teams 1st 2011, 2012

My Representative partners

I've had many excellent partners over the years, notably Zolly Nagy and more recently George Smolanko, however for sheer enjoyment at the table my favourite experience was playing with the late Ian Hilditch.

Administration

SABA secretary, then president, then manager 1990 – 2001, 2006 – 2009.

ABF Masterpoints Head since 1994.

Directing

National director Level One.

ANOT Chief Director 1992-2001, 2006-2022

National GNOT Finals Chief Director 2005-2013

Chief SA Director 1972-2001, 2006-2024

Director at the VCC, Gold Coast, Canberra Summer Festival, Australian National Championships and the Western Seniors' Pairs, also countless congresses and State Championships.

Christmas in July

Maid of Auckland, 926 South Road Edwardstown

12:00 for 12:30, July 27th

Prior bookings to Stuart Tuck

Pay on the day

Recent Masterpoint Promotions

John Neuling	SILVER LIFE
Jane Linde	*STATE
Fernanda Ferreira	CLUB
Stewart Kingsborough	LIFE
Heather Smith	NATIONAL
Molly Johnson	*LOCAL
Genevieve Donnelly	LIFE

An Unusual Incident

I recently had a call from a fellow director who told me that she had just been called to a table after a deal where the auction had been:

North	South
1♦	2♣
2NT	3♦ All pass.

East then led, saying the contract was 2NT. Everybody agreed, and North then played that contract, making eleven tricks. It was only at the end of play that someone noticed the 3♦ call on the bidding pad. All four contestants had been playing to the wrong contract!

The Bridge Laws, not surprisingly, don't cover such a circumstance so the score stood.

Recent Placegetters

FRIDAY PURPLE JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- 3 Sandy Barnes & Margaret Lucas

FRIDAY PINK JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck
- 2 Veronica McCaffrey & Jenny Wishart
- 3 Earlene Aufderheide & Trish Brooks

MONDAY JUNE PAIRS

- 1 Janet Faber & Chris Lever
- 2 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

Different Bidding Styles

A hand was passed in today, with the players each having either nine or eleven high card points. There were some mutterings about getting a partial refund of their table fees, so I checked the deal – I would have opened the bidding on all four hands!

Dealer East	♠A105	
	♥A6	
	♦K10985	
	♣764	
♠-		♠J7642
♥QJ85		♥K94
♦42		♦AQJ6
♣KQJ8532		♣10
	♠KQ983	
	♥10732	
	♦73	
	♣A9	

My opening calls: East 1♠ spade, South 2♦ (showing both majors, weak), West 3♣ and North 1♦

It's Not Safe going Out at Night

Arthur Porter came in last Monday evening, sat North at table one, and as dealer on the first board picked up ♠AQJ10 ♥K74 ♦1043 ♣Q107.

Playing Standard, five card majors, he opened 1♣, pass, pass from partner, double to his right. He passed, as did everybody else, score – 800! The full deal

	♠AQJ10	
	♥K74	
	♦1043	
	♣Q107	
♠K32		♠876
♥AJ1063		♥9
♦AK96		♦Q82
♣K		♣A98632
	♠954	
	♥Q852	
	♦J75	
	♣J54	

Elsewhere East-West pairs played in club part-scores, or went down in 3NT. The sole Acoll pair holding the North-South cards escaped sanction when, in response to partner's 1NT opening, South responded 2♣, Stayman, and stayed silent thereafter.