

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: N *Vul:* N/S

NORTH	
♠	QJ108753
♥	AQ
♦	K9
♣	A10
WEST	EAST
♠ 96	♠ 2
♥ 954	♥ J107632
♦ Q643	♦ 52
♣ KQ32	♣ 9754
SOUTH	
♠	AK4
♥	K8
♦	AJ1087
♣	J86

Congratulations to Pat Kelly and John Navkervis for winning the Handicap Pairs Championship. Pat has also reached the status of Bronze National Master and is joined in the promotions list by Valerie Prentice, who is now a Club Master.

There are two lessons from Board 5 from last Monday: how to bid a slam and how to make all thirteen tricks without taking a finesse. After North opens 1C, South could bid 2D, showing ten high card points and giving North the chance to jump the bidding to 3S. From there it should be easy to reach at least 6S or 6NT. With all the Aces and three of the Kings, John and Pat chose to play in 6NT rather than spades.

John (South) received the lead of the King of clubs, which John won in dummy with the Ace. The winning line from here is to cash the two heart winners and the King of diamonds. Now seven spades winners follow, forcing West to find several discards. When North's last spade is played, North still has the nine of diamonds and the ten of clubs. South has a superfluous club and the Ace and ten of diamonds. South has two Queens and either a low diamond or a low club. South can discard the club, leaving West to choose a discard. If the discard is a diamond. Then the nine of diamonds goes to the Ace, dropping the Queen and promoting the Jack for the thirteenth trick. Discarding the Queen of clubs promotes North ten of clubs, with the Ace of diamonds waiting to win the last trick. A curious twist to the results is that the declarers who stopped short of slam won thirteen tricks, but those who bid 6S or 6NT won only 12 tricks.

Results

Monday, 27/07/26 (4½-table Howell Handicap Pairs Rd 2): W. Milne J. Sipple (57.3) 1; P. Kelly J. Nankervis (56.0) 2; P. Campbell T. Hinde (55.9) 3. Overall: J. Nankervis P. Kelly 1; A. Macdonald B. Reid 2; L. Don C. Duggan 3.

Friday, 31/07/26 (4-table Howell): N. Bonnell D. Hambly (68.2) 1; T. Hinde V. Prentice (64.3) 2; N. Collins P. Kelly (59.1) 3.