# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin December 2021 Editor: Dee Harley

## **AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL TEAMS**

The International Teams have been selected for the World Championships in Milan starting in March. Victoria has three representatives featuring in the selections: James Coutts, Diana Smart, and Dee Harley as NPC of the Women's team. See

https://www.abf.com.au/international-teamannouncements/

#### Open

Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill Nabil Eggerton – Andy Hung Liam Milne – James Coutts

David Wiltshire (NPC)

#### Women

Giselle Mundell – Rena Kaplan Liz Havas – Diana Smart Jessica Brake – Susan Humphries

Dee Harley (NPC)

#### Seniors

Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings Stephen Burgess – Gabi Lorentz George Kozakos – George Smolanko

Peter Buchen (NPC)

#### Mixed

Trevor Fuller – Leone Fuller Stephen Fischer – Pele Rankin Hugh Grosvenor – Tania Lloyd

Julian Foster (NPC)

Wishing all readers of the bulletin a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



And have a sparkling 2022

# STATE RESULTS

#### Victorian State Teams (Pennant)

1. Ben Thompson, Bill Jacobs, James Coutts, Justin Mill, Robert Fruewirth, Simon Hinge

2. Douglas Newlands, Arthur Robbins, Denny Newland, Stephen Lester

#### **Victorian Masters Matchpoint Pairs**

- 1. Stan Klofa Lindsey Robinson
- 2. Richard Greenfield Michael Gurfinkiel
- 3. Kim Hoff Jenny Hoff

### **DECEMBER CONGRESSES**

The Gardenvale Summer Congress will be held from December 26-30 at the VBA clubrooms at 131 Poath Rd. Murrumbeena. There will be two session open swiss pairs events, single session restricted and novice events and intermediate-advanced lessons. For further information go

to <a href="http://www.gvbridge.com.au">http://www.gvbridge.com.au</a>

Yarra Valley Mini Swiss Pairs will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Christine Parkin on 0411 025 052, or Martin (0419 380 392)

# MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS 2021

Grand					
Ellena Moskovsky	VBA				
Silver Life					
Lorraine Griffiths	Bairnsdale				
Peter Karol					
Anne Laughlin	Rye Dromana				
Gus Ghali	Waverley Moonee Valley				
Bronze Life	Moonee valley				
Carol Anthony	Waverley				
Paul Corry	Frankston				
John Bristow	Waverley				
Life	waveney				
Kathryn Graham	Geelong				
Matti Shub	South Gippsland				
Anne Roberts	Waverley				
Honor Middleton	Frankston				
Ismail Gulec	Northern				
Ted Fielding	Rye Dromana				
David Hollands	Real Deal				
Alastair Lowe	Bayside				
Leszek Kunc	Waverley				
Douglas Harrah	Kooyong				
Jennifer Millar	Waverley				
Silver National					
Christine Paine	Northern				
Peter Lardy	Frankston				
Jill Haworth	Rye Dromana				
Sue Beckman	Mornington				
Pauline Grodski	VBA				
Sue Meyer	VBA				
Mieke Van Weel	Rye Dromana				
Bronze National					
Bella Edelman	Dendy Park				
Patrick Morgan	Frankston				
Tony Neasmith	Dendy Park				
Julie Alliston	Frankston				
Doug Mitchell	Dendy Park				
John Campbell	Ballarat				
Tony Seed	Geelong				
Dawn Braham	Sale				
Tim Legge	Waverley				
Mary Colling	Frankston				

Steve Colling	Frankston				
Marion Taylor	Traralgon				
Bei Tang	Upwey				
Alan Race	Yarra Valley				
Diana Saul	Kooyong				
Elizabeth Byrnes	Real Deal				
Barbara Callan	Geelong				
Colin Jasper	Gardenvale				
Neville Chapman	South Gippsland				
Kate Gullan	VBA				
National					
Sara Levy	Gardenvale				
Faye Ding	VBA				
Linda Picone	Warrnambool				
Malka Rubin	Dendy Park				
Irene Rose	Dendy Park				
John Doyle	Dendy Park				
Sandy Spencer	Berwick				
Krystena Casey	Northern				
Tim Hassett	Geelong				
Caroline Marshall	Royal South Yarra				
Harry Procel	Dendy Park				
Karen Thompson	Mornington				
Kevin Taylor	Traralgon				
Jolanta Terlecka	Waverley				
Fred Kaminski	Traralgon				
Michele Aldous	Benalla				
Leszek Lukjanow	Waverley				
Lou Innes	Rye Dromana				
Bronze State					
Jill Shirley	Kooyong				
Jim Skeen	Waverley				
Sue Kinnear	Royal South Yarra				
	Beaumaris Bridge				
Terry Earle	Association				
Jane Keyte	Torquay				
Adrian Beaumont	Waverley				
Joan Jones	Beaumaris Bridge Association				
Greta Gill	Yarra Valley				
Hayley Mitchell	Royal South Yarra				
Allan Hardie	Frankston				
Anna Field	Traralgon				
Graham Forbes	Bendigo				
John Spender	VBA				
	VDA				

Ray Beacham	Ballarat				
Larry Peters	Werribee				
Elizabeth Gillies	Royal South Yarra				
Liam Bastick	Melbourne				
State					
June Mainland	Waverley				
Miriam Miller	Gardenvale				
Jenny Allardice	Dendy Park				
Eileen Ragg	Kooyong				
Kathleen Parot	Bayside				
Karen Ferguson	Bayside				
Douglas Lavers	Waverley				
Sue Beaurepaire	OZ				
Kenneth Reynolds	Waverley				
Colin Wilshire	Waverley				
Marilyn Faiman	Dendy Park				
John Robertson	Williamstown				
Debbie Jerkovic	Waverley				
Vicki Lee	Waverley				
Ken Williams	Bayside				
Marg Fanning	Kooyong				
Rosalyn Davies	Northern				
Anthea Bickford	Royal South Yarra				
John Sarena	Warrnambool				
Curt Fisher	Frankston				
Peter Westaway	Waverley				
Charles Huang	Waverley				
Neil Keyte	Torquay				
Petille Faulkner	Royal South Yarra				
Mohamed Ghatwari	Moonee Valley				
Luke McNamara	Melbourne				
Alistair Minson	MCC				
Brian Wawn	The Quiet Club				
Sandy Fildes	Kattery				
Ian Gunn	Moonee Valley				
Les Hawke	Rye Dromana				
Joy Stubbings	Northern				
Carol Greig	Royal South Yarra				
Ros McEvoy	Traralgon				
Dee Reynolds	Bendigo				
Daniel Mao	VBA				
Mark Reynolds	Traralgon				
Colin Lane	Mornington				
Peter Robert	Theodor Herzl Social Club				

Bronze RegionalGalia GerszonoviczDendy ParkDulcie MiltzDendy ParkGill MinsonKooyongSandra NaftalDendy ParkRobyn SuttonKooyongChristine WalkerKooyongMaurice NaftalBridge Fanatics ClubLynn FrankenburgOcean GroveJenny SinWaverleyRobert GeschkeVBAWendy HarrisBendigoMaria MactaggartTraralgonWendy SpallWaverleyJulie SheehanWhittleseaEva LeonardsBaysideVal SimsMoonee ValleyMary WatsonTorquayTony BishopDendy ParkRay GilmourVBAMelbourneMelbourne
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Tom Blom Melbourne
Regional
Mira Benedict Dendy Park
Penny Cory Whittlesea
Colin Morrison RACV
Annie Vaughan Moonee Valley
Ann Bennett Royal South Yarra
Phil Douglas Rye Dromana
Viv Dacey Dendy Park
Shadda Abercrombie Royal South Yarra
Sarah Lawford Royal South Yarra
Jane Griffiths Kooyong
Merrie Beasley Royal South Yarra
Robin Archer Knox
Pip Liebelt Kooyong
Lynne Taylor Ballarat
Elizabeth Hodgkins Dendy Park
Caroline Marks Waverley
Suzanne Smith Geelong
Eleanor Nadelman Dendy Park
Barbara James Moonee Valley
Jane Morris Northern
Faye Norton-Old Kooyong
Mike Rudman Melbourne

Jane ProctorFrankstonMichael CoatesWaverleyJohn MarsiglioTraralgonBarbara CarterKooyongRay CarbuhnWaverleyAdina MorrisDendy ParkBarbara AppelVBAMaree MuirKooyongShyamala AbeyWaverleyBill GriffithsGardenvaleRenate EagleKooyongBinny ThomasOcean GroveAnnie BonesRye DromanaMyra Mortensen-WilliamsWilliamsRoyal South YarraLucy ZammitRye DromanaJohn WhiteBallaratMarg OrmeWaverleyJohn EnconniereMelbourneFaye SolewiczDendy ParkJuerg StolzGardenvaleSue EcclesWaverleyJane McLaughlinThe Quiet ClubAlan BlackburnGeelongLinda SheltonDendy ParkAnn DoyleWaverleyVal BurgumMoonee ValleyKam DoyleWaverleyVal BurgumMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC		1100
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Ann DoyleWaverleyVal BurgumMoonee ValleyFiona FerwerdaNorthernAdam SantilliWaverleyAnne HedeMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC	Linda Shelton	Dendy Park
Fiona FerwerdaNorthernAdam SantilliWaverleyAnne HedeMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC	Ann Doyle	Waverley
Fiona FerwerdaNorthernAdam SantilliWaverleyAnne HedeMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC	Val Burgum	Moonee Valley
Adam SantilliWaverleyAnne HedeMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC		
Anne HedeMoonee ValleyKerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC		
Kerri JonesNorthernSuellen BowersMCC		
Suellen Bowers MCC		
Nina Zurek VBA	Nina Zurek	VBA

# EDITORIAL

It has been an eventful year, and a particularly eventful month as I have the great honour of being asked to Captain the Australian womens team for the World Championships to be held in March in Italy. Preparations are underway, and as I am lucky to still have a friend or two back in Scotland, and I have been sent some training material to use with the team.

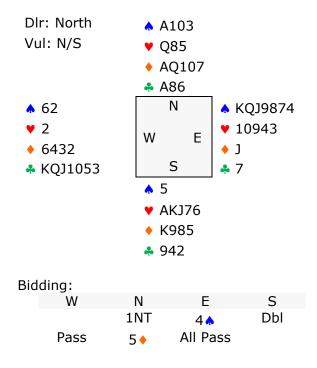
I remember going to play in the Spingold in Las Vegas years ago. We spent the whole of the 24-hour flight filling in a doubles questionnaire. That is all sorts of competitive doubles in a whole variety of sequences. Once you had completed the document, you could compare with your partner. That was a great way to improve your bridge, and also to pass a long long journey!

I have issued the doubles sheet to the team.

# WHAT DO YOU BID?

You hold: ♠KQJ9874 ♥10943 ♦J ♣7 Your RHO opens a 15-17 No Trump, your opponents are vulnerable. You are not.

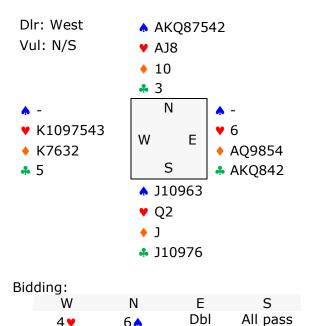
I thought this was a great hand which cropped up in a practice match. Our East found a  $4 \bigstar$ bid which put the cat amongst the pigeons!



Note that North/South can double 4 and collect an 800 penalty, or they can make 650 in 4 or 5 Hearts. If they are spectacularly good they can bid and make 7 .

# ANC CRACKER

Bidding is so difficult! I got myself a bit tied in knots during the ANC qualifying against New South Wales. This was board 44.



I was in the North seat and looked at West's 4♥ opening with concern. To me 4♠ is an underbid. I had a monster of a hand! I thought perhaps 5♠ is right, but that would be asking partner to bid 6♠ with second round Heart control, and to cue bid (♥) with first round heart control... but I reckoned I didn't need Heart control so much as something helpful outside (like a couple of minor aces and a King or 2...)

In retrospect (you don't have the benefit of that at the table) I should have doubled and then bid spades strongly. Imagine it goes 4♥ Dbl Pass 5(minor) pass, and now you can bid 5♠ showing this type of hand. In fact, South would have bid 4♠ given the chance, and then I would have been able to bid 4NT (Keycard)

I decided to bypass all the issues and bid an optimistic 6  $\clubsuit$  which was promptly doubled and defeated by one trick. Maybe this wasn't too bad a result because the opponents can make 6  $\blacklozenge$ ! The problem is they will not reach that contract after opening with 4 $\heartsuit$ . At the other table the bidding started with the same 4 $\heartsuit$  bid

but North bid a quiet 4 which was doubled by East and it made an overtrick. -15 IMPs did not look so pretty on the scorecard!

## **ANC RESULTS**

Covid didn't stop the ANC this year. It did alter the dates and for the first time ever the whole competition was held online (via RealBridge).

Huge congratulations to the Victorian Junior team who managed to grasp victory on the very final board of the tournament. I have tabulated results on the next page... (Click the link under set 5 to see the final set of boards and pay particular attention to the well bid slam on the very last board). Of course they had done well on previous boards to be still in contention going into the last.

The Victorian Open team won the round robin and thus qualified to play South Australia in the final. The open team were not as successful as their juniors and finished as runners-up.

The Victorian Senior team finished in third place in the round robin behind New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory. NSW went on to win the final convincingly

The Victorian Women, after a slow start managed to pull themselves up to  $5^{th}$  place .

The Interstate Butler Pairs competitions had some fine Victorian performances, Geoff Johnston and Alan Race finished fifth place in the final, having qualified in overall first place against over 100 pairs. Truly a magnificent performance.

In the restricted competition, Victoria had 3 pairs in the first six. Tim Legge and Alexander Jones taking out the top spot. Alan Hardie and Colin Jasper were in third and Steve and Mary Colling finished in sixth.

# JUNIOR TEAMS FINAL

Team #	Team	C/F	Set 1	Total	Set 2	Total	Set 3	Total	Set 4	Total	Set 5	Total
1	NSW	9.9	<u>48</u>	57.9	<u>23</u>	80.9	<u>18</u>	98.9	<u>6</u>	104.9	<u>20</u>	124.9
2	VIC	0	<u>10</u>	10	<u>30</u>	40	<u>32</u>	72	<u>16</u>	88	<u>39</u>	127

#### **Team members**

NSW James Palmer - Alex Phillips - Stephen Guo - Alan Stoneham - Ailsa Peacock - Tamara De Mel

VIC Jamie Thompson - Finn Rennie - Rebecca O'Reilly - Danni Fuller - Conor Hosking -Seb Wright

# **OPEN TEAM FINAL**

Team #	Team	C/F	Set 1	Total	Set 2	Total	Set 3	Total	Set 4	Total	Set 5	Total
1	VIC	1.2	<u>26</u>	27.2	<u>28</u>	55.2	<u>6</u>	61.2	<u>29</u>	90.2	<u>27</u>	117.2
2	SA	0	<u>9</u>	9	<u>10</u>	19	<u>30</u>	49	<u>47</u>	96	<u>58</u>	154

**Team members** 

VIC Neil Ewart - Simon Henbest - Dee Harley - Chris Hughes - Simon Hinge - Leigh Gold

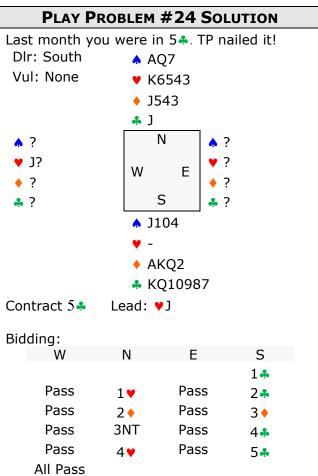
SA Nicolas Croft - Arjuna De Livera - Philip Markey - Justin Williams - Roger Januszke - John Zollo

# **BUTLER FINAL**

Rank	Pair	Names	Score	Total	MPs
1	<u>12</u>	Andy HUNG - Sartaj HANS	16.00	142.21	53.22
2	<u>9</u>	George SMOLANKO - George KOZAKOS	12.52	131.23	36.93
3	<u>4</u>	Wayne ZHU - Simon ZHANG	16.00	127.65	28.77
4	<u>10</u>	Mathew VADAS - Michael WHIBLEY	8.92	118.25	21.52
5	<u>1</u>	Geoffrey JOHNSON - Alan RACE	6.40	114.48	16.28

# **RESTRICTED BUTLER - FINAL**

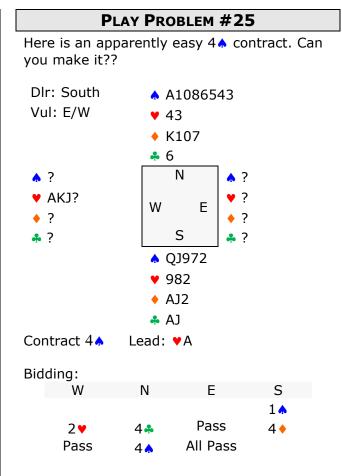
Rank	Pair	Names	Score	Total	MPs
1	<u>2</u>	Tim LEGGE - Alexander JONES	17.26	114.61	8.52
2	<u>5</u>	Heath HENN - Mitch DOWLING	15.94	107.71	6.76
3	<u>11</u>	Allan HARDIE - Colin JASPER	13.30	102.07	5.02
4	<u>20</u>	Tony ABBOTT - Neil WILLIAMS	4.06	96.19	4.23
5	<u>15</u>	Luke BLACK - Grace SAUNDERS	14.84	93.89	3.17
6	<u>23</u>	Steve COLLING - Mary COLLING	16.60	92.13	3.26



On the lead I think it is fair to assume that East holds the Heart Ace...

So, if you ruff trick one, you will be down to 5 trumps... since the likely split of the enemy trumps is 4-2 you will have to be careful to not get forced. If you play clubs after ruffing, West may win and force you to ruff again (you cannot afford to duck it), and now if the spade finesse loses when you take it East can cash the  $\checkmark$ A - if you drew all the trumps and they split 4-2, if you didn't draw them all, he can tap you by leading the  $\checkmark$ A if you ruff you will promote a trump for the opponents.

It is all about timing... if you finesse the spade early and it loses, what can East do? if he leads a small heart you discard something (the Awould be most scary!), and when you regain the lead you knock out the A and have an extra trump to retain control. If East tries the A instead, you can ruff and draw trumps. The K will now stop you from being forced. Oh and you only need to finesse that Spade once unless trumps break 5-1, So play to the Q at trick 2. Then play on trumps.



The defenders cash the  $\checkmark$ A and  $\checkmark$ K and lead a third round of hearts (the Knave). East followed suit to the first two tricks with the  $\checkmark$ 10 and then the  $\checkmark$ 7 (playing standard carding). Over to you.

## SUIT COMBINATION

This month you hold Q64 opposite your partner's J975

How would you play this suit for 2 tricks?

What percentage of the time would you expect to make 2 tricks?

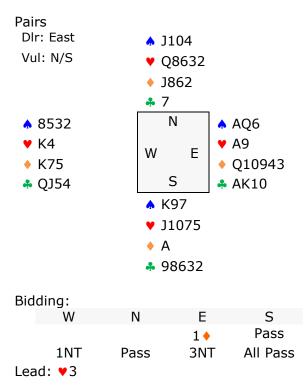
Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

Decide how you would play before peeking at the <u>Solution</u> on <u>P8</u>

Send me the best line please: <u>dee harley@hotmail.com</u>

# **CARD PLAY PRINCIPLES**

Play today is from a club competition where West seems to have missed some of the basic rules of play. Playing a 15-17 1NT, East opens 1 • and rebids 3NT over the 1NT response. Although there are some who bypass poor 4 card majors, it is not a style I prefer since looking for 8 card major fits is, to my mind, the first objective in bidding. Nonetheless, the final contract is the normal one and North leads the **V**3. West can count four clubs, two hearts and one spade and needs to develop two more tricks. When there is no foolproof line of play, it is usually correct to play on your longest suit which is diamonds here. Realising this, declarer won the lead with the **V**K and led a diamond to the queen. This lost to the ace and a heart came back. When he had to lose to the +J, declarer was soon one down. Was he unlucky? The answer is distinctly 'no'! By ignoring basic principles, he had played the diamonds in a very inferior manner.



There are a small number of principles which guide how to play a suit. The first is to always lead small cards towards high cards. The only exception is when you have enough touching cards to develop all the tricks you need. The

second principle is to use the high cards in the short holding first which clearly means the +K here. The third principle is to try to leave a finesse available on the second round i.e. the O10 here. So, declarer should see that these principles require him to win the lead with the ♥A and to lead a diamond towards the king and the A pops up without capturing the king. Now when the heart is led back, the  $\diamond K$ exposes the position in that suit and declarer can collect four clubs, 4 diamonds, two hearts and a spade trick for an effortless eleven tricks instead of an ignominious one down. It is important to realize that the diamond position is not symmetric and you can only pick up this 4-1 split on one side. These principles are the key to good card play in many situations and you should make sure you know them.

# Solution to Suit Combination (Page 7)

This month you hold Q64 opposite your partner's J975

**Needing 2 tricks:** There is only one line really...play the 5 towards the Queen, if no top-honour appears then you must play the Queen, which you expect will lose to the King or Ace.

Then you follow up by leading low towards the 9. If the 10 is well-placed you can return to hand to lead towards the J7 and make the right choice! You will scramble home with your 2 tricks about 42% of the time.

Please note that taking this line, it is entirely possible you will make no tricks at all in the suit!

As usual if you can avoid opening up this suit - wait for the opponents to do it you will be guaranteed at least one trick.

Moral: when defending do not open up a new suit unless you need to! It usually costs tricks.