

bridge victoria bulletin JUNE 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES

EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

There has been much discussion about the pros and cons of online bridge and face-to-face bridge.

On different nights, I am currently playing in both of these options.

I do have a slight concern that I will go to the bridge club when it is online and stay at home when I am supposed to be at the club.

However, being a one car family, there is a solution for me for the time being. My wife meets her girlfriends on a Monday night and she takes the car and this coincides with my online bridge. On the other night of the week when I play at the club, the car is still in the driveway so that I know to go to the club.

I am wondering what to do if my bridge nights change. I am hopefully still young enough in spirit to adapt to these changes.

I guess the pros to online bridge include

- Saving on petrol
- All I have to do to get ready is comb my hair and wear a decent top (whereas going to the club requires a much more stringent hygiene and dress code procedure)

The two major pros of club bridge are

- You get out of the family home and can concentrate on bridge and forget (at least for a while) the distractions at home
- the face-to-face contact and the social interaction before, during and after play. This is why I believe that as many people as possible should enjoy club competitions and encourage their clubs to foster as much social contact as possible. Things like food and drinking [small amounts after the game] and players arranging a pick up/drop off service for the older players could be considered.



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

My belief is that bridge is a game that helps keep the neurons active and is most enjoyed with others in a social atmosphere away from the computer screen.

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

In May we welcomed the first meeting of the newlyestablished Bridge Victoria Operations Committee (BVOC). This committee, which consists of a group of club and regional representatives from across Victoria, has begun managing state operations and directing new state initiatives.

The Inaugural meeting was held on 2nd May 2023, with a full attendance and robust discussion. A lot of ground was covered and, amongst other things, the committee produced its charter and set priorities for 2023.

The charter covers:

- Promoting the game of bridge throughout Victoria and fostering interest in the game;
- Running state bridge activities within Victoria, and
- Supporting and assisting affiliated bridge clubs.

The initial priorities discussed for BVOC in 2023 include creating a future state body (BVOC) that has more democratic representation of clubs, appointing a State Manager, creating a vision of where Victorian Bridge should be in five years and improving communication with clubs to obtain their input and demonstrate that appropriate actions are being taken.

The meeting agreed that the current committee will be in place until December 2023, with a process in train of determining how members will be democratically elected after that on an ongoing basis. A working group was established to explore options, obtain club input and make a recommendation to BVOC.

The VBA Council fully supports BVOC and looks forward to more productive meetings with input from clubs, to usher in a new chapter for Victorian bridge.





TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

EAST

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

NORTH	
 8543	
∀ A964	
♦K5	
&AT7	

٨			

WEST

- ÷. .

SOUTH(D)

♥KT3

◆ A8
▲ KQJ643

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		2 ♦	Р
2 🔥	Р	2NT	Р
3♣	Р	3NT	Р
6NT	Р	Р	Р

Treating their hand as 20-21, South opens 2 (Multi – either weak in a major or 20-21 balanced)

North bids $2 \triangleq$ suggesting that they can tolerate at least a $3 \forall$ contract.

South shows the 20-21 balanced hand and North checks for South's majors with 3. When South shows none, then North bids what he/she thinks they might have a play at (a little aggressive but it is what it is). The contract is 6NT by South.



West leads the + J and North wins the + K. and then?

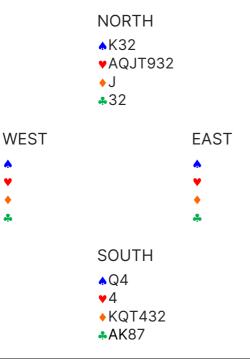
Decide how you are going to play this 6NT slam.

You have eleven top tricks with your great 🌲 suit.

What is your plan from here?

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

The following hand took place in a team's event



 NORTH
 EAST
 SOUTH
 WEST

 1 ◆
 P
 1 ◆
 P

 1 ◆
 P
 2 ♣
 P

 4 ◆
 P
 P
 P

North knows where the contract should be played after South's non-jump of 2.

4♥ is reached quickly and West leads the ♣5.

Take it from here.

Decide how you are going to make this **v** game

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.



YOUTH BRIDGE

For those of you who may not know we have been running Youth Bridge sessions at the Victorian Bridge Centre Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm. These sessions are free and open to anyone under the age of 30 of any skill level.

We don't take things too seriously just aim for everyone to learn and have fun, no scoring and takesies backsies are always encouraged!

Last Tuesday night we had a hand that caused quite a stir amongst the group: Bidding Table 1

West	North	East	South
2S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bidding Table 2

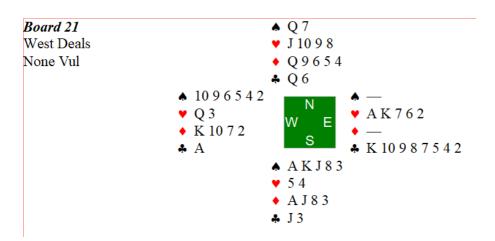
West	North	East	South
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
3D	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	4H	Pass
Pass	Pass		

As you can see, we have 2 very different auctions with the exception of the weak 2S opening by West at nil vulnerability which we expect to be very aggressive because after all it is youth bridge!

So, the question? is did East at Table 1 pass expecting partner to have 0 points and 5 spades? While highly likely, they did not. Unfortunately, they had their hand missorted but not to the usual 5 suits which happens more than we would like to admit but to 3 suits. As dummy went down with no support for partners spades Kxx, Ax, Kxxxxxx only to be told by the rest of the table the Ax of diamonds were actually hearts! While maybe the concentration wasn't all there due to the riveting side conversations on Bridgerton and Danny DeVito it certainly isn't every day you have an 8/5 so we were all very understanding that you could accidentally miss your double void.

Table 2 was either chatting less or better at multi-tasking we may never know for sure but their bidding was not without flaw. As East's 2nd bid above you see 3H but, in reality, the initial bid was 4H which can only be described as an accidental splinter showing Diamond support which was briskly taken back and swapped out smoothly with the 3H bid!

The hand record is included below, if you know anyone interested in learning bridge, please get in touch with us and invite them along to our Tuesday sessions!





A photo of the youth that attend on a Tuesday evening along with some people assisting in the development of the programme.





BRIDGE HUMOUR

REMEMBERING A GREAT

Tim Seres



The picture shows Tim Seres with Mary McMahon who was one of his partner's.

He was universally considered to have been the best bridge player that Australia has ever produced. Moreover, he was recognised on the world scene as one of the very best.

The Italians for years dominated the world bridge scene with the famous 'Italian Blue Team'. The mainstay of the team were Pietro Forquet, Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna. For years, Pietro Forquet corresponded with Tim Seres asking him to play with him on the team and that they would be world beaters. He didn't take the offer up because of his interest in the Australian horse racing scene.

He was born in Hungary and, after his parents died in the war, he was able to get a passage to Australia in 1947 via France and Vietnam. He obtained a job in a textile factory 24 hours after disembarking despite his lack of English. Seres had played nearly every form of cards from the age of six and was an accomplished chess player. But he loved bridge and was soon playing bridge six nights a week as an outlet after long and boring days in the factory. Less than a year after arriving in Sydney, Seres had won the Australian National Championships, representing NSW.

At one period in Australia's bridge history, Seres was automatically selected for the Australian team (choosing his own partner) and was joined by four other players who had to go through the selection trials. For much of his tournament career, Seres would play every session in recognition of his exceptional stamina as well as his outstanding bridge skills. Seres always displayed good temperament at the bridge table and was renowned for his politeness towards both partners and the opponents.



Seres attributed much of his success to his card play – he was noted for his high-quality declarer play and defence. He was a very fast player and could work out card play problems in 10-15 seconds – problems that would take ordinary players several minutes to figure out if at all. He had a photographic memory - he once said "I have hardly ever forgotten a card in my life if it's been played in front of me".

Seres was a truly formidable rubber bridge player. He was the backbone of the Sydney rubber bridge scene for more than 50 years being almost part of the fabric of the Double Bay Bridge Club (later Double Bay Bridge Centre). He played 5 to 6 afternoons a week (and in the early days in the evenings as well). In fact, it was estimated that he had played between 800,000 and one million hands of bridge in his lifetime - probably double that of any rival for the title. Keith McNeil (a top Adelaide bridge player – who died in 1993) was quoted in 1983 when asked about the skill of Tim Seres at rubber bridge - "He is so good; you just hand your money over. He makes it feel quite painless ".

You may wonder where the humour is in this article. Well, I am getting to that now.

When I moved from NSW to Victoria to get married, Tim Seres asked if I would play in his rubber bridge game as a farewell gift. I had conflicting emotions. I needed to save all I could for the wedding and not blow money needlessly on a pursuit where the odds of me making a profit were not great but, if I accepted, I would have the pleasure of partnering Tim Seres for a third of the time as we rotated partnerships in this money game. In the end, I decided that the buzz that I would get from playing in the game was worth the potential revenue loss (as long as it was not too much).

At the end of the three-and-a-half-hour session, Tim Seres and I sat down for a drink and a chat. He was as gracious as ever. I put on my journalist's hat and asked him a few questions –

- Did you regret not playing with Pietro Forquet on a potentially all-conquering bridge team? He replied that, his gambling syndicate on the horses was a major consideration and he couldn't do that from overseas (as an aside, when you played Tim Seres at the bridge club at weekend events, he would have ear plugs on listening to all the races while playing flawless bridge. It was very off putting for the opponents).
- When you did go overseas, what events did you play? He replied that he played in a lot of teams matches but also played in individual tournaments (where you enter as an individual and play with everybody else in the field). These events were more popular several years ago.
- 3. How did you enjoy the individual events?

As he didn't know most of the players in the field, he said that he needed to devise some method of determining the ability of his current partner in the bidding and the play. He finally came up with a solution. He decided to watch their efficiency in sorting their cards after they took them from the board on the table. The faster they sorted their cards, the more trust that he would give to their bidding. He said that it was working reasonably well for a while. Unfortunately, half way through the event, he partnered a lady who was the fastest card arranger that he had encountered so far but about the worst player he had ever seen. There was no plan B.

Is there a moral here?

Don't judge a player by the speed that they sort their hand.





RESULTS FOR MAY-VICTORIA

BAYSIDE BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

SATURDAY 6TH MAY SWISS PAIRS BEAUMARIS BOWLS CLUB - MARTIN STREET BEAUMARIS

66 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1st	Peter George	Jeff Fust
2nd	Eva Samuel	Pete Hollands
3rd	Chen Ding	Jack Huang

SALE BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

SATURDAY 20TH MAY AND SUNDAY 21ST MAY MASONIC HALL: 5-7 MARILYN WAY, SALE

26 pairs contested the pairs on the Saturday and the placegetters were

1st		Robynne Owen		Lorraine Griffiths
2nd		Helen Gault		Rob Gault
3rd		Lindy Anderson		Ken Anderson
14 tea	ms contested the teams o	on the Sunday and the pla	cegetters were	
1st	Colin Shugg	Chris Fernando	Chris Scott	Paul Corry
2nd	Moira Hecker	Helen McAdam	Robin Hecker	Don Tylee
3rd	Fred Sundermann	Rob Ziffer	Dawn Braham	Viv Braham



BENDIGO BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS SATURDAY 27TH MAY AND SUNDAY 28TH MAY VENUE

'The Conservatory' at All Seasons Resort Hotel 171-183 McIvor Road, Bendigo 3550

Congratulations to the Bendigo Club as their congress events were filled to a predetermined capacity.

Also, there is a little luck involved in winning a pairs event of this nature (who you play when and which direction that you are seated). However, Leo Saoud and Bob Geyer not only went undefeated in the pairs but, ably assisted by Ben Kingham and Sylvia Gluck, went undefeated in the teams as well.

50 pairs contested this event on the Saturday and the placegetters were

1st		Leo Saoud		Bob Geyer
2nd		Gus Ghali		Victor Zhang
3rd		Anne Gunst		Alison Feiner
16 tea	ms contested this event c	on the Sunday and the pla	cegetters were	
1st	Leo Saoud	Bob Geyer	Ben Kingham	Sylvia Gluck
2nd	Jan Hackett	Tom Hackett	Ryan Touton	Kerry Delcourt
3rd	Anna St Clair	Dee Harley	Thilak Ranasinghe	Gordon McRobert

RESULTS FOR MAY- NATIONAL

AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ridley Centre, Adelaide

56 pairs contested the Open Swiss pairs

1st	David Hudson	Liam Milne
2nd	Axel Johannsson	Kate McCallum
3rd	George Smolanko	Peter Buchen
28 pairs contested the Mixed Swis	ss pairs	
1st	Christy Geromboux	Sebastian Yuen
2nd	Lori Smith	Arjuns De Livera
3rd	Giselle Mundell	Andrew Peake
50 teams contested the Open Swi	ss teams	

50 teams contested the Open Swiss teams

At the end of the Swiss qualifying on the Sunday, the top finishers played the final us Monday



1st	Sartaj Hans	Hugh McGann	Michael Ware	Matthew McManus
2nd	Bruce Neill	Kim Morrison	David Weston	Julian Foster

The final was won by the Hans team.

A very interesting hand from the final. How would you go in this competitive hand with two voids and lots of opponent bidding?

	NORTH ▲5 ♥AQJT87 ♦KJ985 ♣9	
WEST A97643 K964 J32		EAST (D)
	SOUTH AQ • 532 • AQT43 • T875	

East opens 1♠ and West bids 4♦ (splinter). North bids 4♥ and then NS find their ♦ fit.

Is it possible to confidently bid 7 \$?

WESTERN SENIOR PAIRS

Melville Bridge Club in Perth

48 pairs contested the Open Swiss pairs

1st	John McMullen	Mark Doust
2nd	Deborah Frankel	Deidre Greenfeld
3rd	Geoff Holman	Chris Ingham





VICTORIA

June is a very busy and exciting month of great bridge events.

We start on 2nd & 3rd June with the Moonee Valley Super Congress, then it is our premier annual event the Victor Champion Cup, being held at the Moonee Valley RaceCourse, from 8th to 12th June.

On Monday nights the Ailsa Tandy Matchpoint Pairs goes for 4 weeks starting on 5th June on RealBridge; the Thwaites Mixed Pairs, an honour board event, commences on 14th June for 4 Wednesday nights which is being held face to face at the Victorian Bridge Centre.

Finally, the month finishes up with the Geelong Congress on 24th & 25th June.

July is also a very busy month, and the Victorian teams will be playing in the ANC in Perth.

During June the Australian teams, at which Victorians – Ben Thompson, Robert Fruewirth & Jamie Thompson are participating in Hong Kong, is on between June 9 and June 17.

MOONEE VALLEY SUPER CONGRESS

BOWLING CLUB ROOM

2A PATTISON ST.

MOONEE PONDS, MELBOURNE, VIC 3039

PO BOX 349, MOONEE PONDS 3039

CLUBROOM: 9375 3724

Friday 2nd June: shorter day format for Novice (<100mp) and Restricted (<300mp)

Saturday 3rd June: Swiss Pairs – 108 pair maximum – Open and Restricted sections

Sunday 4th June: Swiss teams - 32 team maximum

PEOPLE

Organiser:

Fraser Thorpe

Phone:

0419135826



Email:

thorpefraser@gmail.com

Chief Tournament Director:

Laurie Kelso

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

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)

Please see the VCC brochure and a trivia night notice (funds raised to support youth bridge) to be held on the Sunday evening of the VCC on the following pages

GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

Saturday and Sunday the 24^{th} and 25^{th} June.

A brochure follows that was kindly sent by Jennifer Blyton.

KATTERY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

Saturday 1st July, Sunday 2nd July.

Details of the event follow that were kindly sent by Keith Kat.

Entry details are on their website:

https://www.kattery.net/kattery.press/congress-entry-form/#entryform

or here's the direct link:

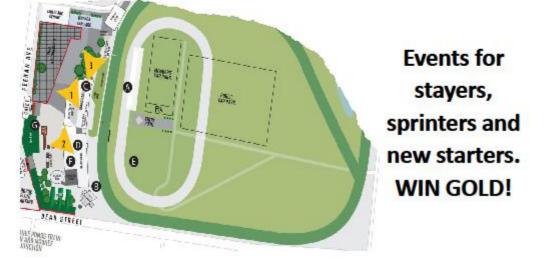
The Kattery celebrates 30 years as a bridge club

Keith Kat is the director of the event (both a very talented Victorian player and an accredited director).



2023 Victor Champion Cup Festival of Bridge 8th – 12th JUNE 2023

Chief Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso ABF GOLD Point and PQP Events



Don't miss the Premier event of the Victorian Bridge calendar at the Moonee Valley Racecourse.

If you enjoy the Gold Coast Congress – this is your winter choice.

First class amenities and ample parking.

Restaurants and pubs close by.

Delivery of food at the venue makes it easy.

Join us in the Victorian event of the year and place your bets early to get a discount .

For event information and to book and pay: https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/607









VCC Youth Fundraiser Trivia Details

Sunday June 11th – straight after bridge, trivia kicks off approximately 7.00pm 776 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039 700m walk from the VCC venue

Tram 5 min walk away

Train 10 min walk away

Full bar

\$65 pp

Dinner and welcome drink included

Trivia Info

All things bridge and not bridge (non-bridge players are welcome) A bit of fun - David Astle is putting something together for us Great prizes Lots of games A relaxed pace A challenge for all Maximum team size 8. Can sign up to be matched with others

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

https://www.realdealbridge.com/vcc-trivia-night







Geelong Bridge Club 2023 Congress Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 June 2023

Venue: Highton Bowls Club - cnr Roslyn & North Valley Roads, Highton Vic 3216

Director: Martin Willcox Recorder: Arthur Robbins

Entries on Bridge Unlimited: bridgeunlimited.com Entries close Friday 5pm 16 June 2023

Cost: \$100 per pair, \$200 per team Payment will be by cash only on the day of play

Program

Saturday: 10am start - Swiss Pairs Open and Restricted Restricted: <100 Masterpoints as at 31 March 2023

Sunday: 10am start - Open and Restricted Teams Restricted:<100 MPs per player as at 31 March 2023

Cash prizes

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Bar open at end of play with nibbles provided. Please notify Convenor of any dietary requirements at least one week prior to play.

Convenor: Jennifer Blyton <u>ilblyton@gmail.com</u> Mobile: 0409 852 538

Highly artificial systems not permitted. System cards mandatory.



WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	2 🏠	3♥	4 🌲
4♥	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ

Sitting East, you open a weak 2 A and the bidding proceeds as shown.

Partner leads the &K (asking for count) and you play the &T (playing reverse count or the &2 playing natural count).

Partner now leads the AK and dummy plays the A3.

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

▲T73♥Q974♦AT92

♣QJ2

AQ9654
∀ J8
♦ 75
& T95

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

Hand submitted by Greg Quittner



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.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS - AS UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN APRIL 2023

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Hay, Sarah	Silver Local
Ballarat Bridge Club R	Conaughton, Orla	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Johnston, Del	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Laird, Garry	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Lee, Kim	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Palermo, Margaret	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Rawlinson, John	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Smerdon, Julie	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Tattersall, Rod	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Winocur, Sharon	Bronze Local
Benalla Bridge Club R	Jamieson, David	Silver Local



Benalla Bridge Club R	Richards, Margaret
Berwick Bridge Club Inc	Kirby, Annette
Berwick Bridge Club Inc	Saunders, Mark
Bridge at Tivoli	Picker, Belinda
Bridge@Blake	Borowski, Eva
Bridge@Blake	Zarnowski, Alex
Gardenvale Bridge Club	, Frydman, Ruth
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Lazar, Andrew
Geelong Bridge Club	Rudd, Trish
Kattery Bridge Club	Brash, Jennefer
KLTC Bridge Club	Britcliffe, Diane
KLTC Bridge Club	Fogarty, Elizabeth
Knox Bridge Club	Hammond, Stella
Knox Bridge Club	Xie, Sean
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Cook, Andrea
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Edmond, Wendy
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Green, Clare
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Kuijken, Pierre
Mornington Bridge Group	Schyschow, Sophia
Northern Bridge Club	Stratford, Tatiana
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	, Del Papa, Jessamy
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	McTaggart, Judith
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Migliorini, Janet
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Fragiacomo, Lynne
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Fragiacomo, Rob
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Peachey, Bill
Peninsula Bridge Club - Vic	Vincent, Rhonda
Phillip Island Bridge Club Inc R	Coleman, Diane
RACV Bridge Club	Ballard, Barry
RACV Bridge Club	Jebb, Anne
RACV Bridge Club	Macmahon, Rhonda
RACV Bridge Club	Taylor, Cathy
Royal South Yarra L T Bridge Club	Hughes, Linda
Royal South Yarra L T Bridge Club	Reid, Julie
Rye Dromana Bridge Club	Bail, Jan
Rye Dromana Bridge Club	De Jong, Henny
South Gippsland Bridge Club R	Shub, Matti
Sunbury Bridge Club	Fahy, Allison
Sunbury Bridge Club	Model, Kim
The Quiet Club	McCulloch, Jean
The Quiet Club	Park, Joyce
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Ellis, Murray
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Lewis, Christopher
Torquay Bridge Club Inc	Murrell, Graeme
Traralgon Bridge Club R	Lonie, Peter
6 6	,





Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Dacey, Viv	State
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Goulding, Anita	Club
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Kozminski, Yaron	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Association Ltd	Michaels, Margie	State
Warrnambool Bridge Club R	Hilder, Kathy	Local
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Balasubramaniam, Bala	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Birch, Karin	Bronze State
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Craige, Annette	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Ferguson, Marg	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Finlayson, Richard	Club
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Joglekar, Nitin	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Khan, Theresa	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Long, Suzie	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Rao, Jyoti	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club Inc	Rodger, Ros	Silver Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club Inc	Pearce, Murray	Regional
Williamstown Bridge Club Inc	Millington, Peter	Regional
Williamstown Bridge Club Inc	Nicol, Ann	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club Inc	Tonge, Susan	Graduate
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Byrne, John	Bronze Local

Congratulations to all of the above.



2023 AUSTRALIA WIDE TEAMS CLUB KNOCKOUT

KNOCKOUT

TEAMS

When: Second Tuesday of each month, starting June, 7.30 pm EasternQualifying:June-August-September:Knockout and Consolation: October-November-December:Where:RealBridgeFormat:Clubs (home and alternate members) can enter one team (total 4) in each division:

All Clubs' players < 50 masterpoints Clubs < 100 members and players less than 100 masterpoints Clubs > 100 members and players less than 100 masterpoints All Clubs and players less than 750 masterpoints All Clubs and no masterpoint limit (* Masterpoints and Club members at 31 March 2023)

" Unlimited substitutes and monthly format avoid any significant disruption to existing club programs and the second Tuesday avoids the Melbourne Cup." **Dave Munro, South Perth Bridge Club**

Cost: \$240 per team (\$10 per player per round) with entry and payment via myABF covers 6 rounds for all teams. Teams not making the knockout stage join a three round Swiss consolation **Prize money:** \$1000 winner and \$500 runner up payable to Club (this

prizemoney is payable to clubs in divisions with 16 entries. The organisers will scale prizemoney for divisions with fewer entries)

Gold Masterpoints at A2 level

Director: Matthew McManus Organiser: Rob Ward (SMS 0418 611 908) " This was a great competition particularly for the less experienced players who grew significantly during the event. Home and alternate club provisions broadened eligibility. " **Sue Falkingham Tasmania BA and Liz Sylvester Mollymook.**

Tournament Regulations: can be found via myABF





Bridge Victoria State Manager

Are you interested or do you know anyone who may interested in the role of State Manager for Bridge Victoria? This is an important role for Bridge Victoria as we move to implement our new model and critical to achieving the outcomes we envisage for bridge in Victoria.

The State Manager will be responsible for the operational management and administration of State Bridge and ideally is passionate about growing bridge across Victoria. A background in complex stakeholder management, marketing and an understanding of the way state bridge works would be an advantage.

The Bridge Victoria State Manager will work with the Bridge Victoria Operations Committee (BVOC) to achieve the mission of Bridge Victoria which is:

- To promote the game of bridge throughout Victoria and to foster interest in the game
- To run state bridge activities within Victoria
- To support and assist affiliated bridge clubs.

Key objectives of the role include increasing satisfaction of Affiliated Clubs, increasing the number of clubs wishing to be affiliated and growing the number of bridge players across Victoria such that there are greater funds to apply to state activities such as education of players, directors and teachers.

This is a part-time position, up to three days or equivalent hours, with a base salary plus superannuation and flexible working arrangements. It is envisaged this will be a 12-month fixed-term contact, with options for extension.

For further information or to see the full PD please contact Colin Jasper, Chair of BVOC on <u>colin.jasp3r@gmail.com</u> or Mobile: 0418 310 058.



JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE



ABF AGM and Board Meeting May 3rd, 2023

Major Items and Decisions

ABF Council changes

Barbara Travis (South Australia), Adel Abdelhamid (South Australia), Julian Foster (New South Wales), and Christopher Leach (Victoria) have retired from Council. The Board and Council thank them for their valuable and generous contributions. A warm welcome to Justin Mill (Victoria), Dagmar Neumann (New South Wales), and Michael Court and Caprice Davey (South Australia) who join ABF Council.

Julian Foster, myABF Project Manager, was elected as a Supplemental Councillor for a period of two years.

New and Retiring Board Member

Ian Thomson joined the ABF Board as Treasurer in 2020. Ian resigned as Treasurer in January 2023 and decided not to renominate for a position on the Board at the AGM. Rob Ward took on the role of Treasurer in January. As there was no other nomination for Treasurer Rob Ward will continue in the role until the AGM 2024, which is an election year. Sue Falkingham was the only nomination for the vacant Ordinary Member of the Board. The Board welcomes Sue and we look forward to her input in the coming year.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan focusses on the three key themes of Attracting, Developing and Retaining players, directors, scorers, tournament organisers and volunteers. The ABF employee and contractors support various aspects of bridge, including marketing.

The ABF makes decisions in consultation with stakeholders and with the intent to promote bridge and support Sates, Territories, and clubs.



Retain

Many players have returned to face-to-face bridge, from club level through to national level, although numbers at ABF-licensed events are still down.

Law 74A- proper attitude - needs to be enforced to enable all bridge sessions to be enjoyable for all.

1. A player should always maintain a courteous attitude.

2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

Council discussed the importance of addressing bad behaviour at all levels of bridge. Doing so will require changing the culture across Australia, from the national events to club duplicates. The Board and Council intend to make this issue a priority over the next year and will work closely with the States and Territories to drive these changes. ABF General Counsel is leading an overhaul of the Recorder system for the ABF, including the rules for etiquette and behaviour. He has formed a committee to consider changes to the ABF approach.

Capitation and Masterpoint Fees

The year ending 31 December 2023 is a pivotal year for the ABF as we navigate our way towards 2025 in implementing our Strategic Plan 2022-25. The themes of our plan Attract, Develop and Retain players is key to the success of bridge in Australia. COVID has had a 10% downward impact on our player numbers. The good news is that it looks as though the decline has eased. We now need to grow, increase revenue, and reduce costs. At the 2023 AGM, Council approved Capitation fees effective 1 April 2024 at \$20 per player. Masterpoint fees across all levels were increased in line with inflation along with the commencement of a three-year adjustment to gold points to align with the top level red masterpoints. While costs have gone up, we are very excited by the benefits myABF is already providing congress tournament organisers, clubs, and players over the next two years and beyond.

Online bridge

Jenny Thompson advised Council on the progress of the Online Strategy committee. Surveys of players and clubs have been successful with 155 clubs, approx. 50% of affiliated clubs, and 2,490 members responding. The committee has now formed small working groups which will provide a more indepth analysis of each aspect. A final report will be presented to the Board by October 2023 and discussed at the ABF Council mid-term meeting.



ABF Education

Richard Ward highlighted the changes to the ABF Education structure. New criteria are being established by states and territories for teacher accreditation and teacher recognition has become a State/Territory responsibility. Sue Falkingham will take on the role of ABF Teaching Liaison.

Marketing

Attendance at both clubs and tournaments is down compared to pre-pandemic levels. The key challenge is to encourage people to return to playing in clubs. Marketing by State and Territory bodies and the clubs themselves is critical to achieving this outcome. Head of Marketing Peter Cox has outlined a number of successful marketing strategies including 'How To Write a Press Release' which is available on BridgeTV. <u>https://www.bridgetv.com.au/marketing/how-to-write-a-media-release/</u>

Feedback and Future Meetings

The Board welcomes feedback and suggestions on the above matters or other subjects.

The next Board Meeting is via Zoom on June 2nd, 2023.

ABF Council confirmed the mid-term meeting date as October 28th, 2023,

followed by a Board meeting on October 29th in Sydney.

The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on 24th May 2024, in Brisbane.

2023-2024 ABF Board:

Allison Stralow (President), Stephen Fischer (Secretary), Rob Ward (Treasurer), Richard Ward, Sue Falkingham Jane Rasmussen (Executive Secretary), Phil Markey (General Counsel), Michael Bryan (Deputy General Counsel) 10th May 2023.

The ABF Online Bridge Committee presented its interim report to the 2023 ABF AGM on 3rd May (see link to reports). The Committee and Task Force will now be spending the next five months, consolidating all its findings and doing more



research to make a final presentation to the ABF Board in October. Included in this will be the input we get from our New Zealand counterparts, as they work through their trial online events during the year.

An article describing 'What Does Bridge Look Like in 2035' has the following recommendations -

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. ABF to act as the leader in embracing online it's here to stay:
 - Pilot remote National(s) online accompanied with major promotion to address overall tournament reduced numbers and increasing costs of travel. Remote events in WA and Territory Gold are ideal. An option is to alternate F2F and Online.
 - Meet Online Survey requirement by re-introducing National Online Sunday Games. Appease clubs by returning profits.
 - Review, position and communicate available online events to enable players to find games that suit them. (Satisfies a further requirement of the Online Survey.)

[On-line bridge offers many options e.g. Teams, Swiss pairs, traditional duplicates. Games that range from 8 to 30 boards and from no-cost to a full service "expensive" game. Most on-line bridge is inexpensive. The ABF must work with the States and the Clubs to develop a range of Australian based online events and an on-line calendar to meet the needs of the players and the Australian clubs. On-line bridge is a world-wide, 24x7 game. Players will find a game elsewhere if it is not readily available from an ABF affiliated club.]

- 2. Bricks and mortar clubs need to enhance 'entertainment' value to maintain a viable F2F population. ABF should work with States to pilot the following options in Clubs:
 - Appoint an 'Entertainment Officer' to the club committee to arrange regular social experiences that suit their membership for medium and larger clubs without a bar or restaurant.
 - Small clubs outsource their premises when not in use and/or share premises with symbiotic organisations who offer a social experience.
 - Collaborate with quiet times at cafes, restaurants or pubs to run a bridge game for petite clubs to combine bridge and a social experience.
- 3. Use online bridge and facilities to recruit new players, attract past players, and increase participation of current players:
 - Identify and work with interested parties (WBF, Samantha Punch) to address one of the greatest inhibitors to the game across ALL levels, namely partnership. The time to develop suitable matchmaking Apps for a population that is used to online dating sites like Tinder and eHarmony is now.
 - Identify and pilot a gold point F2F congress along the lines of Coffs Harbour at a medium sized club located in a holiday destination to address the mass of bridge players wanting a 4-5day social congress but intimidated by the current stronger Nationals. The Coffs venue is limited to 100 tables and often booked out within 48 hours of opening entries.
 - Set up a team to recruit new players and attract past players using the online concept. Facilitate beginners' lessons or an introduction to platforms if required.
 - Individuals/Clubs with influence have always been the greatest contributor to increasing bridge participation. Find a way to identify, encourage, market and reward influencers.
 - Work with State bodies to track retention rates of beginners' classes both at the conclusion of the class and 12 months on. Include follow up on reasons and provide an annual report that examines actions to address positive and negative retention rates.
 - Institute a task force to examine what key data is required for a customer database to service the needs of our changing population. Initial data collection doesn't have to be complicated – a simple spreadsheet to start with is just fine.
- 4. Swing education online en masse, led by top educators like Will Jenner O Shea, Bill Jacobs and John Roberts, combined with F2F components carried out by local educators in clubs. Include follow up of players to ensure move to F2F or Online Clubs and track their retention.
- 5. The ABF needs to identify future leaders, administrators and key role players in the bridge community. Each key role from President down should be tasked with ensuring they have a successor or a



succession plan. Knowledge can then be shared and transferred and potential rejuvenation of bridge administration could occur.

6. The ABF should develop guidelines and minimum standards for on-line providers, where those platforms would like to offer masterpoints to the players. The ABF should ensure that the technology committee has the resources to monitor and regulate that the providers continue to meet that standards set.

NOTE: There is a lot of work to be done to embrace online bridge as outlined by the task force. The ABF should consider appointing an enthusiastic individual with good connections and the ability to get things done for a 1-3year period to manage the pilots, educate the clubs, and report back on progress.

If you would like to contribute any feedback, please do so by contacting me, Jenny Thompson at jenny.thompson@duckcube.com.

Note:

There has been a change in the date for the metropolitan GNOT final from October 1 to September 23.





Chris

I had the following hand sitting North and we were vulnerable and the opponents are not.



What should I bid?

I don't have a \clubsuit stopper so 2NT is problematic, so I eventually bid 3.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♦	2♥
?			

Answer:

Partner has opened the bidding and your right-hand opponent has made a weak jump overcall.

Sometimes all bids have their flaws. For example, would it stop you opening a 15-17 1NT, with a balanced hand in the point range, because you had a small doubleton in a suit?

Show your point range (10-11) and your ♥ stoppers by bidding 2NT. This is not forcing and it gives partner a reasonable picture of your hand.

Partner is unlikely to be able to bid over 3 • even with a reasonable hand.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au



WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? - JUNE Solution

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	2 🏠	3♥	4 🐥
4♥	Р	Ρ	Ρ

Sitting East, you open a weak 2 A and the bidding proceeds as shown.

Partner leads the AK and you play the AT (playing reverse count or the A2 playing natural count). Partner now leads the AK and dummy plays the A3.



DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON THE JOB

THEN YOU MUST OVERTAKE THE **A**K AND HOPE THE LAYOUT IS AS SHOWN. If you duck, the contract makes.

	NORTH AT73 VQ974 AT92 AQJ2	
WEST		EAST AQ9654 J8 75 T95
	SOUTH(D) J82 AKT83 KQ84 3	

NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO PLAY THE &T PLAYING REVERSE COUNT (IF YOU PLAY THE &9, THEN PARTNER DOES NOT GET A TRUE PICTURE OF THE HAND – do you have &T9 and Declarer &53?)



TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – JUNE Solution

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

	NORTH •8543 •A964 •K5 •AT7	
WEST		EAST • J9 • Q72 • Q9642 • 982
	SOUTH(D) AQ VKT3 A8 KQJ643	

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		2 ♦	Р
2 \Lambda	Р	2NT	Ρ
3♣	Р	3NT	Ρ
6NT	Р	Р	Р

Treating their hand as 20-21, South opens 2 (Multi – either weak in a major or 20-21 balanced)

North bids 2♠ suggesting that they can tolerate at least a 3♥ contract.

South shows the 20-21 balanced hand and North checks for South's majors with 3. When South shows none, then North bids what he/she thinks they might have a play at (a little aggressive but it is what it is).

The contract is 6NT by South.

West leads the \blacklozenge J and South wins the \blacklozenge K. and then

Decide how you are going to play this 6NT slam.

You have eleven top tricks with your great & suit.

What is your plan from here?

You can always take the ♠ finesse at trick 2. If it works, you can save some neurons for the next hand as you now have twelve tricks. If it doesn't work, you are going to need a minor miracle in the ♥ suit to play it for three tricks.

Perhaps, there is something better. You could cash the \checkmark A and K and if either the \checkmark Q or J appear, you can setup a third \checkmark trick (as you have the \checkmark T and 9 and so you get three \checkmark tricks and, therefore, you don't need the \clubsuit finesse). However, if neither the \checkmark Q or J appear, what do you do now (play for \checkmark s 3 – 3 and hope the two honours fall together or do you take the \clubsuit finesse now)?

It would be nice if you weren't put to this dilemma. So, lead the ♥4 to towards the ♥T when East plays a small ♥ (if the ♥Q or J appear from East, your problems are over as you win the ♥A and now you have three♥ tricks) and let West win the trick.

West can't attack the ▲ suit, so they will exit in another suit (probably a ♦).

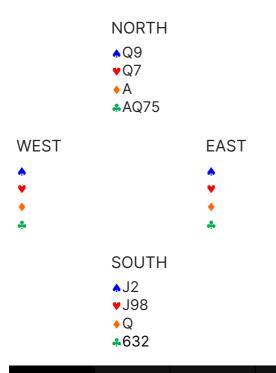
Now, you can safely play the ♥K and A (in this order) after you run all your ♣ tricks. If the other ♥ honour does not appear, you now know that you need the ♠ finesse.

However, on the layout shown, you get three ♥ tricks and you don't need the ♠ finesse.



BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – MAY Solution

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared



NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	1♦	1♥	2 ♦
4 💙	Р	Р	Ρ

North knows where the contract should be played after South's bid of $1 \checkmark$

4♥ is reached quickly and West leads the ♦J.

You duck this trick but East wins the +K

East continues with the \bigstar 3 and you put up the \bigstar K to see who has the \bigstar A. When West plays the \bigstar 8, you know that East has that card.

East has overcalled when vulnerable and West has raised with presumably a 4-card \blacklozenge suit and some distribution.

You play two rounds of \P s and East follows to both rounds and West throws a \blacklozenge .

Decide how you are going to make this \mathbf{v} game and <u>the</u> current position is shown on the left

What is your plan from here?

You proceed to get a count on the hand.

Now cash the \blacklozenge A and lead the \blacklozenge Q as nothing East returns can hurt you.

If East returns their last trump, then cash the A and lead the 9 to your J. If East follows, then they are known to be either 3 3 5 2 or 4 3 5 1. Either way, lead a small toward the Q. If West has the K all is well and if East has it in the 3 3 5 2, they must now give you a ruff and a sluff

