



Clarence Gardens Bridge Centre

Newsletter October 2025



Donations, Please

We now have a Social committee at Clarence Gardens, and their first venture is a Quiz night on Saturday October 25th. They are looking for items that can be given out as prizes, if you can help please contact the convenors Nola Stone or Pamela Bowman

My First RealBridge Tournament

Recently I played in my first ever RealBridge tournament. It's an online event, and differs from BBO in that you can both see and hear the other players at the table. This can be disconcerting, since all you see is their heads, our opponents had all seen better days, and watching them chew, yawn or scratch wasn't a pretty sight. However it does make the game much more secure.

There were several positives. We couldn't bid or play out of turn, nor could we revoke or make an insufficient call. Also, when dummy we could see partner's hand, which was a positive. Compulsory hesitations were also enforced after opposition jump bids. I played with Chris Lorimer while Attilio De Luca partnered George Smolanko, and we were one of the 64 teams playing in the finals of the Grand National Open Teams. Also, there were compulsory hesitations after jump bids, largely overcoming the problem with hesitations.

Chris and I are a social partnership, playing occasionally over many years, so had some early bidding problems before we got our act together. Attilio and George have each won several National events in the past, although not as a partnership.

After a recent run of outs I knew that we were going to do well after the following early deal, where my hand was: ♠K10943 ♥84 ♦3 ♣AQJ76

North	East	Me	West
1♦	P	1♠	2♥
P	P	?	

QUIZ NIGHT SaTuRday eveNING october 25th

At the Cl arenCe Gardens Bowl inG Cl uB

Entry fEE \$10 pEr hEad,

nominations to pam bowman or nol a stone

Partner's pass denied three spades (we play support doubles) so without much enthusiasm I bid 3♣, 3♦ (of course) from partner, 4♣ from me, 4♠ by partner, all pass. The full deal

Dealer Nth	♠AJ	
	♥9653	
	♦AK1098	
	♣94	
♠652		♠Q87
♥AKQJ2		♥107
♦J62		♦Q754
♣K3		♣10852
	♠K10943	
	♥84	
	♦3	
	♣AQJ76	

West played the Ace and King of hearts, followed by a third heart, East discarding a diamond. I crossed to dummy's ♦A, cashed the ♦K, then took the losing club finesse. West won, and returned a fourth heart, another diamond discard from East, ruffed by me. The layout now was:

	♠AJ	
	♥-	
	♦1098	
	♣-	
♠652		♠Q87
♥2		♥-
♦J		♦-
♣-		♣108
	♠K109	
	♥-	
	♦-	
	♣J7	

Suddenly my contract had a chance. I led the ♣J from hand, ruffed by West and over-ruffed in dummy. Next a diamond from dummy, East discarded a club, ruffed in hand. Now my last club, ruffed with dummy's Ace of trumps, East under-ruffing, then a diamond from dummy, ruffed by East, held my breath as I over-ruffed with the ♠10, it held, contract!

Each match was played in two 12 board halves, swapping opponents at the halfway mark. On the following hand I sat West, partner the dealer, and the auction went

E	S	W	N
2♠*	3♥	P	3NT
P	4♥	All pass	

*five+ spades and a four+ card minor, weak

My hand was ♠Q54 ♥K943 ♦92 ♣Q532. Normally I would lead a low spade, however dummy had shown a spade stopper, so instead led my Queen, King, Ace, Jack. Spade return ruffed by declarer who crossed to dummy's ♦K to take the heart finesse.

Dealer East	♠K63	
	♥72	
	♦KQ65	
	♣AKJ8	
♠Q54		♠A109752
♥K943		♥J
♦92		♦108743
♣Q532		♣6
	♠J	
	♥AQ10865	
	♦AJ	
	♣10874	

I won the ♥K, noting that partner's ♥J meant that my ♥9 was now a trick and led a third spade, trumped by declarer. Next declarer cashed her ♦A, then crossed to dummy's ♣A, and played the ♦Q. I refused to ruff dummy's club King, and the last two tricks were now mine. That ♠Q lead had made all the difference!

I didn't shine on the following board after partners 1NT opening, 2♥ by South showing hearts and another, and the opponents eventually settled in 5♣, doubled.

I should have led a trump, but didn't. Instead I led my ♦K, which held, and still didn't switch to a trump. Declarer crossruffed, winning ten trump tricks and the spade Ace, for the contract.

2025 Christmas Lunch

Warradale hotel

12:00 for 12:30, December 7th

Prior bookings to Stuart Tuck

Pay on the day

Dealer East	♠A10972	
	♥-	
	♦J1085	
	♣A942	
♠54		♠KQ863
♥A10984		♥KQ3
♦KQ743		♦A92
♣7		♣J6
	♠J	
	♥J7652	
	♦6	
	♣KQ10853	

In the final round I had to make a defensive decision. As South I had opened 2♠, showing spades and a minor, 3NT by West, all pass. Partner led the ♠J, won by declarer's Queen, next heart to dummy's Queen and my King. Low spade by me to partner's 10, spade back to my Ace.

My spade suit was dead, I had to switch to a minor, but which one? My initial thought was a diamond, but then I thought about the bidding – why had declarer overcalled 3NT, instead of 2NT? I decided that he must have a quick source of tricks, dummy's ♣Q told me it wasn't that suit, so club return, one down.

Dealer Nth	♠J108	
	♥A764	
	♦1065	
	♣K103	
♠KQ43		♠6
♥53		♥QJ1098
♦AKQ72		♦J43
♣A2		♣Q654
	♠A9752	
	♥K2	
	♦98	
	♣J987	

In the final session we knew we were doing well with our opponents, excellent players though they were, not having a good day. It was apparent on the following deal where I was in 4♥ after my weak two opening, opponents silent throughout.

♠A106
♥AQ108
♦Q103
♣1065

♠53
♥J97532
♦7
♣AK93

It would seem to depend on the heart finesse, however West, the editor of Australian Bridge open led a low trump. Reasoning that he couldn't have led low from Kx, or from Kxx, I flew Ace, dropped the King, contract – it was that sort of day.

Masterpoint Promotions

Jackie Watkins	*REGIONAL
Veronica McCaffrey	REGIONAL
Fiona Butler	REGIONAL
Christine Niemann	REGIONAL
Janice Paltridge	*NATIONAL

Recent Place-getters

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Fernanda Ferreira & Dennis Miles
- 2 Susan Phillips & Judith Roberts
- 3 Carmel & Norman Thompson

FRIDAY PINK SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed
- 2 Frances Berry & June Kleeman
- 3 Trevor Parr & Sue Riddle

MONDAY SEPTEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 2 Jackie & Warren Ward
- 3 Cynthia Brinkman & Graham Stucley

Don't Forget the 1NT Rebid

To my mind the best bid in Standard is the 1NT rebid. It tells partner that you have a limited hand without support for their suit. Further, it doesn't promise a balanced hand, in fact can have a shortage in partner's suit.

It's just so much better than bidding a new minor at the two level, which I only use if I have extra values, or extra length.

It makes bidding so much easier!

Clarence Gardens Congress Results

This year we had 15 tables competing, with a qualifying in the morning, and a five table Howell final, with a ten-table consolation, in the afternoon.

Final

- 1 Chris Brady & Elizabeth Eccleston
- 2 Petter Carlmark & Bill Jensen
- 3 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward

Consolation

- 1st NS Susan Phillips & Judith Roberts
2nd NS Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
1st EW Antonina Hayles & Brenda Parker
2nd EW Sally Fraser & Helen Gray
(Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed got into the Final!)

Several players came to grief on the following hand, ignoring the adage that you should bid like an optimist, and play like a pessimist.

♠Q102
♥105
♦AQ10754
♣82

♠AK8
♥K64
♦K98
♣AQ93

Your contract is 3NT from South after West has bid hearts, then open led the ♥A, followed by the ♥Q. How would you play this hand?

All that can possibly go wrong is for the diamond suit to misbehave. Entries aren't a problem so your initial play should be a diamond to dummy's Ace. Then, if either opponent shows out you can finesse their partner.

In practice West discards a club so you should finesse East's ♦J, then ♦K, cross to dummy's ♠Q, eleven tricks.

Slam Bidding

I cannot recall a single occasion when, after partner's opening suit call, I have immediately called for Aces.

If I have a big hand with slam possibilities and partner has opened then I like to know partner's distribution, and if partner has extra values, before I introduce an Ace ask.

Further, if I have a self-sufficient suit, it's more than just being polite to tell partner what it is!