

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian National Championships were held in July. Each of the seven States in Australia had been invited to send a team for each of the four categories (Open, Women, Senior, and Youth), and this was the year that Victoria was the host state. We were hopeful that we may get to a final or even win one, but in the end the opposition was just too strong.

Each of the finals were represented by states other than Victoria. We do think however that the event was very well run, and everything seemed to go very smoothly, thanks to the care, planning, and attention to detail of Belinda Lindsay and the ANC management team. Big thanks to them, and everyone who helped out.

The second week of the Championships is given over to the ANC Butler. There were a few Victorians who made the medal positions. Summarised results are given below.

INTERSTATE TEAMS FINALS

Open	South Australia	93.8	New South Wales	93
Women	Australian Capital Territory	111.5	Western Australia	89
Senior	New South Wales	121.3	Queensland	107
Youth	New South Wales	200.6	South Australia	138

INTERSTATE PAIRS

Open

Chris Stead - Richard Hills (ACT)

Women

Kirstyn Fuller - Deana Wilson (WA)

Senior

Peter Popp - Andy Babiszewski (SA)

Youth

Ben Leung - Jasmine Skeate (QLD)

ANC BUTLER

Open

1. Paul Wyer - Michael Courtney
2. Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer
3. Sartaj Hans - Lauren Travis

Women

1. Deana Wilson - Renee Cooper
2. Susan Humphries - Jessica Brake
3. Alison Dawson - Elizabeth Zeller

Senior

1. Michael Smart - Jonathan Free
2. Neil Ewart - Ian Robinson
3. Chris Hughes - Kim Morrison

Restricted

1. Kailun Zhang - Jack Huang
2. Prithiraj De Zoysa - Michael Sullivan
3. David Earnshaw - Daniel Chua

ANC Swiss Pairs A

1. Stephen Sharp - Danny Sharp
2. Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith
3. Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea

ANC Swiss Pairs B

1. Wynne Webber - Ann Paton
2. Ian Lisle - Vicky Lisle
3. Margaret Yuill - Jenny Hoff

MATCH AND TOURNAMENT

The Match and Tournament Committee are currently preparing the 2020 Calendar and are interested in hearing your thoughts on what you might like to be improved in 2020. Both clubs and players are welcome to represent their interests.

We can't guarantee all inputs will be catered for, but we can guarantee they will be considered. If you feel strongly about something, or wish to champion a new, different, or even status quo position, then please encourage your friends to represent the same.

We also wish to announce that the procedures governing 'Overweight' substitutes are changing. Previously those using an 'Overweight' substitute were the subject of a penalty expressed either as a specific number of IMPs per board or as some fraction of the top on one or more boards.

Now, in the interests of maintaining an equal playing field, a pair or team employing the services of an 'Overweight' substitute will have their session score limited (or capped) such that it cannot be greater than the average of that earned in the sessions where the substitute was not employed. Any such adjustment will only be calculated at the conclusion of the event, which means it will no-longer impact upon the draw.

More details will be published soon, so watch out for the weekly club news and on the VBA website for details. Expect these new conditions to take affect ahead of the Pennant and for all subsequent Victorian events.

Please share your thoughts with MTC throughout the month of August at mtc@vba.asn.au and help us to make your bridge experience even better.

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Grand	
John Yang	VBA
Serhat Ozenir	VBA
Richard Greenfield	VBA
Gold Life	
Geoff Whiting	Bayside

Silver Life	
Lucy Henbest	Bridge Fanatics
Michael Phillips	VBA
Greg Lewin	VBA
Bronze Life	
Jackie Rossiter-Nuttall	Dromana
Chen Ding	VBA
Life	
Peter Nolan	VBA
Virginia Rugless	Kooyong
Kumara Nainanayake	Waverley
Philip McDermott	Frankston
**National	
Ron Wilson	Paynesville
Leo Saoud	Moonee Valley
*National	
Gillian Campbell	Moonee Valley
Ismail Gulec	Northern
Hannah Martin	South Gippsland
National	
Maryanne Bird	Gardenvale
Carmella Rauchberger	Theodor Herzl
Russell King	Moonee Valley
Gill Shanks	Moonee Valley
Des Murphy	Moonee Valley
Shayne Wurf	RACV
Neville Chapman	South Gippsland
*State	
Sara Levy	Gardenvale
Bernadette O'Dea	Ocean Grove
Elaine Watson	Moonee Valley
Rob Nurse	Kooyong
Harry Blamires	Williamstown
Julie Alliston	Frankston
Kevin Taylor	Traralgon
Maureen Stiles	South Gippsland
Peter Yuill	RACV
State	
Christine Holmes	Benalla
Graham Forbes	Bendigo
*Regional	
Vicki Szpak	Gardenvale
Margot O'Brien	Melbourne
Regional	
Robert Frost	Knox
Kenneth Biddick	Rye Beach

Regional	
Eric Thurin	Melbourne
Eva Taylor	Kooyong
Ken Williams	Gardenvale
Joan Thompson	Williamstown

CONGRESS RESULTS

Geelong Bridge Club

Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. S. Wright, J. Mai
2. R. Wescott, G. Forbes
3. S. Jackman, T. Christie

Swiss Pairs

1. T. Ranasinghe, G. Lovrecz
2. T. Hackett, J. Hackett
3. S. Hinge, J. Collins

Restricted Teams

1. B. Simmonds, I. Hanmer,
J. More, J. Meldrum
2. C. Bowman, W. Dennis,
L. Kruger, T. Passlow
3. A. Blackburn, S. Taylor,
S. Strong, D. Strong

Teams

1. K. Frazer, J. Ebery,
T. Ranasinghe, G. Lovrecz
2. S. Lester, S. Hinge,
D. Newland, J. Collins
3. J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel,
M. Zhang, V. Zhang

Kattery Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. A. St Clair, D. Harley
2. J. Yang, M. Gurfinkiel
3. I. Hamilton, J. Atkinson

Yarawonga Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. K. French, P. Corrigan
2. R. Harman, V. Sanderson
3. J. Hackett, T. Hackett

Teams

1. N. Walsh, D. Poulton, K. Wagner, G. Wagner
2. B. Mill, T. Gariepy, S. Collins, C. Chakravorty
3. D. Peacock, J. Johnstone,
H. Scott, F. Bell

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Knox Bridge Club

Sat. 3rd August 2019, 10am Swiss Pairs

Sun. 4th August 2019, 10am Swiss Teams

Venue: Bayswater Senior Citizens Centre
Corner Scoresby Road & Mountain
Highway, Bayswater.

Contact: Clare Stratton

Phone: 0438547647

Wagga Wagga Bridge Club Inc

Sat. 10th August 2019, 10am Swiss Pairs

Sun. 11th August 2019 9:15am Swiss Teams

Venue: Wagga Wagga Bridge Club, Bolton St.
Wagga Wagga

Contact: David Brennan

Phone: 02 6926 5521

Email: dcbrennan7@bigpond.com

Traralgon Bridge Club

Sat. 17th August 2019. 11 am Swiss Pairs

Sun. 18th August 2019 10 am Swiss Teams

Venue: Traralgon Greyhound Club
66 McNairn Road, Traralgon.

Contact Marion Taylor

Phone: 0409277922

Email: bridgeintraralgon@gmail.com

Theodor Herzl Social Club

Sunday 25th August 2019, 10am Swiss Pairs

Venue: 222 Balaclava Road, North Caulfield

Contact: Babi Ehrlich

Phone: 0417 593101

Donald Bridge Club

Sat. 31st August 2019 10am Swiss Pairs

Venue: Donald Golf Club, Woods St, Donald

Contact: Brian Brasier

Phone: 0490 754 300

Email: donaldbridgeclub@gmail.com

AN OPPONENT INFRACTS
BILL JACOBS

Insufficient Bid

First decision is by the next player, who can *accept* the insufficient bid, in which case the auction continues without restriction. If not accepted, the bid must either be made good, or a different bid made, with possible limitations for the offending side.

Should you accept the insufficient bid? Usually *no*, because the constraints put back on the bidder may make life quite difficult for him.

You should only accept the insufficient bid if it gives you space to bid something that you couldn't bid otherwise (or maybe it takes your side out of a contract you didn't want!)

Example: ♠xx ♥KQJxx ♦xxx ♣xxx
and the auction proceeds like this:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	1♠	1♦	?

RHO didn't see the overcall. If you refuse the 1♦ bid, RHO will probably correct to 2♦ and it's hard to see how this will damage the opponents.

But if you accept the 1♦, then this gives you the opportunity to make a cheap 1♥ bid, which if nothing else, might help partner with an opening lead.

Lead out of turn

If you are the declarer, then the director will recite a dizzying 5 options. But two of these 5 options stand out as likely to be helpful:

- If the lead is in a suit that looks bad for you (you're weak in that suit), then return the lead to the correct hand, and *forbid a lead of that suit*.
- Otherwise, consider the option of accepting the lead and letting partner play the hand (your hand goes down as dummy). This is exceptional partnership management and conforms to the Goldwater Rule: a player who didn't know whose lead it was is probably making a bad lead anyway!

Opening Bid out of Turn

Next hand has the option of accepting the bid, but this is almost never right. Refuse the opening bid out of turn, which can have extremely damaging consequences.

If you are the dealer and your LHO opens the bidding, your partner will refuse the bid. If you now pass, then your LHO can repeat their bid without penalty, but if you make a bid, then LHO is severely constrained.

So even with a non-opening hand, it might be worth bidding, particularly if there's a possible weak 2 bid or the like that you can make! Hey, it's not your responsibility to let the opponents escape scot-free from their infractions.

Penalty Card

If a defender has a penalty card on the table (perhaps from failing to follow suit earlier, and immediately correcting it), then try to take advantage. One way is to play this suit next, forcing your opponent to play that card (which might be a low card, when he could have won the trick with a higher card).

All the above tactics are entirely legal and ethical. All's fair in bridge and war!

MINI #7

This Mini has only 4 cards left in each hand. Don't let that deceive you though - it's not that simple...

Lead: South ♠ AJ10
 ♥ A
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

♠ KQ9	N	♠ -
♥ -	W E	♥ -
♦ -	S	♦ J10
♣ A		♣ J10

♠ 2
 ♥ 54
 ♦ A
 ♣ -

South is on lead in a Spade contract. How do North/South make 3 tricks against best defence?

[Solution](#) on P6.

BRIDGE BOOK REVIEW
DEE HARLEY

Please note that the following reviews are expressly my own opinion.

Nick Fahrer of the [Bridge Shop](#) sent me some bridge books to review. They were all published by Master Point Press. I have been busy playing in the ANC so I haven't managed to finish them all yet, however I was riveted (for a while at least) by "Close Encounters" Bridge's Greatest Matches (Book2: 2003 to 2017) by Eric Kokish and Mark Horton. I have had different experiences of dual authorship, and in this case, I found the parts written by Eric Kokish were absolutely fascinating. His analysis of the hands and the insight into the game is a joy. I was less enthusiastic about the contributions of Mark Horton (perhaps I had the vision of the [accusation of plagiarism](#) against him clouding my mind), but all in all I found the book to be an excellent read. I award it 4 stars ****

Another dual Author book is "Bridge Over the Rainbow" by Alex Adamson and Harry Smith. I know these popular authors very well from my time of living in Scotland. The hands are carefully researched and very well technically arranged and presented. The commentary on the hands is pithy and cogent, although I confess to wearying slightly of the Wizard of Oz characters. I want more hands like these and less "Ozification". I award it 4 stars ****.

I read "Preempts" by Warren Watson. He is a Canadian author. Much of the content in the book is valuable information for pre-empting and dealing with pre-empts, but I was not drawn into the book by the opening chapters. Chapter one was a series of example pre-empts, but the theme was not evident to me at this point. Going back to it later I found the content to be much more readable in the later chapters, I'm just not sure which level of player the book was aimed at (if any) so I only want to award it 2 stars **.

The final book I was sent was "More Conventions More Practice" by Barbara Seagram and David Bird. I have not finished the book, but it is an excellent guide to some conventions (Namyats, Support Doubles, puppet stayman, Leaping Michaels are but a few of the many conventions they analyse).

Each convention is explained very clearly, and then there are multiple examples of how to use (or not use) the convention under review. I really liked this book and so I award it top marks (5 stars *****).

Reviewing books, has got me thinking about my favourite bridge books (I go back and read them again every so often). I have had an idea. I would really like to find out what Victorians think is the best bridge book ever. Just for starters, some of my favourites are:

"Bridge Squeezes Complete" by Clyde E. Love

"Bridge Challenge" J. W. Tait

"Bridge Play from A to Z" George S. Coffin

"Right through the Pack" Darvas & De V.Hart

"Why you lose at Bridge" S.J. Simon

And any books by Hugh Kelsey or Victor Mollo. Terence Reese wrote some good stuff, but one always thinks back to the cheating fiasco he was involved in. That's definitely a turn-off for me, but nevertheless I love the style with which he writes.

How about you send me a note of your three favourite bridge books in order of preference (1, 2, 3). I will make a big list and collate the results (I like doing that sort of stuff!)

Only entries from people who live in Victoria (Australia) please. You can include your name first in the message.

You can email me at dee_harley@hotmail.com or txt me on 0412612176

SUIT COMBINATION

You require 6 tricks from this suit. Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

You: AK95432 Dummy: J6

Secondary question: what is the percentage chance of making 6 tricks?

[Solution](#) on P7.

♣♣♣ KNAVE OF CLUBS ♣♣♣
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PRE-EMPT

This complex hand offers two amusing solutions depending on the lead. Cover the EW hands now. The 5♣ overcall gives North a problem in the bidding. North expects that any heart finesse will be onside and that the spades might be able to be set up and so takes the push to 5♥. Against this, the preempt makes it less likely the spades will set up and North's ♠AK and ♦A make it clear that 5♣ is going off. At teams, it is clear to take the penalty but at pairs it is more problematic. At the table, West led the ♦J which is an obvious singleton since it is not the expected club. What is your plan?

Pairs

Dlr: North ♠ AK732
 Vul: N/S ♥ J1096
 ♦ A65
 ♣ 5

♠ 54	N	♠ QJ986
♥ 43	W E	♥ 2
♦ J	S	♦ KQ1093
♣ AKQ109432		♣ 76

♠ 10
 ♥ AKQ875
 ♦ 8742
 ♣ J8

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	2♥
5♣	5♥	All Pass	

Lead: ♦J

After winning the ♦A and drawing 2 rounds of trumps, declarer can cash the ♠AK (throwing a club), ruff a spade to ensure West is out of them and then exit the ♣J to West. With only clubs left, West plays another one on which declarer throws a diamond from both hands. On the next club, dummy throws another diamond and ruffs in hand giving eleven tricks!

On the ♣AK lead, the play is more difficult. Time to make another plan now!

Declarer ruffs and runs trumps. As the second last trump is led, the position below is reached. Dummy discards a diamond and East has a problem. East needs to keep 4 spades, else declarer can play ♠AK and ruff one and use the ♦A as an entry to the last good spade.

Dlr: North ♠ AK73
 Vul: N/S ♥ -
 ♦ A65
 ♣ -

♠ 54	N	♠ QJ98
♥ -	W E	♥ -
♦ J	S	♦ KQ10
♣ Q1094		♣ -

♠ 10
 ♥ 75
 ♦ 8742
 ♣

East also needs to keep 3 diamonds or declarer will duck one and use the ruff of the third spade as an entry to the good ♦8. East must yield the contract to the power of the trump squeeze.

Solution to Mini #7 (Page 4)

South starts off by leading the ♦A and if West discards his ♣A, North should discard his ♥A and South can now play a spade and let West win if he plays an honour (say the ♠Q). Then West must lead a spade away from ♠K9 and North can cover whichever card is led and will make the rest. So, West must ruff the ♦A. If he ruffs with the ♠9 then North will overruff and cash the ♠A followed by the ♥A. West can ruff with his spade honour, but North's last Spade will take the last trick. So, West must ruff with ♠Q. In this amazing sequence, North must underruff with the ♠J (or ♠10) and west is trapped. If he tries a spade then North wins economically, cashes the other Spade and then his ♥A for the rest of the tricks, but if West tries his ♣A instead, North can jettison his ♥A and South sneaks into the picture and wins the trick with the ♠2. South leads any card and West's ♠K9 are mince.

EDITORIAL DEE HARLEY

This month was dominated by the ANC which this year took place in Victoria. There were the main teams events and lots of side events all of which ran smoothly due to the fantastic organisation of Belinda Lindsay and her team.

Sadly, Victoria had very poor results in all the main events with no team finishing higher than 4th.

Results aside, it was a fun week highlighted by two evening events, the first being an invitation to visit Government House where we were welcomed by the charming Governor Linda Dessau who evinced a plausible interest in the game and who allowed us a glimpse of a place that few have the opportunity to see.



The following night was the victory dinner where we were treated to a tier of delicious canapés which, in typical bridge player style, we stripped locust like in seconds and then accosted the waiting staff as soon as they appeared with more.

This was a welcome departure from the sit-down dinner format and way more fun. I hope the other states continue this new approach next year.

The venue, which also does service as the VCC venue was excellent and everyone was fulsome in their praise of the organisation. It was great to see how many people had volunteered to man the information table and barring the results it was a truly memorable event.

TEAMS OF THREE

Laura Ginnan has done it again! She has organised the very popular teams of three competition for Saturday the 10th August (9:30 am).

This very exciting format creates a team of three less experienced players, and they join up with one expert player. The less experienced players take it in turns to play with the expert, as they compete against the other teams on the day. Lunch will be provided, there will also be lollies laughter, prizes, and a whole bunch of fun.

There is still time to get in your entry – contact Laura on victeamsofthree@gmail.com

Website: vba.asn.au/teams-of-three/

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

You AK95432 Dummy: J6

Needing 6 tricks there is a safety play available here! Lead low towards the Jack, playing the Jack unless the Queen is played.

If either opponent shows out then you will be able to arrange to only lose one trick. If Neither shows out then their cards will fall under the Ace and King.

This then is a 100 percent line.

BRIAN MORGAN

Brian Morgan was one of Victoria's ABF Councillors from 2013 to 2017, also a VBA Councillor, pursuing his passion for promoting bridge and supporting less experienced players. At home on the Mornington Peninsula he founded the Rye Beach Bridge club in 2005 with his wife Margaret, which became a popular, fun and social environment for bridge lovers on the peninsula. He always had a vision beyond his club, for example taking teams from his club up to the Gold Coast for the congress (often their first bridge experience outside of his club) and was instrumental in setting up the Mornington Peninsula Bridge Association (a collaboration of clubs on the peninsula to support each other). He was a great enthusiast for life and for bridge, and will be much missed by all who knew him.

THE SECRET SHOPPER A HOLE IN ONE

It is hard to remember last month as it was to some point superseded by the excellently well-run ANC but other bridge events were held too, most notably the Geelong and Kattery congresses.

I've never understood the attraction of golf. Actually, that's not quite true. I understand the challenge of trying to get your ball into the hole, I like the competitiveness of it but can't see the fun in walking the same route day after day trying to improve your score. I quite like crazy golf and I remember going to a pitch and putt thing when I was younger but other than that my sole acquaintance with the game is when I've joined people at the 19th hole.

Although...here I am day after day playing with the same 52 cards and trying to make a better outcome than the day before – perhaps the games are not so different after all. And last month bridge and golf co-existed tidily side by side.

Living as I do far from civilisation I have to allow plenty of time to get to far flung places such as Geelong and it was lucky I did as arriving at the usual venue we noted a distinct lack of bridge tables as well as a preponderance of bowling balls.

The venue had been moved. Bugger.

It is only when one has to drive at some haste from one side of the city to another that the sheer scale of Geelong can be appreciated – this is a huge city – apparently the second largest in Victoria someone pointed out unhelpfully as we finally arrived at the Geelong East Golf club in the pouring rain a tad sweaty and just in time for play to start. The indefatigable Martin Willcox waved us casually to our seats where we proceeded to wreck any chances we might have had of winning.

However, once the first stanza was over, we realised just what a nice location we were in. A tad cramped for sure but with a warming fire and a delightful view over the course where a few mad people were doing what they do whilst carrying vast umbrellas.

Where the club really excelled was in the catering. The slices, scones, biscuits and nibbles flowed out in a constant stream and were beyond delicious. Any attempt to diet was thwarted by the sheer brilliance of the baking.

The way to my heart is definitely through cake and I was completely won over by Geelong. Full marks on finding a new venue having had a hiccup over the normal one. A lovely congress.

The Kattery congress also moved location this year; from Waverley to Sorrento. Anyone not realising this would have been hard pressed to arrive in time, but everyone seemed on the ball and arrived at the breathtakingly beautiful venue of the Sorrento Golf Club.

It was a lesson in elegance. Beautifully placed, the all-white room, unmarred by honour boards had a view over a course so pretty that for the first time I was tempted to play the game. Elegant little squares of fruit cake preceded an excellent lunch and our bridge was somewhat better too which always makes for a more enjoyable outcome.

Two very different congresses played on two very different golf courses but equally enjoyable. We stayed for the weekend in Geelong to play the teams on the Sunday where far fewer people played and despite the increased ease of movement, I was disappointed to note the progressive decline of teams entering congress events. The Kattery was running a GNOT heat on the Sunday but we always play in the same team so didn't stay on for that. but I was disappointed that they had chosen this format rather than a teams day.

I tolerate pairs, but I hate matchpointed pairs and really enjoy teams events. Why do people prefer pairs? Why aren't you playing teams? I'd like to improve the number of teams entering events so please let me know what we can do to help. Is it a lack of partners? Is it something else – drop me a line and let me know and let's get more people playing teams – it is by far the most fun.
