

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

BRIDGE IN MELBOURNE ANDREW MCREADY-BRYAN

Over the last few years, the Gold Coast Congress has been growing and it is now one of the best attended congresses in the world. This year they had 2701 individual players with a total of 8845 session tables.

Recently, Jenny Thompson spoke with Tim Runting, who organises the GCC and asked him about the fantastic numbers which prove that Bridge is alive and well in this country. Tim made a couple of interesting points – all of which we can observe and adapt to our own environment:

- **Word of Mouth:** The numbers at the Gold Coast Congress increase each year partly because of its own success. We have seen this phenomenon time and again where success breeds success. In any endeavour, there is a critical mass beyond which a project begins to run under its own steam. To get there in the first place is the challenge. If you look at numbers who play locally, to get, say, a daytime duplicate session to the stage where it becomes self-sustaining requires a great deal of work. Once there, the word-of-mouth factor keeps it going and grows it.
- **Education and transition are the keys:** Getting new people to play our game and making them feel comfortable when they spread their wings is critical. At the GCC, the introduction of 'Rookie' events was thoughtfully implemented, with a 10-15 minute break mid match, as many would experience playing in their home club duplicate. A few welcoming lollies on the rookie tables was another nice little touch to make new players feel at home. It's all about 'No-Fear'. The pipeline of Rookie/Novice Players to Restricted and then Intermediate players is what increases the numbers each year.

- In keeping with the previous point, there are a number of clubs around the country that run mentoring programs for new players. When a new face turns up at the club, some thought is put into finding that person a 'club-buddy'. This person can be an old hand or a new player themselves, but should be selected from people who are likely to attend the club in the same time slots as the new player. They can provide introductions, geographical help for the new player such as showing them around the Library, alerting them to upcoming events and where to find that information, etc. It's all about making people feel both welcomed and comfortable in their new surroundings.

It wasn't such a long time ago (maybe only 80 years), when it was Melbourne that hosted what was then the largest Bridge tournament in the world. We have recently uncovered a photograph taken in 1934 at the Melbourne Town Hall, which shows a room packed with card players, dressed of course in dinner jackets and gowns, ready to compete (See the photo on the wall near the VBA Library). Smoking was, of course, de-rigueur and one can only imagine the clouds that hung in the main ballroom throughout the event. There is an amusing report in one of the Melbourne papers at the time, written by a non-bridge playing reporter who was sent to cover the event. His first observation was about the smokers and the sheer quantity of cigarettes that were consumed. He observed that if all the cigarettes smoked that day were lined end to end along Collins Street, it would be a terrible waste of cigarettes. He later noted that at the leading tables, a recorder was present to write down the bidding and play of each hand. His interest in this was not about the bridge related activity, but in the fact that the recorder was always a woman, and that she was required to wear an apron. He went on to explain that the attire was, of course, entirely practical – to keep the carbon paper from spreading to unwanted areas.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Victorian Individual

1. B. Pearson
2. S. Hall
3. R. Ellery

Northern Region Teams

1. J. Hackett, T. Hackett,
K. Delcourt, D. Delcourt
2. Z. Roberts, J. Friesen,
M. Prowse, R. Harman
3. G. Wagner, K. Wagner,
M. Goh, B. Minchinton

Rye Beach

Swiss Pairs

1. J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel
2. H. Grosvenor, T. Lloyd
3. K. Frazer, J. Ebery

Swiss Teams

1. H. Grosvenor, T. Lloyd, A. Mill, A. Maluish
2. J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel, D. Nie, C. Ding
3. J. Hill, P. Hill, S. Beckman, L. Young

Berwick Congress

Swiss Pairs

1. M. Darling, S. Read
2. S. Klofa, A. St Clair
3. M. Gurfinkiel, J. Yang

Thomas Herzl Congress

Swiss Pairs

1. P. Corrigan, M. Callander
2. S. Sharp, D. Sharp
3. A. St Clair, D. Harley

Frankston Congress

Swiss Pairs

1. K. French, G. Johnson
2. J. Fogden, P. Lardy
3. T. Legge, L. Yoffa

Swiss Teams

1. B. Geyer, G. Lovrecz, D. Nie, C. Ding
2. N. Ewart, D. Beckett, C. Hughes, D. Harley
3. J. Doyle, A. Branicki, L. Branicki,
J. Atkinson

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Ballarat 2019 Festival of Bridge

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

Venue: Ballarat Bridge Club
 1001 Eyre St, Ballarat

Contact: Richard Giles

Email: r.giles@aussiebb.com.au

Nagambie BC (Bridge in the Garden)

(Event fully booked)

Thurs. 4th April, 9:30 am:

Venue: (Nagambie)

Contact: Michael Goh

Email: mgoh@live.com.au

Phone: 0434 195 570

Whittlesea Bridge Club

Sun. 7th April, 10 am: Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Venue: Whittlesea Community Activity
 Centre 57-61 Laurel Street

Contact: Lyndall Shaw

Email: lyndallhaw@bigpond.com

Phone: 0428 601 111

Gardenvale Bridge Club

Fri. 19th April 01:00 pm: Imp Butler Pairs
 Sat. 20th April 10:00 am: Imp Swiss Pairs
 Sun. 21st April 10:00 am: Matchpoint Swiss
 Mon. 22nd April 10:00 am: Imp Swiss Pairs

Venue: 20 Spink Street, Brighton.

Contact: Jeff Fust

Email: gardenvalebridge@gmail.com

Phone: 9530 6622

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

James Maccready-Bryan Charity

This [charity](#) is holding a red-pointed Swiss Pairs on Saturday April 13th.

The Waverley Bridge Club have been running a day to support the Foundation for 9 years. Here is a link to the event (Waverley's website):

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/waverley/>

TIP OF THE MONTH
Bill Jacobs

On Covering Honours

One of the soundest guidelines for defence is to 'cover an honour with an honour'. For example, in this layout:



If the queen is led from dummy, you should cover it with the king. This will eventually develop a trick for partner's 9. If you fail to cover, declarer can take 4 tricks in the suit.

But what if dummy has two or more honours in a sequence?



If you cover dummy's queen with your king, partner's 10 will be finessed on the way back. But if you duck the queen, and then cover the jack with the king on the second round, partner's 10 will score.

The correct form of the tip is:

"Cover the last of dummy's honours."

Let's see it in another scenario:



Play low on dummy's jack. That way your side can get two tricks. But if you cover the first honour, declarer can lead back towards dummy's 10x, and you score only one trick.

More difficult scenarios occur when declarer leads an honour *from his hand* and you are next to play. It's often very unclear what the situation is, and how you should play.

Let's look at the above examples, but with the hands rotated so that declarer is leading from his hidden hand.



Declarer leads the queen from hand. Clearly you should cover, hoping to promote a winner for partner.

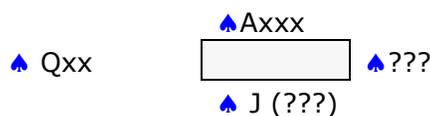
But:



This is the same as the second example on the left. With the hand rotated, it was clear to play low, and so you should here also. Of course if the layout is:

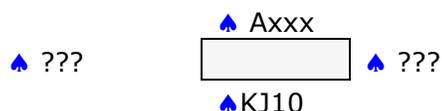


then you have just let declarer take a trick he has no right to! This is called a Chinese Finesse (a somewhat racist name). Nevertheless, it's an unlikely scenario, as declarer would usually not play the suit this way.



Again, if declarer started with J10x, you should play low, and so you should also do so here.

Finally, let's put ourselves in the place of declarer with this setup:



In this two-way-finesse position, you are trying to sniff out the queen. Lead the jack from hand and gauge West's reaction. If he covers, great! If he hesitates and plays low, then he's got the queen. If he plays low without a flicker, then assume East has the queen.

RECENT MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Silver Grand	
James Coutts	VBA
Gavin Bailey	VBA
Gold Life	
Larry Attwood	VBA
Ian Muir	Moonee Valley
Elizabeth Thomson	Sale
Silver Life	
John Bennett	Frankston
Sandor Varga	Lakes Entrance
Bronze Life	
Lea Woolf	Dendy Park
Valerie Huntley	Mornington
Kathryn Attwood	VBA
Terry Johnston	Geelong
Richard Moss	South Gippsland
Life	
Teresa Pietrzak	Moonee Valley
Linda Healy	Macedon Ranges
Ian Bram	Dendy Park
Heather George	Moonee Valley
**National	
Anne Gunst	Geelong
*National	
Monika Cornell	Traralgon
Nick Walsh	Shepparton
Rob Gault	Sale
National	
Sally Marshall	Royal South Yarra
Elizabeth Byrnes	Waverley
*State	
Faye Ding	VBA
Maria Campbell	Kooyong
George Wagner	Benalla
Tim Hassett	Geelong
Tim Legge	Yarra Valley
Fritz Riedacher	Bairnsdale
Fred Kaminski	Traralgon
Fraser Thorpe	Moonee Valley
Sylvain Janiszewski	Northern
State	
Jane Brougham	Royal South Yarra
Sue Smith	Rye Beach
Catherine Ng	Kooyong

Debbie Kennedy	Rye Beach
Jennifer Clarebrough	Rye Beach
Patricia Farney	Ballarat
Stephanie McQueen	Northern
Diana Saul	Kooyong
Hannah Green	Traralgon
*Regional	
Peter Jaffe	Kings and Queens
Fiona Trescowthick	Kooyong
Sean Tunney	Melbourne
Geoff Fletcher	Peninsula
Regional	
Rosemary De Young	MCC
Susan Condos	RACV Bridge Group
Elizabeth Wapshott	Torquay
Alex Zarnowski	Dendy Park
Therese Best	Melbourne
Greg Critchley	Williamstown

MINI #3

Lead: South	♠ 65			
	♥ 5			
	♦ A3			
	♣ -			
♠ AK		N		♠ -
♥ -		W	E	♥ -
♦ 7				♦ KJ9
♣ KQ		S		♣ J10
				♠ -
				♥ -
				♦ Q4
				♣ A32

South is on lead in a heart contract.
How does South make 4 out of the last 5 tricks against best defence?

(Check you have the full [solution](#) on P6)

"It's not usually the first mistake that gives you a bad board, it's the second one. You often make the second mistake because you are still focusing on the first one. Don't let one mistake cause another!"

— [Robert S. Todd](#)

DOUBLE KEYCARD - KIM FRAZER

Is this the weirdest auction of the year?

This hand arose in the recent Open Butler Qualifying at the VBA. A bizarre twist saw both sides keycarding in the same auction.

Dir: West ♠ Q
 Vul: All ♥ KJ96
 ♦ A109432
 ♣ J2

♠ AK98753	N	♠ J1064
♥ 5	W E	♥ 10432
♦ -	S	♦ 75
♣ KQ963		♣ A105

♠ 2
 ♥ AQ87
 ♦ KQJ86
 ♣ 874

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠	4NT ¹
5 ♦ ²	Dbl	5 ♠ ³	6 ♦
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

- 1 RKCB
- 2 Voidwood
- 3 One key card outside diamonds

There wasn't much to the play after the lead of the ♦ A from North and 6 ♠ x rolled home without difficulty.

I can't find anyone if they can recall seeing both sides keycarding in the same auction. It was a cause of much merriment at our table.

STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Butler

- 1. R. Livingston – P. Hill
- 2. D. Morgan – D. Smart
- 3. R. Gillard - M. Stokie

Competing teams strive to represent Victoria in the Australian National Congress. I happen to have been given the program from the 1936 Championships of Australia from which I have taken this next item:

The Birth of Duplicate Contract in S.A.

A surprising feature about the game of Contract Bridge in South Australia was the apathy displayed by Auction players in following the lead of contemporaries in England, America, and on the Continent. It is true that overseas Auction players were also reluctant to follow the new fashion, but this was due, perhaps, to the absence at that time of any generally accepted system of Contract bidding. In South Australia however, the reluctance to change over was continued even after duplicate Contract matches had become an established fact in England and America, although there were of course, several enthusiasts in Adelaide who regularly played Contract even in the early days.

It is difficult to establish exactly when duplicate Contract was first played in the State, but it is probable that Woodville might fairly claim the honour of staging the first contest. This match was inspired by Mr. E.A. Jeanes, of Fullarton and was played at the residence of Mr. J.D. Chettle, Aberfeldy Avenue Woodville, on the 9th August 1932. It was a very interesting exhibition, the players being Messrs E.A. Jeanes, J.D. Chettle, C.R. Perryman, and F.E. Garrett, against another Woodville team comprising Messrs F.G. Brook, J. Nadebaum, A.E. Johns, and Dr. O.W. Frewin, while the stewards were Messrs W.G.F. Batchelor and S.A. Poole. Mr. Brook's team won by a narrow margin, but the result was reversed in the return match, which was played shortly afterwards at the residence of Mr. F.G. Brook, Woodville.

These contests imposed a heavier strain on the stewards than on the players. The cards were dealt on Room No. 1, and the stewards, peering over the shoulders of the players, recorded the cards in each hand while the bidding was proceeding. They then feverishly prepared duplicate hands from another pack of cards, enclosed them in appropriately endorsed envelopes, and distributed them to the players in Room No. 2. It was the job of the dummy player in each room to record, on prepared sheets, the progressive bidding and the opening lead.

These contests became of interest in that they gave birth to the movement which subsequently led to the formation of the South Australian Bridge Association. It is also interesting to note that the scoring method was on "rubber" principle, as against the modern "hand" method.

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
ASKING FOR ACES

Everybody loves Roman KeyCard Blackwood and it is very useful when a major suit fit has been agreed. When a minor suit has been agreed some of the responses to RKC are beyond five of the minor making it dangerous to use without some assurance that none of the responses will be too high. This has led to a number of alternate methods. The simplest is 'minorwood' where a bid of 4 of a minor asks for aces with the same response scheme as RKC. Typical sequences might be 1♠-2♣-3♣-4♣, 1♠-2♣-4♣, 1♠-2♥-3♣-4♣. Playing 4 of a minor as invitational is not sensible because, if it is passed, you are gambling that 3NT cannot make and 10 tricks is the limit in the minor. If it is raised to 5 of the minor, you are betting that 3NT cannot make since 3NT+1 beats 5♣ and if 5♣+1 makes, perhaps you should be in 6♣! Thus, it is sensible to play 4 of a minor to be minorwood.

Teams

Dlr: East ♠ K853
Vul: All ♥ Q96532
 ♦ 64
 ♣ 8

♠ 1074	N	♠ AQ96
♥ J	W E	♥ A104
♦ J1075	S	♦ AKQ9
♣ AKQJ6		♣ 42

♠ J2
♥ K87
♦ 832
♣ 109753

W	N	E	S
		2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

The second approach is 'redwood' which uses the bid above 4 of the agreed minor as an RKC substitute. It is called redwood because the bid is always in a red suit. In the hand shown, East upgraded his hand to a 2NT opener. The 3♠ response was minor suit Stayman followed by 4♥ which was redwood with diamonds set. The 4♠ response showed

1 or 4 keycards (clearly 4) and 4NT asked about the trump queen. 6♦ showed the queen but no side king. When the hand was played by England's Gunnar Hallberg, the ♣10 was led and he won this, crossed to the ♥A and ruffed a heart. He then crossed to a trump and ruffed another heart and then finished trumps. If the clubs were 3-3 or 4-2 (approx. 93%), there would be 13 tricks but when the clubs broke badly, he had to fall back on the spade finesse to make the contract.

If there had been a trump lead, declarer would fail because he will need to use the ♠A as an entry to finish trumps before knowing the clubs are not breaking.

Make sure you can see what thirteen tricks West thought he could see when he bid 7♦!

SUIT COMBINATION

From the bridge encyclopedia: In this suit you need 3 tricks. How should you play it?

You have ample entries to each hand.

You: AK92 Dummy: J3

Would your answer be different if dummy held AK98 (instead of AK92)?

[Solution](#) on P8.

Solution to Mini #3 (page 4)

South can set up the clubs by ruffing once, but can he get back into the South hand to claim his winners?

South leads the ♣A and discards the ♦A (unblocking), then he ruffs his low club to set up his long club winner. North now leads a diamond towards South's Queen. East is helpless, if he wins, he can only lead diamonds to give south his entry, and if he ducks, then south will win the Queen and cash the long club.

**A KITE FLEW BY
Dee Harley**

We went to Rosebud to play in the Rye congress. It so happened that there was a kite festival on at the time, and there were many varied and interesting kites zooming around. I'm going to show you a hand where I didn't make a slam. Deep finesse tells you that 12 tricks are available, but at the time at the table you don't know that. You go down feeling that maybe you should have made it, but you don't know how. Once you find out that you can make it, it's usually easy to come up with the logic which directs you to take the correct line, but I think this is a complicated hand. See if you agree.

Dir: South ♠ A85
 Vul: All ♥ AQ
 ♦ AK103
 ♣ AK82

♠ QJ109764	N W E S	♠ K32
♥ K97		♥ 5
♦ 9		♦ QJ62
♣ Q7		♣ J10953

♠ -
 ♥ J1086432
 ♦ 8754
 ♣ 64

(rotated for convenience)

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
3♠	3NT	4♠	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Lead: ♦ 9
 So the 9♦ ([the Curse of Scotland](#)) looks very like a singleton. Plan the play on the basis that it is indeed a singleton. My thoughts went something like this...If the ♥K is onside doubleton or singleton we have 12 tricks (2♦ 2♣ 1♠ and 7♥ tricks). If the ♥ is offside then I may run into a diamond ruff. At this point I stopped my analysis, ruffed a spade into hand, took the winning heart finesse, cashed the ♥A and when the King failed to appear, I had a rethink. I could now see no legitimate way to make this. I needed to have drawn all the trumps, then cashed the ♠A throwing a diamond, then cashed the top diamond, and then I could have run the trumps.

This would be the position as I lead my final trump and discard dummy's ♦10.

Dir: South ♠ -
 Vul: All ♥ -
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AK8

♠ 976	N W E S	♠ -
♥ -		♥ -
♦ -		♦ Q
♣ Q7		♣ J109

♠ -
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 64

So to make 12? DON'T waste that entry to hand by ruffing a spade at trick 2, instead play A♥ and Q♥ West can return what he likes (if he takes it), but you can ruff a spade back to hand draw the last trump, then cash the K♦, and A♠ and then ruff your carefully preserved last spade and run the trumps to squeeze East as shown above. Easy...Is it?

What if the defenders lead clubs each time they are in? then it becomes a [trump squeeze](#).

Dir: South ♠ -
 Vul: All ♥ -
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ 82

♠ 9764	N W E S	♠ -
♥ -		♥ -
♦ 9		♦ QJ6
♣ -		♣ J10

♠ -
 ♥ 32
 ♦ 875
 ♣

On the ♥3 you throw the ♦10. East must guard clubs and diamonds - and depending on his discard you use the AK of diamonds either to ruff the long club good in dummy, or to unblock the diamonds and ruff your last club back to hand for your well-earned beer.

THE SECRET SHOPPER

If you subscribe to Foxtel, you might have watched a curiously addictive show called Aussie Gold Hunters. It has the current standard format of following a few hardy and somewhat sunburnt souls as they trudge through the outback hampered by sand, sun and a large-coil metal detector. For the most part they dig fruitlessly and turn up an old beer can or dig feverishly to show a half gram flake to the camera, but once in a while they come up with the goods and a lump of impressive size is unearthed.

I love it!

I am eager to squander six thousand dollars of Three's pension on a Big Bertha and go West but Three is more cautious and prefers the dubious comforts of home.

You can imagine my delight this month on receiving an invitation to visit Bendigo Bridge Club. Nestled in the heart of Victoria's Gold Country I was as keen as a nugget to visit this outpost of past colonial greed.

It is a fair trip from Emerald to Bendigo and back, so we left bright and early to make the afternoon game at the club. The journey itself is a delight. Down the hills, through the city, over the dry western side, up into the Macedon ranges and finally to Bendigo.

You know instantly that you are in Gold country as you pass the Gold Hotel, Golden Square, Australia's deepest Goldmine and I got positively twitchy with excitement. Three however was focussed on our goal and faithfully followed the directions barked at him by the girl secreted in his phone and we arrived in good time at the community hall that also masquerades as a child care and yoga centre.

The place was packed with people being helpful. Tables were dragged out of cupboards, chairs de-stacked and in a trice fifteen tables were laid out in tidy rows.

We were marshalled by the unflappable Jennifer who managed to corral the players to order and play started. I chatted to everyone. How long have you been playing here? How many days a week? What do you like about the club? Is Bendigo a nice city to live in? Do you own a metal detector? What a positive lot and not a cross word was spoken. They took bad boards in their stride and didn't crow about their successes. A tea break was taken mid-session and volunteers washed up afterwards.

At the end of play everyone helped return the room to its pre-play state and we moseyed

down to the RSL where we dipped into some issues which rural clubs in Victoria are facing. Bendigo suffers from not having a dedicated club room of its own as it is outgrowing the ones it currently uses. A recent article in the Bendigo Weekly has seen the club showered with over 40 applications to its beginners' course - an enviable problem that many clubs would love to have but as yet there is not the will within the local council or sufficient private funds to alleviate the problem. Last month's article in the VBA news about Sam Punch's Keep Bridge Alive drive is redundant here - Bendigo fill their playing rooms three times a week and could do so daily if they had the place to do it in - bridge is firmly alive in the enthusiastic city.

The goodbyes and good wishes were heartfelt as we took our leave and drove away from these delightful people. If you are passing do drop in for a game - they'll happily welcome you. They may no longer be digging gold out of the ground in Bendigo, but this bridge club is an absolute treasure.



Solution to Suit Combination ([page 6](#))

AK92 (South) opposite J3(North):

Lead low towards the J; if it loses to the Q then finesse the nine. This will give you a 74% chance of making 3 tricks.

AK98 opposite J3

Run the Knave. Then finesse the 9. This play has a 76% shot. Different line from above and this gives you an extra 2% chance of making 3 tricks.

8's are still valuable cards