

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2021

Editor: Dee Harley

## VBA BULLETIN SUMMER LEAGUE

League Tables as at 25/01/2021

Team	Played	Imps	VPs
International	2	48	29.64
Geelong	2	34	25.46
Bloom	2	12	22.89
LINKS	2	11	21.86
Hidden Dragon	2	8	21.76
Half-Baked	2	-17	17.23
Mac	2	-42	11.27
Logans Runners	2	-54	9.89

Team	Played	Imps	VPs
bilski	2	90	35.12
Marks	2	62	30.59
Klofa	2	19	23.62
Northern Lights	2	-3	19.34
JEMM in the Ruff	2	-16	18.39
Four Desperados	2	-32	14.77
T-Delights	2	-42	11.72
White	2	-78	6.45

Team	Played	Imps	VPs
Veering	2	12	22.75
The gentry	2	5	21.23
Lingua Franca	2	-7	18.48
Social Distancers	2	-10	17.54
4Belles	1	26	15.24
Young ones	2	-32	13.30
Herded Cats	1	6	11.46

The new Summer league has started. We have 23 teams, which is an unfortunate number as it means two leagues of 8 teams and one of 7.

It has been suggested to me that opening up the competition to all Australia has meant that some teams declined to enter because they would get savaged. In my opinion if that were to happen, that would be a great learning experience!

Meanwhile, most of the teams who did enter are enjoying the experience immensely.

The league tables shown are as it stands at the end of January, after only two matches (with 5 more to come).

The tables are updated every weekend (once all the results for the week are in), and you can see the latest position along with all the players names and the schedules at:

<http://vba.asn.au/summer-league-starting-january-11th-2021/>

To keep in touch regularly I suggest you add that URL as a browser favourite.

Captains of the teams arrange matches at a time which is suitable to everyone. I can assure you that Captains spend a lot of time and effort in arranging these matches. The heroes who take on this task deserve a great deal of thanks.

The rationale for setting up the VBA Bulletin league was to promote friendly online team bridge.

Most of the matches are played in a great spirit, but occasionally we have a match which gets a bit needly when the wrong people come up against each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the use of the UNDO option (again! This is the third consecutive bulletin where I have attempted to sort out this menace but still, we appear to be having issues with it).

Firstly, your captains have either agreed to play UNDOs, or they have disallowed UNDOs.

If you have a team containing whingers or players who are argumentative or mulish, then I suggest that you agree to disallow UNDOs, that will reduce the number of problems you will encounter. If you do play UNDOs then you should use them with discretion.

Here is a hand I was defending in our match last night:

(Hands rotated for convenience)

Dir: North      ♠ K972  
 Vul: EW        ♥ -  
                   ♦ KJ985  
                   ♣ AJ87

♠ 8	N	♠ AJ54
♥ AJ98532	W      E	♥ KQ64
♦ 72	S	♦ Q843
♣ K94		♣ Q

♠ Q1063  
 ♥ 107  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 106532

Lead: ♥A

Bidding:

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

I was sitting West, having made a vulnerable 2♥ overcall I was a little worried that my partner might expect more in the way of defence, however I was not in a position to bid 5♥, so I passed and chose to lead my suit before any heart tricks evaporated.

Declarer ruffed the lead in dummy and played a diamond to the Ace, and then ruffed his last heart. Then he cashed the ♦K and the ♣A, on which my partner necessarily played the ♣Q. I played the ♣9 to show an odd number and the club situation was now clear. Declarer now lead the ♣7 partner discarded the ♥Q and declarer played the ♣3. Something strange happened in my brain, I played the ♣4 and immediately regretted it. We do play UNDOs, but this was not as if I tried to play the King and missed it...I did intentionally (stupidly) click the ♣4, so although I immediately wanted to undo it, I knew it was not right. Even if it let the contract home, I had to wear this error.

Declarer led another club, partner ruffed, and I expect partner may have noted with interest my King falling down uselessly! The contract drifted one down and we lost 11 IMPs as the sacrifice (!?) was not found in the other room, and 4♥ made.

Note that, playing double dummy, declarer can make 4♠ so I guess we were lucky that my silliness did not cost more!

It is time to repeat that UNDO requests should be reserved for situations where you have clicked the wrong thing (unintentionally). It would be my policy (and therefore I hope yours too) to ALWAYS allow an undo request, but if you feel you have been damaged as a result of it, then firstly – grant the UNDO request! then you record the hand, the table conversation, and any other information and send it all to me to sort out.

Please also note that if you do not play UNDOs, you should use the settings facility in BBO which means that you have to Confirm a bid or a play before you actually make it, this facility should in principle eliminate the need for UNDOs altogether.

Please note also that the VBA Bulletin Summer league exists solely for your enjoyment.

### EDITORIAL

I was listening to an article on the radio about the Peter Porter Poetry society, which reminded me that my mother was an avid bridge player and she also wrote poetry. It remains one of my long-term memories the day she sat us down to hear her latest offering.

“If you want to play bridge,  
 First rummage around in the fridge”

I am afraid(!?) that I never heard the rest of the poem, I just burst into uncontrollable giggling, and kept giggling for at least 24 hours. You know when you just can't stop.

I don't think she was offended. I am inclined to offer a prizeless competition for creating the most captivating bridge related poem.

Send me your entry. I will publish the winning entry – along with your name.

Or for that matter – send me your interesting bridge hands!

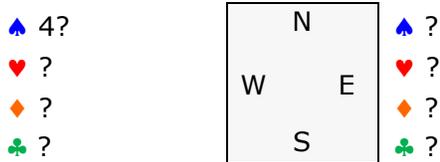
[dee\\_harley@hotmail.com](mailto:dee_harley@hotmail.com)

**PLAY PROBLEM #14 - SOLUTION**

The previous issue of the bulletin gave you a 3NT contract to play.

IMPs

Dlr: South      ♠ QJ2  
 Vul: Both      ♥ 542  
                     ♦ QJ10952  
                     ♣ 2



♠ A76  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ A10986

Lead: ♠4

This was a straightforward problem which Kitty and TP nailed. Is it a solution you would have found at the table?

You must play the ♠2 from dummy at trick one, retaining a guaranteed spade entry to dummy. Then you play to establish 5 diamond tricks (play the King first of course) and you will come to 2 spades, 2 hearts, 5 diamonds and at least one club. (If East wins the ♦A and plays a small club you will play the ♣10 and win a club return as cheaply as you can which will limit them to 2 club tricks)

The opponents may be able to take no more than 2 clubs a diamond and a spade if they defend well...but you will take the rest!

**SUIT COMBINATION**

Try this one.

You: A2    Partner:    Q10983

How would you play this suit for 4 tricks (i.e. for 1 loser).

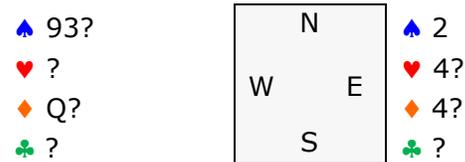
Decide how you would play before peeking at the [Solution](#) on P6

**PLAY PROBLEM #15**

South must make 4♠ on the lead of the ♦Q. South wins the ♦Ace at trick one and plays two top trumps, East following the first time and discarding a heart on the second round. Take it from there!

IMPs

Dlr: South      ♠ AJ76  
 Vul: Both      ♥ Q109  
                     ♦ A32  
                     ♣ K42



♠ KQ854  
 ♥ K82  
 ♦ 765  
 ♣ A7

Lead: ♦Q

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

**RANDOM THOUGHTS**

I have not yet ventured back into the real face to face bridge world. I do like to play online though, and I have a regular (20 boards) Monday evening teams match where the results are displayed as each board is completed (in BO terms this is called Barometer scoring). I try to play in the Schafer tournaments once a week, and I have a couple of sessions playing in online club tournaments. I suspect the numbers attending these is dropping in some places as people start to go back to live bridge, or perhaps as alternative tournaments take preference. I also play once a week in the VBA Bulletin Summer league.

I used to reckon that unless I played 4 times a week, my sharpness would fade, and I would find it difficult to count (etc.) I appear to be playing 5 times a week now on a regular basis so I hope I'm keeping fresh and vibrant! – how often do you play?

## GENERIC BIDDING AGREEMENTS

Successful partnerships spend time going over the hands after a match. Something else you may want to discuss is how you might handle situations which have not yet arisen.

To give an example, let us say that you have an agreed defence to the Unusual No Trump, so that for example:

W	N	E	S
	1♠	2NT	?

You may have the following agreements for South's bids:

- X – Willing to penalize at least one of the minors. All subsequent doubles are penalty.
- 3♣ 5+♥ and ♠ tolerance (Hx or better)
- 3♦ Primary ♠ support – Limit raise or better
- 3♥ Primarily to play. No spade tolerance, Not forcing but may be raised with a good fit.
- 3♠ to play can be a stretch. Below Invitational.
- 4♣/♦ - 4 card ♠ and at most 1 of the suit bid
- 4♥/♠ To play, not constructive.

Now you get this auction:

W	N	E	S
	1♠	3♣*	?

3♣\* showing at least 5-5 in ♦ and the other Major(♥).

If you have never discussed this, you will just have to close your eyes and take a stab in the dark.

Here is where a generic agreement comes in.

Suppose you make a generic agreement about your handling of the opponents 5-5 interventions, you can say:

When opponents show at least 5-5 in 2 specific suits after our opening bid we play:

- X – willing to penalize at least one of their suits – all subsequent doubles are for penalty.
- A bid of their lower ranking suit shows the 4<sup>th</sup> suit with tolerance for openers suit

- A bid of their higher-ranking suit is a constructive raise of openers suit (Limit+)
- A bid of the fourth suit is to play.
- A bid of opener's suit is to play.
- Jumps in the opponent's suits are splinters.
- All game bids are to play (unless perhaps you play exclusion Keycard blackwood so if it is one of their suits and you do play exclusion then that is what it will be!

Now you can see that you know exactly what to do in the second auction even though you have never seen or even imagined it before.

I have given a detailed example for the 5-5 jump intervention, but there are many other situations.

What does a double of a transfer mean? You may be used to transfers over NT so start with that. Create a generic agreement for Pass (followed by double if the transfer is passed out), Double (e.g. Shows the suit bid), a bid of the transfer suit (e.g. take out), New suit, NT, and Jump in the transfer suit etc.

Once your generic agreement is complete – test it out by imagining auctions and see if you and your partner agree what everything means,

Now does that generic agreement apply after transfer responses to 1♣? for example, can the same meanings be made to apply? And what about transfer pre-empts? Will your system cope with that?

Other generic agreements can be made for

- How to handle intervention showing 5-5 where the suits are not known (e.g. 1♥ (2♥) showing ♠ and a minor.
- Double of a splinter bid.
- Double of a high level pre-empt (e.g. 5♣)
- Weak 2 suited openings
- Opponents intervening over your strongest bid (classically a 2♣ opener).
- Intervention over Keycard requests (you may be familiar with ROPI/DOPI – that is a generic agreement)
- Responses after Reverses. (Blackout is a generic solution to this problem).

I am sure the list goes on and on!

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣  
**PLAN THE PLAY DURING THE AUCTION**

The development of bidding judgment seems tricky. You are taught all about point count and then a plethora of corrections for shortages, for length, for holding no aces and for being 4333. Then someone tells you losing trick count is better. What is one to do? How do you get to bid like an expert? For that matter how do experts judge things? The answer is simple and hard at the same time.

The expert tries to look ahead to the play to judge how many tricks the hand is likely to make and chooses bids on that basis. Today's hand came up when I was playing a club game with my sister from Ballarat. We could have bid it well, but we were EW and had to watch NS botching the bidding horribly. The first 3 bids were fine. North's leap to 4♥ is not good since this hand is strong but the auction sounds weaker in high cards and more based on long suits. South just has to take a moment to think now. North has bid 4♥ on their own and has either 6 solid hearts or 7 of them. The ♥K tells us, it is the latter.

Pairs:

Dir: South	♠ QJ93										
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ10763										
	♦ -										
	♣ A2										
♠ 52	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ K1084
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 85		♥ 2									
♦ 765		♦ QJ109									
♣ KJ8754		♣ Q963									
	♠ A76										
	♥ K94										
	♦ AK8432										
	♣ 10										

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
				1♦
	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
	Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lead: ♦Q

South has to look at the play. In particular, how is the diamond suit going to be used? If North has 2 diamonds, the suit will provide 5 tricks after one ruff and 4 tricks after 2 ruffs if

they are 3-2 or 4-1 (96%). If North has 1 diamond, one or two ruffs will provide 5 tricks if they split 3-3 and 4 tricks if they are 4-2 (84%).

If North has no diamonds, the suit will provide 4 tricks if they split 4-3 (62%). Thus, the diamond suit is likely to provide 4 tricks to go with 7 hearts and the ♠A. So South can see 12 tricks and could bid 6♥ now but it costs nothing to check on the ♣A and then bid 7♥.

So you see the line of play is identified during the auction. Sis led the ♦Q and North continued to under-impress by not ruffing the diamonds. After taking the spade finesse, declarer discarded two spades on the ♦AK. More than half of the field failed to bid slam and half of them couldn't find a thirteenth trick, so we only got a 60% score. This hand is an easy example of how one can plan the play during the auction and bid on that basis.

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

You need 4 tricks from this suit

You: A2    Partner: Q10983

The best line is to run the Queen (if it is not covered). If it wins you now need a 3-3 break or doubleton J in either hand. If it loses you just need a doubleton Knave somewhere. If the Queen is covered by the King - you win the Ace and play towards your remaining 10983. All you need now is a singleton Knave or any 4-2 or 3-3 break.

I found this a surprising concept when I first heard of it but put yourself in the seat sitting over the Queen, and lets say the A2 is in dummy. You hold Kxx - would you cover the Queen? You can see that if you don't cover you will make your King, and if you do cover, you won't make a trick in the suit, so it is critical which cards partner has in this suit!

I guess this would be the best way to play Q3 opposite A2 for two tricks - as long as it is early in the hand before counts can be taken.

## WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

In a pioneering spirit, Waverley Bridge club have decided that their Summer Congress will be run using Real Bridge. The hands will be played online (and not in person at the club).

Real Bridge is an online application which allows the competitors to sit at home and bid and play almost normally! By that I mean that each competitor has a camera and a microphone in use so the competitors can see and talk to each other during the play.



**RealBridge**

**WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS**

*Summer Swiss Teams*

**RED POINT**

DIRECTOR: LAURIE KELSO

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL ABF PLAYERS

Format: 6x8 Board Matches

**SUN | 14 FEBRUARY 2021 | 10 AM**  
WITH A LUNCH BREAK AFTER 3 MATCHES

Cost: \$50 per Team

For booking and payment visit  
<https://booking.waverleybridgeclub.com.au>

SCAN ME

You can scan the QR codes on the brochures to get straight to entry online.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Andrzej Krolikowski at [andrzejk313@gmail.com](mailto:andrzejk313@gmail.com)



**RealBridge**

**WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS**

*Summer Swiss Pairs*

**RED POINT**

DIRECTOR: LAURIE KELSO

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL ABF PLAYERS

Format: 6x8 Board Matches

**SAT | 13 FEBRUARY 2021 | 10 AM**  
WITH A LUNCH BREAK AFTER 3 MATCHES

Cost: \$25 per Pair

For booking and payment visit  
<https://booking.waverleybridgeclub.com.au>

SCAN ME

## COMING CONGRESSES

I see also that the Yarra Valley congress is also stepping into the Online Congress waters.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb they are running an online Pairs, and on the Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, there is an online teams competition.

Contact Christine Parkin on 0411 025 052  
Or by email at [cparkin\\_82@hotmail.com](mailto:cparkin_82@hotmail.com)

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Dendy Park will be hosting a live face to face congress. Lunch will be provided. Entries to George Gaspar, 0417 052 246 or by email at [ggaspar@netspace.net.au](mailto:ggaspar@netspace.net.au)

Perhaps the way of the future is a mixture of online bridge and face-to-face bridge. I will keep you informed!