

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

VICTORIANS AT THE ADELAIDE AUTUMN NATIONALS

The Autumn Nationals were held in Adelaide in May. Several teams and pairs made the journey from Victoria. There were some notable performances. Nick Walsh and George Wagner, following from their good form on the Gold Coast, were first in the Under Life pairs, and also 3rd in the A grade consolation pairs. The Collings team were third in the Under Life teams. Karen Thompson playing for the first time in Under Life Competition at a national tournament was 9th in pairs and 3rd in the teams as part of the Collings Team.



Steve Colling, Mary Colling, Karen Thompson, Derek Poulton



George and Nick

ADELAIDE ADVENTURE

Jamie Thompson shared this wee beauty with me...You hold ♠65 ♥10953 ♦AQ32 ♣1072. It is game all and your right-hand opponent's opening gambit is a 4♠ bid. You pass and 4♠ becomes the final contract and you find yourself on lead. What would you pick? Make your decision before you read on please!

17 out of 19 players apparently picked out the ♥10 as the card to try to beat the contract. 17 out of the 19 declarers made their contract. Jamie was one of two defenders who saw things differently. He reasoned that it was quite unlikely that declarer had opened 4♠ with the ♦K as one of his 13 cards, so Jamie led the ♦A to get a look at dummy. This is the full hand:

Dlr: West	♠ 65		
Vul: All	♥ 10953		
	♦ AQ32		
	♣ 1072		
♠ AKJ10987		N	♠ 32
♥ -		W	♥ AKQ87
♦ 10986		E	♦ 754
♣ Q4		S	♣ J96
	♠ Q4		
	♥ J642		
	♦ KJ		
	♣ AK853		

Jamie's lead enabled the defence to restrict declarer to 9 tricks. The 19th defender apparently led the ♣7 and they restricted declarer to 8 tricks, but I guess that leader couldn't know that dummy didn't have ♣AKQ...

I don't know if it is a common theme, to lead an Ace against a game bid like that, but this is a great example of thinking on your feet to try to defeat the contract. Nice one Jamie.

**SECRET SHOPPER REFUTED
CLAIRE HUGHES, CANBERRA BRIDGE
CLUB**

I read Secret Shopper's (SS) article in VBA Bulletin 1905 with some amazement. Had SS attended the same Ballarat Festival of Bridge I had? It certainly didn't appear so as SS was highly inaccurate.

Let's address each of those inaccuracies one by one in order the SS chose.

SS said "*The tired, drab buildings row upon row devolved finally into a bowling cum bridge club.*" Here are two photos of homes in the streets accessing the Ballarat Bridge Club (BBC): You judge, drab??



SS describes BBC as "The squat building stockaded by cyclone fencing and the odd bush". Yes, the building is typical of bowling clubs of the mid-20th Century, a small



building surrounded by flat, playing areas. BBC recently bought the building and has since set about updating it. Note the growing trees along the fence line and, as one walks

in, the gardens, lovingly tended and environmentally sustainable. The grounds are used by the Ballarat Croquet Club.

Then we come SS's description of the L-shaped Club room with bar along one side of which SS thoughtfully provided a photo. Hmm, accurate?? No, actually. The room with the bar exists; not L-shaped though and the tables are there for use by the Ballarat Embroiders' Guild several times a week.

Festival dates. SS says Tuesday to Friday. Ah no!! The Festival is held from Wednesday to Saturday though Saturday's Farewell Walk-in Pairs are low-key and great fun. See <http://vba.asn.au/congress/ballarat-festival-of-bridge-2/> SS obviously has an inflated sense of their own importance saying "*The shock of our entry was noticeable - clearly this event is not expected to attract much outside interest*". On the contrary SS, numbers have increased in each of the 4 years it has been held (180, 220, 230 & 240). During various BBC Festivals (I've attended annually for 3 years now), I've met people from Deniliquin, Bendigo, Castlemaine, the Mornington Peninsula, Waverley, Geelong, and Warrnambool not to mention the Canberra contingent (10 this year and similar in previous years). Quizzical looks? Cake "*dragged out*"?? No, everyone was extremely welcoming and happy to be there; that's why Canberra members attend.

Next SS pondered Bendigo's supposed envy of BBC's dedicated clubhouse and wondered whether BBC's members "*realised how lucky they were*". I'm sure BBC members do appreciate their clubhouse. They worked extremely hard to buy it initially and then to pay it off. And that's where their resources have gone over recent years; paying it off. I believe they now own their premises outright.

As to SS's comments about "*tired interior*", "*wilting plants*" and "*dreary artwork*" again a photo speaks louder than words. Isn't, that "*dreary artwork*" a matter of personal taste? I like the original artwork very much and was tempted to buy some (Age Pension said no). Additionally, had SS thought to ask/communicate they would have been informed of BBC's arrangements for repainting and other improvements.

BBC regularly runs Bridge Lessons and there are often new members joining but then SS probably didn't ask about that either.

As to comments on toilets etc, I cannot speak about the male toilets but if they are at the

standard of the female ones then they are freshly painted, very, very clean and comfortable if period like the building.



I and my friends found the chairs very suitable and comfortable. As any Bridge Club committee member knows finding chairs that suit all players in the current market is very high impossible.

Mentioning Ballarat as a Man's Town is disrespectful to all the women who have made, and still make, the town and the BBC what it is. Discussing the age of members shows SS's disconnection with the bridge world in general; we are all aware of our aging population and dearth of young people. Delightful David (BBC) I do apologise I know you are under 60.

I can highly recommend the Ballarat Festival of Bridge as warm, friendly, welcoming of all standards, well run and a very worthwhile addition to any partnership's schedule. See you there next year 25th March 2020.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Victorian Restricted Pairs

1. I. Gulec, M. Pogson
2. K. Zhang, J. Huang
3. C. Harris, M. Bird

Bayside Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. R. Kingham, E. Vanselow
2. D. Sharp, S. Sharp
3. R. Berlinski, A. Meydan

Sale Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. C. Arul, P. De Zoysa
2. K. French, S. Hall
3. S. Klofa, D Harley

Teams

1. B. Rossiter-Nuttall, S Livingstone, J. Rossiter-Nuttall, J Farmer
2. S. Klofa, L Robinson, A. St Clair, D. Harley
3. B. Mill, T. Gariepy, S Collins, C. Chakravorty

Bendigo Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. D. Harley, A. St Clair
2. P. Corry, C. Fernando
3. D. Newlands, R Lawrie

Teams

1. J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel, S. Xie, P. Chang
2. V. Zhang, M. Zhang, L. Saoud, G. Ghali
3. D. Newlands, R. Lawrie, T. Hassett, B. Fitzpatrick

MINI #5

Lead: South

♠ AQ	
♥ -	
♦ AKQ	
♣ -	

♠ K6	N	♠ 87
♥ -	W E	♥ KJ
♦ 987	S	♦ 10
♣ -		♣ -

♠ 43
♥ AQ2
♦ -
♣ -

South is on lead in a heart contract. How do North/South make all 5 tricks against best defence?

[Solution](#) on P4.

RECENT MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Silver Life	
Daoping Nie	VBA
Bronze Life	
Lorraine Parker	VBA
Life	
Sylvia Gluck	Bridge Fanatics Club
**National	
Peggy Halkyard	Williamstown
Anne Roberts	Waverley
*National	
Lynn Moodie	Dromana
Pat Waite	Bairnsdale
Alastair Lowe	Bayside
Anthea Gedge	Kooyong
Alan Sharp	Waverley
National	
Margaret O'Bryan	Waverley
*State	
Helen Schapper	Northern
State	
Cherryl Downie	Macedon Ranges
Leng Leng Haggith	Phillip Island
Pamela Boyd	Whittlesea
Yvonne Nagy	Lakes Entrance
*Regional	
Helen Pryor	Gardenvale
Elaine Crosling	Waverley
Michael Westwood	Waverley
Regional	
Roslyn Levy	Gardenvale
Rosalie Roosenburg	Gardenvale
Leah Swersky	Gardenvale
Margaret McConvill	Waverley
Sheila Murphy	OZ Bridge
Kaye Parker	Bendigo
Catherine Bowman	Geelong
Annette Burns	Waverley
Barry Michaels	Gardenvale

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS**Wodonga Bridge Club**

Fri. 14th June, 7 pm: Matchpoint Pairs
 Sat. 15th June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sun 16th June, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Wodonga Seniors Citizens clubrooms
 15 Havelock Street, Wodonga.
 Contact: Peter Westmoreland,
 Phone: 0408 598 534 (Peter)

Dendy Park Bridge Club

Sun. 23rd June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs (Butler)

Venue: Dendy Park Clubrooms,
 Breen Drive, East Brighton
 Contact: Boris Tencer
 Phone: 0414 353 996 (Boris)
 Email: boris@dpbridge.com

Geelong Bridge Club**Restricted Events**

(less than 50 masterpoints at 31/12/2018)
 Sat. 29th June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sun. 30th June, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Open Events

Sat. 29th June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sun. 30th June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: East Geelong Golf Club
 Eastern Park Circuit
 East Geelong

Contact: Tim Hassett
 Email: gbc@testcom.com.au

To enter any of the above visit
BridgeUnlimited.com.

Solution to Mini #5 (page 3)

This one is a (mini) Grand Coup (don't you just love the name?). You must ruff a winning diamond to make your trumps the same length as East. Play a spade to the ♠Q and ruff the A♦ with your small trump, now a spade to the A♠ and lead a diamond. East is the only opponent left with any trumps and he must ruff with the ♥J or the ♥K, but you will overruff economically and claim the rest. Note that if you do not ruff the A♦ then West will discard a spade and you will be forced to ruff early and will go down.

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
MANAGING LATE ENTRIES

In this week's hand, both players stretched slightly to arrive in a slam. North's double of two hearts was, in the modern way, for take-out. When the spade fit came to light, an exchange of cue bids suggested both players felt slam suitable. North was short in hearts and South had the Ace so 24 hcp in the other three suits seemed to suggest that an ace and queen, at most, were missing so North used RKC and bid the slam. West led the king of hearts and South paused to form a plan.

The bidding suggested that West started with the king of clubs to justify overcalling 2♥ vulnerable. As he had only eight top winners, declarer saw that he needed to make four trumps, four diamonds, the two round-suit aces and two heart ruffs in dummy to come to twelve tricks. It is important to have a plan like this even if you cannot yet see the organization of the play. Since the auction suggests the ♣K is offside, a good plan will try to avoid the club finesse since you have a sure diamond loser.

Pairs:

Dir: South	♠ QJ52											
Vul: All	♥ 6											
	♦ AK976											
	♣ QJ2											
♠ 6		<table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ 9743
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥ KQ10854			♥ J73									
♦ Q103			♦ J8									
♣ K54			♣ 10976									
	♠ AK108											
	♥ A92											
	♦ 542											
	♣ A83											

The Bidding:

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

Declarer took the first trick with the ace of

hearts and then ruffed a heart with the two of trumps. After drawing one round of trumps with the ♠Q, declarer made the key play of leading a low diamond from dummy! East won the trick with eight of diamonds and exited with a club. However, declarer made no mistake and rose with the ace of clubs and ruffing the last heart with the jack of trumps. It was then possible to draw East's remaining trumps and play on diamonds. As the suit was originally 3-2, the ace and king of diamonds removed the outstanding diamonds and the two long diamonds were the declarer's eleventh and twelfth tricks. It is important to see that playing the diamond ace and king and then ducking one leaves no diamond entry and a heart return shortens dummy's trump holding so that trumps cannot be drawn before playing the diamonds even if there were a 3-2 trump split.

Solution to Suit Combination ([page 5](#))

AKJ976 (South) opposite 3 (North):

Needing 5 tricks: According to [SuitPlay](#) this is a 69% shot by playing small towards the J or small towards the 9 (covering any higher honour of course). Interestingly my Bridge Encyclopedia tells me that finessing the Knave is 2% better than cashing the Ace and King, and that finessing the 9 is 1% better than cashing the Ace and King. (Although the closest combination I found in the encyclopedia was AKJ987 opposite x)

EDITORIAL

Your contributions are welcome! This is your bulletin Victoria. I am happy to print any well-presented article, or viewpoint. I do not necessarily agree with any or all, of the articles I reproduce, however I am in favour of letting people say what they think. I do get around the state a fair bit and play in as many of the congresses as I can manage. I have had a lot of positive feedback on the bulletin content so far, and some not so positive! Either way I am happy to hear (or print) your opinions and would love to hear more. Please feel free to email me anytime.

dee_harley@hotmail.com

THE SECRET SHOPPER

The Secret Shopper in the Sunshine

Cairns or Adelaide is the question for May and this year Three and I decided to coincide my birthday with a bit of sunshine at the top rather than the bottom end.

Most of the Aussie bridge world heads south for the ANOT in Adelaide but a contingent of Victorians, a few foreigners and a baby decided to obey the pull of the North.

Cairns is a delightful little city with a rich history, wonderful buildings, great food and is an ideal venue for a bridge Congress.

We arrived a day early and hired a car to take in a little local colour. North or south was the question and we drove south and up to the table lands which are stunning. Turns out that the local colour is green. Cane fields, rain forest and field after field of green. We mused on the drought being suffered a bit further south and decided an aqueduct was needed. We walked in the clouds along the sky walk, splashed around the boulders in Babinda and drove back in time for the start of the pairs.

We hit snakes to start with but finally got a footing on the ladder and started to climb up the ranks. However, we left our dash a little late and didn't finish among the place getters. A far steadier pair were Justin Mill and Ken Anderson who had a solid card throughout and finished first.



I went to congratulate Ken afterwards as he sat in a glow of euphoria. 'Well done!' I said. 'Did Justin give you any tips?'

'Yes.' He replied. 'I was ordered to have 2 pints before every session. I managed the lunch and dinner ones but could quite keep up at breakfast!'

I smiled but it turns out he wasn't joking and as bridge tips go this one was right up the street of any self-respecting Scotsman and I am sticking to it religiously from now on.

As this trip was a last-minute decision for us we were hooked up with a delightful couple of ladies from New Zealand for the teams and we had a very jolly time. The people we played were all lovely and a Victorian team which included the indefatigable Justin Mill came in 4th

The Barrier reef congress is a moveable feast and alternates between 4 venues quadrennially. It chose a great venue this year with the casino facilities being enhanced by a truly wonderful little zoo on the roof. The level of the play might not be as high as one would meet at the ANOT and the Muzak seeped up through the floor at times, but the organisation was slick with excellent and unobtrusive directors. It seems a pity that the calendar can't have these two events slightly separated so both could be enjoyed but I for one will be heading north again next year to enjoy the sunshine and Queensland hospitality in Toowoomba.

Since last month's article about Ballarat I was invited to the town by one of its denizens determined to show how much I had missed about the town. Yes, the town centre is particularly swish which is bound to make the rest of the city look less fancy, but I was shown the error of my thinking. Away from the Main Street the town has lots to offer with a rebirth of local gold mining and one of the most popular tourist destinations in Australia – Sovereign Hill which is a must for every Australian child learning about Australian prosperity over the past 150 years.

I apologise unreservedly to the members of the Ballarat bridge club for my negative comments. They were intended as an observation on bridge clubs in general, as with a declining attendance the need to make our surroundings more attractive to all is an imperative.



The Victorian Bridge Association proudly presents the Australian National Championships

Bayview Eden Hotel
6 Queens Road Melbourne

July 13-25th 2019

Tournament Organiser: Belinda Lindsay
Director: Laurie Kelso
Scorer: Matthew McManus

Website: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/anc/2019/>

