

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2020

Editor: Dee Harley

## McCUTCHEON RANKINGS

Each year the results of the McCutcheon rankings are announced. They show who has won the most master points within the previous calendar year. Victoria does not feature particularly prominently in the Australian rankings, but we can use the ABF figures to extract the Victorian players and rank them. We had a letter asking why we hadn't shown the figures this year, so I have done some number crunching and I came up with the following: There are 5625 registered players in Victoria, 5095 of them are active. (See \* below)

The top ten Victorian master point earners were:

Overall		
Dee Harley	Silver Grand	381.71
James Coutts	Silver Grand	366.91
Leigh Gold	Gold Grand	327.82
Justin Mill	Silver Grand	285.22
Simon Hinge	Emerald Grand	263.14
Frank Vearing	Grand	241.4
Kim Frazer	Grand	238.26
Anna St Clair	Grand	227.9
Kitty Muntz	Grand	227.58

For each of the master Point Categories I have shown the top ten Victorian master point earners.

Simon Hinge is the only Emerald Grand master in Victoria, so he gets his own category.

You can see the current Australian wide McCutcheon rankings here:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/reportsbynational.asp>

Bear in mind that they started on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 so its early days yet!

\* The ABF had 110513 players with 38985 of them Active, as of Dec 2019.

Emerald Grand	
Simon Hinge	263.14

Gold Grand	
Leigh Gold	327.82
Andrew Mill	210.85
Shirley Collins	206.9
Jamie Ebery	184.15
Stan Klofa	171.62
Di Smart	147.45
Ben Thompson	145.16
Robert Gallus	108.86
Gary Ridgway	100.06
George Gaspar	93.46

Silver Grand	
Dee Harley	381.71
James Coutts	366.91
Justin Mill	285.22
Chris Hughes	218.83
Stephen Lester	196.96
Peter Hollands	161.46
Michael Gurfinkiel	130.06
Stephen Weisz	129.58
Maggie Callander	129.32
Eva Samuel	119.29

Grand	
Frank Vearing	241.4
Kim Frazer	238.26
Anna St Clair	227.9
Kitty Muntz	227.58
Annette Maluish	205.79
Kae French	166.32
David Beckett	159.18
Penny Corrigan	150.62
Thilak Ranasinghe	150.28
Steven White	140.36

<b>Gold Life</b>	
Ellena Moskovsky	113.27
Jo-Anne Heywood	105.13
Dianna Middleton	99.21
Richard Lawrie	99.04
Victor Zhang	93.57
Chris Fernando	93.5
Sue Read	85.58
Desma Sampson	83.22
Ralph Berlinski	81.46
Bert Romeijn	80.74

<b>Silver Life</b>	
Marina Darling	129.27
Christopher Leach	129.04
Sandor Varga	98.45
George Campbell	75.31
Faye Symons	73.55
Danny Sharp	72.79
Stephen Sharp	72.15
Daoping Nie	70.88
John Adams	68.73
Jacqui Morton	62.44

<b>Bronze Life</b>	
Sylvia Gluck	112.01
Lou McKenna	91.29
Richard Moss	83.25
Chen Ding	82.06
Lanny Chan	76.9
Ian Wright	71.04
Peter Karol	66.22
Melroy Decouto	64.81
Gus Ghali	64.43
Lea Woolf	50.9

<b>Life</b>	
Paul Corry	63.79
Ming Zhang	58.93
Margaret Copland	53.43
Trevor Haley	49.86
Linda Healy	46.76
Anne Gunst	45.23
Teresa Pietrzak	45.13
Sarah Livingston	43.24
Abul Azad	42.25
John Quayle	41.36

<b>**National</b>	
Deborah Anglim	54.88
Anne Roberts	37.71
Ted Fielding	36.81
Sue Small	35.74
David Samuels	32.5
Timothy Woodley	32.23
Barbara Hyett	30.26
Ron Huntley	29.07
Ilse Porritt	28.2
Leo Saoud	26.94

<b>*National</b>	
Ismail Gulec	98.37
Nick Walsh	94.67
George Wagner	91.05
Alastair Lowe	86.4
Derek Poulton	77.83
Lisa Yoffa	74.7
Sally Foster	72.71
Susie Groves	69.68
Mary Church	56.18
Delma Casabene	52.25

<b>National</b>	
Alan Race	106.82
Sue Beckman	97.13
Bei Tang	88.12
Mary Colling	76
Steve Colling	76
Maryanne Bird	68.5
Tim Legge	65.83
Julie Alliston	62.26
Shayne Wurf	61.28
Prithiraj De Zoysa	57.59

<b>*State</b>	
Michael Sullivan	76.48
Karen Thompson	54.57
John Doyle	47.45
Rick Gaylard	46.46
Fred Kaminski	42.39
Helen Schapper	40.25
Harry Procel	39.91
Patrick Morgan	36.14
Maria Campbell	35.36
Tim Hasset	34.89

<b>State</b>	
Deb Fogarty	43.74
Ron Wescott	43.44
Sue Douglas	43.02
Graham Forbes	39.8
Egbert Tzoe	34.54
Bob House	31.59
Charles Young	31.22
Pauline Moore	31.17
Allan Hardie	29.78
Faye Sadler	29.68

<b>*Regional</b>	
Julian Vear	34.35
Peter McConnell	31.57
Karen Ferguson	30.03
Stella Hammond	29.7
Di Sayer	28.6
Susan Lang	28.53
Kathleen Parot	27.2
Alan Campbell	24.33
Judith Joss	24.16
Jenny Allardice	23.38

<b>Regional</b>	
Reit Heuzinkveld	37.76
Babette Francis	34.42
Malcolm Osman	33.35
Joan Waterworth	30.25
Lynn Frankenburg	28.17
Robert Frost	27.11
Don Heggie	25.62
Sari Irlicht	23.03
Susanne Head	22.7
Alex Zarnowski	20.17

<b>**Local</b>	
Tony Ni	36.58
Geoff Dwyer	33.83
John Sarena	30.26
Harry Rose	30.15
Karen Louden	28.33
Bronwyn Simmonds	25.57
Dirk Jacobs	25.24
Francine Ben-David	24.28
Rico Fernandes	23.81
Ian Hanmer	23.55

<b>*Local</b>	
Robin Archer	25.6
Cindi Damian	22.94
Johanna Fitzpatrick	17.46
Sue Taylor	16.25
Nicholas Kotros	16.11
Denise Gassenheimer	16.03
Jane Griffiths	15.12
Carl Davids	14.88
Ranjit Bhagwandas	14.69
Ian Cox	14.22

<b>Local</b>	
Daniel Mao	20.7
Mohamed Ghatwari	20.54
Barbara James	20.18
Terry Carberry	18.12
Leo Friedlaender	15.56
Kasia Domanski	14.18
Jane Glowrey	13.16
Gene Rabinovich	13.03
Thomas Fischer	12.96
Noemi McKinnon	12.77

<b>Club</b>	
Arnold Shmerling	13.65
Matthew Sieredzinski	13.37
Wendy Harris	12.84
Leon Roos	10.97
Steve Goldwater	10.39
Valerie Remedios	9.98
Michelle Ajzensztat	9.59
Gayle Everett	9.19
Alison Wright	9.01
Jan Downing	8.95

<b>Graduate</b>	
Mrs I Fein	13.95
Vardi Jacobs	7.25
Danny Rabinowicz	6.23
Guy Amiconi	5.19
Jeanette Levy	4.69
Les Churcher	4.59
Mandy Sacks	4.45
Geoff Cadwallader	4.11
Heather Cadwallader	4.11
Felice Rotstein	4.06

**FELICITY BEALE:  
A DAUGHTER'S TRIBUTE  
JENNIE JAMES**

Felicity Beale, my Mum, was both a brilliant competitor in bridge, as well as a brilliant friend to the game and its players. Last year, in salute to Mum -- who sadly passed away in 2016 -- the Victorian Bridge Association decided to name their mixed teams event after her; this year the Felicity Beale Victorian Mixed Teams will start on March 11 and conclude on March 25.

In preparation for the tournament, Diana Smart -- Mum's womens teams partner for 45 years -- and I went through a number of photographs that were taken of Mum during her long bridge career. As we did so, memories came flooding back. The images -- which will be shown during the tournament -- track Mum and her friends and team-mates through their many bridge successes and adventures. But what also shines through is how Mum embraced bridge in all aspects of her life.

Bridge was part of Mum's world from her earliest days. When she was a small child living in the former Yugoslavia, her parents, Kurt and Alice, played bridge devotedly. When the Second World War engulfed Europe and the little family had to make their way to Canada, they were held up in Madrid for some months waiting for the required visas. Kurt and Alice spent a part of that time playing bridge. Once in Toronto, Mum's parents began importing European gourmet delicacies for their fellow Torontonians to enjoy; one of their suppliers was someone they had met in Madrid playing bridge.

When Mum moved to Australia in the 1960s, she did not initially turn her attention to bridge. Newly-married, she spent her first few years here starting her new life, and then starting her family. But by the early 1970s, her skill, and her strategic mind, had propelled her into a love affair with bridge that would last until her passing in 2016 -- a period of almost 50 years.

As a player, Mum embraced bridge both passionately and thoughtfully. The result was a prestigious and pioneering bridge career in which Mum won 30 national team events, represented Australia internationally 27 times, and won four Asia-Pacific Women's Teams championships -- the first in 1973 -- cementing her place as one of the first

Australian women to enjoy sustained success at both the national and international level. Mum did not always blow her own trumpet about this amazing track record of achievement; I am so glad to now blow it for her.

Away from the card table, her love for bridge was equally strong. Words and phrases such as 'no-trump', and 'dummy' peppered her everyday conversation. In our home, fine china espresso cups covered in spades, hearts, clubs and diamonds were lovingly displayed alongside unique, colourful, chunky jugs and teapots in the shape of the heads and upper torsos of jacks and kings. Plates, fridge magnets, small figurines -- anything that was covered in playing cards was fair game to adorn Mum's shelves. Mum herself also became similarly adorned; she loved bridge-related jewellery and would often sport earrings in the shape of hearts and spades, or proudly wear a beautiful antique necklace of the four playing suits that was given to her by a dear friend.

But Mum's love of bridge found perhaps its greatest expression in the slew of knitted masterpieces in her wardrobe. In the early 1970s, Mum entered the workroom of Melbourne artisan knitter and clothier Rachele King and ordered a pale blue woollen vest with a huge ace of spades card embroidered on the front. It was the start of a great friendship and creative collaboration; for the next four decades, Mum bombarded Rachele with demands for bridge-related sweaters and cardigans -- some in red and black to correspond with jacks and kings, and others in all colours of the rainbow -- for all manner of bridge occasions. No design was too wild. In one example, in 1980, when Mum represented Australia at the World Bridge Olympiad in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, Rachele created a patchwork story cardigan for her. Into this remarkable garment Rachele knitted -- to name just a few items -- an image of the bridge Olympics symbol, a kangaroo, some wool wattle hanging from one of the sleeves, a map with Valkenburg marked on it, and a koala holding a hand of cards.

It is impossible to overstate the degree to which bridge was one of Mum's centres of gravity, and a source of such great joy for her. Many of the people she met through bridge became her fast friends, whether it be her long-time playing partners such as Diana (Smart), Robbie (van Riel), and Ian

(McCance), or the many others with whom she enjoyed the kind of enduring and loyal friendships for which she was known and loved.

Often, late on a Wednesday evening after bridge had finished, Mum and her friends would head to a restaurant on Chapel Street where they would dissect with precision the hands that had been played earlier that evening, and then turn their attention to discuss opera, family, and any other subjects of the day. I hope all those that participate in the Felicity Beale Victorian Mixed Teams enjoy these Wednesday evenings of bridge, and life, as much as Mum did.

### UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

#### Felicity Beale Mixed Teams

11, 18, 25 March at 7:30 pm

Venue: The Victorian Bridge Association  
131 Poath Road

#### Rye Beach Bridge Club

10:am Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Swiss Pairs

10:am Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Swiss Teams

Venue: Rosebud Memorial Hall 994 Pt.  
Nepean Rd Rosebud

Contact: Jill Haworth 0410 652 298

Email: [chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au](mailto:chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au)

#### Berwick Bridge Club Inc

10am: Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Matchpoints

Venue: Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre  
8 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield

Contact: Bob Westrip, 0419 340 445

Email: [guyshillbob.1@bigpond.com](mailto:guyshillbob.1@bigpond.com)

#### Theodor Herzl Social Club

10:am Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Swiss Pairs

Venue: Theodor Herzl Social club  
222 Balaclava Road North Caulfield

Contact: Babi Ehrlich, 0417 59310

#### Frankston Bridge Club Inc

10am: Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April Swiss Pairs

10am: Sun 5<sup>th</sup> April Swiss Teams

Venue: St. Francis Xavier Church Function  
Room Corner Baxter Street & Davey Street

Contact: Val Huntley, 5965232

Email: [valeriehuntley@hotmail.com](mailto:valeriehuntley@hotmail.com)

### SUIT COMBINATION

Something a bit different this month...

What do the following sets of holdings have in common?

1.You: Q76 Partner: J43

2.You K4 Partner: J72

Think about the best way to play these suits.  
[Solution](#) on P8.

### CONGRESS RESULTS

#### Eastern Region Bridge Association

##### Swiss Pairs

1. Richard Moss, Arendina Drury
2. Alan Johnston, John Sutton
3. Robyn Couch, Ken Tierney

##### Swiss Teams

1. Glenis Lohr, Rob Graham,  
Fred Sundermann, Egbert Tzoe
2. Robynne Owen, Lorraine Griffiths,  
Kerry Haywood, David Haywood
3. Jeanne Anderson, Corrie Van Lier  
Trish Brown, Dot Lawrence

#### Dendy Park Bridge Club

##### Swiss Pairs

1. Thilak Ranasinghe, Unknown
2. Peter Nolan, Maxine Porter
3. Tim Legge, Chelliah Arul

#### Northern Region Bridge Association Teams

1. Tom Hackett, Jan Hackett,  
David Ware, Alice Murray
2. John Friesen, Zyg Roberts,  
Richard Harman, Mary Prowse
3. Wayne Leppard, Michael McQueen-  
Thomson, Derek Poulton, Nick Walsh

#### Tricks And Trumps

##### Matchpoint Pairs

1. Susie Groves & Alastair Lowe Score
2. Justin Mill & James Coutts
3. Stephen White & Frank Kovacs

##### Swiss Pairs

1. Dee Harley & Anna St. Clair
2. Stan Klofa & Stephen Weisz
3. Dianna Middleton & Kae French

**PLAY PROBLEM #4 - SOLUTION**

Last month I asked for solutions to Play Problem #3, nobody sent me the correct solution.

Dir: South

♠ A52

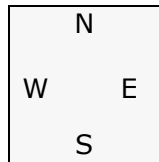
Vul: All

♥ 854

♦ 105

♣ K6543

♠ ?



♠ ?

♥ ?

♥ ?

♦ K?

♦ ?

♣ ?

♣ ?

♠ KQJ103

♥ A32

♦ A

♣ AQ108

Contract 6♠ by South.

This one requires the vision to notice that unless the ♣J drops in 2 rounds, then the suit is blocked! (i.e. you would be forced to win the fourth round of the suit in your hand and would not be able to get back to the established club in dummy). With only the one entry to dummy after trumps are gone, you need to find a way to unblock the suit.

Win the diamond lead in hand. Cross to the ♠A and play the ♦10 throwing the ♣8. Yes, you will lose this trick, but you have successfully unblocked the clubs. On any return other than a diamond, you can win in your hand and draw trumps. If a diamond is returned you can safely ruff in dummy and draw trumps. Either way you have drawn trumps and can now enjoy your lovely clubs. Play the ♣A and ♣Q, then your ♣K is the entry to throw any losing hearts you have left on the long clubs.

Both Derek Poulton and Kitty Muntz found the key unblocking play, but they both played two round of trumps before crossing to the ♠A, this leaves them open to a force, since dummy's trumps have gone, you would have to ruff a diamond return in hand, and if trumps are 5-0 the you would go down. Neither of them stated that if the ♠K highlighted a 5-0 spade break, that they would change tactic and now find the right play. Am I being mean? Probably, but that's my job!

**PLAY PROBLEM #5**

This month You are in 3NT. Your favourite contract!

Dir: East

♠ AK

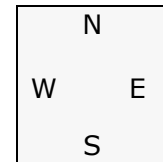
Vul: All

♥ J986

♦ AKQ3

♣ J102

♠ ?



♠ ?

♥ ?

♥ ?

♦ ?

♦ ?

♣ Q?

♣ ?

♠ QJ102

♥ 1074

♦ 742

♣ A93

East opened 1♣ and you reached 3NT with no further bidding from East-West.

You get the very helpful lead of the ♣Q. Or is it? You can assume that the King is in East's hand for his bid. All you need is nine tricks!

Send me your solution please:  
[dee\\_harley@hotmail.com](mailto:dee_harley@hotmail.com)

**SCORING – FUN SUGGESTION**

Just a thought I had. - I remember hearing about a scoring suggestion (of unknown origin) that would revolutionise Match Points Bridge.

I think this would be fun if it were adopted: If you make the contract you have bid, you add the level you bid to, to the score.

Currently, if you play 1♠ or 2♠ or 3♠ making 9 tricks you get 140. With this suggestion 1♠ making 9 would score 141, but 2♠ making 9 would score 142 and 3♠ making 9 would score 143.

There would be no difference to undertricks, they stay as they are. Doubled tricks in contracts that make, would double your level, so 1NTx making 7 tricks would score 182. This system would reward you for bidding to the maximum.

**MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS**

<b>Grand</b>	
Jenny Date	Moonee Valley
Barbara Holloway	Northern
<b>Gold Life</b>	
Lindy Anderson	VBA
Victor Zhang	Moonee Valley
<b>Silver Life</b>	
Henry Josling	Melbourne
Annette Rose	Waverley
<b>Bronze Life</b>	
Sylvia Gluck	Bridge Fanatics Club
<b>Life</b>	
John Quayle	South Gippsland
<b>**National</b>	
Deborah Anglim	Phillip Island
David Samuels	Moonee Valley
Inpa Inpanathan	Waverley
<b>*National</b>	
George Wagner	Benalla
<b>National</b>	
Julie Alliston	Frankston
David Owen	Waverley
<b>*State</b>	
Judith Anderson	Mornington
<b>State</b>	
Judith Foreman	Royal South Yarra
Egbert Tzoe	Traralgon
<b>Regional</b>	
Ruth Poutakidis	Moonee Valley
Tony Lowe	Moonee Valley
Colleen Ludbrook	Ballarat
Malcolm Osman	Waverley
Lian Tan	Waverley

**WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?**

Heard in the club:

Don't try to get into the minds of the opponents!

**EDITORIAL  
DEE HARLEY**

Long ago in a club in Scotland I was playing in an aggregate tournament. (The highest total score wins). Things had gone quite well, and we were waiting to move for the last round as we had finished slightly early. My left-hand opponent turned to me and said "Did you bid the Grand?" I looked at him – shocked! There was no grand I said, he said it was Board 27. 25-27 were the last three boards we had still to play.

Now I don't generally get angry. I think I am a good-natured easy-going person generally, but I understand how anger works, even though (or perhaps because) I have only been affected by it twice in my life. Well this was one of those occasions. I was enraged! I called for the director. The blood was pounding in my brain and I could scarcely speak as the emotion was just too much. It was such a memorable incident that ever since then I have point blank refused to discuss boards from a previous table.

So, when, in the final qualifying round of the open Butler I got to the second table of the night, and my left-hand opponent said to me "Did they bid the grand" I went off the planet for a while. It was like Déjà vu all over again!

Perhaps my reaction was a bit severe, but why, WHY, **WHY** do people have to discuss hands at the table? Some people have really penetrating voices (surely – you know who you are), and people three or four tables away can hear (whether they want to or not) all the details of your discussion.

Not only that, but I am certain that there are people out there who spend a lot of their time listening to such conversations and knowing when they will play that board, harbouring and gleaning information.

If I was the director, I would absolutely ban all discussions of hands at a table. Perhaps, actually I would institute a penalty of knee-capping for the transgressors, but I don't think that would be severe enough.

What do you think? Please email me your views at: [dee\\_harley@hotmail.com](mailto:dee_harley@hotmail.com)

**♣♣♣ KNAVE OF CLUBS ♣♣♣**  
**Double think versus no think**

One of the charms of this game is that there are depths, often unplumbed, to the play of a suit. Consider holding AJ9632 opposite K5 and you have to play the suit for no losers.

There are two common plays that one sees for this holding. Both assume the suit is 3-2. The first is to play off the ace and king to try to drop the queen and the second is to play the king and then play small to the AJ and finesse the queen.

A little thought shows that the first line drops the queen only when it is in the two card holding and fails when it is in the three card holding. Thus, it succeeds two times in five or 40%. The finesse works when the queen is with one opponent and fails when it is with the other, i.e. 50%. It is clear that the drop is inferior and that one should take the finesse.

Now consider the hand shown below, from the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide, where South has shown a strong balanced hand and North raised to 3NT on the basis of the long club suit.

Butler scoring:

Dir: North

♠ 42

Vul: None

♥ 853

♦ 32

♣ AJ9632

♠ AJ1073

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 985

♥ 972

♥ KJ4

♦ 98

♦ AQ764

♣ 874

♣ Q10

♠ KQ6

♥ AQ106

♦ KJ105

♣ K5

West leads the ♠10, in the modern way, and South wins the ♠K. South cashes the ♣K and East drops the ♣10.

On the next club, should declarer finesse or put up the ace and why? If you put up the ace, you make the contract this time, but the problem is that, holding ♣10x, East can play the ♣10 on the first round and you will

abandon the correct finesse for the losing dropping line.

Against unsophisticated players, rising with the ace and playing for ♣Q10 doubleton might be correct. Against anyone who might play the 10 from 10x, the finesse is a 3:1 favourite.

At another table, two pro-client pairs were facing off with the pros sitting North and East. The contract and lead were the same but when South led the ♣K at trick 2, East dropped the ♣Q!

Now, how does it look like the clubs are lying? It seems they are 10xxx opposite the queen singleton and that South should lead the next club and finesse the nine to pick up the suit without loss. Except that the ♣10 will suddenly, and shockingly, appear from East's hand and pro East is one up on pro North.

At the table, South was oblivious to all this and played the ♣A next so North could smile contentedly to East who could only wish that North had been sitting South!

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

What do these holdings have in common?:

1.You: Q76                      Partner: J43

2.You K4                         Partner: J72

Well, these are suits you should avoid playing yourself. If either opponent leads one of these suits, then you are GUARANTEED to make a trick (ok, it is possible to construct a hand where the opponents have enough tricks outside these suits to mean you won't eventually make a trick, but given that the suit is lead three times, then the guarantee will hold).

If you try to play these suits yourself, then there is a good chance you will not make a trick in the suit. If an opponent breaks the suit then you will make a trick by playing low second in hand.