



# Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre



## Newsletter May 2026

### Changed Starting Time

From May 1<sup>st</sup> Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre sessions will be starting at 12:40, players need to be seated by 12.30

Late arrivals will only be included at the Director's discretion

### A Hand from the Riverland

Sitting South, all vulnerable, fourth to speak, your hand is

♠AKQ1092

♥-

♦AJ108653

♣-

That's right, two voids! Looks like a fun hand, a small slam could easily be there for the taking.

Your musings are abruptly disturbed when West opens 1♥, partner, God bless him, bids 5♣, and East after some thought bids 5♥. It's your call, they all say.

What do you bid? Full hand last page.

### Volunteers Needed – Room Set Up Assistance

We are looking for members who may be able to assist with setting up the playing area on Mondays and or Fridays from 11.00am.

If you would be willing to help regularly or be available occasionally on a roster basis, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers will get a free game each time.

Carmel Thompson

### 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.

## Everybody Loves a Cross-Ruff

A recent hand from Glenelg

Dlr: West	♠Q6	
Nil Vul	♥Q10752	
	♦Q109876	
	♣-	
♠K85		♠J10974
♥3		♥J
♦A32		♦KJ54
♣AK10984		♣763
	♠A32	
	♥AK9864	
	♦-	
	♣QJ52	

West opened the bidding with 1♣, 2NT from North showing the lower two other suits, not surprisingly South went to 6♥, doubled by West, ♣Ace led.

Ruffed in dummy, diamond from North, ruffed in hand.

Next ♣Queen, King from West, ruffed in dummy, another diamond ruffed in hand.

♣Jack, discarding a spade from dummy, then ♠Ace, ♠Queen from dummy, spade ruffed.

Third round of diamonds from dummy, ruffed in hand, then another spade ruff in dummy.

The remaining cards:

Dlr: West	♠-	
Nil Vul	♥Q	
	♦Q109	
	♣-	
♠-		♠J10
♥3		♥J
♦-		♦K
♣1098		♣-
	♠-	
	♥AK9	
	♦-	
	♣5	

Diamond from dummy, ruffed with the ♥King, ♣5 from hand, ruffed with the ♥Queen, diamond from dummy, ruffed with the ♥9, ♥Ace wins the 13<sup>th</sup> trick!

P.S. The Hand Analyzer says that you can always make all thirteen tricks. On a spade lead you win with dummy's Queen, on any other lead you ruff four diamonds in hand, trumping high when necessary, so that dummy's fifth and sixth diamonds are your last two tricks.

## Web Mitchell

At the start of each session the Director must determine the best movement for the number of tables at hand. At Clarence Gardens we usually play 27 or 28 boards in a session, and for comparability purposes the number of boards in play shouldn't greatly exceed that number.

This is easy when the section has 7, 8, 9, or 10 tables – four board rounds for the first two, three board rounds for 9 and 10.

For 10.5 or 11 tables we can distribute three boards per table, so that there are 33 boards in play.

For 12.5 or 13 tables the best alternative available is to play two boards per table. It's not popular, however the players will accept such a movement occasionally.

Finally, what should we do with 12 tables? Playing two board rounds will finish too soon, three board rounds means that some pairs will only play 18 boards in common with some others in their direction. The best solution is the Web Mitchell, which works as follows:

- Each set of six tables has their own set of boards.
- Boards move back one table within their section, bearing in mind that there is a relay table next to table six, also next to table 12. So, boards go from table one to the relay and then eventually to table six, in the other half they go from table 7 to the relay, and eventually to table 12.
- East West pairs move up one table each round, across the two sections.

The board starting positions are:

Table	Brd Set	Table	Brd Set	Table	Brd Set	Table	Brd Set
1	1	5	5	7	4	11	8
2	2	6	6	8	5	12	9
3	3	Relay	7->9	9	6	Relay	1->3
4	4			10	7		

In this manner there are just 27 boards in play.

It's an elegant solution to an age-old problem, and I'll be using it much more often in future.

## Counting your Tricks

Dlr: West     ♠Q6  
Nil Vul       ♥Q10752  
                 ♦Q109876  
                 ♣-  
  
                 ♠A32  
                 ♥AK9864  
                 ♦-  
                 ♣QJ52

Let's look again at the hand from the previous article. Before we play to trick one and thereafter we need to have a plan in mind, and for it to be effective we need to count our tricks. If we draw trumps in just one round then we can count six trump tricks in hand, four trump tricks in dummy, and the ♠Ace. We may get one more if the ♠King is with our left hand opponent, but no more.

The only viable alternative comes from the diamond suit, where careful play and diamonds dividing 4-3 can provide the necessary two tricks, as follows:

1. ♥Queen wins in dummy
2. Diamond ruff in hand
3. Club ruff in dummy
4. Diamond ruff in hand
5. Club ruff in dummy.
6. Diamond ruff in hand.
7. Club ruff in dummy
8. Diamond ruff in hand with ♥King
9. Low heart to dummy's 10
10. Diamond trick won in dummy
11. Diamond trick won in dummy
12. Spade to declarer's Ace
13. ♥Ace wins trick 13.

This has been an extreme case, however the logic involved with counting tricks in a suit contract should be used whenever your contract is going to involve trumping a loser or two in dummy.

## Opening Leads Out of Turn

Tournament Directors, certainly including myself, get annoyed whenever there is an opening lead. We can tolerate the occasional revoke or insufficient call, but revokes NO! The problem is that the director then must give declarer a choice of the following FIVE alternatives.

1. Play the hand on that lead
2. Insist the partner play the hand on that lead, declarer's hand now being dummy.
3. Declarer to ask left hand opponent (LHO) to lead that suit – the lead out of turn is picked up.
4. Declarer to insist that left hand opponent not lead that suit. Again the lead out of turn is picked up, LHO can't lead that suit while they retain the lead.
5. LHO to lead any card they choose, incorrect lead to stay on the table as a penalty card until played

The legislators were mindful of Directors when they came up with the above five alternatives in that the protocol is now as follows:

- Player on lead leads face down. If it's not that player's lead then the card is withdrawn.
- Partner asks any questions they may have about the auction.
- The card can only be changed if the declaring side had substantially misled the defenders, otherwise the card is turned over, dummy comes down, and play begins.

So, if in future you want to make your director's life a happier one, please place your opening lead **face down**.

## Monthly Placegetters

### GOLDEN BUNNIES 2026

- 1 Peter Dieperink/Rosemary Grund/Robyn Hargreaves/Susan Phillips
- 2 Alice Handley/Wendy Hopkins/John Smith/Owen Teakle
- 3 Adel Abdelhamid/Sharmini Anderson/Anne Harris/Kevin Lange
- 4 Chris Barnwell/Merilyn Paris/Judith Roberts/Helen Rollond
- 5 Julie Boyce/Moira Smith/Graham Stucley/Christine Thomas
- 6 Genevieve Donnelly/Mary Drikas/Terry Healey/Phil Thomas
- 7 Jenny Donoghue/Elizabeth Jones/Helene Maddern/Ceda Nikolic
- 8 Chris Brady/Elizabeth Eccleston/Elaine Kenny/Rosalie Stevens
- 9 Joanne Bakas/Bill Bradshaw/Tassi Georgiadis/Paul Williamson
- 10 Earlene Aufderheide/Trish Brooks/Antonina Hayles/Maja Reed

## FRIDAY APRIL PAIRS

- 1 Peter Dieperink & Robyn Hargreaves
- 2 Susan Phillips & Judith Roberts
- 3 Fernanda Ferreira & Dennis Miles

## FRIDAY PINK APRIL PAIRS

- 1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed
- 2 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck
- 3 Lynne Cotton & Cynthia Hickey

## MONDAY APRIL PAIRS

- 1 Geoff Colmer & Kira Kudinoff
- 2 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 3 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey

## A Hand from the Riverland – the Full Deal.

The hand:

Dlr: West	♠8		
All vul	♥8		
	♦972		
	♣AKQ108632		
♠543		♠J76	
♥AQ643		♥KJ109742	
♦KQ4		♦-	
♣73		♣965	
	♠AKQ1092		
	♥-		
	♦AJ108653		
	♣-		

West opened 1♥, 5♣ by North, 5♥ from East, South to call.

I would bid 5♠ on the South hand, 6♣ from North, and a hopeful 6♦ from me.

On a presumed heart lead 6♠ and 6♦ both fail, 6♣ being the only slam likely to make.

## Reynella Bridge Club Has Moved

Their Tuesday evening sessions, 7.30 to 10.30, are now being held at the RSL Morphett Vale, 8 Robertson Ave Morphett Vale

Phone Denis Tapp on 0458 785 977 for details

## It Just Wasn't Arthur's Day

At the end of the second night of the SABA Butler Pairs Arthur and partner Anne Clarke were leading the field, proudly sitting at table 1 North South, scheduled to play the top seeds.

This match didn't go at all well, however to their relief their next 14 board match opponents looked much less formidable.

First board, Arthur picked up

♠ -  
♥ AQ1098  
♦ KJ654  
♣ AJ3

Partner opened 1♣, 1♥ from partner, 1♠ overcall, Arthur was soon in 6♥ on the lead of the ♠ Queen. Dummy came down with:

♠ K3  
♥ J72  
♦ AQ9  
♣ Q10976

Hmm, not quite as good as he had hoped for, still the diamonds were nice, the contract just needed one of two finesses.

Arthur ruffed the opening lead, crossed to dummy's ♦ Ace and ran the ♥ Jack, losing to the King.

A second round of spades were led, ruffed, and trumps were drawn. Declarer crossed to dummy's ♦ Queen, ran the ♣ 10, low, low, King on his right, followed up by four spade tricks – down five!

The DMPRO analysis says that you can always make 11 tricks, but not 12. You do this, and so only go one down, by only taking out two rounds of trumps before playing on the clubs. This allows a third round of spades to be ruffed in dummy, back to hand, draw the last trump and claim.

## When the Punishment Didn't fit the Crime

Warren Ward picked up his cards, saw a 12 point hand, 4-3-3-3 shape with a four card heart suit, so opened 1♣ as dealer.

Everybody passed. Surprised, he checked his hand again - he'd missed an Ace, should have opened 1NT.

The opening lead was made and dummy came down with a five card heart suit headed by the King, a singleton club, nothing else – down three, vulnerable, 2♥ making 8 or 9 tricks everywhere else.

