



# Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre



## Newsletter April 2026

### Friday Mayhem

#### *First Hand*

West	East
♠K8432	♠AQ10
♥A8653	♥7
♦-	♦AKQ108765
♣1032	♣7

Darrell Mitton self-propelled to 5♦, doubled and redoubled, for a magnificent, and probably undeserved, dummy. 13 tricks, +1200

#### *Second Hand*

♠Q3	♠AKJ8
♥Q6	♥A
♦QJ85	♦AK94
♣AK854	♣J962

Dummy had only just come down when I called the change, and I saw that, of all people, Clive Hardwick was declarer in 7NT. It took some time as our Clive carefully played out his side suits before playing the clubs. As luck would have it then divided evenly, so +1520 to the boy.

#### *Third hand*

Won't show you this hand 'however Dennis Miles opened a weak 2♦, partner Fernanda thought she had gallantly rescued him by bidding 2NT, 3NT by Dennis, down seven!

### Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre Prepayment Scheme

We have our own prepayment scheme, allowing members to pay their table fees in advance.

Players then get an email each time they play advising them of their balance, while containing a link to an internet schedule of all their deposits and deductions.

Payments can be made either to the Director on duty, or else online into the following Bridge in the City bank account. BSB **805-050**, account number **102-790-715**.

Finally, when making an online deposit, please make sure that you give your name.

## How Many Down?

From the 2026 Women's Trials, an unnamed pair sitting East-West on the following deal ventured the contract of 3NT

	♠43	
	♥KQ9842	
	♦102	
	♣KJ8	
♠J		♠Q98752
♥A753		♥J10
♦K7653		♦AJ9
♣A104		♣Q3
	♠AK106	
	♥6	
	♦Q84	
	♣97652	

North led the ♥King, ducked and enjoying the site of dummy's J10 doubleton continued the suit, taken by declarer's Ace.

Next the ♦King, followed by a diamond to dummy, finessing, losing to South's Queen. South played the ♠King, declarer's ♠Jack explaining the suit, then continued with a club. Declarer suddenly realised her problem. It seemed highly likely on the auction and play that North had the ♣King, however if she played her Ace the diamond suit was blocked, So, she played low, North took her club trick, then four heart tricks, spade to partner, three more tricks, down seven!

## Monthly Place-Getters

### FRIDAY MARCH PAIRS

- 1 Mary Drikas & Phil Thomas
- 2 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 3 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward

### FRIDAY PINK MARCH PAIRS

- 1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed
- 2 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck
- 3 Nikki Mortier & Heather Sloan

### Monday March Pairs

- 1 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 2 Earlene Aufderheide and Maja Reed
- 3 Glenda & John Marshall



## A Ruling

West dealer	♠1054		
East-West vul.	♥542		
	♦AQ872		
	♣KQ		
♠Q2		♠AJ86	
♥QJ986		♥AK1073	
♦965		♦K104	
♣1084		♣3	
	♠K973		
	♥-		
	♦J3		
	♣AJ97652		

### Auction

W	N	E	S
P	P	1♥	3♣
4♥	P	P	?

North hesitated for quite some time before passing, potentially influencing partner's future actions. South bid 5♣ and East-West called the director. I asked that the auction continue, 5♣ was doubled, and the contract made.

I ruled that South's call was inadmissible since, after partner's hesitation, such a call would be made by virtually at the player's peers.

The final contract was therefore amended to 4♥ by East, making – it takes an early diamond switch to beat the contract, which probably won't be found.

held to eight, for a bottom board. My advice wasn't sought for some time after that.

## Ruling the Game – Revokes

First, a revoke can be corrected before either member of the offending partnership has played to the next trick. If it is identified in time then it should be corrected, the misplayed card staying on the table as a penalty card (except if the offender is declarer). A revoke at trick 12 is always corrected without penalty.

The penalties:

If the offender wins that trick, and the partnership wins a subsequent trick, then there is a two trick deduction, always provided that the damage doesn't exceed that number.

If the offender wins that trick, and the partnership doesn't win any further, there is just a single trick deduction.

If the offender doesn't win the revoke trick then the penalty is one subsequent trick, always provided that there is no greater damage.

So, you may not always gain when your opponent revokes, however it should never cost you.

If a player has a penalty card then, if following in that suit, leading, or discarding, it needs to be played at the first available opportunity. If the offender's partner gains the lead while the penalty card is still being displayed then declarer can:

1. Ask that the suit be led, the penalty card is picked up.
2. Ask that the suit not be led, again the penalty card is picked up.
3. No direction as to partner's lead, the penalty card stays on the table.

The penalty card requirements don't apply to declarer, since dummy can hardly take advantage of the knowledge that partner has that card.

## Some Hands are Just Too Difficult

I direct Monday nights at Unley and, on occasion help out with the Supervised group.

South called for help on the following hand after North's 1♠ opening.

	♠AQJ964	
	♥32	
	♦-	
	♣KJ974	
♠K1083		♠752
♥AKQ1075		♥J94
♦J9		♦1054
♣Q		♣A862
	♠-	
	♥86	
	♦AKQ87632	
	♣1053	

I told her that with a solid eight card suit opposite partner's one level opening she should respond 2♦, then next round rebid 5♦.

How wrong was I! Declarer got nine tricks, could have been held to eight, for a bottom board. My advice wasn't sought for some time after that.

## 2026 Seniors' Trials, Final Round

Five pairs were in contention, with no pair a certainty, coming into the final round of the 2026 Seniors' Trials. Players looking for a quiet, easy session were soon disappointed.

You are dealer, vulnerable against not, what is your opening bid with this hand?

♠8  
♥-  
♦AQJ985432  
♣1086

My partner opened 5♦, doubled, passed out, the other three hands:

♠AKQ52	♠9743
♥Q10874	♥AK65
♦-	♦K
♣972	♣AKJ5

♠J106  
♥J932  
♦1076  
♣Q43

He lost a spade and two clubs for -200, opponents make slam in both majors.

What would you have done with the West cards on this auction? I'd be tempted to bid 6♦ myself, asking partner to choose a major, but it could be horribly wrong.

Next a play problem. Your contract is 4♠ by South, on the lead of the ♥Jack.

♠1053  
♥AK5  
♦KQ87  
♣A87  
  
♠Q8642  
♥Q7  
♦5  
♣KQJ93

3NT would have been a better contract, but 4♠ it is. You win the ♥Queen in hand, then dummy's ♥Ace and ♥King, discarding a diamond.

Next a low spade from dummy, low from East, low from you, Ace from West. Diamond continued, dummy's King, Ace, ruff.

You cross to dummy and lead the ♠10, ♠Jack from East, your play?

You should play the Queen, since either way you are going to lose a maximum of three spade tricks, ensuring your contract. The full deal:

	♠1053	
	♥AK5	
	♦KQ87	
	♣A87	
♠A		♠KJ97
♥J10863		♥942
♦J962		♦A1043
♣1064		♣52
	♠Q8642	
	♥Q7	
	♦5	
	♣KQJ93	

East the dealer opens 1♣. South, vulnerable against not, what's your call holding:

♠2  
♥KQJ6  
♦QJ54  
♣AK85

I'm not one for passing, couldn't double with a spade singleton, toyed with overcalling 1NT, finally settled for 1♥. It's not perfect, but that was my choice.

Partner raised to 3♣, showing four card support, 4♥ from me, 4♠ by West, doubled.

	♠KQ3	
	♥A10843	
	♦872	
	♣Q4	
♠J98764		♠A105
♥52		♥97
♦963		♦AK10
♣J3		♣109762
	♠2	
	♥KQJ6	
	♦QJ54	
	♣AK85	

The defence was clinical. ♥Ace, ♥Queen, then ♦Queen, won in dummy. Club lead taken by south's King, low club to North's Queen, diamond lead won in dummy.

Club from dummy, South's Ace, ruffed and over-ruffed. Diamond to South's Jack, fourth club through, -800.

## A Glimmer of Hope

After West's weak 1NT opening you have shown both red suits (five+ cards each) before reaching the final contract of 4♥.

West open leads a low spade, and dummy comes down with:

♠AJ82

♥J8

♦Q965

♣KJ10

♠K6

♥1065432

♦AJ1073

♣-

Not looking good, unless the diamond finesse works, and that's unlikely. You win the ♠Jack in dummy and lead the ♥Jack from the table (hoping defenders clash their honours), low from East, low, won by West's Queen.

West thinks for a while, then exits the ♦2, ♦Queen from dummy, trick holds. Can you see a way to make this contract? It needs some chicanery on your part, but worth a try.

Small diamond from dummy, ruffed by East (trumping what would have been partner's trick), ♣Ace led and trumped by declarer, low trump, ♥Ace and ♥King fall together, contract! The full deal.

♠AJ82

♥J8

♦Q965

♣KJ10

♠Q953

♥KQ

♦K42

♣Q876

♠1074

♥A97

♦8

♣A95432

♠K6

♥1065432

♦AJ1073

♣-

**NEXT POST SESSION BARBECUE**

**FRIDAY APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

## The Wonderful World of Squeezes

When we were students learning the game at University we all fell in love with Squeeze plays – we looked for them all the time and would get quite cross in club games if an opponent discarded needlessly too soon for our planned Squeeze to take effect. I hope that this article helps you to also enjoy them, we'll start with some examples.

	♠A2	
	♥2	
	♦-	
	♣-	
♠KQ		♠J
♥Q		♥-
♦-		♦108
♣-		♣-
	♠3	
	♥-	
	♦9	
	♣Q	

South leads the ♣Queen, and West has to find a discard. If a heart is discarded then dummy discards the ♠2, if a spade is discarded the ♥2 goes, either way dummy wins the last two tricks. Note that this only works against West, if the East and West hands are swapped then dummy must discard first. Next:

	♠A2	
	♥2	
	♦9	
	♣-	
♠J		♠KQ
♥-		♥Q
♦108		♦-,
♣-		♣-
	♠3	
	♥2	
	♦-	
	♣Q	

This time the squeeze works on both defenders. The lead of the ♣Queen, dummy discarding a diamond embarrasses East, either discard giving a trick to declarer. The difference is that your threat cards are in different hands.

To achieve this situation, you need to follow certain guidelines.

- You need to have all but one of the remaining tricks.
- You have two cards that are threats to the opponents.
- One can be in either hand, the other in dummy, headed by a winner, to which there is an entry from the other hand.

Your first step is to correct the count, so that you have all but one of the remaining tricks.

Contract 5♠, after West has pre-empted in hearts.

♠ Kxxx

♥ xxx

♦ Ax2

♣ Kxx

♠ AQJ10x

♥ Axx

♦ Kx

♣ Ax2

A heart is led, East discarding, you win, draw trumps, West following for three rounds.

To correct the count by exiting a heart, West taking two tricks then leading a diamond.

♠ x

♥ -

♦ A2

♣ Kxx

♠ J10

♥ -

♦ x

♣ Ax2

East has known length in both minors, so you take your ♣ King, ♣ Ace, then ♠ Jack, leaving

♠ -

♥ -

♦ A2

♣ x

♠ 10

♥ -

♦ x

♣ 2

You now take your ♠10, discarding a club from dummy, and East gives up – a club discard promotes your ♣2 in hand, a diamond discard means dummy's ♦2 wins the last trick. The layout of the opponents' cards isn't usually as obvious as this example. Instead, you often must determine which layout best suits you and play accordingly.

For example:

Contract 7NT

♠AKJ  
♥Q109  
♦Axxx  
♣Kxx

♠Qx  
♥AKJ10  
♦Kxx  
♣AQxx

You have 36 points between you, however 20 points in the majors for just seven tricks is a disappointment. At first glance it seems that you need the clubs to divide evenly, but there is an extra chance. Can you see it?

If one defender has four cards in both minors then you can make 7NT on a squeeze!

The play is straight forward – take your three spade tricks, three of your hearts tricks, the ♣King, followed by the Ace and the Queen, leaving the following:

♠-  
♥-  
♦Axxx  
♣-  
  
♠-  
♥A  
♦Kx  
♣x

Now, if the clubs broke 3-3, or either defender started with four or more cards in both minors, you will make your contract.

Incidentally, if the two hands had instead been as follows then the squeeze would only work if West had both minors.

♠AK  
♥Q109  
♦Axxx  
♣Kxxx

♠QJ  
♥AKJ10  
♦KQx  
♣AQx

If East had both minors then that player would be discarding after North.

There are other squeezes of course, some being the double squeeze, the trump squeeze, and even the triple squeeze.

My personal favourite is the double squeeze, particularly after a National Championships match against NSW many years ago, when the late Tim Seres was sitting in my seat at the other table, surrounded by onlookers. We heard the polite applause earlier in the session, so when we reached 7NT I guessed this was the hand.

The major suit divided badly, however I eventually made my contract by first squeezing one opponent, then later the other for polite applause from my sole spectator.

In closing, a typical double squeeze end position.

	♠Kx	
	♥-	
	♦-	
	♣J	
♠Qx		♠Jx
♥-		♥-
♦-		♦Q
♣Q		♣-
	♠x	
	♥Q	
	♦J	
	♣-	

South leads the ♥Queen, spade from West, club from North, ?? from East. Its not at all common, however I did make a slam recently on such a holding.

Finally, a triple squeeze, where an opponent is troubled in three different suits, and concedes two tricks as a consequence.

	♠A2	
	♥x	
	♦2	
	♣x	
♠KQ		♠-
♥KQ		♥-
♦Q		♦-
♣-		♣XXXXX
	♠x	
	♥A2	
	♦-	
	♣Ax	

♣Ace played by South.

- West discards ♠Queen. Take dummy's ♠Ace and ♠2, the second squeezing West in the red suits.
- West discards ♥Queen. Take two heart tricks, squeezing West in spades and diamonds.
- West discards ♦Queen. Take dummy's ♠Ace and then ♦2, squeezing West in the majors.