

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2021

Editor: Dee Harley

ANC NEWS:

The Australian National Championships is to be held in July in Perth, West Australia (Covid-19 permitting)

ANC Restricted Pairs:

The VBA held a restricted event with the following two pairs winning ABF subsidised spots to the ANC Restricted Butler.

In the Restricted Pairs Colin Jasper (Gardenvale) and Allan Hardie (Frankston) had a comprehensive win with Charles Huang (Waverley) & Bei Tang (Upwey) being the runners-up. Both these pairs will receive free airfare, accommodation, and entry fee to the Restricted Pairs Championships at the ANC in Perth.

ANC LINE-UPS:

The final selection processes have completed for the Victorian teams and the following players are duly selected to play:
(Each player is shown in alphabetical order):

ANC Open Team

1. Neil Ewart
2. Dee Harley
3. Simon Henbest
4. Peter Hollands
5. Chris Hughes
6. Justin Mill

Non-Playing Captain: Laurie Kelso

ANC Senior Team:

1. Sam Arber
2. Richard Greenfield
3. Stan Klofa
4. George Lovrecz
5. Len Meyer
6. Phyliss Moritz

Non-Playing Captain: Andrew Macready-Bryan

ANC Women's Team:

1. Eva Caplan
2. Laura Ginnan
3. Belinda Lindsay
4. Eva Samuel
5. Helen Stewart
6. Jenny Thompson

Non-Playing Captain: Laurie Kelso

ANC Junior Team

1. Damon Flicker
2. Danni Fuller
3. Rebecca O'Reilly
4. Jamie Thompson (Captain)
5. Victoria Thompson
6. Seb Wright

Good luck to all the ANC Teams!

CONGRESS UPDATE

The **Moonee Valley Super Congress** is under threat as I write. I received this email from the convener:

"Hello bridge friends with the unfortunate news that Victoria enters another COVID lockdown until Thursday night 3rd June. No one can predict what will follow that. End of all restrictions? - probably not.

It is unlikely that this Moonee Valley Super Congress will proceed, starting 4th June. We will make a final decision on Monday 31st May.

Andrew Slutzkin on behalf of MVBC Committee and the Congress subcommittee."

STOP PRESS: Moonee valley congress cancelled.

VCC: The Victor Champion Cup is scheduled for June 10-14. Currently (as I write) Melbourne is in an uncertain situation due to the current Covid-19 crisis.

There are 66 entries for the Teams (some jolly good ones too!) but I cannot say at this point in time what will happen.

Entrants have received an email informing them that a decision will be forthcoming on the 3rd June.

I suggest that you keep your eyes on the VCC website for the up-to-date situation: <https://www.abf.com.au/2021-victor-champion-cup/>

Local congresses:

Tricks and Trumps congress has been cancelled

Geelong congress is scheduled for 26th/27th June

Kattery Congress is scheduled for the 3rd/4th July.

Rye Beach & Dromana Swiss Pairs 10th July

Keep your eye on [Bridge Unlimited](#) for updates to these congresses.

MIXED PAIRS SQUEEZE

Serhat sent me this hand from the Thwaites Mixed Pairs (rotated for convenience):

Dlr: West	♠ AKJ73				
Vul: All	♥ AK7				
	♦ 6				
	♣ QJ74				
♠ Q542	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 1096
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 9		♥ J106542			
♦ KQ1075		♦ 94			
♣ 865		♣ 92			
	♠ 8				
	♥ Q83				
	♦ AJ832				
	♣ AK103				

Contract 6NT by South

Lead: ♦K

West unsurprisingly led the ♦K, which Serhat ducked. West switched to a heart, so he cashed all his hearts and clubs ending in hand. On the last club West had to come down to 4 cards from ♠Q542 and ♦Q. West threw a Spade and now the Spade finesse made all dummy's Spades good.

It takes a Spade switch at trick 2 to defeat this slam, since the entry to dummy will be removed. A squeeze has 4 requirements in order to work, and an entry to the promoted winners is one of those requirements. It would be more fun on this hand if you were squeezing East, and had entry problems. Imagine having played the ♣AK10 from South and the ♣QJ7 from declarer's hand. When you lead the 4♣ from dummy, will East have watched all these club pips carefully enough to know which hand will win the trick?

No such chicanery is possible when trying to squeeze West because you must play the 3♣ before West gets to play and he can see the 4♣ in dummy.

DOUBLE DISCARD/DISCARD - EPILOGUE

I had one comment on this hand from last month's conundrum which was sent in by TP.

Dir: South		♠ 107632				
Vul: Love all		♥ 742				
		♦ 76				
		♣ A84				
♠ J54		<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ -
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 8			♥ KQJ1096			
♦ KQ1095432			♦ 8			
♣ 2			♣ KQJ1096			
		♠ AKQ98				
		♥ A53				
		♦ AJ				
		♣ 753				

Contract 4♠ by South

Lead: ♦K

TP won the ♦A, drew trumps, cashed the Aces (♥ and ♣) and then threw West in with the Diamond Knave. On subsequent diamond leads, dummy threw (say) 2 hearts and declarer threw 2 clubs from hand losing only 3 diamond tricks - 10 tricks made thank you very much.

As was pointed out to me by one observant reader, East should play the King under each Ace (♣ and ♥), which gives West the full picture of the hand. At the point when South leads the ♦J, West now knows enough to let it hold, and then the contract is doomed!

EDITORIAL

It's difficult keeping up with everything when Covid is such a destructive force in our community.

Playing in Adelaide recently, some players missed some sessions because they had to quarantine. I was very impressed however with the South Australian QR system, it worked seamlessly wherever you went. I am hoping Victoria will be able to match it. As for the bridge - it was good to be back playing live bridge again. It may or may not happen again soon, meanwhile we are spending a lot of time working on Systems for the ANC.

It often amazes me how much time we spend learning things which do not come up very often.

There was an article on [bridgewinners](http://bridgewinners.com) recently querying how many pages of notes various partnerships had. Fred Stewart claimed he had over 1300 pages in his system notes.

I try to keep notes of system as small as possible by re-using key features (for example if you play 1♠ (Pass) 2NT as 4 or more Spades and 8+ points (but able to stop below game), then you can play (1♣) 1♠ (Pass) 2NT as the same thing, you may have to modify the responses a little to enable you to get away with light overcalls, but as far as possible it should be the same thing.

One partner should be responsible for maintaining the system, and it has to be updated frequently as you come across new situations frequently. Both partners however need to contribute to the discussions, and the person holding the Master copy of the notes should make sure that the other partner always has the latest version.

Personally, I think 1300 is too many pages. A working system should be at least 20 pages long, and anything over 75 becomes very difficult to maintain and remember. However it is each to his own.

There are a number of possible formats to use, for example if you keep your notes on a web page then both partners may view the up-to-date system online. That makes a lot of sense, otherwise if you use a word processor, then it becomes an art to avoid repetition, keep the content clear and logical and make sure that the format is consistent.

When I was a very young bridge-player my partner and I played a fully complex Precision system which was delightfully accurate, however the strain of remembering all these sequences meant that by the end of a major tournament my brain seized up, and exhaustion crept in which meant that I lacked the mental acuity to play the cards correctly.

Pah!

COMPETITION RESULTS

Thwaites Mixed Pairs Championship:

Note that this competition is as yet incomplete since the last round has been postponed because of Covid Lockdown:

Current Standings:

1. Eva Samuel & Peter Hollands
2. Maggie Callander & Chris Hughes
3. Kitty Muntz & Neil Ewart

Thwaites Mixed Pairs Plate:

Note that this competition is as yet incomplete since the last round has been postponed because of Covid Lockdown:

Current Standings:

1. Jenny Thompson & David Thompson
2. George Gaspar & Jan Tunks
3. Martin Willcox & Margaret Copeland

Blutstein Swiss Pairs:

1. Leigh Gold & Kitty Muntz
2. George Lovrecz & Stan Klofa
3. Ralph Berlinski & Prithiraj De Zoysa

Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs

1. Kim Frazer & Jamie Ebery
2. Neil Ewart & Michael Phillips
3. Erica Windmiller & Thea Cowie

ANC Restricted Pairs:

1. Colin Jasper & Allan Hardie
2. Charles Huang & Bei Tang
3. Kevin Taylor & Marion Taylor

Bayside Swiss Pairs

1. Phyllis Moritz & Len Meyer
2. Kim Frazer & Lisa Yoffa
3. Chelliah Arul & Tim Legge

TRUMP CONTROL

Playing on BBO against random opponents (not recommended!) we came across this hand:

Dlr: South		♠	965				
Vul: Love all		♥	AQ				
		♦	J5				
		♣	AJ10543				
♠	2	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠	KQ87
N							
W E							
S							
♥	J9632		♥	K74			
♦	109864		♦	K732			
♣	Q9		♣	K8			
		♠	AJ1043				
		♥	1085				
		♦	AQ				
		♣	762				

Contract 4♠x by South

Lead: ♦10

The auction was rather agricultural:

Bidding:

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

1. Limit raise with exactly 3 Spades
2. Minimum hand unable or unwilling to bid game.

3 4♠ was a punt 😊.

4 The double was what happens when you play random opponents, still – he did have all the Kings.

Look at the North/South hands and decide on a way to play this contract.

I won the ♦Q, cashed the ♦A and played a Club to the ♣10. A Club was returned to the ♣K and Ace. Now came a low Spade from dummy, West played the ♠7 and my ♠10 held the trick. Now I was able to play a small Spade towards the 9♠ (Key play) and poor East was helpless. He won and returned a Diamond which I ruffed in hand (throwing the ♥Q from dummy). I crossed to the ♥A and took the marked Spade finesse, drew the last trump and then was able to enjoy dummy's lovely Club cards.

PLAY PROBLEM #18 - SOLUTION

I did say it was more difficult. Nobody sent in the correct solution. TP gave it a lot of analysis and came close to the answer, but he didn't nail it. I didn't nail it either, so I had to consult the oracle!

I have filled in the East West cards with possible danger holdings:

Dir: West ♠ KQ7
 Vul: E/W ♥ 975
 ♦ A643
 ♣ KQ2

♠ 9864	N W E S	♠ AJ105
♥ AQ2		♥ 3
♦ Q1082		♦ J95
♣ 93		♣ 108764

♠ 32
 ♥ KJ10864
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AJ5

Lead: ♣9
 Bidding:

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

The danger here is that you lose 2 Hearts, a Spade, and a Club ruff to go one down.

Suppose you win the lead in dummy and play a heart which loses to West who returns his second club. On the 2nd round of hearts East discards (encouraging Spades) so that West can win and play a Spade to his partner who can now return a Club to ruff. Down one ("One in the soup").

What if you win trick one in hand and play a spade towards the ♠KQ? East can win and return a club, but now when West gets in with a Heart, he has no way to get to his partner's hand for the Club ruff.

So, of course, East must refuse that first Spade trick. Declarer could cross back to the ♦K and lead another Spade... but he has no losers outside the trump suit so at this point

South could show his class and just lead the ♠K from dummy, severing the East-West communications! Not in the soup on this play!

PLAY PROBLEM #19

Here is a nice small slam for you to make:

Dir: West ♠ 543
 Vul: E/W ♥ KJ10543
 ♦ A8
 ♣ 32

♠ ?	N W E S	♠ ?
♥ ?		♥ ?
♦ ?		♦ ?
♣ ?10		♣ ?

♠ AQ
 ♥ A
 ♦ K76543
 ♣ AKQJ

Lead: ♣10

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♦ ³	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

- 1 weak
- 2 forcing relay
- 3 non-minimum, ♦ high-card feature

Send me your solution please:
dee_harley@hotmail.com

Suit Play;
 This month you hold AKJ73 opposite your partner's 108

How would you play this suit for 5 tricks?

How different would it be if you only needed 4 tricks?

Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

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

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
KEEPING CONTROL

Many club players choose unwise bidding arrangements around the 2♣ opening bid. This is simplest to use when it promises 23+hcp and a balanced hand or any game forcing hand. The only auction which can stop short of game is 2♣-2♦-2NT; all other auctions must continue to game. When used as 23+, or any GF hand, any response, other than 2♦, suggests there are sufficient values for slam giving plenty of room to explore for the correct denomination. A 2♣ opener and positive response make the game-or-slam decision easy. All non-slam hands then are just bid to the best game. Using 2♣ to show all hands of 19+hcp leaves difficulties in developing the auction after a positive reply since it doesn't clarify the game-or-slam decision.

The auction below shows a negative 2♦ response, a transfer to spades and then a choice of games offer. South follows normal bidding tactics and simply chooses the spade game with an 8-card fit.

Teams:

Dir: South	♠ K7642										
Vul: All	♥ 5										
	♦ 10763										
	♣ 854										
♠ 10983	<table style="margin: 0 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		♠ 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ KJ82		♥ Q9764									
♦ KJ4		♦ 982									
♣ 73		♣ A962									
	♠ AQJ										
	♥ A103										
	♦ AQ5										
	♣ KQJ10										

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
				2♣
Pass		2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass		3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass		3NT	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Lead: ♠ 10

West led a passive trump. Declarer cashed his trump honours, noting the 4-1 break. He saw that it would be fatal to cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart in order to draw West's last trump; most of the time, the defenders would come in with the ace of clubs and cash three heart tricks. Declarer considered this and decided to rely on the diamond finesse for his contract and, so, played on clubs. West signaled his doubleton and was given a club ruff on the third round of the suit with the nine of clubs. West exited with a heart and declarer had to lose two diamond tricks. Declarer complained about his bad luck but he had made a mistake. What went wrong was having no control of hearts after the heart ruff. What should he have done?

At trick four, just duck a heart! If East wins and plays a diamond, you play low from hand and West wins the trick with the jack. A heart exit is as good as anything and you would ruff, draw the last trump and then play on clubs. The ace of hearts is still there to control the heart suit!

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

This month you held AKJ73 opposite your partner's 108

Needing 5 tricks you should lead the 10 and run it if not covered. If it wins you can now take the "marked" finesse by leading up to the Knave. (against some jokers, that will lose to the Queen, but no harm done).

If the 10 was covered by the Queen, you should now play the King, Ace and Jack hoping for a 3-3 break or a doubleton 9 somewhere.

Needing only 4 tricks you start again by running the 10 and again, if it holds you can repeat the Queen finesse as above.

The difference comes when the Knave is covered by the Queen? You win, return to hand and now run the 8 (if not covered). This will guarantee 4 tricks.