

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2020

Editor: Dee Harley

VBA CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER LEACH

I would like to commence my term as



President by warmly thanking my predecessor of seven years. Ben Thompson acted as a great unifying force for Victorian bridge during his early years in office. He then suffered through a very serious illness from which we are all delighted he has made a full recovery. Ben has provided a thoroughly strong foundation for the work ahead and oversaw a great improvement in the culture, professionalism and processes of our organization. I am very pleased Ben has been made a Life Member of the VBA for his fine contribution. One major difference between Ben and me is that he is undoubtedly a great bridge player, a description to which I could only aspire in my wildest dreams!

I am delighted that all other members of the Council of 2019 are returning, as well as welcoming back Michael Phillips and issuing a warm greeting to Derek Poulton from Shepparton. We will be a dynamic leadership group in 2020. I also look forward to close collaboration with our wonderful staff, led by Andrew (Club Manager) and our world-renowned chief Director, Laurie Kelso and his team.

I come to the VBA role after several years apprenticeship on the Council, plus 25 years of consistent involvement in a wide variety of other charitable, not-for-profit and educational institutions. I operate on a consensus model of governance allied to being a strong believer in process improvement as a central driver of the dynamism of organizations. My background was in business, running a successful enterprise sold to a public company. I am greatly looking forward to this role.

I have set principal goals for 2020. Firstly, to address and solve the financial conundrums with which the VBA has grappled throughout this decade; secondly, to build on the work done already to create a more welcoming and pleasant playing atmosphere at the VBA, one that will attract more and more advancing players to try our events on Monday and Wednesday nights and, thirdly, to give real emphasis to our signature state events with the aim of ensuring all our top players are in attendance and therefore creating the greatest possible pool of talent for our state teams in the national events.

I am passionate about bridge and bridge education. For a number of years now, the ABF has affiliated teachers of bridge on a national basis and I wish to see more and more Victorian bridge teachers gain this qualification. Like any complex sport or pastime, one's capacity to enjoy bridge increases in direct proportion to technical proficiency. Our teachers have a central role to play in the development of the game in Victoria.

I hope to play in the vast majority of our affiliated Clubs' congresses in 2020 and meet as many office bearers and members as possible. In the meantime I am always contactable regarding any issues with which you or your club may be concerned. Finally, I wish to thank everybody involved for the confidence placed in me. I am honoured and delighted to take on this role and look forward to the year ahead.

BIDDING: SUBMARINE SPLINTERS DEE HARLEY

When I first heard about submarine splinters I thought to myself "What a fantastic name - I must play those!"

Once I found out what they were, I was still delighted and we adopted the system, it has become a firm favourite in my armoury.

They apply after your partner opens 1NT. 1NT should show a balanced hand, and we don't include 5 card majors in our NT but you can use the system regardless of strength and shape. For the purposes of this article I will assume 1NT is 15-17, but you can adapt it accordingly if you wish to try it out. I should also mention that you can play splinters in the Actual suit bid... but then it wouldn't be a submarine splinter.

Finally, a health warning, - don't try this unless you and your partner have spent a few hours practising them. Its easy to get BBO to deal you appropriate hands.

So, a submarine splinter in response to a 1NT opening shows a hand with enough points for game, (usually not slam-oriented). It shows a small singleton (not the A or K) in the suit ABOVE the suit bid, so

3♣ shows a singleton ♦

3♦ shows a singleton ♥

3♥ shows a singleton ♠ and finally

3♠ shows a singleton ♣

Each of these bids is forcing to game.

Using a submarine splinter you DENY a five card major (otherwise you could just transfer), you also PROMISE at least three cards in the other three suits.

The No Trump opener tries to find the best fit. He should bid a 4-card major (if it can be shown below 3NT), and he may bid 3NT, denying a major fit, but only if he has a good likely double stop. (suggested minimum holding in the singleton suit is K109x?). Otherwise he bids his 4-card suits upwards.

The submariner may raise a major with 4 cards. No problem you have found a 4 card fit, but what if no four card fit has been found yet?

Well you may bid the next major (if its not too late), but above all the submariner MUST NOT bid past 3NT. It may feel a little funny bidding 3NT when you know you have a singleton, but your partner will not play there unless they have a good double stop. A couple of examples will help to get you started:

E: ♠J32 ♥AJ104 ♦KQJ2 ♣K2

W: ♠8 ♥Q32 ♦A10843 ♣Q103

Bidding:

E W

1NT 3♥

4♦ 5♦

Pass

Note that East has no stop in spades, so is happy to avoid 3NT. He bids 4 card suits up the way. If West had had 4♥, then they would have bid that over 4♦, but in this case West is happy to play in 5♦. It may not make, but it's a vastly superior contract to 3NT.

E: ♠K1032 ♥AQJ4 ♦J43 ♣KQ

W: ♠A76 ♥K52 ♦6 ♣AJ10963

E W

1NT 3♣

3♥ 3NT

4♣ 5♣

Note again that 3NT is not a good place to be.

Four of a major in a moysian fit is an attractive alternative, as the ruff will be in the short hand, but 5♣ will usually make an overtrick – that's much better than going down in 3NT!

Note too, that East will be happy to play in clubs, despite only having a doubleton, because he knows his partner has no 4 card major, and also has a singleton diamond, therefore must have at least 6 clubs. Note that West may bid the same way with:

W: ♠AQ6 ♥K52 ♦6 ♣J109863

Once you have agreed the basics of the system, you can agree a meaning for the cue bid of the singleton suit by the opener. (We use it to show a maximum with no wasted points in the singleton suit). It can lead to slams which may be difficult to bid normally. Have fun!

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Western Region Bridge Association

Saturday 8th February Swiss Pairs
Sunday 9th February Swiss Teams

Contact: Gary Ridgway,
Phone: 52411825

Eastern Region Bridge Association

Saturday 8th February 2020 Swiss Pairs
Sunday 9th February 2020 Swiss Teams

Contact: Jean Macleod & Alison Farthing

Dendy Park Bridge Club

Sunday 9th February 2020 Swiss Pairs

Contact: Boris Tencer, 0414-353-996

Northern Region Bridge Association

Sat. 15th February 2020 Matchpoint Pairs
Sunday 16th February 2020

Contact: Derek Poulton

Tricks And Trumps

Sat. 15th February Matchpoint Pairs
Sunday 16th February 2020 Swiss Pairs

Contact: Leigh Gold, 0400081710

SUIT COMBINATION

How would you handle KJ542 in hand opposite Q76 in dummy if you need four tricks from the suit.

Would the play be the same if you only need three tricks?

Secondary question: What sort of percentage would you estimate to be your chances of making 4 tricks in the suit? And what about three tricks?

You can assume that in both cases above that you have as many entries to either hand as you require.

[Solution](#) on P6.

VICTORIAN APBF TEAM SELECTION

FEBRUARY 8TH. The VBA is selecting a team to play at the APBF (Asia Pacific Bridge Federation) Congress, which is to be held in Perth between April 15 and 22. We invite you to organise a team (of at least 4 players) and come along on February 8 to play in this qualifying state event. The APBF congress is a transnational event welcoming players from all over the world without limitation as to the number of participants per country. It will be a great event giving you an opportunity to pit yourself against players from all around the world as a Victorian representatives and to spend some time in beautiful Perth. There are many categories - Open, Women's, Seniors, Youth U/26, Youth U21 and Youth U/16 and Seniors. The winner of the qualifying event can elect in which category they wish to compete. The starting time is 9:30 and entries may be made via the VBA Website. The VBA will provide be providing a small subsidy to attend which includes a Victorian uniform.

MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Congratulations to Dee Harley the 2019 Victorian Congress Champion and all the congress winners and participants in 2019. We thank you for your participation in Victorian Bridge throughout last year.

Nominations are now open for two VQP teams to challenge for the Victorian Open Team at the Victorian Open Team Selection Final held at the VBA weekend of 21-22 March. The winner of that final will represent Victoria in the Open Teams at the 2020 Australian National Championships to be held in Adelaide commencing July 11.

Players are encouraged to organize teams from the eligible player list on the VBA website and nominate teams of 4 or 6 players. Team nominations should be submitted to the VBA Match and Tournament Committee via email MTC@vba.asn.au, the submission deadline is 11 February 2020 and players are only able to nominate within a single team for the team to be successful in selection. Teams with the highest combined VQP player totals will be invited to participate in the final.

PLAY PROBLEM #3 - SOLUTION

Last month I asked for solutions to Play Problem #3, Two people sent me correct solutions, Kitty Muntz, and Colin Wilshire. Well done you two, and thanks for the response.

Dlr: South ♠ AK
 Vul: All ♥ 7653
 ♦ A6
 ♣ 98543

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-----|
| ♠ J? | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ ? |
| | | N | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | E | | | | | | | | |
| | | S | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ ? | ♥ ? | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ QJ54 | ♦ QJ54 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ ? | ♣ ? | | | | | | | | | | |

♠ Q2
 ♥ AK
 ♦ K1098732
 ♣ AK

The Bidding:

| W | N | E | S |
|------|-----|----------|-----|
| - | - | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 6♦ |
| Pass | 6NT | All Pass | |

Lead: ♠J

This one is a safety play in the diamond suit. You can afford one diamond loser, so imagine that each opponent in turn holds ♦QJ54, is there a way to guarantee losing only one trick?

Win the Spade lead in dummy and lead a club to your hand, and then lead the ♦2. If west follows with a small diamond, insert the 6 from dummy. If it loses then you will take the remainder of the tricks as the diamonds can break no worse than 3-1.

If East shows out, your ♦6 will win and you can concede one diamond to West. If instead, East started with ♦QJ54, then when you lead towards the ♦6 West will have to discard something, so you can play the ♦A and lead towards your ♦K109 and West must either split his honours or play small, you guarantee 12 tricks whatever he chooses. 6 diamond tricks and two tricks in each of the other suits.

PLAY PROBLEM #4

This month You have a slam to make.

Dlr: South ♠ A52
 Vul: All ♥ 854
 ♦ 105
 ♣ K6543

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-----|
| ♠ ? | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ ? |
| | | N | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | E | | | | | | | | |
| | | S | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ ? | ♥ ? | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ K? | ♦ ? | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ ? | ♣ ? | | | | | | | | | | |

♠ KQJ103
 ♥ A32
 ♦ A
 ♣ AQ108

You have bid smoothly to 6♠ by South, with no opposition bidding. The ♦K is led. All you need is 12 tricks. Go Get 'em!

Send me your solution please:
dee_harley@hotmail.com

ABF RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

The ABF has decided to recognise all club volunteers during Volunteer Week, 18-24 May 2020.

Clubs are invited to nominate as many members of their club as they see worthy and each nominated member will receive a certificate of recognition from the ABF.

Nominations close on 20th March 2020.

Certificates will be presented during Volunteer Week.

To nominate: go to
<http://abfevents.com.au/volunteerweek/>

WISDOM

Don't criticise your partner's choices – remember – you are one of them!

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Bronze Life | |
| John Puusepp | Moonee Valley |
| Faye Bell | Geelong |
| Lou McKenna | Dendy Park |
| Life | |
| Anne Gunst | Geelong |
| **National | |
| Vi Temple | Geelong |
| Ted Fielding | Rye Beach |
| *National | |
| David Morton | Benalla |
| Marion Bott | Yarrawonga |
| Jane Rennie | Alphington |
| National | |
| Jennifer Tuttle | Yarrawonga |
| Alan Race | Yarra Valley |
| Peter Lonie | Traralgon |
| *State | |
| Vicki Banko | Bendigo |
| Rick Gaylard | Kooyong |
| John Doyle | Gardenvale |
| Rhonda Lyons | Ballarat |
| Mary Stoney | RACV |
| Dan Craine | Gardenvale |
| State | |
| Diva Hatfield | Melbourne |
| Rob Osborne | Berwick |
| Melissa Nouza | Berwick |
| Jeffrey Keath | Shepparton |
| Jackie Rubira | Benalla |
| Cheryl Chant | Bendigo |
| Alice Murray | Yarrawonga |
| *Regional | |
| Susan Patten | Yarra Valley |
| Elza Schilling | Dendy Park |
| Regional | |
| Susan Shand | Waverley |
| Sandy Peterson | Whittlesea |
| Vicki Vann | MCC |
| Lainie Carroll | Ballarat |
| Bob Player | Berwick |
| Richard Cheshire | Waverley |
| Julie Day | Bayside |
| Sally Badwi | Frankston |

Regional (continued)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Shirley Rodrigues | VBA |
| Ruth Hall | Gardenvale |
| Felicity Batchelor | Royal South Yarra |
| Jenny Oglesby | Williamstown |
| Bruce Arnup | Traralgon |
| Anne Meehan | Moonee Valley |
| John Williams | Ballarat |
| Anne Mandel | Gardenvale |

CONGRESS RESULTS**Dendy Park Bridge Club**

1. Sylvia Gluck, Ben Kingham
2. Gus Ghali, Mohamed Ghatwari
3. Sue Read, Justin Mill

Yarra Valley Mini Congress

1. Chen Ding, Ming Zhang
2. Geoff Johnson, Kay French
3. Sylvia Gluck, Ben Kingham

Gardenvale Bridge Club**Boxing Day Pairs**

1. George Lovrecz, Thilak Ranasinghe
2. Stan Klofa, Stephen Weisz
3. Annette Rose, Charles Huang

Saturday Imp Swiss Pairs

1. Jamie Ebery, Kim Frazer
2. Tim Legge, Arie Meydan
3. Anna St Clair, Dee Harley

Sunday Teams

1. Leo Saoud, Gus Ghali, Victor Zhang, David Samuels
2. Maggie Callander, Shirley Collins, David Happell, Denny Newland
3. Maryanne Bird, Colin Jasper, Peter George, Sandra Knox

Monday IMP Swiss Pairs

1. Cathy Lachman, Stephen Weisz
2. Ben Kingham, Sylvia Gluck
3. Elizabeth Byrnes, David Hollands

Rothfield IMP Swiss Pairs

1. George Lovrecz, Thilak Ranasinghe
2. Chris Fernando, Lindsay Robinson
3. Thea Cowie, Erica Linton

Rothfield MP Swiss Pairs 2020

1. Richard Greenfield, Terri Kay
2. Elena Moskovsky, James Coutts
3. Justin Mill, Ken Anderson

EDITORIAL
DEE HARLEY

We have finally reached the roaring twenties!

Long ago, as a teenager, I thought that the year 2020, was one that I could aspire to reach and still be alive. It sounded so far in the future then and yet here I am having reached this milestone but in a far different world from what I had imagined it would be. I now, totally inexplicably, live on the other side of the world and yet mankind has still not established a base on Mars, we're not travelling around on hoverboards although we do have telephones that don't need to be connected via an operator, and they can transmit the moving image of the caller.

Despite the swingeing changes in most aspects of my life there has been a constant stable - the bridge world. Some of my earliest memories are of my mother playing bridge at home with family and then the game garnered me with friends of my own and both my wives!

Bridge has changed from the nineteen twenties gentility to a far more aggressive game today, but change is good and progressive and there are many changes happening at the VBA - We have a brand-new chairman, and a revitalised committee and the promise of new premises in the near future. As I write this the mixed team selection is taking place in Sydney - a new and great addition to the competitive calendar.

So I for one look forward to the twenties with great enthusiasm - having made it this far I now think the thirties might be achievable and I expect and hope that the next ten years will be some of the most exciting in which I will play bridge!

Any budding bridge journalists out there... please send me your write ups. I am always hungry for copy to put into this bulletin.

It would also be useful to have any feedback on the articles that are printed.

email me at: dee_harley@hotmail.com

BRIDGE BABIES

We often comment the declining number of people playing bridge but we have had a wonderful couple of years of enjoying young Damon Holland's presence at the club soon augmented by Sophie Mill and we were delighted to learn of yet another addition to the bridge babies this year - congratulations to Jamie and Kerrie Ebery on the birth of their daughter Amelia!



Amelia

Solution to Suit Combination ([page 1](#))

You KJ543 Dummy: Q76

Needing 4 tricks:

If you need four tricks, then either the suit must break 3-2, or one defender holds the singleton Ace. You can choose which defender looks like he holds a singleton ace and lead a low card through him, towards the other hand. When the Ace pops up you can play low and will have your 4 tricks.

Needing 3 tricks: Unless the suit breaks 5-0 you will make three tricks eventually. The recommended line is to lead low towards the Queen. Note that if the suit breaks 5-0 then you can only make 2 tricks in the suit (assuming the defence does not blunder)

Secondary problem: Making 3 tricks will only fail if the suit breaks 5-0 (either way). Thus your percentage chance is high at 96%. Your percentage chance of four tricks is 71%

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
Think like an expert

This hand occurred in a recent club evening.

Pairs:

Dir: South

Vul: None

♠ 7

♥ AK2

♦ AQ743

♣ 8743

♠ AKQ108

♥ 1097

♦ 106

♣ KQJ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ J9632

♥ QJ

♦ J952

♣ 96

♠ 54

♥ 86543

♦ K8

♣ A1052

The Bidding:

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----------|----|------|
| - | - | - | Pass |
| 1♦ | 1♠ | 3♦ | Pass |
| 5♦ | All Pass | | |

Lead: ♠A

East's raise to 3♦ is known to be preemptive since a cue raise of 2♠ would show an invitational, or better, raise of diamonds.

West was unclear whether they would beat a 4♠ contract and decided to bid 5♦ before anyone bid 4♠ and that ended the auction. North led the ♠A and declarer realised that EW were too high. South played the ♠5 to the first trick and West the ♠7. At trick two, North played the ♣K and South contributed an encouraging spot card. North now decided to try to cash a second spade. Declarer ruffed this and played three rounds of hearts discarding dummy's second club. Now a club was ruffed, and the diamond queen was successfully finessed. After the AD dropped the king, it was simple for declarer to ruff the last two clubs on table and claim the contract. This bad defence contains an important lesson. North rushed to cash the ♠K because declarer might discard the last spade and it seems safe even if declarer ruffs.

When a defender thinks this might happen, they should ask themselves on which side suit declarer's last spade can be discarded. Since dummy has two cards in each side suit, it is obvious that there is no discard for the spade if declarer has the last one. Thus, there is no hurry to cash the spade trick and it can be taken at any time. What should worry North is whether the hearts from dummy can be discarded on clubs or the clubs discarded on hearts. With North's good club holding and South's encouraging card, declarer cannot have a good club on which to discard hearts. The opposite is not true. Dummy's club loser might, and will, disappear on a heart winner. It is crucial, and obvious, that West must cash the second club winner and not the 'safe' second spade.

Good defenders routinely use this kind of consideration to find crucial and timely switches to suits which declarer might be discarding.

CANBERRA – ROUND-UP

I flew to Canberra this year, flew into thick dirty air with an unhealthy aspect to it. Once we started playing bridge, that all became of secondary importance.

It's great to be able to report that Greg Nicholson and Frank Vearing won the Penline One-day Swiss Pairs. Great job guys.

Di Smart was in the runners-up Women's team. Eva Caplan and Jenny Thompson reached the quarter final.

Kim Frazer, along with first time partner John Dagnall won the Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs.

Ben Thompson with another first-time partner (Tony Nunn) won the TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs Championship.

Simon Hinge and Jamie Thompson reached the NOT semi-finals.

Anna and I drove back from Canberra, after a disappointing performance in the pairs and the teams, but en route we spotted a mob of (at least 30) Kangaroos bouncing along in the countryside. It was a great vision.

**A COW FLEW BY
DEE HARLEY**

Here is an exhilarating hand I butchered in the Summer of Bridge Seniors event at Canberra. I held the South hand, playing in an untested partnership.

(Hand rotated for convenience)

Dir: West ♠ A7
 Vul: None ♥ A763
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A107652

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|
| ♠ 10 | N W E S | ♠ J52 |
| ♥ KJ9842 | | ♥ Q105 |
| ♦ 852 | | ♦ KQ643 |
| ♣ Q84 | | ♣ J3 |

♠ KQ98643
 ♥ -
 ♦ AJ97
 ♣ K9

The Bidding:

| W | N | E | S |
|-----------------|------------------|------|-----|
| 2♥ ¹ | 3♣ | 3♥ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♦ ² | Dbf | 5♥ |
| Pass | 5NT ³ | Pass | 7♠ |

Lead: ♦ 8

1. Weak two
2. Zero or 3 aces
3. Intended as pick a slam. Interpreted as "I have three."

During the bidding, I was confident that a slam was on, when I saw dummy I was somewhat dismayed, as the three aces were the only high card points that partner had.

Make your plan now.

I looked at dummy for a while, realizing that although I could set clubs up, I had no entry to enjoy them. Well unless Spades split 2-2. My first line was to win the diamond, play clubs setting up the suit with a ruff (a high ruff if necessary, then to play a top spade, and a spade to dummy to enjoy the club suit when the spades broke 2-2.

As in chess, they say that if you find a playable line, you should immediately look for a better one.

I realised then that if spades broke 2-2, then I could ruff my two losing diamonds (one with the Ace), I could discard my last diamond on a heart, and then I wouldn't need the clubs to break 3-2. This was plan B.

I should have stopped there and thought to myself again "if you find a playable line, you should immediately look for a better one".

However, I embarked on plan B and was disappointed (but not unduly surprised to see that trumps were 3-1, so I went down.

The line I should have chosen, should be: win the ♦A, ruff a diamond low, ♥A (throwing the ♦9), ruff a heart, spade to the Ace, ruff a heart (West was known to have started with 6 hearts, was now the sole master of that suit, East was the holder of the top diamond, with my Jack being a menace against him, so all I do is run trumps until my club suit becomes good. Here is the position as the last spade is played:

Dir: West ♠ -
 Vul: None ♥ 7
 ♦ -
 ♣ A107

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| ♠ - | N W E S | ♠ - |
| ♥ K | | ♥ - |
| ♦ - | | ♦ K |
| ♣ QJ4 | | ♣ QJ3 |

♠ 3
 ♥ -
 ♦ J
 ♣ K9

Annoying does not quite describe it! I blame the curse of Scotland.

Now that you see it, it is obvious. West has the hearts, East the top diamonds (for his double). It doesn't matter who holds the clubs, they will be squished! That's is why, in the final diagram I showed both defenders as holding ♣QJx. (Even though in fact only West guarded the club suit)