

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

## SEMINAR FOR DIRECTORS

A Weekend of Seminars and Workshops for Directors has been scheduled for Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July.

Participants will be welcome, with preference given to current ABDA (Australian Bridge Directors Association) members.

The sessions will be of enormous value to directors at all levels and will feature presentations by several Elite National and International Tournament Directors.

Each day will comprise of formal presentations followed by workshop discussions with abundant opportunities for questions and discussions.

The seminar will take place at the VBA in Poath Road.

The cost will be \$55 for both days and covers lunch, tea and coffee each day.

A subsidy is available for those travelling more than 100km one way.

In the first instance please request more information from [abda@abf.com.au](mailto:abda@abf.com.au) quoting ABF number and "Seminar".

## KEEP BRIDGE ALIVE

*If you Keep Bridge Alive, it will do the same for you.*



The University of Stirling in Scotland has launched the global 'Keep Bridge Alive' [Crowdfunder](#) campaign (running until 31 March) to communicate messages about the benefits of bridge beyond the bridge world. The key goals of this project are to transform the image of bridge, to increase participation

and enhance the sustainability of the mind sport.

*'Razor-sharp thinking. Intriguing psychology. Social powerhouse. Complete digital detox. Just 52 cards.'* – Sabine Auken, Bridge Player for Germany

Today, fewer people are playing bridge and there is a fear within the bridge community that the game will struggle if we don't recruit a new generation of players. Players know that bridge, as a mind sport, encourages immersion whilst promoting focus and clear thinking, enabling skill development and intergenerational community building. Part of the Keep Bridge Alive campaign led by Samantha Punch (sociologist and bridge player for Scotland) is to establish the new Sociology of Bridge to explore the benefits and interactions within the mind sport.

Please consider joining us in donating to Keep Bridge Alive. Donate via (note that online you pay in pounds Sterling, but your credit card will be charged in your national currency, – for example £10 is 18 Australian dollars – many thanks!) Thanks to David Burn for the KBA strapline!

KBA Links: [Facebook](#), [Sociology of Bridge](#)

Twitter: [soc\\_of\\_bridge](#)

## GOLD COAST CONGRESS

James Coutts and Ellena Moskovsky were in the team that won the teams at the [Gold Coast Congress](#).

Neil Ewart was on the Seniors team which retained the title they won the year before.

Chris Fernando won the Intermediate Butler Swiss Pairs

**EDITORIAL**  
**DEE HARLEY**

How quickly passes a month! I barely finished the previous issue and found myself with more copy to produce! All you budding journalists out there are welcome to send me your interesting hands.

Thanks to all those who gave feedback on my first edition as editor of the Bulletin. I would like to share one recent email conversation:

*On Page 7 of February edition was a two liner fill in about "a stiff granny".*

*I asked several of our more experienced players what it meant and none of them had the faintest idea!!!*

*Could you explain to me (and our other club members) what it means?*

In case anyone else is similarly in the dark – my reply was:

*A granny is a slang term for a grand slam.*

*A stiff contract is slang for one which can and should be made.*

*To throw a stiff contract on the floor is slang for not making (or going down) in a contract which should make.*

One other conversation I had with James Coutts, because I omitted him from the National Event updates. James came in runner up in the [National Open Teams](#) and was in the winning team in the [South West Pacific Teams](#). He kept up his good run of form by being in the winning team at the [Gold Coast](#) along with Ellena Moskovsky.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [dee\\_harley@hotmail.com](mailto:dee_harley@hotmail.com) or if you see me in person. (Anna and I have had a few "Secret Shopper invitations", but we would welcome the opportunity to be playing bridge in new places – keep inviting us please).

if you have any questions or comments or especially any articles you can provide or would like to see then please [email](#) them to me. It is after all YOUR bulletin.

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

<b>Silver Life</b>	
Ken Tierney	Traralgon
Kay Smith	Ovens and Murray
<b>Bronze Life</b>	
Kerry Haywood	Bairnsdale
Jillian Lawrence	VBA
<b>**National</b>	
Ron Huntley	Mornington
<b>*National</b>	
Peter Burt	Bendigo
Peter Lardy	Mornington
Mabel Moir	Yarra Valley
<b>National</b>	
Ismail Gulec	Northern
Phillip Goode	Bairnsdale
<b>*State</b>	
Maryanne Bird	Kings and Queens
Patrick Morgan	Frankston
Sally Foster	Melbourne BC
Huntley Burton	Kings and Queens
Bei Tang	Yarra Valley
Mary Colling	Mornington
Steve Colling	Mornington
<b>State</b>	
Catherine Harris	Kings and Queens
Alan Race	Yarra Valley
Michael Sullivan	VBA
John Lawton	Dendy Park
Nick Nadebaum	Bairnsdale
Jenny Ranson	Bendigo

**SUIT COMBINATION**

From the bridge encyclopedia: In this suit you need 4 tricks. How should you play it?

You have ample entries to each hand.

You: A9542    Dummy: Q103

Would your answer be different if dummy held Q108 (instead of Q103)?

[Solution](#) on P6.

**BIDDING: WALSH  
DEE HARLEY**

I play a 5-card major system, which is very common in Victoria. I could be dead wrong, but I feel there is not a widespread understanding of Walsh. What follows is what my own interpretation of what [Walsh](#) is, and why we use it.

The principle is based on the premise that if you open 1♣ with a flat 12 count (say ♠Kxxx ♥Q10x ♦Axx ♣Kxx) and your partner bids 1♦ or 1♥, then (in Standard system) you bypass the 4-card major and rebid 1NT to show a flat hand (12-14). Bidding 1♠ would have shown a shapely hand (at least 5 clubs and 4 spades). Over the 1NT rebid, if partner has invitational values, they can locate the major by enquiry.

Now imagine your partner opens 1♣ (which can be shortish, say 2 or 3 cards. You hold ♠Jxxx ♥x ♦K10xxx ♣Qxx. (my normal strength of hand!). You are likely to only make one bid on this hand and you will pass partner's response as soon as you can (or sign off as quickly as possible if they force you), so the goal is to locate your major fit if you have one. Ideally you can play this hand in two spades with a 4-4 Spade fit. Even though your longest and best suit is diamonds, you should bid 1♠. Partner will now define his hand, and you may seek the best contract within the limitations of your system. The danger in responding 1♦ is that partner bids 1NT and you will not find your spade fit as you are not going to be bidding again. Another danger is that by bidding 1♦ you make it easy for the opponents to find a possible Heart fit. There are many hands where the hand after you will bid 1♥ but would not be able or willing to bid 2♥ should you have responded 1♠.

Next, imagine you partner opens 1♣ and this time your hand is ♠AQxx ♥A ♦KQJ10x ♣Qxx. Now there is no doubt that you will be playing in at least a game contract and more likely a slam. Now you expect to have more bids to describe your hand, you must show your shape first. Bid 1♦. later you will bid spades and partner will know you have longer diamonds and 4 or more spades and a game forcing hand, so the picture of your

hand will be painted. Meanwhile your partner will make rebids to define their hand. Good things should happen!

The (Walsh) principle we adopt is that if the hand is worth only one bid – bid your major, but if you intend to bid again after your partner's rebid, then you show your shape.

Allied to the Walsh concept (but not part of it), includes your response to a 1♥ Opening bid. If you hold ♠AQxx ♥x ♦K10xxx ♣Jxx. You would bid 1♠ because your hand is limited, so that if your partner shows a minimum hand by bidding 2♥ then you will pass. If partner responds 2♠ you may invite game (if you feel lucky!).

However, with a game forcing hand such as ♠AQxx ♥A ♦KQJ10x ♣Qxx you would happily respond 2♦ to the 1♥ opener and bid your spades later in the auction. With a game-forcing hand such as this you wish to bid your longest suit first and paint the correct picture of your hand for your partner's delectation.

**MINI #2**

Lead: South

♠ -
♥ A854
♦ A
♣ -

♠ AQ5	N	♠ 987
♥ K3	W      E	♥ Q2
♦ -	S	♦ -
♣ -		♣ -

♠ K2
♥ 76
♦ 2
♣ -

South is on lead in a no-trump contract. How does South make 3 out of the last 5 tricks against best defence?

(Check you got the full [solution](#) on P5)

## CONGRESS RESULTS

### Yarra Valley Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Read – J. Mill
- 2 T. Legge, C. Arul
- 3 G. Johnson, K. French

### Yarra Valley Swiss Teams

- 1 N. Ewart, S. Henbest, M. Henbest, S. Hinge
- 2 G. Johnson, K. French, S. Groves, A. Lowe
- 3 C. Ding, M. Zhang, V. Zhang, G. Ghali

### Dendy Park Swiss Pairs (Feb 10)

- 1 P. Fent – D. Harley
- 2 D. Sharp – S. Sharp
- 3 M. Zhang – V. Zhang

### ERBA Swiss Pairs (Feb 09)

- 1 K Taylor – M Taylor
- 2 G. Campbell – S. Varga
- 3 T. Brown – D Lawrence

### ERBA Swiss Teams (Feb 10)

- 1 J Quayle, M Shub, A Johnston, J Sutton
- 2 C Van Lier, J Anderson, G Campbell, S Varga
- 3 J Kuiper, A Drury, R Moss, D Anglim

## UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

### North Region Congress

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 11 am: NRBA Pairs  
Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10 am: NRBA Teams

Venue Shepparton Bridge Club  
U3A Esson St. Shepparton

Contact: Derek Poulton  
[northernregionba@gmail.com](mailto:northernregionba@gmail.com)

### Tricks and Trumps Congress

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 10 am: Matchpoint Pairs  
Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Waverley Bridge Club  
21a Electra Ave Ashwood

Contact: Leigh Gold, 0400081710  
Email: [leigh.gold@bigpond.com](mailto:leigh.gold@bigpond.com)

### Rye Beach Congress

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Rye Beach Pairs  
Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Rye Beach Teams

Venue Rosebud Memorial Hall  
994 Point Nepean Road,  
Rosebud

Contact: Brian Morgan, 0439 845753  
Email: [brimorg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:brimorg@bigpond.net.au)

### Berwick Swiss Pairs

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Berwick Swiss Pairs

Venue Berwick Church of Christ  
432-446 Centre Road, Berwick

Contact: Bob Westrip, 0419 340 445  
Email: [guyshillbob.1@bigpond.com](mailto:guyshillbob.1@bigpond.com)

### Theodor Herzel Swiss Pairs

Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue 222 Balaclava Road, Caulfield North

Contact: Babi Ehrlich, 0417 593101

### Ballarat 2019 Festival of Bridge

Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10 am: Patti Neerhut Pairs  
Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1:30 pm: Matchpoint Pairs  
Fri. 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10 am: Butler Pairs:  
Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April, 10am: Farewell Matchpoint Pairs

Venue Ballarat Bridge Club  
1001 Eyre St, Ballarat

Contact: Richard Giles  
Email: [r.giles@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:r.giles@aussiebb.com.au)

### Frankston Congress

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Pairs  
Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Teams  
Venue: St Francis Xavier Function Room  
Cnr Baxter & Davey Street,  
Frankston

Contact: Yvonne Minton, 9787 1208  
Email: [mintonym1@bigpond.com](mailto:mintonym1@bigpond.com)

To enter any of the above visit  
[BridgeUnlimited.com](http://BridgeUnlimited.com).

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣  
**DRAWING TRUMPS IS NOT EASY**

In teams, the key is to ensure making the contract, even against bad breaks, and not to chase overtricks. In today's hand, after a simple auction to 4S, West led the queen of clubs. The club lead was ducked, and West played a second club which was taken by the ace. Declarer planned to take 5 spades, 4 diamonds and two aces to get 10 or 11 tricks. The plan was to draw two trumps and then force out the ace of diamonds and use the third round of trumps as the entry to the long diamonds. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king and discovered the 4-1 break. He then played on diamonds, but West held up his ace until the third round and then exited with a trump to dummy's ten. The long diamonds were now useless as dummy had no more entries and West was poised to ruff the next diamond. Declarer desperately tried a heart to the ten but could not avoid losing four tricks.

Dlr: South      ♠ K103  
 Vul: All        ♥ J32  
                   ♦ QJ1083  
                   ♣ 93

♠ 8765 ♥ K84 ♦ A72 ♣ QJ10	N W        E S	♠ 4 ♥ Q975 ♦ 65 ♣ K87642
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♠ AQJ92  
 ♥ A106  
 ♦ K94  
 ♣ A5

Lead: K♣

	W	N	E	S
				1 ♠
	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
	All Pass			

At the other table, the declarer made a better plan to take care of a possible 4-1 trump split. The first two tricks were the same, but this declarer cashed only the ace of trumps and then played on diamonds. Like his counterpart, West held up the diamond ace until the third round and then exited with a trump, to dummy's ten. Declarer now played

a good diamond and threw one of his heart losers. West ruffed and exited with a heart. Declarer took East's queen with the ace, crossed to the king of spades, drawing West's last trump, and cashed the fifth diamond, throwing his second small heart, to make the contract. Drawing precisely one round of trumps is a thematic approach to dealing with a possible 4-1 break. If the defence gets a ruff, there are two possible situations: the trumps were always 3-2 and can be drawn now or the trumps originally were 4-1 and the person who had 4 has followed once and ruffed and is now down to two trumps

**Solution to Mini #1(page 3)**

Lead a heart from hand. If West plays small, then dummy wins the ace and you play another heart. West performs wins and does best now to cash his ♠A or he will never get it. If at trick one West plays the ♥K you play small from dummy. Now West can cash his ♠A if he likes or he can exit with his small Heart, either way, the Heart suit is now set up in dummy for the remainder of the tricks.

**THE COUP**

Last night in the club my partner claimed he had made a "soporific coup". I knew instantly what he meant, he played so slowly that the opponents fell asleep in defence. I was sure I remember reading the definition of this coup somewhere, however when I searched online I could not find any reference to it. There are plenty of coups to be found (some more legal than others), I was thinking maybe I will list them along with their definitions. [Someone](#) has beaten me to it! It turns out that my partner had the right idea, but the wrong nomenclature. I think he should have claimed a [Sominex](#) coup.

**KITTY IN ACTION**

Hand rotated for convenience.

This hand arose in the Mixed Team finals held in [Sydney](#) to determine the Australian Mixed Team and was brought to my attention by Jenny Thompson. Kitty Muntz held the South hand and ended in an interesting looking 6♣ contract. There had been no opposition bidding.

Dlr: S           ♠ 104  
 Vul: NS       ♥ AK754  
                  ♦ -  
                  ♣ AKQ986

N
S

♠ AKQ85  
 ♥ J9  
 ♦ Q864  
 ♣ J4

Lead: A♦

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣+
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	6♣	All pass	

+South elected to treat this as a weak NT hand, so opened 1♣. North bid 1♦ showing 4+ Hearts, after the NT rebid, North forced to game, and then just plumped for the small club slam. The lead is the ♦A. Plan the play.

**Possible lines of play**

5-0 club breaks apart, you have no club losers. You can throw one heart on a Spade when you have drawn trumps, which means you have two losing hearts to take care of (that's all!). If spades are 3-3 then you will have 13 tricks but that is not something you would like to bank on for this contract. You could try ruffing a heart, but if hearts aren't 3-3 you may end up promoting a trump trick for the opponents and still losing a long heart trick. What about drawing trumps and then ducking a spade? That will be fine if spades are 4-2 at worst, but 5-1 spades would wreck your chances. Can you guess what Kitty did?

**Kitty's Solution**

♠ 763 ♥ Q2 ♦ AKJ973 ♣ 53	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ 104 ♥ AK754 ♦ - ♣ AKQ986 ♠ J92 ♥ 10863 ♦ 1052 ♣ 1072 ♠ AKQ85 ♥ J9 ♦ Q864 ♣ J4
N					
W      E					
S					

Kitty found an elegant psychological line to make her contract. She ruffed the ♦ lead and immediately led a small heart towards dummy. When East didn't even blink, Kitty played the 9, forcing the Q, and soon wrapped up her slam. She actually lost 3 imps on the board as the other table was playing in 6S which made all 13 tricks when the spades broke 3-3. My understanding is that if Spades broke 4-2 (or worse), then 6♠ is likely to go down, 6♣ is a much safer contract. Especially with Kitty at the helm. Well done Kitty.

**Solution to Suit Combination (page 2)**  
 A9542 (South) opposite Q103(North):  
 Lead low towards the 10; if it loses to the J then run the Queen. If the 10 wins, then play small towards the Queen. With perfect defence this will give you a 62% chance of making 4 tricks, however, if West is sitting with Kx then he may make the mistake of rising with the King when you lead towards dummy. This will give you 4 tricks about 72% of the time.

A9542 opposite Q108  
 Run the Queen. Then run the 10. This play has a 74% shot (any time West has the K or J except when West has all 5 missing cards in which case you have been unlucky.)

8's are valuable cards!

**A COW FLEW BY  
Dee Harley**

Dir: West      ♠ Q964  
 Vul: None    ♥ KQ7  
                  ♦ 95  
                  ♣ AJ74

♠ J732	N W                  E S	♠ A
♥ 952		♥ AJ108643
♦ 108642		♦ AQ7
♣ 9		♣ KQ

♠ K1085  
 ♥ -  
 ♦ KJ3  
 ♣ 1086532

W	N	E	S
Pass	1 ♣	Dbf	1 ♥*
Pass	2 ♦**	3 ♥	4 ♠
Dbf	All Pass	Pass	Pass

\* 1 ♥ shows 4+ spades

\*\* 2 ♦ shows 4 spades 13/14 HCP

Lead: 2 ♥

The final round in the mixed teams playoff... Our team was in contention and this hand happened (rotated for convenience). Yes my 4♠ was a bit of a push but I thought they were probably making 4♥. I didn't expect to make 4♠ when I bid it, but I didn't expect to be doubled either. East had doubled the 1♣ opener, so should be able to cope with a spade bid by partner, yet West made the final ominous double also showing spades. It looks like I want to lead a low spade from dummy to clarify the situation. At this point in my thinking I thought "If East has a singleton ♠A then I will need to unblock the ♠10 so I can pick up the spades". Such prescience! The ♥2 was an interesting lead, if it was from Jxxx was there a possibility that if I played low that East would play the Ace? Either way I have the ruffing finesse later to cover the suit. I called for a low heart and West played the 10. So much for that plan! I ruffed with the ♠5 and played a club towards dummy. The ♣A held up. East followed with the ♣K. I called for the spade from dummy East flew in with the ♠A and that cow flew right by! I played the 8♠.

Now my goose was well and truly cooked. East cashed the Q♣ and played the Ace and another diamond. Winning the ♦K, I cashed the K♠ but the 10♠ blocked the suit, so I couldn't enter dummy to draw the trumps and enjoy my long clubs. Two down when 10 tricks were there for the taking (yes I should have played the K♥ at trick 1 to be sure, but I don't think East's defense would be any different if I had followed with the ♠10 instead of the ♠8).

**THE SECRET SHOPPER GOES INTERSTATE**

February heralds the annual funfest that is the Gold Coast Congress.

A fair number of Aussie bridge heavyweights, occasional foreigners and heaps of also-ran's head for the coast to take part in the biggest domestic bridge hootenanny of the year.

This is a great event; very well organised and slickly managed by a posse of Diligent Directors.

There are numerous choices for every level of competence although the more ambitious lower ranking players often take the, very sensible, opportunity to play in the open and get a game against a top team.

Australians haven't really come to grips with climate change or for that matter climate control and players have the usual dichotomy of walking to the venue in shorts and a t-shirt and having to change into arctic survival gear for the game. However, despite the frigidity of the playing area the welcome is a very warm one and lots of thought is put into everything including the non-playing partners who have a host of activities put on exclusively for them

The primary aim of the attendees varies according to ability. For some the aim is to win, for others to gain experience, some to meet up with old and make new friends. For your Secret Shopper, having suddenly found herself partner less and having teamed up at the last minute with Mr Grumpy, the emphasis lay firmly on the food.

System having been discussed the night before we started with the pairs. We ran into difficulties in match 2 when our opps pointed out to the summoned director that we were playing different systems. Stumbling through we were not surprised to land in final F. Drowning our disappointment with a stiff gin we headed out to dinner at the indifferent Mecca Mah. Despite the place being packed the food was lack-lustre and boring. We all chose various tagines – none of which we gave more than 2 stars and we gave up on the food and concentrated instead on an excellent shiraz.

The next day we were determined to float to the top of our group. Our system card was now a matched mess of scribbling and over-writing, but we felt on firmer footing. Our determination was not equalled by our results and we were stuck firmly at the lower end of the field metronoming between 28<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> place. More gin was called for and a lot more wine at the excellent Yellowfin Restaurant which conveniently also offers a 20% discount to bridge players.

As Mr Grumpy and I were doing so poorly, the morning respite on Monday was very welcome and our finishing spot at the end of the day meant that, in the teams the following morning we wouldn't be scaring anyone. Met up with friends from Geelong at the Indian restaurant, Manihani and had an excellent curry and drowned our embarrassment in a great deal of very good wine.

The teams began on Tuesday and due to our lacklustre pairs effort, we weren't too hopeful, and our seeding was 44<sup>th</sup>. However, we had now picked up on the system wiping the floor with our friends from Geelong, the Lisle and Van de Vlugt teams to throw some names about. At the end of the Tuesday we were feeling very pleased with ourselves.

A birthday dinner for Liz at Gemelli's made everyone happy. The food is okay but expensive and nothing to compare with the excellent Italian restaurants of Melbourne and I gave it 3 out of 5 although the availability of cocktails edged it up a notch.

Winning the first match of day 2 against Beauchamp 54/4 saw us reach first place and truly the event should have ended there but we hit a few snakes and slithered down the rankings until at the end of the event we were one of the also rans with just a photo of our brief spot at the top to assuage our battered egos.

A dinner preceded by lychee cocktails at OSushi made up for a lot of the hurt and the egg plant with miso was so good that it alone would have got the place 5 stars but adding in the delightful manager who was Basil Fawlty-like in his incompetence made the whole meal a delight.

So much so that we returned the following night.

Firstly, we had to play in the Ivy Dahler. Hubby number Three and I had arranged to play in this together and we are a competent twosome as for one thing we have matching system cards. We stumbled a bit and ended the day in 84<sup>th</sup> place.

However, we were going out for the Last Supper with some excellent people and OSushi was just too good not to go back to. Basil was on duty again and we sweet talked him into allowing us to bring our own wine. Three had a bottle he had won in the Oldies and Bob had some delicious Oyster Bay that went very well with the sushi and tempura prawns – wonderful company, excellent food, lovely wine – that for me sums up the Gold Coast Congress.

Everyone trundles their luggage up to the venue on the last day except for the die-hards and top place getters who stay for the dinner dance and we had a final morning of bridge where we shone rising to a respectable third place.

A wonderful congress and a great fun week. You might end up with your ego and liver taking a slight bruising but if you've not been before – go, it is everything bridge is supposed to be.

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