

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

APRIL 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

The March issue has encouraged more people to send in comments on the format and content.

I appreciate the time that people have taken to email me with their thoughts.

I have tried to incorporate all reasonable requests and I see this as an ongoing process.

One that I haven't incorporated yet is the colouring of the card symbols. To date, I have been using a multi-coloured layout as follows –



The person proposed a more traditional red and black symbol layout –



I don't mind either so I will ask you to send in your preference and I will go with the majority. My email address is in this section.



Above is a picture of Chris Hughes looking puzzled at home.

Submit all your input to my private email address

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

Movie buffs will recognise a subtle reference to a 1976 science fiction film.

PRESIDENT VBA LTD. - CHRISTOPHER LEACH

Today I would like to talk about the significance for Bridge Victoria of the sale of Poath Road and some associated history. I am often asked to explain in more detail the decision to relocate the VBA club to Dendy Park and the related decision to acquire the Dendy Park Bridge Centre and merge it with the club to form the Victorian Bridge Centre. I am very happy to do so.

The origins of this plan date back to the VBA's move, twenty years ago, from Prahran to Murrumbeena. By 2011, due to a variety of factors, the once very successful VBA club was declining in numbers and at the same time the relatively vast Poath Road building was becoming more and more expensive to operate. After a brief respite during Covid when the building was closed and government support available, the VBA Council was facing escalating losses in the 2020's, plus the need for unavoidable and expensive building maintenance. The situation had become untenable.

The move to Dendy relocated the club into an environment which was much lower cost, far more self-contained, with a more pleasant ambience and (unlike Poath Road) excellent parking. The acquisition of Dendy, at an advantageous price, also provided the club with more active members.

The importance of this is that the club can now be administratively separated from state activities and can stand on its own two feet. An Operations Committee has been formed for the VBC, chaired by Allan Hardie, and a new website for the VBC set up. Going forward, the club's operations will be accounted for separately from state operations, probably for the first time ever.

The significance for Bridge Victoria was that Poath Road could be sold and planning for a Future Fund set in motion. That Fund, whose revenues will be utilized for the advancement of bridge in Victoria will come into being late this year, with its primary corpus of funds arriving in 12 months upon receipt of the balance of the Poath Road proceeds.

Meanwhile, we are setting up the Bridge Victoria Operations Committee which will be run by a group of representatives from across Victoria to direct new initiatives across the state, A new chapter for Victorian bridge will thereby be ushered in.



TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

The following hand took place in a recent team's event

NORTH

♠KT5
♥K63
♦K76
♣QJT2

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠AJ6
♥AQJ
♦AQ4
♣A985

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
6NT	P	2NT P	P P

AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THESE DECLARER PLAY HANDS ARE FOR THE LESS EXPERIENCED PLAYERS.

West leads the ♦J.

Counting our tricks, we have the following sure tricks –

Two ♠s, three ♥s, three ♦s which equals eight tricks.

If the ♣ finesse works, we have four more tricks and if it doesn't, we have three more tricks

There is no point delaying the inevitable. You win the trick with ♦K and lead the ♣Q and, after East plays a small ♣, you let it run.

Guess what happens? There is no point in writing the hand up as a test if the finesse wins.

You guessed it, East wins the ♣K and returns the ♦T and East throws a ♠.

Now you must find the ♠Q to make the contract.

What is your plan from here?

Are you a declarer who takes the bit between their teeth and leads a ♠ now for a 50-50 shot or do you cash a few winners first and delay the decision?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

The following hand took place in the Nationals in Canberra.

NORTH

♠ A95
♥ A865
♦ 9
♣ AKJ76

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ QJ3
♥ KQJ3
♦ AK85
♣ 43

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	P	1♦	P
2♥	P	3♥	P
3♠	P	4NT	P
5♦	P	6♥	P

South, over North's 1♣, simply bids 1♦ on the theory that you are going to bid again if partner rebids 1NT, so show the ♦ suit along the way.

North shows a strong hand by jumping to 2♥ (a high-level reverse).

South shows a good hand by bidding 3♥ (not fast arrival to game as they are in a game forcing auction).

North shows the ♠ control.

South rolls out the Blackwood convention and after North shows 3 key cards, South bids 6♥

East leads the ♦2.

Decide how you are going to make this small slam

What is your plan from here?

Submit all your input to my private email address.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

A detailed line of play is preferred (trumps do break 3 – 2). However, if they break 4 – 1, there are still chances.

Solution in the May bulletin.

YOUTH BRIDGE

There is nothing specifically to present to the readers this month.

Rebecca O'Reilly
Youth Bridge

Editor's Note:

To repeat my comments from the March bulletin.

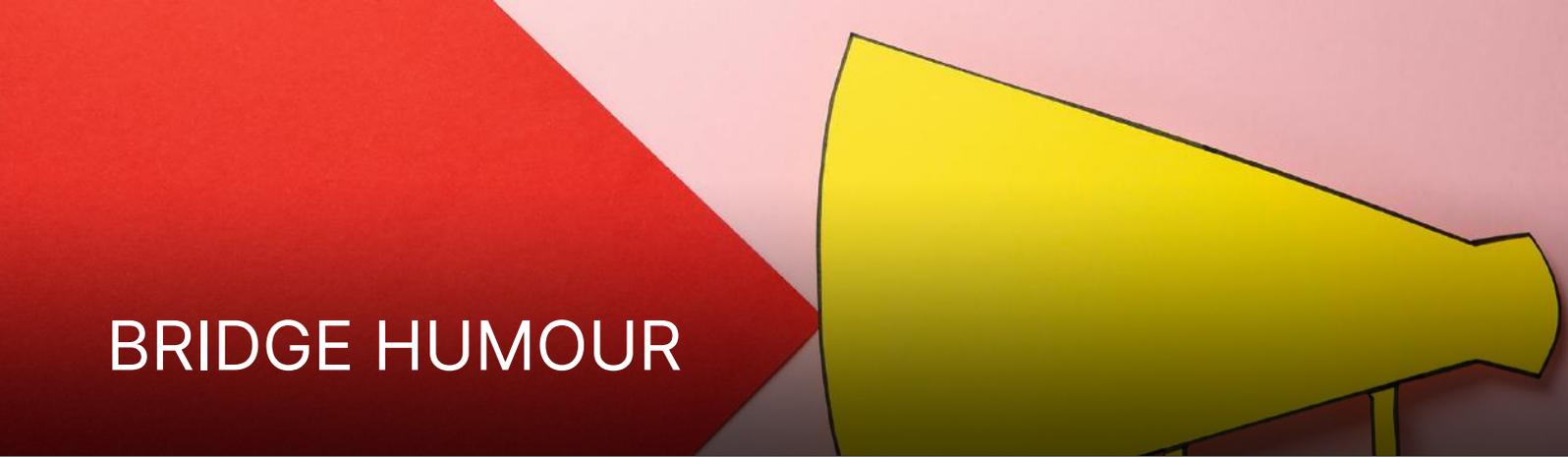
Rebecca is doing an excellent job in promoting the wonderful game of bridge to our younger community.

She dedicates a large amount of her time and effort.

I encourage any club to contact her and lift the profile of the game in general and their club in particular.



BRIDGE HUMOUR



My partner and I were playing in a match point pairs event in a club that we had never been to before. The director had setup a movement where we sat North and South at table 2 and we would play two boards against each of the East West pairs in the field.

The first two boards were fairly uneventful and the director asked the East West pairs to move to the next higher table.

The two ladies that came from table 1 sat East and West at our table. As the lady playing East sat down in her chair, she apologised to her partner saying that, unfortunately, she always makes one mistake a night and thank goodness it happened at the first table. Of course, this meant that the lady sitting East could now concentrate fully as her one mistake had already taken place and her partner, in the West seat, could now look forward to a mistake free session for the rest of the evening.

The lady in the East chair as a defender on the first board, trumped one of our losers with the boss trump and then proceeded to present declarer with a ruff and sluff to allow the contract to make.

Then on the second board, as declarer, she found an exact sequence of plays to find the only way to go down in what was a contract that the rest of the field would most likely make.

The director called the move. As the lady in the East chair left our table, she said to her partner that, as promised, she played mistake free at our table as she had made her one mistake earlier.

My partner and I turned around to look at table 1 and its surrounds. There appeared to be no fire damage, no noticeable coffee stains on either of the North and South players or on the floor. The bridge table was still upright and the chairs all appeared to be as good as new. Both the North and South players seemed to be in good health without any noticeable burns, pen or pencil marks on their body.

We then turned to each other and looked puzzled. We wondered what on earth this one mistake must have been.



RESULTS

CONGRESS RESULTS FOR MARCH-VICTORIA

BWONLINE BRIDGE CLUB SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 72 WESTCOTT PDE, ROCKBANK

This online event attracted a few players from interstate as well. In total, there were 60 pairs competing on the day.

The first three place getters were all Victorian.

1st Tim Legge & Alexander Jones

2nd Peter Hollands & Eva Samuel

3rd Steven White & Dianna Middleton

RYE-DROMANA BRIDGE CLUB SATURDAY 11TH MARCH ROSEBUD RSL (ROSEBUD)

Fifty pairs travelled down to the Mornington Peninsula to enjoy the bridge and the ample snacks provided. The 'fun club' turned out to be just that (especially for the place getters).

The category place getters were as follows.

Open

1st Sylvia Gluck & Ben Kingham

2nd Peter Hollands & Eva Samuel

3rd Bob Geyer & George Lovrecz

Restricted

1st Lillian Sealy & Roxanne Kruger

2nd Penny Van der Reit & Sue Smith

Best Local Pair

Phil Douglas & Lucy Zammit

WHITTLESEA BRIDGE CLUB

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

WHITTLESEA BOWLS CLUB

This event attracted 44 pairs competing on the day. However, the depth of the field was relatively strong.

The first three place getters were as follows.

1st Chen Ding & Jack Huang

2nd Damon Flicker & Seb Wright

3rd Leo Saoud & Mohamed Ghatwari

Chen Ding showed me a hand from the winner.

A straightforward 1NT contract with the normal lead of a 4th best ♥4.

As the song goes “some little things big things grow”. So, it was here.

When the ♥2 was played for dummy, Jack Huang as North, reasoned that Chen would have led a high ♥ with both the ace and the king and so he played the ♥6. This gave declarer only one ♥ trick and with good defence later and an unlucky guess from declarer, the contract went two down for an equal top score on the board.

A thoughtful defence gained a just reward.

	NORTH		
	♠A43		
	♥Q76		
	♦643		
	♣K854		
WEST		EAST	
♠852		♠QJ6	
♥J92		♥K8	
♦KJT2		♦AQ98	
♣Q73		♣AT96	
	SOUTH		
	♠KT97		
	♥AT543		
	♦75		
	♣J2		
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1NT	P	P
P			

FRANKSTON BRIDGE CLUB ST FRANCIS XAVIER HALL CORNER BAXTER AND DAVEY STREETS

The following details were supplied by Anita Spurling from the Frankston Club.

Editor's note: The club supplied details are always very helpful. Thank you, Anita.

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH (pairs)

What a great weekend we had at the Frankston Congress.

36 pairs were welcomed on Saturday morning with freshly baked scones, homemade cakes, quiches, biscuits and Roger, the ever-reliable Coffee Man. Martin Willcox welcomed all players and then the game began.

Events, such as these, are not possible without the assistance of volunteers, committee members and committed club members. From all of us, thank you.

The day concluded with light refreshments and more home baked treats – sausage rolls and party pies.

This year, we split the winning teams into two groups – open and below 500 Masterpoints.

Open Category

1st Chen Ding & Ming Zhang



2nd Christopher Leach and Ismail Gulec.



In the below 500 Masterpoints

1st Maryanne Bird and Peter George



2nd Jill Haworth & Julie Farmer (locals)



A special mention is also made of Patricia Bellamy and Jerry Worboys, they are Frankston Club members and were the highest scoring local members.



SUNDAY 26TH MARCH (teams)

On Sunday morning 9 teams were greeted with more baked treats by our volunteers and committee members and all teams gathered together to acquaint themselves with their system of play.

The results were as follows -

1st Stephen Weisz, John Yang, George Lovrecz & Alan Race



2nd Leo Saoud, Gus Ghali, Gulzar Bilal & David Samuels



UPCOMING EVENTS IN APTIL

VICTORIA

As far as I am aware, there are no congresses scheduled for April.

There are a couple of weekend dates in April set aside to select the various Victorian teams for the ANC in Perth this year in July.

However, there is a congress scheduled for early May.



2023 Bayside Congress

Swiss Pairs - Red Points

Saturday, 6th May at 10am – 5pm

(please arrive by 9:30am)

Beaumaris Bowls Club, Martin Street Beaumaris

Mel Ref 86 E8

NATIONAL

THE BARRIER REEF CONGRESS IN CAIRNS

28TH April – 1ST May

This is well supported by the Queensland bridge community and many southerners wishing to feel the autumn warmth in far north Queensland.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	3♥	P	4♥
DBL	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Sitting East, you open a 3♥ pre-emptive bid.

Your partner raises to 4♥.

North Doubles and his partner bids 4♠ ending the auction

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

♠AQT85

♥8

♦T75

♣AKJ4

♠42

♥AJT9752

♦KJ9

♣2

Your partner, West leads the ♥3. You win the ♥A as declarer, South, follows with the ♥4.

What information do you have about declarer's hand and partner's possible holding?

What is your plan from here to defeat this contract (if possible)?

Answer at the end of the bulletin

OTHER

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS EVENT

After the success of the 2022 McManamny Club Teams, the event will be held again this year on Sunday 24 September at Moonee Valley Bridge Club.

Twenty teams from five clubs took part last year at the Waverley B.C. The Crofts Trophy (best Club performance) was won by Geelong and the Stokes trophy (best team on the day) was won by Waverley Team 3 (Alex Goss, Peter Goss, Elizabeth Vanselow and Robert Quirk).

The event is named after Nicole McManamny, a Waverley stalwart and Bridge fanatic.

In Club Teams competitions, each club selects up to five teams to play all day against other club teams. Pairs compete against pairs of a similar level.

Think about entering this fun competition and save the date in your calendar.

VICTORIAN RESTRICTED PAIRS

The Victorian Restricted Pairs final which is being held on 13th May.

This event is open to all players who are registered members of an affiliated Victorian Club and who have fewer than 300 masterpoints as of 31st December 2022.

The two top placed pairs win a place in the Australian Restricted Pairs Championship at the Australian National Championships in Perth in July, with the ABF providing a subsidy for the airfares and entry fee.

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) will reimburse the cost of airfares for the participants but will NOT be purchasing airline tickets. The participants will also receive \$250 towards accommodation. If the airfares purchased totals more than \$2200 per person, no accommodation subsidy will be issued. The ABF also pays the entry fee to the Restricted ANC.

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP (VCC) – VICTORIA’S NATIONAL CONGRESS

The VCC 2023 is open for entries.

This is the premier congress in Victoria held annually across the Queens’ Birthday weekend.

<https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/607>

We have a great new venue: Moonee Valley Racecourse. Great surrounds, great lighting, great access, great parking and a great location. If you are interstate or need accommodation, please book quickly from our provided options. We will be working out lunches and breakfasts nearer to the event and will keep you informed. Of course, there will be lots of coffee. Please go to the ‘MyABF’ site for details and this will be the last public broadcast to you all from me.

Geoff Schaller
Convenor VCC 2023
(0418 559 343)

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS – AS UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN FEBRUARY 2023

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Bayside Bridge Club	Smith, Val	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Wright, Kathy	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Ive, Beverley	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Carter, Melissa	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Fitzgerald, Faith	Graduate
Beamaris Bridge Association Inc	Nance, Mara	Silver Local
Bendigo Bridge Club Inc R	Wescott, Ron	Bronze National
Bendigo Bridge Club Inc R	Roberts, Glenis	Regional
Bendigo Bridge Club Inc R	Close, Elizabeth	Silver Local
Bendigo Bridge Club Inc R	Conley, David	Club
Berwick Bridge Club Inc	Shand, George	National
Berwick Bridge Club Inc	Coorey, Evelyn	Club
Bridge@Blake	Dobos, Peter	Bronze Local
Bridge@Blake	Kohn, Adela	Club
Bridge@Blake	Birman, Jenny	Club
Deniliquin Bridge Club R	Simpson, Kathy	Club
Deniliquin Bridge Club R	Sides, Helen	Club
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Ajzensztat, Frank	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Frankel, Barbara	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	McCullough, Tim	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Whittle, Lyn	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Pinto, John	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Ingram, Helen	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Hoad, Kerry-Anne	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Murray, Brendan	Bronze Local

KLTC Bridge Club	Forsyth, Sue	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Carnovale, Jill	Local
Knox Bridge Club	Louden, David	National
MCC Bridge Club	Eddy, Nell	Silver National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Keefe, Hilary	National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Davis, Carmel	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Egan, Peter	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Carlton, Margaret	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Fitzpatrick, Johanna	State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Nelson, Julie	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hardie, Simon	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Jenkin, Beverly	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	O'Brien, Damien	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Conlan, Kris	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Elliott, Penny	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Dorrington, John	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	McRorie, Tracie	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Raggatt, Daryl	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Gorur, Ranga	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Welham, Marie	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Doyle, Helen	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Pitman, Helen	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Howden, Brian	Graduate
Mornington Bridge Group	Thompson, Karen	Bronze National
Northern Bridge Club	Hughes, Margaret	Bronze State
Northern Bridge Club	Mosley, Noeleen	Local
Northern Bridge Club	McDermid, Joy	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Corfield, Maxine	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Moss, Christine	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Frankenburg, Lynn	State
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Kay, Sheena	Club
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Edwards, Jenny	Graduate
OZ Bridge Club	Beaurepaire, Sue	Bronze State
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Schuster, Suzanne	Regional
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Thorpe, Patricia	Regional
Sale Bridge Club R	Cheyne, Carol	Local
Sale Bridge Club R	Lord, Clynn	Graduate
Shepparton Bridge Club R	Ferguson, Dianne	Graduate
Shepparton Bridge Club R	Hunt, Evelyn	Graduate
Theodor Herzl Social Club Bridge Section	Stesel, Olga	Bronze Regional
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Clarke, Valerie	Regional
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Brook, Cheryl	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Young, Marilyn	Graduate
Traralgon Bridge Club R	Baxter, Kay	Bronze Local
Traralgon Bridge Club R	Lamond, Roxy	Club
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Johnson, Rex	Club

U3A Knox Bridge Club	Mays, Jim	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	O'Reilly, Rebecca	Bronze National
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Benedikt, Mira	Bronze Regional
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Cohen, Barbara	Regional
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Chu, Lay-Yung	Regional
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Sput, Michael	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Wertheimer, Eleanor	Club
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	McDonald, Brendon	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Gibson, Trish	Graduate
Wangaratta Bridge Club Inc R	Wallis, Marie	Gold Life
Wangaratta Bridge Club Inc R	McLaughlin, Chris	Silver Local
Wangaratta Bridge Club Inc R	Leitl, Cheryle	Graduate
Wangaratta Bridge Club Inc R	Madden, Liz	Graduate
Wangaratta Bridge Club Inc R	Barbero, Andy	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Loft, Denis	Bronze State
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Lipschitz, Sheldon	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Kruse, Margaret	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Samarasingha, Hiranthi	Club
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Samarasingha, Nalin	Club
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Crook, Sue	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Rahman, Atom	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Osrin, Robyn	Graduate
Whittlesea Bridge Club Inc	Hemmings, Jean	Bronze Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club Inc	Clark, Billy	Graduate

Congratulations to all of the above.

THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT IN BY STELLA HAMMOND.
GOOD TO SEE THAT CLUBS CAN BE SOCIAL AS WELL AS COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENTS.

Knox Bridge Club celebrates its 35th Anniversary

Knox Bridge Club would like to share with the Victorian bridge community the good news that we celebrated our 35th Anniversary in early March at our Members' Annual Function, a Red Point Event, held at a local conference centre. We still have the handwritten Minutes of the first committee meeting that was held on 1 March 1988. At the end of the function our President presented trophies to our 2022 Club Champion – Bei Tang and to our 2022 Most Improved Player – Les Churcher and 'Suit' coffee mugs to the 1st and 2nd winners NS and EW. We made mention that two players at the event joined our club back in early 1989, and we hope that they will continue as members for many years to come... On the day it was one of our member's birthdays and so we sang Happy Birthday to her, and three rounds of 'Hurrahs'. Winners of the 'Bridges' game received Lindt chocolates.

We didn't get around to taking any photos as we were busy getting organised, playing bridge, having a delicious buffet lunch as well as morning and afternoon teas, and chatting to each other! Bridge can be challenging and serious, but it's great when members can have fun together as well!

We are a friendly bridge club in the outer east and welcome visitors to our club. Our sessions are: Monday afternoon at 1.00 and Tuesday evening at 7.00. For more details, please phone Stella Hammond, Secretary, on 0400 127 865.

A PROMOTION OF A NON-BRIDGE ACTIVITY

Editor's Note:

Henri de Jong was a prominent bridge player in Victoria. Besides being a very good player, with whom I never partnered, he was a good friend of mine. We often spoke about non-bridge activities that included European soccer, his work as a supplier to the large automotive companies (which no longer exist in this country) and his life in Australia and Europe.

Henri de Jong was the father of Tania. Tania is the person promoting this popular musical called ***Driftwood The Musical*** about the story of her mother, Eva de Jong-Duldig

Driftwood The Musical is a powerful show presented by Tania's charity *Umbrella Foundation*. This unique musical is of great cultural and historical significance, set at the time of The Holocaust, based on survivor Eva de Jong-Duldig's personal memoir. There was an incredible response for the launch season in Melbourne in May 2022.

This powerful story of adversity, perseverance and hope entertains and engages all members of the audience and offers the opportunity for all to experience a glimpse of the emotions from the perspectives of people who have lived through, survived and thrived beyond this terrifying time in history.

Last year many groups attended the musical in Melbourne and Tania would love to welcome all Bridge Club Members from across Victoria to the show.

SEASON: Wednesday 3 – Saturday 20 May PRICES: from \$39.90 BOOKINGS:
<https://chapeloffchapel.com.au/show/driftwood-the-musical-2/> For media information please contact Amanda Buckworth, AB Publicity E: amanda@abpublicity.com.au M: 0413 949 140

Driftwood The Musical tells the inspirational story of the renowned Austrian/ Australian sculptor Karl Duldig and his artist-inventor wife, Slawa Horowitz-Duldig. We follow their lives in pre-war Vienna, the family's narrow escape from Nazi Austria, Slawa's ingenious invention of the foldable umbrella, and the incredible chain of events that took place after miraculously escaping the Holocaust and rebuilding their careers as artists in Melbourne. This epic story that covers three continents and three generations has been adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright Jane Bodie, based on the original memoir by Eva de Jong-Duldig. It features original music, lyrics and arrangements by Anthony Barnhill with lyrics by Tania de Jong AM and Jane Bodie.



Laura Ginnan has won multiple national championships, represented & won a World Junior Championships bronze medal while representing Australia. Locally Laura is a regular on the Victorian Women's team & has won multiple Victorian Congress events. She is also a level 2 nationally qualified director.

As a teacher, Laura is relaxed, approachable, & patient and enjoys the challenge of delivering thought-provoking content with cards in your hands as much as possible. With 14 years working in bridge club management, event coordination, teaching, directing, & professional play you couldn't be in better hands for this event.

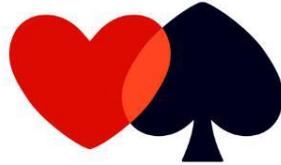
The topics presented during this holiday are specifically focused on improving Congress performance. They offer a rare insight into the tactics you can apply to maximize your score while playing IMPs format.

email - events@realdealbridge.com website - www.realdealbridge.com

She is holding a bridge retreat session in May.

A brochure follows

If you wish more details, then please contact her directly.



**REAL
DEAL
BRIDGE**

GIPPSLAND LAKES BRIDGE RETREAT

The topics presented during this holiday are specifically focused on improving Congress performance. They offer a rare insight into the tactics you can apply to maximise your score while playing IMPs format. This event runs alongside the Sale Bridge Club Congress where you can show off your new skills.

<https://www.realdealbridge.com/bonaccord>

WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY - SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023

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JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE

Online Committee:

The Online Bridge Committee would like to thank everyone who completed the surveys, attended our live sessions and put their hands up to join our task force to prepare the draft strategic document on the future of online bridge for the ABF in time for their AGM in May.

Of the 2,491 responses to our player survey, 1770 of the respondents played on-line bridge in 2022 and 721 that had not. We also had 155 responses to our club/association survey. 31 of these had run online sessions in 2022 and 124 had not.

While looking through past documents on online bridge we came across the Australian Bridge of April 2003. In this Suzanne Eggins from Sydney wrote an article called 'Bridge in the Cyber Century'. Her opening line as 'Why Online Bridge May Save the Game'. Peter Gill also wrote an article in 2020, which can be found through this link <https://petergillsite.wordpress.com/2020/08/12/is-online-bridge-here-to-stay/>.

There are many opinions in this space and we as a group, including quite a few Victorians, are very hopeful by listening to all our stakeholders, we will be able present to the ABF a strategy which will help us preserve the wonderful game that we all love.

MTC:

The Match & Tournament Committee now has two new volunteers – Stephen Weisz and Martin Willcox. They will be working alongside myself, Diana Smart, Leigh Gold, Rebecca O'Reilly and Robert Fruewirth. James Coutts is still contributing to our team, but as he is leaving to move to Sydney, his contribution will be finishing soon. Thank you to you all for contributing your time and expertise to our work.

Jenny



FEEDBACK

Chris

I had this situation in the final of the pairs at the Gold Coast Congress.

I was sitting West and the auction had gone as follows

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♦	2♦
P	2♥	3♦	5♦
P	5♥	P	6♥
P	P	P	

My 2♦ bid was Michaels and I wanted to show my ♦ void my bidding 5♦.

How can we get to the grand slam?

♠KQJ762	♠AT3
♥AK87632	♥Q54
♦	♦8732
♣	♣K85

In the final of the Gold Coast pairs with fourteen excellent partnerships, two pairs bid 7♥, two pairs bid 7♠, one pair bid 6♠ and the other nine pairs (including us) played in 6♥. Therefore, I don't feel so bad but it still would have been nice to bid and make a grand slam.

Answer:

These freak hands are always tricky to bid but rather than bid 5♦, it has been suggested that you bid 6♥ instead. Now partner knows that you can bid 6♥ when they could have nothing at all but they have three ♥s to the Q and the ♠A. A good partner can bid the grand slam fairly confidently.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? – April Solution

NORTH

♠AQT85
♥8
♦T75
♣AKJ4

WEST

♠76
♥Q63
♦A862
♣Q876

EAST

♠42
♥AJT9752
♦KJ9
♣2

SOUTH

♠KJ93
♥K4
♦Q43
♣T953

Given this dummy, you really need three ♦ tricks to defeat the contract (any black suit cards that West has are able to be finessed if South can get to their hand).

If partner has the ♦A and three or four ♦s in total, and if you lead the ♦J specifically, then you will get them. What can declarer do? If declarer plays low, you can continue with either the ♦K or a low ♦. If declarer plays the ♦Q, partner wins and returns a ♦ through dummy's ♦T which you are hovering over with the ♦K and 9. Curtains for declarer. Notice, if you don't switch to a ♦ one of dummy's ♦s goes off on declarer's ♥K.

This play is called a 'surround coup'. Your middle card and third card are surrounding dummy's highest card.

Even if declarer and West's hands are swapped, this play doesn't cost a trick and if declarer has both the ♦A and Q, it doesn't cost a trick as declarer gets only the two ♦ tricks they are entitled to receive.

NOTE: If declarer switches to either the ♦K or ♦9, the defence will get only two ♦ tricks, if declarer guesses correctly.

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – April solution

NORTH

♠KT5

♥K63

♦K76

♣QJT2

WEST

♠

♥

♦

♣

EAST

♠

♥

♦

♣

SOUTH

♠AJ6

♥AQJ

♦AQ4

♣A985

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♦	P
2♥	P	1♠	P
4♠	P	P	P

West leads the ♦J.

There is no point dealing the inevitable. You win the trick with ♦K and lead the ♣Q and, after East plays a small ♣, you let it run.

East wins the ♣K and returns the ♦T and East throws a ♠.

Now you must find the ♠Q to make the contract.

Of course, you cash a few winners first and delay the decision.

Counting the opponent's cards.

West has six ♦s and East one (East discarded on this trick).

You cash the remaining ♣ tricks and West started with three and East two.

When you cash your three ♥ tricks both opponents follow.

Who has the ♠Q?

West has shown up with six ♦s, three ♣s and either three or four ♥s (they each followed to three rounds of ♥s so either could have the fourth one).

Therefore, West has zero or one ♠ cards.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – March Solution

The following hand took place at the Yarra Valley congress.

NORTH

♠AKQ
♥KJ9762
♦QT
♣T2

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠86
♥Q53
♦A743
♣AK75

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♥	P
2♣	P	3♥	P
4NT	P	5♥	P
6♥	P	P	P

Both North and South decided to take aggressive views in the auction. North by jumping to 3♥ with a patchy suit and only 15 points. South then compounded the aggression by bidding 4NT with a lot of extras required from partner (that they didn't have).

Is there any chance of making this on a ♠ lead from East?

The only possible chance revolves around the ♦K and J.

If your stars are aligned in your astrological chart, then the ♦K might be singleton in either the East or the West hand and playing the ♦A will drop it.

With about the frequency of Haley's Comet being viewed from Earth, another alternative is to lead the ♦Q pinning the singleton ♦J in West's hand or, perhaps, East is looking for Haley's Comet and does not cover the ♦Q with the ♦K.

For those not gazing at the stars, the only other chance is that East has four ♣s and the ♦K.

After drawing all the trumps, play ♣A, K and ruff a small one.

Then play all your ♠s and all but one of your trumps and, if East started with four ♣s and the ♦K, this is the position.

When North leads the ♥2, what is East to do? – throw the ♣Q and setup the ♣7 or throw the ♦X and then South throws the ♣7. In the latter case, when North leads the ♦T then the ♦K falls.

NORTH

♠
♥2
♦QT
♣

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦KX
♣Q

SOUTH

♠
♥
♦A7
♣7