

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

TBIB SPONSORSHIP CHRISTOPHER LEACH

We are delighted to advise that TBIB will once again be sponsoring Victorian bridge. The highly successful TBIB Insurance Restricted Pairs Prize is back and its bigger and even better. It will be conducted in association with eligible Swiss Pairs events at Congresses held under the auspices of the VBA.

This year's competition features a first and second prize at each Congress for restricted pairs who have entered the day's competition (with a combined prize value of \$200) and there will be two winning pairs drawn from all entries over the season at the end of the competition, winning free entry into the Restricted Pairs event of their choice at the Victor Champion Cup in June 2020.

The competition runs from the Sunbury Congress on October 27 until the end of April 2020, with the draw for the winners occurring in May. The official launch of the competition will be at Waverley Bridge Club on Saturday November 2nd.

The competition is exclusively for Restricted Pairs, i.e. pairs where neither player has more than 300 masterpoints, as per the normal criteria of the ABF regarding eligibility for the Restricted category as at the date of the Congress.

Entry to the TBIB competition at each eligible Congress will be exclusively via a printed entry card, which shall be placed on all tables prior to round one where restricted pairs will be seated.

Pairs who wish to enter the competition should complete the form before the conclusion of round one and the forms will be collected. At the end of the event, the best two restricted pairs to have entered the competition shall receive the cash prizes. All entries from the season go into the final draw.

The VBA Council wishes to express its appreciation to TBIB for this wonderful support.

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Gold Life	
Jo-Anne Heywood	RACV
Bronze Life	
Dot Peacock	Geelong
Kerry Delcourt	Bendigo
Jenifer Codognotto	Waverley
Life	
Kaye McFarlane	Ballarat
**National	
Christine Hynd	Ballarat
Ilse Porritt	Bairnsdale
*National	
Jenny Gray	MCC
National	
Bruce Headey	Moonee Valley
Carole Sorby	Bairnsdale
Marion Taylor	Traralgon
Lee Opray	Dromana
*State	
Elisabeth Burgess	Bendigo
Andrew Poole	Whittlesea
Alan Race	Yarra Valley
State	
Sue Douglas	Kooyong
Elizabeth Knight	Shepparton
Debbie Goldsworthy	Whittlesea
*Regional	
Colin Wilshire	Waverley
Regional	
Robert Cook	Shepparton
Julie Wallace	Rye Beach
Charles Young	Bendigo
Judy Decouto	Waverley
Mary Munro	Waverley
Richard Fleetwood	Mornington
Lesley Gorham	Waverley

TRICKY PLAY PROBLEM #1
DEE HARLEY

I mention in this month's Mini problem that I have run out of Mini Double dummy problems. Over the next few months I am going to present some tricky play problems. This is very ambitious of me. Not because I don't have the problems (I have about 50 of them!), but because I don't have the solutions! The example problem I am about to show you is typical of the problems you will get, and I am lucky enough to realise that I think I have on this occasion worked out the answer! I expect that in the hands to come I may get some of the analysis wrong! That's where I will need your help. With these problems I expect you to spend a lot of time understanding the problem and trying to find the solution. I will post what I consider may well be the answer, and you can let me know where I went wrong.

I hope you will give it a real shot before looking at my answer because, as you will see when you come to understand what the problem is, you are at least part of the way towards finding a solution. Finding such a solution becomes a wonderful thing.

This problem then is as follows:

Dir: South ♠ 543
 Vul: All ♥ KJ10543
 ♦ A8
 ♣ 32

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

♠ AQ
 ♥ A
 ♦ K76543
 ♣ AKQJ

The Bidding:

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

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

Lead: ♣10

Let me give you a head start. South has to find 12 tricks. If the diamonds break 3-2 either way, then it is gin! You can win the first club with the Ace, unblock the A♥ and play across to the A♦, cash the K♥ throwing your spade and play diamonds and then give up a diamond. When they break 3-2 you will be home won't you? But wait! What if the hand with the 3rd diamond has a heart left, they surely will be awake enough to cash their ♥Q.

An option would be to not cash the Heart, but then you will be a trick short. You may also wish to muse about what might happen if the diamonds do NOT break 3-3 – have you any hope then?

I would urge you to spend some time on this problem, when you have spotted a solution then it's a bit like doing sudoku – you know when you have the right answer because it all makes sense...well I hope so.

When you find the answer, or have spent too many hours in frustration, you can turn to [page 8](#) and see what I think is the solution.

WHAT IS COMING UP

What is happening in my bridge world? Currently I am in Hamilton in New Zealand, playing in the New Zealand congress for 2019 Details here: <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,4891,looking-ahead-to-congress-2019.html>

On return I will be resuming the state teams competition- the PENNANT competition at the VBA. Details here: <http://vba.asn.au/pennant-teams-2019/>

Then there will be the Spring National events held in Sydney in Mid October. Details here: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2019/>

Its all go!

CHAIRMAN'S CUP JAMIE THOMPSON

In late July the Australian Junior Team was invited to participate in the Chairman's Cup, the premier teams tournament in the Swedish Bridge Festival. I was severely exhausted after taking a long milk run into Stockholm but thankfully, I was playing on a 6-person team, so I was able to sit out the first two matches to rest and recuperate.

Midway through the first match I played, I picked up this hand as East 2nd seat nil:

♠ KQJT7
♥ AJ4
♦ A65
♣ T5

My RHO opened 1♦ and I elected to overcall 1NT. My LHO bid 2♣ for the majors and my partner, Matt Smith, bid 3NT which ended the auction.

My LHO led the ♥3 (3rd/5th) and this was my dummy:

♠ 986	♠ KQJ107
♥ 82	♥ AJ4
♦ K9	♦ A65
♣ AJ9643	♣ 105

On the surface I can develop 8 tricks via 4 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club, so a 9th trick would probably come from the club suit. My initial plan was to hold up hearts and then play for split club honours but what happened next completely changed my plan.

My RHO won the ♥K and then immediately switched to the ♦Q. I found this switch extremely odd, but I deduced that my RHO thought that he could develop his diamonds before I could develop my clubs. RHO being marked with 0-1 spades (because of LHO's majors bid) led me to believe that LHO had the ♠A, therefore my RHO must have the King and Queen of clubs if he thinks that he can set up his diamonds in time.

I now had to come up with a different line of play but thankfully, I figured it out. This was the full hand

Dir: North	♠ -										
Vul: None	♥ K109										
	♦ QJ108742										
	♣ KQ8										
♠ 986	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQJ107
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 82		♥ AJ4									
♦ K9		♦ A65									
♣ AJ9643		♣ 105									
	♠ A5432										
	♥ Q7653										
	♦ 3										
	♣ 72										

I won the diamond switch in dummy and played on spades immediately. I was happy to see North show out on the first round because it meant that my plan was coming to fruition.

South took the 3rd round of spades and switched to a club (a great switch, trying to make me double hook the clubs). North won the ♣K and continued diamonds. I won the Ace and on the run of the spades and the ♥A, North is strip squeezed.

In the end North had to hold onto ♣Qx in clubs and therefore threw away all but one of his diamond winners. So I just threw him in with a diamond and he was endplayed. I took the last two tricks with the ♣AJ 😊.

SUIT COMBINATION

How would you handle Q9764 in hand opposite A82 in dummy if you need three tricks from the suit.

Secondary question: how would you handle this suit if this was your trump suit in a small slam, and you therefore needed to have only one loser in this (rather pathetic) suit.

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

[Solution](#) on P5.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Ballarat Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. Shirley Collins, Chandradeep Chakravorty
2. Stan Klofa, Stephen Weisz
3. Annette Maluish, Andrew Mill

Swiss Teams

1. Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery, Thilak Ranasinghe, Gordon McRobert
2. Geoff Chettle, Greg Lewin, Laura Ginnan, Peter Hollands
3. Shirley Collins, Chandradeep Chakravorty, Sue Beckman, Julie Alliston

Mornington Peninsula Region

Swiss Pairs

1. John Yang, Bei Tang
2. Marina Darling, Sue Read
3. Terri Kay, Kitty Muntz

Swiss Teams

1. Maggie Callander, Shirley Collins, David Happell, Lindsey Robinson
2. Stan Klofa, Stephen Weisz, Dee Harley, Anna St Clair
3. Jan Hackett, Tom Hackett, Kae French, Penny Corrigan

Macedon Ranges Bridge Club

1. John Ashkar, Chelliah Arul
2. Sylvia Gluck, Ben Kingham
3. Gavin & Kirsten Bailey

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Albury Bridge Club

Sat. 12th October, 11am Swiss Pairs
 Sun. 13th October, 9:30am Swiss Teams

Venue: Commercial Club Bridge Club, Albury
 Contact: Richard Harman
 Phone: 0413 010 478,
 Email: bridge@alburybridgeclub.com.au

Warrnambool Bridge Club

Sat. 12th October, 10am Swiss Pairs
 Sat. 12th October, 10am Restricted Pairs
 Sun. 13th October, 10am Swiss Teams

Venue: Brother Fox Cafeteria Deakin Uni
 Contact: Jan Cooke
 Phone: 55622484
 Email: warrnbridge@gmail.com

Bairnsdale Bridge Club

Sat. 19th October, 12pm Swiss Pairs
 Sun. 20th October, 10am Swiss Teams
 Venue: St Mary's Parish Centre
 (enter through McDonald's car park)
 Contact: Phillip Goode
 Phone: 0417 738 406
 Email: langdongoode@gmail.com

Sunbury Bridge Club

Sun. 27th October, 10am Swiss Pairs
 Venue: Sunbury Social Club
 Sunbury Recreation Reserve
 Contact: Michael Francis
 Phone: 0400 737 005
 Email: langdongoode@gmail.com

MINI #9

This is the final Mini in the collection I have. I hope you enjoyed them. Next month I will have something completely different lined up for you.

Lead: South

♠ K9		♠ A87									
♥ 7		♥ 5									
♦ K		♦ -									
♣ A		♣ K									
♠ QJ4											
♥ 4											
♦ A											
♣ -											
	<table border="1" style="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										
		♠ 53									
		♥ 2									
		♦ QJ									
		♣ -									

South is on lead in a spade contract. How can South make 2 out of the last 5 tricks against best defence?

[Solution](#) on P7.

**WINDOW ON WUHAN
DEE HARLEY**

The World Championships of bridge were held in Wuhan China, since we can all use BBO, we can watch the expert player in action. Declarer's technique on this hand caught my approval.

(Hands have been rotated for convenience)

Dlr: N ♠ 10973
 Vul: E/W ♥ J9872
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQ8

♠ J82	<table border="1" style="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		♠ AQ6
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q64	♥ 10										
♦ A1032	♦ K876										
♣ 1094	♣ J7632										

♠ K54
 ♥ AK53
 ♦ QJ54
 ♣ A5

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

The Lead: ♣10

South arrived in 4♥. I have shown one possible auction, but the bidding is unimportant.

You have a diamond loser, a possible heart loser and three possible spade losers. Several declarers played the ♥A and ♥K, then after three rounds of clubs (throwing a spade), eventually allowed West to gain the lead with the ♦A, to allow them to cash the ♥Q, drawing a trump each from declarer the dummy and the contract failed.

The successful declarer (from China) played only one top heart before playing the clubs discarding the ♠4 and then playing a spade towards the King – when that holds you can exit with a spade or a diamond. Note that neither defender can lead trumps (East ain't got none, and West would not make his ♥Q if he leads a trump). When you have lost a diamond trick and a spade trick, only now can you cash the ♥K. then you can cross-ruff your way to 10 tricks. Many of the declarers struggled to find this line of play. I think it is one to remember!

Another board which fascinated me in the very same session was this one:

Dlr: West ♠ KJ3
 Vul: All ♥ 854
 ♦ 86
 ♣ AJ963

♠ -	<table border="1" style="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		♠ Q1086
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ KJ10963	♥ AQ										
♦ A1032	♦ KJ9754										
♣ 542	♣ 8										

♠ A9752
 ♥ 72
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KQ107

A small slam in diamonds is available for E/W if they can find it. 6♦ was the contract at only one of the 24 tables in play in the Bermuda Bowl. More frequently the bidding ended up in a doomed 4♠ from the South hand (sometimes it was doubled). At the table I watched, a non-committal club was led. Declarer won in hand with the King and played a small spade towards dummy. When West showed out the ♠K was played. What would you do now??

I know these players are under incredible pressure having played all week non-stop, while you can sit there calmly and quietly with your coffee, and mull over why I am asking such a stupid question...So you will get it right – right?

The declarer I watched played the J♠ which of course was covered by the Queen so now they had to lead spades from dummy to avoid a second spade loser. To get to dummy our luckless declarer tried to cross with a club which was ruffed, leaving declarer 2 tricks short. The other declarer instead just led the ♠3 from dummy. East had to split his honours so was forced to play the ♠10, so declarer won the ♠A and played a low spade to the J♠ and ♠Q, now declarer on regaining the lead can draw that last trump with the ♠9. No dummy entry required (so no club ruff). Neat? Even neater would have been NOT playing the ♠K but playing the ♠J instead! Now East can win the ♠Q, but you regain the lead and play a spade to the ♠K and finesse the ♠10.

EDITORIAL
DEE HARLEY

A couple of months ago, I reviewed some bridge books and asked you to send me your favourite books. I am happy to report that I did get some response, although I should admit that I was not exactly overwhelmed with responses. I see no reason not to show the popular books named. Here they are (in no particular order)

How the Experts Win at Bridge.	Burt & Rose Hall
Watson's the Play of the Hand at Bridge.	Louis H. Watson
The Rodwell Files (4 parts)	Rodwell & Horton
Adventures in Card Play	Ottlik & Kelsey
The Most Puzzling Situations in Bridge	Terence Reese
Expert Game	Terence Reese
Vulnerable in Hearts	Sandy Balfour
Bridge in the Menagerie	Victor Mollo
Bridge with the Blue Team	Pietro Forquet
Bridge My Way	Zia Mahmood
Judgement at Bridge	Mike Lawrence.
Take All Your Chances	Eddie Kantar

I have several of these books sitting on my shelves at home. It seems such a shame that they are all mostly idle, I pick some of them up, so they don't get too lonely, and I reread many of them, but there are some books in the list above that I haven't read. They are probably sitting on someone else's bookshelf being lonely and unloved. Wouldn't it be good thing if we could share them around somehow?

I have been enjoying watching the World Championships of Bridge in Wuhan. How wonderful a facility is BBO, that you can watch each card being played by your favourite players and have technicalities explained by the expert commentators (or sometimes not quite so expert).

Australia had representatives playing in the Open, Women, Senior, and Mixed categories. Teams had to finish in the top 8 in their

category to qualify for the final. None of the Australian teams reached the top 8 and hence the final stages, although the open team came in 12th out of the 24 teams who had qualified to play, you had to feel sorry for New Zealand who finished in 9th place ("on the bubble" as they say in Poker).

Solution to Suit Combination ([page 2](#))

You: Q9764 Dummy: A82

Note: in these problems I assume that You are the declarer as South, that Dummy is North and that West is therefore on your left (I call him Lefty, but he can also appear as LHO Left Hand Opponent) and East is on your right (Rightey or RHO)

Needing 3 tricks: Lead the 4 towards the A82, playing the 8 unless lefty plays the K, J, or 10 (in which case you play the Ace and can now just "knock out" the other two top honours to guarantee you your three tricks – no more worries).

So, when the 8 loses you win the return in hand and lead the 6. Again, if it is covered by a higher card, you take the Ace and "knock-out" the last honour and you can relax.

If Lefty plays low again then you play the 2. Either your 6 will win, or the suit has broken and the Ace will now drop the remaining card in the suit.

If lefty ever shows out, then you can play the Ace and lead towards your hand twice to guarantee 3 tricks in the suit.

So that turns out to be a sure trick problem. You will make 3 tricks 100% of the time however the opponents defend. That's a good feeling.

Secondary problem: You have landed in a ropery slam. You sure need some luck. You cash the Ace. You need the King to be singleton with lefty (in which case you now lead low towards the Q976 in your hand – twice, or you need the King to be onside (with Rightey), and you need the suit to break 3-2 (either way). Your total chances of making this slam works out at almost 50% (49.17). I have been in worse slams!

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣

GUARD ABANDONS HIS POST!

In pairs, there is relentless pressure on declarer to find overtricks. On the hand shown, Deep Finesse suggests declarer can only make 5NT but that assumes optimal defence and needs a diamond lead.

In practice, West will lead a heart since it is his partner's suit. East will (probably) win the ace and return the ♥7.

Declarer has six clubs, three spades, one heart and one diamond which is eleven winners in the last twelve tricks. When you can make all but one of the remaining tricks it is time to look for a squeeze for the extra trick. Possible threat cards are the ♠9, the ♥8 and either the ♦J or the ♦10. Can you spot the squeeze here? Do you want a little hint?

When you run the long clubs, the only entry to the red suit threats is the ♦A and it will free up the diamond position if you discard the ♦J on the ♥K. Now club the defenders to death!

Dir: South ♠ AK92
 Vul: All ♥ Q
 ♦ J8
 ♣ AKQ1076

♠ 108543 ♠ J7
 ♥ J42 ♥ A10976
 ♦ K65 ♦ Q43
 ♣ 85 ♣ 942

♠ Q6
 ♥ K853
 ♦ A10972
 ♣ J3

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♥2

After declarer runs all but one of the clubs, the position is as shown in the second diagram.

On the last club, East and South discard hearts and West is in trouble. If he discards a spade, the ♠9 becomes a trick. If West discards a heart, three rounds of spades will squeeze East in the red suits.

Dir: South ♠ AK92
 Vul: All ♥ -
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 6

♠ 10854 ♠ J7
 ♥ J ♥ 109
 ♦ K ♦ Q4
 ♣ - ♣ -

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q6
 ♥ 85
 ♦ A10
 ♣ -

Lastly, if West discards the ♦K, declarer can play 3 rounds of spades and then take the diamond finesse since the ♦K has gone AWOL from his guardpost! This is an example of what Hugh Kelsey classified as a non-material squeeze which forces a defender to discard an important card which is not itself a potential winner.

If one could guarantee the heart lead, one would actually prefer to be in 6♣ which makes easily!

Solution to Mini #9 ([Page 4](#))

South plays a heart to dummy (that's one trick!), then ruffs the ♣A with the ♠5! West can overruff with the ♠J or ♠Q but then North's ♠K9 will force a second trick

THE SECRET SHOPPER...NO MORE

The exigencies of daily life are such that the secret shopper has decided to retire from publishing articles for the VBA bulletin. I am aware that many people, on receiving the bulletin turn straight to the back page to get their monthly dose of entertainment as provided by our secret shopper. The Shoppers dazzling rhetoric and spirited articles have in turn delighted us and entertained us. It is of course impossible to please everyone. The shopper's style occasionally causes umbrage rather than delight.

Witness this response to last month's article:

We were very disappointed when we read your comments about our club, Knox Bridge Club, in your editorial "The Secret Shopper, A Month of being the Bridesmaid..." on the back page of the VBA Bulletin of September. We appreciate that the whole article, about attending congresses, was written in a light-hearted vein, but we found the comments about our club derogatory and demeaning apart from being inaccurate in parts.

To put the record straight, we are proud at Knox Bridge Club that we are a friendly and caring club with an 8-strong committee with aims to improve all aspects of the club and to grow the club. Our club membership is now at an all-time high of 74. We have a day session and a night session of duplicate bridge with between 6-8 tables at each session, not the 3-4 tables as you wrote in your article! You may have attended our congresses over the years, but you have never attended a club session at Knox Bridge Club. We are one of only nine Victorian Clubs with an ABF-teaching accreditation.

Our Congress Convenor and her team of helpers work very hard every year to put on a successful 2-day congress at Bayswater Senior Citizens Club, which is an ideal venue for us as it is very conveniently, centrally located for all our local clubs, with ample free parking, and situated near to food shops and a hotel where players can purchase their lunch. It is not easy to find large venues for congresses at affordable prices located close to our home club. Over the years, we have

endeavoured to put on a big spread of continuous, mostly home-made goodies, for morning and afternoon tea, and a light supper at the close of each day's play for players who have further to travel home. Our Director, Graham Hill, did a wonderful job again this year, at running a very professional congress. Our Congress Convenor checks the toilets before the start of the congress and several times during each day. They are perfectly adequate.

As Editor of the VBA Bulletin we believe that you should be encouraging smaller bridge clubs rather than being derisive. We hope that this disdain for smaller clubs is not widespread at the VBA!

We would like this email and an apology to be included in the next edition of the VBA Bulletin.

Kind regards

Jenni Turner, President
Stella Hammond, Secretary
Clare Stratton, Congress Convenor

If I don't have any more contributions from the Secret Shopper, I would like to remind the clubs in Victoria that this is your bulletin, and I will be happy to print any contributions you may have to offer.

Solution to Tricky Play problem #1 ([Page 2](#))

South Wins the A♣, unblocks the ♥A and then plays a small diamond from both hands. Win the return (whatever it is!) and play a diamond to the Ace. If both opponents follow, then you will make 5 diamond tricks, 2 hearts (you can cash your ♥K safely now) 4 clubs and the A♠. You have the added bonus that if the diamonds broke badly you are still in with a chance if the ♥Q comes down doubleton and even if it was singleton, you now have the option of the spade finesse for your 12th trick.