

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

VICTORIANS AT THE VCC

The Victorian flagship event was held in June. The Victor Champion Cup had a dramatic finish with the winners snatching victory by the smallest of margins from the half Victorian team Crowe-Mai Team (Peter Hollands, Laura Ginnan and Lucy Henbest were the Victorian members of that team). The Victory Point scores were 137.9 to 137.7. So close, but still a magnificent achievement to be runners-up. The team finishing in third place with 132.84 VPs (also in contention up to the last board) included Jamie Thompson.

The best All-Victorian team in 11th place was Michael Gurfinkiel, John Yang, Douglas Newlands, Arthur Robbins, Stan Klofa, and Lindsey Robinson.

Susie Hall and Penny Corrigan won the Women's Event (the Sarah Tishler Trophy), with Thea Cowie and Erica Windmiller in third place, and in the corresponding Seniors event (the Ian McCance Trophy) Neil Ewart and Simon Henbest took out third place.

Catherine Harris, Maryanne Bird, Colin Jasper and Allan Hardie won the restricted Teams, and Ismail Gulec and Sam Lovick were runners-up in the restricted pairs (see results on the next page).

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The 2019 Champion of Champions State Daytime Match Point Pairs will be held at the VBA clubrooms on Saturday August 24th.

Every club in Victoria is invited to send up to 6 pairs to participate in the final.

Clubs can send three open pairs and one pair each in the women, mixed and senior categories.

How the clubs select their pairs is up to each club. Last year some clubs used their club championship as a selection event while a couple of clubs ran special events to select

pairs, or just nominated the pairs. You don't have to send all 6 pairs – we are happy with as many pairs as are happy to come!

The VBA is now accepting entries from all clubs.

When you enter pairs into this event please forward via email the pair's names and which category they are.

Entries can only be made by contacting Andrew at the VBA. His email is andrewmb@vba.asn.au.

Entries will only be accepted from clubs (individual entries will not be accepted).

Once received the entries will be posted on the VBA web site.

Entries close on Monday 19th August 2019.

The cost of entry will be \$90 per pair

The entry fee includes a light lunch and hospitality throughout the day.

The approximate Session times are as follows: Session 1 – 10.00am, Session 2 – 2.00pm.

There are generous cash prizes to be won. The amount will depend on number of entries with a minimum of 30% of Event entry fees.

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all finals.

Cash prize for the best placed pairs in each of the mixed, seniors and women's categories.

Players are only eligible for one prize per pair. For example if the winner is a mixed pair they receive the main prize, the next best unplaced mixed pair would receive the mixed pair prize.

VICTORIAN OPEN PAIRS

Victorian Open Pairs Championship

1. D. Smart, A. St. Clair
2. R. Frueworth, D. Thompson
3. M. Gurfinkiel, J. Yang

Victorian Open Pairs Consolation

1. B. A'Beckett, S. Ozenir
2. N. Ewart, D. Harley
3. R. Greenfield, S. Arber

VCC RESULTS

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

1. Liam Milne - Tony Nunn
2. Malcolm Carter - Tony Hutton
3. Mike Doecke - Johnno Newman

McCance Seniors' Swiss Pairs

1. Ian Robinson - George Kozakos
2. Sue Ingham - Terry Brown
3. Neil Ewart - Simon Henbest

Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs

1. Susie Hall - Penny Corrigan
2. Dianne Marler - Alison Dawson
3. Erica Windmiller - Thea Cowie

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. Jennifer Andrews - Meredith Goodlet
2. Ismail Gulec - Sam Lovick
3. Tony Georgeson - Libby Persson

Frank Power Trophy Swiss Pairs <200

1. Nicholas Kotros - Rob Nurse
2. Ron Wescott - Graham Forbes
3. John Doyle - Vicki Szpak

Victor Champion Cup

1. Philip Markey - Andrew Spooner -
+ Matt Mullamphy - Ron Klinger
2. Keiran Crowe-Mai - Peter Hollands +
Laura Ginnan - Lucy Henbest +
Ann Baker - Colin Baker
3. Shane Harrison - Stephen Williams +
Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

1. Maryanne Bird - Catherine Harris
+ Colin Jasper - Allan Hardie

CONGRESS RESULTS

Moonee Valley Bridge Club

Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. C. Davis, R. Svefvar
2. M. Saunders, M. Butcher
3. D. Poulton, M. Sullivan

Swiss Pairs

1. S. Klofa, S. Weiss
2. A. St Clair, D. Harley
3. G. Ridgeway, A Robbins

Teams

1. N. Ewart, S. Henbest,
+ D. Harley, C. Hughes
2. C. Ding, D. Nie,
+ T. Ranasinghe, G. McRobert
3. S. Sharp, D. Sharp,
+ K. Lachman, S. Weiss

Wodonga Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. K. French, J. Hackett
2. M. Prowse, R. Harmon
3. Z. Roberts, J Friesen

Teams

1. F Vearing, G. Nicholson,
+ N. Walsh, D. Poulton
2. K. French, T. Hackett, J. Hackett, D Ware
3. W. Pfitzner, J. Currie, J. Rava, D. Brennan

Dendy Park Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. J. Hall, F. Halmos
 2. D. Sampson, F. Vearing
 3. I. Gulac, M. Allison
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RECENT MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Grand	
Susie Hall	VBA
Piyush Jain	Geelong
Gold Life	
Ken Anderson	VBA
Chandradeep Chakravorty	Waverley
Chris Fernando	VBA
Dianna Middleton	VBA
Bronze Life	
Michael Bryan	Moonee Valley
Life	
Alison Inchley	Mornington
**National	
Andy Troy	Frankston
*National	
Raine Vivian	Ocean Grove
Martin Simons	VBA
Susan Ruffin	South Gippsland
Adrian Dezilva	Bendigo
Pat Cooke	Yarrawonga
Shirley Weaver	Phillip Island
Edith Underwood	Ovens and Murray
Robert Jacobs	RACV
National	
Mavis McLean	Yarra Valley
Sally Foster	Melbourne
George Wagner	Benalla
Tony Seed	Geelong
Suzanne Stone	Waverley
*State	
Peter George	Williamstown
Merlyn Pritchard	Bendigo
Sue Beckman	Mornington
Linda Everington	Ballarat
Harry Procel	Bridge Fanatics Club
State	
Deb Fogarty	Kooyong
Margaret Skeen	Ocean Grove
Lyn Graham	Bendigo
Noel Grech	Ocean Grove
Peter Holmes	Benalla
Margaret Smart	Bendigo
State (Continued)...	

State (Continued)	
Geoffrey Brewis	VBA
Ken Simpson	Bendigo
Ron Wescott	Bendigo
*Regional	
Kaye Abraham	gardenvale
Mary Box	Peninsula
Regional	
Don Heggie	Benalla
Fred Lucas	U3A Knox
Louise Leatham	Melbourne
Judy Gold	Dendy Park
Lynn Frankenburg	Ocean Grove
Kaylene Nielsen	Knox
Tony Warnock	gardenvale
Sandra Naftal	Dendy Park
Neil Keyte	Geelong
Andrew Chibert	Bayside
Pauline Wrobel	Kooyong
Elizabeth Gillies	Dendy Park

MINI #6

Lead: South

- ♠ K5
- ♥ K
- ♦ J
- ♣ J

- ♠ J3
- ♥ Q
- ♦ Q
- ♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

- ♠ Q987
- ♥ J
- ♦ -
- ♣ -

- ♠ A102
- ♥ A2
- ♦ -
- ♣ -

South is on lead in a No Trump contract. How do North/South make all 5 tricks against best defence?

[Solution](#) on P7.

**A COW FLEW BY
DEE HARLEY**

Here is your challenge hand today. It occurred in a local congress, and I failed to find the solution at the table. The hand has been rotated for convenience.

Dir: East ♠ A85
 Vul: All ♥ 972
 ♦ A98
 ♣ KJ54

♠ ?	N	♠ ?
♥ ?	W E	♥ ?
♦ ?	S	♦ ?
♣ ?		♣ ?

♠ KQJ1042
 ♥ A104
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 86

W	N	E	S
-	-	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♦	4♠
All Pass			

Lead ♥K

How do you fancy your chances of making 4♠ on this? You appear to have no ruffing chances in the short hand (dummy), so that leaves you with 6 spades tricks One Heart, One diamond, and maybe a club...Have a think now and then I'll give you some wee clues below ...

I ducked the ♥K because if East has 6 then West will have to switch, but West continued with the ♥3 so I won the Ace and drew just two rounds of trumps. East discarded a diamond, so he started with one spade and 5 Hearts (headed by the QJ8) and some diamonds, yet he happily bid 3♦ vulnerable! He absolutely must have the ♣A and probably the ♦KQ to give him enough points to be bidding like this.

Wee Clue 1:

Sometimes when all appears bleak you need to imagine something nice to make your contract. If you could give East a particular distribution what would it be?

Wee Clue 2:

(At another table I was told that the bidding was a bit different. East opened 1♦ and then bid and rebid Hearts). Does that help?

Solution:

Well, you NEED East to have started life with the singleton ♣A, so you can now duck a club entirely (holding your breath) and when East wins the Ace and returns the ♦K, you can win the ♦Ace and return to your hand by drawing the last trump, now play a club towards the KJ, finessing and then you can throw your last diamond on the ♣K. Here is the complete hand:

Dir: East ♠ A85
 Vul: All ♥ 972
 ♦ A98
 ♣ KJ54

♠ 963	N	♠ 7
♥ K3	W E	♥ QJ865
♦ 63	S	♦ KQJ1042
♣ Q109732		♣ A

♠ KQJ1042
 ♥ A104
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 86

I think perhaps, that I just overbid.

SUIT COMBINATION

You require 3 tricks from this suit. Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

You: KQ986 Dummy: 54

Secondary question: what if it were AQ986 opposite 54, would the play be substantially different?

[Solution](#) on P6.

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
ON DRAWING ONLY ONE TRUMP

This deal came up in a local teams game. The simple auction led to the obvious game contract, but most declarers failed to make it.

Teams

Dir: South

♠ K103

Vul: All

♥ J32

♦ QJ1083

♣ 93

♠ 8765

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 4

♥ K85

♥ Q975

♦ A72

♦ 65

♣ QJ10

♣ K87642

♠ AQJ92

♥ A106

♦ K94

♣ A5

The Bidding:

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

West led the queen of clubs, which held the trick, and continued with the ten won by the club ace. Most declarers drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king, discovering the 4-1 break. They 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 diamonds were now useless as dummy had no more entries and West was poised to ruff the next diamond. Most now, desperately, tried a heart to the ten, hoping that East held both honours or a doubleton honour, but it was not to be, and they could not avoid losing four tricks.

The problem, as usual, was lack of planning. There appear to be 5 trumps, 4 diamonds and two side aces and this apparent surfeit of tricks can lead to laziness in planning. Even if trumps are 3-2, you cannot draw trumps before setting up the diamonds as dummy lacks a late entry, other than trumps, to the long diamonds.

With this late diamond entry problem in mind, a better plan is to duck the first club and win

the second but then only cash the ace of trumps before playing on diamonds. Like the others, this West held up the ace until the third round and then exited with a trump, to dummy's ten.

Declarer can now play a good diamond and throw one of the heart losers. West will ruff and try a heart. Declarer can win East's queen with the ace, cross to the spade king, drawing West's last trump, and cash the fifth diamond to make the contract.

This line always makes ten tricks as long as trumps are not 5-0, and several unlikely things don't happen.

They key is seeing how playing only one trump protects you against a 4-1 split. If the person holding 4 (3 after one round) gets a ruff, the trumps are now an, easy to deal with, 2-0! In teams bridge, one must take care things and not to be concerned with overtricks as in pairs.

Solution to Suit Combination (page 5)

KQ986 opposite 54 needing 3 tricks

like many solutions to suit combinations this involves leading up towards honours. Lead towards the King, if it wins or loses then lead towards the Queen. This works out at 74% If the Ace is inside you will make your 3 tricks unless the distribution is diabolical, otherwise you will need J10 doubleton or a 3-3 break.

AQ986 opposite 54

This time the 9 and 8 come to the fore!

This time the correct play is to play towards the 8, covering any higher card which opponent plays. If the 8 loses, then you can play towards the 9 now. Your percentage chance of success has risen to 82%.

I like Aces more than Kings!

I used Suitplay to help confirm these answers. The bridge encyclopedia kind of agrees, but apparently Roudinesco has a slightly different view. Anyone wishing to work these out for themselves – please let me know!

EDITORIALdee_harley@hotmail.com

I had the distinct pleasure of representing an Australian Seniors team playing in the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation championships in Singapore this month. I was playing in the senior "B" team and we had the satisfaction of 2 round-robin wins over the Australian "A" seniors but sadly we finished in 7th place compared to their 6th place and New Zealand in 5th in the final table. Only 2VPs separated 4th place and 7th place!

There were competitors from Australia, China, China Hong Kong, China Macau, Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.

It was a great thrill and an honour to compete at that level.

Website: <http://www.pabf.org>

When I got home, I also had the joy of visiting Whittlesea for their tenth Anniversary, along with the secret shopper (see Page 8).

To those of you who give me feedback on the bulletin, I would like to express my thanks. It is good to hear what you like (and what you don't like). Thanks too to those who provide me with material to write about. I am always happy to accept your contributions.

Please keep the comments coming at:
dee_harley@hotmail.com

Solution to Mini #6 (Page 3)

The King of Hearts is a distraction! Play the Ace to drop the Queen and the Jack, and make the ♥2 in the South hand a master, which you cash next. Now West meets a horrible fate, as he has to discard one of his minor queens or a Spade. Regardless of what he discards, you play a small spade to the King, then either cash a promoted minor Jack (if West unguarded one), or take the now winning spade finesse. Poor West!

BRIDGE BASE ONLINEwww.bridgebase.com

I am flabbergasted when I come across players who are not familiar with BBO. It is an amazing and to be frank, indispensable tool for any would be bridge player. It is not a money-making venture, it is there to improve the standard of bridge across the world. Here are some of the main features, for those who are currently unaware.

Sign up Sign in. Nearly everything is free. Create an account and get yourself a username and a login, and you are up and running. Remember to remember your username and password.

Watch. You can just watch bridge happening at any table where spectators are allowed, but the main deal is the VuGraph where you can watch players in action. By watch, I don't mean you seem them playing (although that is an option in some cases), but you do see all the hands and the players names, and the bids they make and the cards they play as they play them. Effectively you are watching world-class players in action. For example the European Championships are being shown (from Turkey) as I type this.

Partnership bidding You and your partner can take yourselves to the partnership bidding room. Here you can bid hundreds of hands, all dealt uniquely for you and to your specifications, you can practice specific sequences (example the 1NT opening) or slam bidding, or splinter bids...and its great! If you chat to each other on skype whilst discussing the options, you will find your bidding improves amazingly

Team Matches You can arrange for team matches if you have eight like minded people. The hands will be IMP scored for you and you are able to replay any or all of the hands to see exactly where you went wrong.

Just Play You can play against random real people, or against robots. I always try to be polite to my partners, but it's not always easy!

More And there is more...weekly tournaments, challenges, double dummy problems...stop reading now and go do it!

THE SECRET SHOPPER

I love the seaside. I love the wind whipping through my hair, the raucous cawing of the seagulls, the smell of the slightly rotting seaweed and the ice cream – you always get an ice cream at the seaside – something exotic such as pistachio. So, of course I jumped at the chance to visit Whittlesea Bridge Club as they celebrate 10 years of happy playing.

My first clue that my ice cream fix was unlikely to occur came when checking out timings via the, ever trustworthy, Google maps. It seemed to want to take me North when I had swiftly established on landing in Melbourne that the water lay to the South.

Despite my obvious disappointment I was now forewarned and wouldn't be like the thousands of George Orwell fans who flock to Wigan in Lancashire each year to see it's famous (and non-existent) pier. I was off to visit Whittle (not on) sea and off I set with a slightly jet lagged Three, not long back from a stint of bridge play in Singapore.

We love these drives through the Australian bush and this one was glorious. Up over Mount Evelyn, though Yarra Glen, skirting Eltham and finally down to Whittlesea.

We had been invited to lunch which is always lovely and were met by Debbie Goldsworthy who is one of the most dynamic and enthusiastic presidents I have met.

The members of this lovely little club had turned out in force for this milestone and I wandered among them hearing their stories and enjoying their successes.

This is another club without its own premises, but they have found a perfect rent-free home at the bowls club who, by dint of being allowed pokie machines, give out their premises free to local groups. After a delicious lunch we adjourned to the back room for a casual game of afternoon bridge.

Three had been playing for the past fortnight with a rather more formidable partner than I but he quickly managed to sink to my level,

and we had a very jolly time with some of the nicest people I've ever met at a bridge table.



We took a break halfway through for tea and cake which is a practice I feel every club should initiate and the founder of the club, Lyndall Shaw, gave an illuminating account of how the club had been founded, how it coped with the fallout from Black Saturday and how it has grown to the club it is today.

The members gave us a good run, and most were keen improvers making steady progress under the tutelage of Lyndall and her husband Peter.

I took many things away with me and a few thoughts for other clubs.

Principally was the sheer delight of being amongst people who remember that bridge is a game – and a game to be enjoyed at that. Also, the idea that the scourge of small communities' wealth, the pokie machine, can generate free accommodation for a bridge club seems a wonderful trade off. And lastly, and most importantly, a mid-play break which includes a cup of tea and the best carrot cake ever to grace a plate and which knocks the spots off any chilly, green, seaside offering!