

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2021

Editor: Dee Harley

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

It has been a long hard road through COVID. last year's ANC (Australian National Championship) – due to be held in Adelaide - was cancelled. We are optimistic that this year's event will take place as scheduled:

The 2021 ANC is being held in Perth from 10th to 22nd July.

In this competition each of the six States and two Territories can enter a team in the following categories:

Youth Women Senior Open

The Teams Championships is followed by "The butler" which is a pairs competition open to anyone who can qualify.

Victoria is currently in the process of selecting teams for each Interstate category. You may be able to follow the selection process on the [VBA website](#).

The open team is selected first, so that the selected representatives can exclude themselves from any of the other categories for which they may qualify.

The up-and-coming juniors are selected by a mixture of availability and ability.

The Women and Seniors are selected after a qualifying pairs session, followed by weekend final selection on the 15th May.

Players who represent Victoria in the Championships, are minimally supported financially (do not expect to make a profit!), and in years past some form of team clothing has been made available to the players.

The long days of bridge are a great opportunity to build up a team spirit. 60 boards a day means each team has to use the 3 pairs conservatively, usually meaning that each pair plays 40 boards a day, for at least 4 days in a row (seems like more!). And that's just the qualifying!

ANC YOUTH

The VBA are asking any youth players who are interested in representing Victoria in the Youth Interstate Teams to contact Bec O'Reilly from the VBA. Depending on numbers of interested players the Victorian 2021 Youth team will be either selected from the players nominating themselves or via a playoff at the VBA on Saturday May 15. To be eligible to play you must be born on or after 1st January 1995, except as authorized by the ABF Youth Coordinator.

To be considered for this – please contact Bec O'Reilly on rebeccaoreilly7495@gmail.com to lodge your interest by the end of April.

ANC OPEN

There was a playoff on the weekend of 20/21 March between the four qualifying teams. They were:

1. Pennant Team (Neil Ewart, Simon Henbest, Chris Hughes and Dee Harley)
2. The Butler Team (David Thompson, Robert Fruewirth, Chris Fernando, Lindsey Robinson, David Beckett and Andrew Macready-Bryan)
3. VQP1 (Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery, Simon Hinge, Leigh Gold, Pete Hollands and Justin Mill)
4. VQP2 (Gordon McRobert, Thilak Ranasinghe (Alias TP), Ming Zhang and Chen Ding)

On the Saturday, the Pennant Team beat the Butler Team (167-87), and VQP2 had a narrow win over VQP1 (153-145).

So, on Sunday the final between the Pennant Team and VQP2 went to the Pennant team (167-108).

The winning Pennant Team must now add a third pair to make up a team of six.

ANC SENIORS/WOMEN

A trial was held to determine the qualifiers for the final stages – to be played on the weekend of the 15th May. If both players of a pair are Senior women, then they are eligible for both categories but can only play in one category. The players who have been selected for the open team will be removed from the following list:

Dee Harley - Chris Hughes
 Robert Gallus - Stephen Weisz
 Neil Ewart - Simon Henbest
 Chris Fernando - Lindsey Robinson
 Martin Willcox - Alan Race
 Kitty Muntz - Terri Kay
 Chelliah Arul - Kumara Nainanayake
 Helen Stewart - Belinda Lindsay
 Richard Greenfield - Sam Arber
 Sue Read - Prithiraj De Zoysa
 Phyllis Moritz - Len Meyer
 Laura Ginnan - Eva Samuel
 Thea Cowie - Erica Windmiller
 Eva Caplan - Jenny Thompson
 Jan Tunks - Lou Mckenna
 George Lovrecz - Stan Klofa
 Andrzej Krolikowski - Andrew Kaszubski
 Maggie Callander - Penny Corrigan
 Ismail Gulec - John Yang
 Robyn O'dell - Mary Allison
 Belinda Pearson - Linda Baynham
 Jean Eddie - Stefania Gerdan

A HAND FROM THE OPEN TEAM SELECTION WEEKEND

Playing in the Open team qualification I came across a situation which was to me. Now you may disagree and say this situation happens all the time, but curiously I had a bit of a blind spot. I consider it a bit like having an "Idée Fixe" – where you imagine something to be true, and then you cannot unimagine it. It means all your analysis of the hand is ...wrong!

In actual fact my slip did not end up costing, as partner managed to rectify my error. I thought it was instructive.

Here is the hand:

Dlr: East ♠ J1095
 Vul: Both ♥ 9
 ♦ Q9853
 ♣ A53

♠ ?	N	♠ A732
♥ ?3	W E	♥ AQ765
♦ ?	S	♦ 4
♣ ?		♣ Q86

♠ ?
 ♥ ?10
 ♦ ?
 ♣ ?

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Dbl
3♥	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lead: ♥3

Your partner has bid 3♥ which we play as preemptive – so less than 7 HCP and 4 or more hearts. The lead of the ♥3 is 4th best.

You decide to pay the ♥A and declarer drops the ♥10.

My immediate thought was that to bid like this he must have ♥KJ10 – which would constitute a double stop. My thoughts then went well if that is so, and we don't lead hearts again he will only get 1 heart trick. Maybe we can find enough tricks outside the hearts suit to defeat this contract.

At this point I should stop and review the situation. Can you see where my thinking was awry!

There are two huge pointers to the correct solution here, firstly your partner has led the ♥3 which should promise at least one honour. The second huge pointer is that the ♥3 is 4th highest – where is the ♥2? Since declarer can't have it, your partner must have it, and therefore your (fantastic) partner has 5 hearts!

Despite my silly club switch, partner gained the lead and switched back to hearts and the contract drifted 2 down.

CHEEKY MONKEY IS BACK!

Cheeky Monkey provided me with a fine example of the art of deception. Here is the hand along with cheeky monkey commentary:

Dir: East		♠ 985					
Vul: Both		♥ AKJ4					
		♦ A86					
		♣ 1062					
♠ K4			N		♠ A107632		
♥ Q1065			W	E	♥ 87		
♦ KQ5					♦ 932		
♣ 8754			S		♣ J9		
					♠ QJ		
					♥ 932		
					♦ J1074		
					♣ AKQ3		

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All pass

Lead: ♣8

3NT was a little ambitious (but I was max for my 1NT 11-13 rebid).

West made a very passive lead of the ♣8. This was ducked in dummy with E playing the ♣9 and me winning the king. The Clubs now looked to be 8xxx opposite J9. This was a very passive lead that led me to think that West had most of the missing points, otherwise he may have been a bit more aggressive in his lead.

Really all I could count were 3 clubs, perhaps 4 heart tricks and 1 Diamond trick. As soon as I lost the lead the spade attack would surely come.

The first ruse was to false card with the ♣K and hope West played his partner for ♣QJ9. I now tried the successful Heart finesse by playing the ♥3 (hiding the ♥2) with the ♥5 appearing on my left and the ♥7 on my

right. Playing reverse count that probably meant they were 4-2 and I suspected West to have the 4-card suit because of the passive lead.

My only hope now appeared to feign having Spade length, so I played a spade to the ♠Q. West took the ♠K and I waited... they continued a club and sure enough the ♣J appeared on my right! The ♣10 in dummy was now good but unfortunately, I could not use it as I had no way to play a club to the 10 and get back to my hand.

I won the Club with the Ace and going with my first instinct that West had most of the points I played him for ♦KQ by leading the ♦10. He covered with the ♦K so I won the ♦A and played a small Diamond back to the ♦7. That forced the ♦Q.

When he exited with a club, I was able to now claim 3 diamond tricks 3 Heart tricks and 4 Club trick as the ♦J was now an entry back to hand. Making 10 tricks was worth 11 IMPs.

Anyone identified cheeky monkey yet?

GARDENVALE EASTER CONGRESS

Gardenvale are having their annual Easter congress completely online this year. Contact [Jeff Fust](mailto:Jeff.Fust@gardenvale.com.au), on 0403121648 for more details

Friday 2nd April 2021

Single Session IMP Pairs 1:30pm Butler Pairs

Friday 2nd April 2021

Single Session Matchpoint Pairs 10am

Saturday 3rd April 2021

IMP Swiss Pairs 2 sessions 10am and 1:30pm

Sunday 4th April 2021

Swiss Pairs - SUN 10am and MON 10am

Sunday 4th April 2021

One Session Matchpoint Pairs 1:30pm

**ANDREW MACREADY-BRYAN
(NOT SABINE AUKEN!)**

I hate this game!

This hand came my way in a recent Teams match. Sitting South, I was first to speak and opened 1NT (15-17)

3NT was played at both tables but the auctions were very different.

Dlr: South ♠ 9842
 Vul: Both ♥ AJ96
 ♦ A98
 ♣ 73

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

♠ QJ10
 ♥ K32
 ♦ KQ653
 ♣ A5

Bidding (Their Table):

	W	N	E	S
				1NT
	Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bidding (Our Table):

	W	N	E	S
				1NT
	2♥ ¹	Dbf ²	2♠ ³	Pass
	3♣	3NT	All Pass	

¹ Hearts and a Minor

² Takeout of Hearts

³ Natural - possibly just lead-directing.

On the ♣Q lead, my line was to duck the first club, and win the continuation of the ♣J, east playing the ♣K.

I cashed the ♥K, noting the ♥10 from East. Next a successful heart finesse, east playing a spade.

I now played ♦A from dummy. On this the ♦10 fell from west.

What to do now? Is this a restricted choice scenario, or is there more information? When the ♣K was played on the ♣J, this to me looked like it was from 3, giving east 6 clubs, along with their 5 hearts. Were they 1-1 or 0-2 in spades and diamonds? Certainly, east hadn't led a spade, despite east's bid, but why would they when the 9-card club fit is clearly the best lead. By this, I mean they had a club sequence, and no need to get partner in to lead a club. I wondered if east's spade bid would definitely show 6, or as mentioned, merely be lead directing. East has seen the takeout double from north, presumably showing 4 spades. Together with my 1NT opening, this marks their partner with at most one spade. They are almost guaranteed to have a minor suit fit - so why bid spades at all.

Anyway, after agonising over the diamond position, I eventually finessed the ♦9.

West was, in fact, 0-2 and after scoring their JD, rattled off plenty more tricks.

On my line, if east held ♦J7xx, they may have covered the ♦9 with the ♦J, as I now have no entry to my hand after cashing the ♦8. Playing the second honour after beating the ♦J promotes the ♦7.

What then, is the best line? Is it to play on diamonds first - ♦A then ♦9. Now, with the ♥K still an entry, I can deal with the ♦J covering the ♦9.

Anyway - suffice to say that at the other table, 10 tricks were scored in rapid time, our teammates incredulous that the contract actually went down at our table.

BRIDGE LEAGUE

Following the cessation of the very popular and successful VBA Bulletin League the Waverley Bridge Club would like to continue with a similar event.

As a start we propose an Autumn Season of BRIDGE LEAGUE on the RealBridge platform.

The duration of the event will depend on the number of entries similar to previous arrangements.

It is proposed to hold matches concurrently on a Friday evening starting at 19:30 AEST starting on Friday 9th April.

The matches would be 2 x 12 Boards sets against one opponent with the ability to change your pairings after 12 Boards.

The cost is \$28 per team per match.

Results and standings, shown as ladders, would be available for each division soon after completion of matches.

At the end of the round robin, once every team has played all opponents in their section, we would relegate, say 2 bottom teams, and promote two top teams from a lower division, subject to number of entries.

Please form a team of up to six players and register [here](#).

If you have not previously played on Realbridge a full set of RealBridge guides and test login page is available [here](#).

Kind Regards,

On behalf of Waverley Bridge Club,

Andrzej Krolkowski

COMING FACE-TO-FACE CONGRESSES

With the Covid threat diminishing, we are planning to hold the following live face-to-face congresses (just like the good old days)

Frankston Bridge Club

Saturday 10th April 2021 Swiss Pairs
Sunday 11th April 2021 Swiss Teams

Contact Valerie Huntley, 5965232,
Email: valeriehuntley@hotmail.com

Dendy Park Bridge Club

Sunday 18th April 2021 Swiss Pairs

Contact: George Gasper, 0417 052 246
Email: dpbridge.com

Bayside Bridge Club

Saturday 1st May 2021 Swiss Pairs

Contact Alastair Lowe, 0493 112 412
Email: baysidebridgeclub@gmail.com

EDITORIAL DEE HARLEY

Great to be back playing live face to face bridge again.

I have a sense of things starting to happen again, like the ANC in July and before that there is the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide.

We still have some online play going on, and it is great to see the Waverley Bridge club offering up a competition on the RealBridge platform.

The congresses making a comeback.

Get your entries in!

dee_harley@hotmail.com

PLAY PROBLEM #16 - SOLUTION

You had to make 6♠ on the lead of the ♥K. You win and draw 2 rounds of trumps with West discarding a diamond on the 2nd trump. Can you see how to make your contract now?

Dir: South	♠ AKQJ10
Vul: Both	♥ 8
	♦ 64
	♣ Q10987
♠ 7?	♠ 32
♥ K?	♥ J?
♦ 2?	♦ 4?
♣ ?	♣ ?
	♠ 654
	♥ A643
	♦ AK75
	♣ AK

Lead: ♥K

Given that East was not void in any suit you can guarantee to make the contract.

You won the ♥K lead and played two rounds of spades. Cross to the ♣A and then play a trump back to the North hand and then draw the outstanding trump, jettisoning the ♣K from the south hand. Now you can cash the ♣Q and knock out the ♣J and your hand will be high (with the last spade as an entry).

I had correct solutions from TP, Stephen Weisz, Stephen Sharp, Susie Hall, and Kitty.

Well done. I shall have to find some more tricky problems for you!

Well, I have a large list of such problems (without solutions!) but we are coming to the end of what is called in my list "Category 1 problems". Problem 17 (on the right hand side of this page) will be the last in Category 1, and next week I will be starting on Category 2 problems.

I do not know whether they are discernibly more difficult, but I do hope I will keep you entertained with them.

PLAY PROBLEM #17

This hand is from a teams match. You land in 3NT by South after no opposition bidding.

Dir: South	♠ A2
Vul: N/S	♥ Q62
	♦ 8763
	♣ AK62
♠ Q5	♠ K8
♥ ?	♥ ?
♦ ?	♦ ?
♣ ?	♣ ?
	♠ 1043
	♥ AK7
	♦ A54
	♣ Q1032

Lead: ♠Q

West leads the ♠Q which you (rightly) duck in dummy. East plays the encouraging ♠8.

West continues with the ♠5, and East drops the ♠K under the Ace.

Summary: You just need the 9 tricks.

Send me your solution please:
dee_harley@hotmail.com

SUIT COMBINATION

Try this one:

You: AQ1032 Partner: 654

How would you play this suit for 3 tricks

Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

Supplementary question: how would your play differ if you needed 4 tricks, and then how about if you needed 5 tricks?

Decide how you would play before peeking at the [Solution](#) on P7

♣♣♣ KNAVE OF CLUBS ♣♣♣
ONE TRICK SHORT

Sometimes we overstretch in the bidding and it is difficult to see from where the last trick is coming. That is especially so in slam contracts where there will usually be eleven tricks but the twelfth one is difficult to see. In the hand shown below, nobody can accuse North-South of underbidding!

East might have opened a gambling 3NT or a pre-emptive 4♣. Either of them would make it harder for NS. As it happened, South ventured 1♠ with a poor suit and North started with a splinter bid in clubs. South's 4♦ cue bid looked like an overbid and North continued with RKC. West led a club to the slam and East continued with a second one.

South could count five spade tricks, one club ruff, three hearts and two diamonds making only eleven tricks. The twelfth one might come from either red suit but how? The hearts cannot split 3-3 with seven outstanding! The only way to get three diamond tricks is for East to hold a singleton honour or QJ doubleton, and that is unlikely.

Teams:

Dlr: East

Vul: All

♠ KQ1054
♥ AK62
♦ A84
♣ J

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J
♥ 985
♦ 32
♣ AKQ10986

♠ A8632
♥ Q3
♦ K1095
♣ 43

♠ 97
♥ J1074
♦ QJ76
♣ 752

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
			1♣	1♠
Pass		3♣	4♣	4♦
Pass		4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass		6♠	All Pass	

Lead: ♠7

With no clear idea, many declarers would cash the trumps to see if anyone discarded wrongly. This is often characterized as a squeeze but a proper squeeze does not need an error by the defenders. After seven black suit tricks, someone (clearly West because of the 4♣ bid) needs to keep 4 hearts to stop the ♥6 becoming a trick and to keep the ♦QJx of diamonds to stop the ♦10 becoming a trick. To do this, West needs to keep 4 hearts and the ♦QJx which is seven cards when everyone is down to 6 cards. For clarity, after two rounds of trumps, cash the ♦A and ♦K before running the trumps and just look out for the ♦Q and ♦J being discarded. If they haven't appeared, cash the queen and then ♥AK and the ♥6 should be good. This type of play, where one defender needs to guard two suits, is quite common when you have all but one of the remaining tricks and can be easily combined with other chances in the two suits. It's called a "Simple Squeeze".

Solution to Suit Combination ([page 6](#))

How do you best play this suit for three tricks?

Supplementary questions 4 tricks, 5 tricks

You: AQ1032 Partner: 654

One line which would work when you require all the tricks is to finesse the 10 on the first round, as to make all 5 tricks you need to find KJx onside (slim chance of that - about 13.5%)

Adopting this line playing for 3 tricks is as good as any (89.5%).

Needing 4 tricks however you can specifically cater for a singleton Knave offside by finessing the Queen on the first round. (chance of 4 tricks is 65.5%)

You might think that you could also cash the Ace which would cater for a singleton honour offside, however if both play low you have a nightmare guess when you lead towards the remaining Q1032 and LHO plays a low card. Situation best avoided.