

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

AUGUST 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

Several years ago, I was discussing with a friend some changes in 'bridge' that might be introduced to help invigorate the game.

There are pairs events for two and team events for either four or six players normally. However, in these team events only four can play at any one time and is it truly a 'team' game where the teammates are in two different locations?

In a team sport like AFL, a harmonious team of good players may beat a team of champions. This result can happen because, if a 'ruck' drops a 'mark', a 'rover' can pick up the ball and continue with the attack.

In bridge, if your partner is in the process of putting a vulnerable game on the floor, there is no 'rover' to pick up the cards and continue an effective the attack.

Moreover, some people are better at bidding, others at declarer play and a few excel when defending.

So, introducing a team concept, you position your players where their skills are best suited.

Joseph and Jackie have been playing together for along time and they have developed a very effective bidding system. They sit at the table first.

When the auction is completed and we are declaring then Patsy sits down if it is a 'No Trump' contract and Horatio if it is a 'Suit' contract. If we are defending, then Simon and Simone are our best defenders.

This is utilizing the 'interchange' concept effectively. Furthermore, if a player gets tired/sick/injured, they can be replaced by another player during the match.



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

Needless to say, this concept hasn't gained any traction but

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loganrun@optusnet.com.au

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

PRESIDENT VBA LTD. - CHRISTOPHER LEACH

As I write, our Victorian teams have just wrapped up their campaigns at the National Team championships in Perth (ANC). The standout result was the Youth team, which easily topped qualifying and went on to win their division in a fantastic result. The Women's team made their final before going down fighting to a very strong South Australia.

I had a little to do with one of our youth team members, Matthew Sieredzinski, getting involved at this level. Matthew had played for years as a teenager with his father Wojciech down on the Peninsula and was able to acquit himself well at the congress level. However, because he was still at secondary school and without a licence, Matthew was essentially isolated from the other youth players in Victoria. A group of youth players, organized by Rebecca O'Reilly, our Youth Convenor, meet over pizza and beer every Tuesday night at the VBC. After a chat with Matt at the Frankston Congress in April, I ascertained he now had his driver's licence and suggested he show up on a Tuesday night. Matt duly appeared one evening and quickly established himself as part of the group, got selected for Perth and is now a national champion. So warm congratulations to him and all the other Youth team members (Alex, Simon, Damon, Seb and Taydon) on a great effort. I wish you a long career ahead in our fantastic game.

Since my last column in June, there has been another meeting of the Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC) and excellent progress is being made to set up an effective long-term administrative body for bridge in this state, with strong input from clubs. As we slowly approach the settlement date for Poath Road, the VBA Council will be putting in place the details of how the Future Fund will function and the committee that will administer the fund. The key purpose is to support programmes and activities to grow the game and greatly enhance its reach and appeal.

That appeal continues to be supported by science and medical investigation. Just this week, a study released by Monash University, showed that more demanding brain activities were the best way to stave off dementia, even ahead of regular socialising and certainly less intellectually demanding repetitive activities like needlework.



The study showed that those who frequently engaged in mental activities including card games (bridge was not specifically mentioned, but we all know it is far more intellectually demanding than any other card game) were associated with reduced dementia risk over ten years.

The conclusion by Professor Ryan, the lead author of the study: "Keeping the mind active is crucial to good health. There is no perfect time to start these activities to prevent dementia, it is about constantly challenging yourself across life and changing activities as well..."

Bridge, as we know, ticks all the boxes. Stimulating, taxing, highly variable (to be a good card player, bidder and defender involves mastering multiple strategies) and of course incorporating socialising, we have a great story to tell. Thanks to the dramatic reorganisation of Victorian bridge over the past few years, we will soon be out there doing just that to a far greater extent.

Christopher Leach,

President VBA Ltd

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH

♠ Q3
♥ J74
♦ KQJ2
♣ A432

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ AJ7652
♥ Q
♦ T98
♣ KQ5

West leads the ♥A and after East discourages, East plays a small ♣.

Decide how you are going to make this ♠ game.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

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

South bids 3♠ which must show 6 (as North has denied three ♠s).

So, North decides to bid 4♠.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

The following hand took place both vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q32
♥ AJ73
♦ J4
♣ AJ43

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ KJ65
♥ Q4
♦ AKQ632
♣ 5

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

4♦ was Minorwood and 5♣ showed two + Q of trumps

The bidding was a little agricultural but you, as South, must give yourself the best shot.

West leads the ♣7.

You win the ♣A

East follows suit.

Obviously, the ♥ finesse must be working and a reasonable ♦ break (not 5 – 0).

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 IN BRIDGE

The bridge playing youth in Victoria are doing us proud.

As you will read elsewhere in this bulletin, they excelled in Perth and some of them are flying overseas to represent Australia in an international competition.

As you read this, they have changed their footwear and are now wearing the following.



They are in the Netherlands and Rebecca O'Reilly is the non-playing captain of one of the teams.

I wish them good luck and a safe passage on the bicycle.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



Until a few years ago, the Canberra National Championships was the most prestigious event in the annual calendar (in the last few years, the Gold Coast congress may have lifted that mantle). The fields were very large with players of various abilities from Australasia and, in some cases, strong teams from overseas.

While deep in thought (or perhaps dozing off after a long day), I heard three voices get progressively louder at a table nearby. I could not help but hear the chatter so I pricked my ears up to hear the entire conversation.

It was a team discussion from one of the better teams where player A and player B played together and player C was a member of another partnership on the same team.

Player A What were you thinking partner? Your careless declarer play caused us to lose ten imps on this board and cost us the win

Player B I am sorry partner but I don't see how to make the contract

Player A Even 'blind Freddy' could have made this hand. I bet you I could ask any competent player and they would agree with me

Player C Player A, it is a very difficult hand to play and I don't think that it can be made either

Player A No wonder we aren't doing as well as we should be when I have such weak teammates

Player B How would you have played the hand, if you were declarer rather than me?

Player A I would have made the hand and we wouldn't be having this discussion at all and disturbing other people in the near vicinity. I would be happy having our dinner with another win under our belt.

Player B Well, what would you do after winning the first trick?

Player C As Player B said, what do you do at trick two and state your play from trick 3 onwards?

Player A I am getting hungry and it isn't my job to improve your bridge skills

Player C Player B and I will pay for your dinner if you present us with a sequence of plays that makes the contract. However, if you can't then you buy us each a pre-dinner drink.

Player A Okay

Player B You win the first trick and then what?

Player A I was dummy and I don't know your hand. What cards did you have?

Later, as I approached the restaurant, I saw Player B and Player C enjoying their 'free' drinks.



RESULTS

RESULTS FOR JULY-VICTORIA

GARDENVALE CONGRESS SATURDAY 22ND JULY (ONLINE)

34 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

NS

1st	David Farmer	Catherine Whiddon
2nd	Annie Rose	Andrew Lazar
3 rd =	Sara Levy	Akiko Stark
3 rd =	Rick Lu	Mary Anne Hingerty

EW

1st	Jing Hao	Sylvia Billingham
2nd	Joan Gray	Anthea Bickford
3rd	Nazy Minbashian	Siamak Parsanejad

RESULTS FOR JULY- NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Perth A TEAM COMPETITION

Open – 7 entries

Final	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	161.5	ACT	132
	(Victoria finished 3 rd)			



VICTORIAN OPEN

David Beckett, Jenny Thompson (NPC), Phil Fent, Neil Ewart, Ming Zhang, Dee Harley, Chen Ding

Women – 7 entries

Final SOUTH AUSTRALIA 137.2 VICTORIA 99



VICTORIAN WOMEN

Laura Ginnan, Eva Samuel, Kim Frazer, Sue Read, Laurie Kelso (NPC), Penny Blankfield, Kitty Muntz

Seniors – 7 entries

Final SOUTH AUSTRALIA 143 N. S. W. 120.8

(Victoria finished 5th)

Robert Gallus, Stephen Weisz, Quentin Van Abbe, Andrzej Krolikowski, George Lovrecz, Martin Willcox (PC)

Unfortunately, I have no picture of the Senior team.

Youth – 7 entries

Final

VICTORIA

218.6

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

114



VICTORIAN YOUTH

Alex Goss, Matthew Sieredzinski, Taydon Gold, Leigh Gold (NPC), Simon Pui, Damon Flicker, Seb Wright

The Victorian Youth team dominated the round robin and then followed up that excellent form by winning the final easily.

Well down to our younger members.

For each team category, they award a prize for the pair that recorded the highest modified datum result.

A datum result indicates the totalimps achieved for each pair over the course of the round robin event (this means that approximately half the pairs will be positive and the rest negative). It is a reasonably good indication of a pair's individual performance.

The modified datum is an adjustment to your datum result to reflect the strength of the pairs that you played against (ie if the pairs that you played against had a strong datum result, then the adjustment will be positive and vice versa). This is generally considered a much better indication of the pair's overall performance.



Alex Goss and Simon Pui were the modified datum winners in the YOUTH event.

The following was submitted by Andrew Macready-Bryan

Before looking at partner's hand, a bidding problem from the recent Butler in Perth:

After a vulnerable 3♦ pre-empt by right hand opponent, what would you bid on:

♠
♥KJ982
♦A65
♣QT932

Let's assume you bid 3♥ and partner produces 4♦. What next?

At the table, the hand above bid 4♠ and partner, after your 5♥ response to their key-card ask, bids 6♥.

Now – what is your best line when north leads a ♦?

♠	♠AKJ743
♥KJ982	♥AT54
♦A65	♦93
♣QT932	♣K

Andrew Macready-Bryan analysed the hand as follows

At the table at least one declarer led a ♥ to the 10, which held, and they proceeded to make the contract. This seems to be putting all eggs in one basket. Is there a better line?

The ♦ lead is almost certainly a singleton, so the South player is marked with ♦KQJxxxx. They have room for one more card, but probably not the ♣A. If North had ♣Axxxx, they may have led A and another hoping for a ruff in the South hand, having heard the auction.

So, leading a ♣ to the K seems like an excellent play at trick 2. North must take this and for the reason above now will probably continue with a small spade. Dummy's ♦ goes away on the ♣Q.

South is now marked with at most 3 spades, playing ♠AK and ruffing a ♠ gives declarer a chance to count out the hand, and play the trump suit appropriately.

Do you agree with Andrew Macready-Bryan's analysis?



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST

VICTORIA

MACEDON RANGES CONGRESS

Saturday 12th August.
MACEDON RANGES BRIDGE CLUB

MACEDON RANGES CONGRESS SWISS PAIRS

Description 10:00 start Please pay (\$50 per person) to: BSB: 633 000 Account Name:
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club Account Number: 1227 049 27

Directions Norma Richardson Hall 15 Buckland Street, Woodend

Cost Entry to the event will cost \$50.00 per player

TRARALGON CONGRESS

Saturday and Sunday the 19th and 20th August.

italian Australia Club MORWELL

Pairs on Saturday start at 11 am

Teams on Sunday start at 10am

\$45 per player each day.

RACV CONGRESS

Sunday the 27th August.

17th RACV City Club
501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

9:30am for a 10am start.

A red point Swiss Pairs event

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

18TH YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

VELDHOVEN THE NETHERLANDS

It runs from the 31st July to the 8th August

Veldhoven is about 130 kilometres south east of Amsterdam. A pretty rural town.



There are five different categories in which countries can play.

The competition is very strong as a lot of countries have invested heavily in developing younger bridge players.

The following countries have sent one or more teams to the competition.

ARGENTINA	AUSTRALIA	BARBADOS	BELGIUM	BULGARIA
CANADA	CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	CHINA HONG KONG	CROATIA
CZECH REPUBLIC	DENMARK	ENGLAND	ESTONIA	FRANCE
GERMANY	GREECE	HUNGARY	INDIA	IRELAND
ISRAEL	ITALY	JAPAN	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	POLAND	ROMANIA	SCOTLAND
SERBIA	SINGAPORE	SLOVENIA	SWEDEN	THAILAND
TURKEY	USA1	USA2		

Australia is represented in two categories.

The Under 26 teams

David Gue	– Joshua Tomlin
Sebastian Langdon Macmillan	– Tomer Libman
Damon Flicker	– Seb Wright
Mike Doecke (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where the partnership of Damon Flicker and Seb Wright are from Victoria and they were part of Victoria's successful Youth team in Perth.

The Under 21 teams

Jack Luke-Paredi	– George Bartley
Lara Topper	– Jacob Rose
Alex Goss	– Bertie Morgan
Rebecca O'Reilly (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Alex Goss is from Victoria and he was part of Victoria's successful Youth team in Perth. Moreover, the non-playing captain, Rebecca O'Reilly, is Victorian and she has spent a lot of time improving youth bridge in our state.

46TH WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARRAKESH MOROCCO (I have seen the city spelt both ways – Marrakesh and Marrakech)

It runs from the 20th August 20 to the 2nd September

Marrakesh is about 320 kilometres South and West of the capital, Rabat.



Australia is represented in every category.

Obviously, there is an exceptionally strong field in each category. An Australian team will do very well to finish in the top 8 in any field.

OPEN

Tony Nunn	– Paul Dalley
Tony Leibowitz	– Paul Gosney
Robert Fruewirth	– Jamie Thompson
David Fryda (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Robert Fruewirth is Victorian and Jamie Thompson, although now in NSW, we claim is Victorian.

MIXED

Lauren Travis	– Phil Markey
Sophie Ashton	– David Wiltshire
Renee Cooper	– Ben Thompson
Mike Doecke (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Ben Thompson is Victorian.

WOMEN

Avril Zets	– Helena Dawson
Kinga Moses	– Nazife Bashar
Wei Zhang	– Catherine Zhang
Peter Buchen (Non-Playing Captain)	

SENIORS

David Beauchamp	– Avinash Kanetkar
Stephen Burgess	– Gabi Lorentz
Robert Krochmalik	– Paul Lavings
John McIlrath (Non-Playing Captain)	

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♠	P
3♥	4♥	4♠	5♥
P	P	5♠	DBL
P	P	P	

This was the enterprising auction on this board in the semi-finals of an international tournament in the USA. Naturally, all players were of a world class standard

North's 3♥ bid was a splinter agreeing ♠s (showing a reasonable hand – ie not a bust).

When North didn't double West's 5♥, South went on to 5♠. Your partner then doubled this contract. Partner leads the ♥J. You overtake with the ♥Q.

What do you lead now?

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

♠QJT3
♥2
♦QT4
♣QT952

♠4
♥AKQ876
♦8765
♣43

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

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

Answer at the end of the bulletin

OTHER

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS EVENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Hyams, Ann	Club
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Nadebaum, Nick	Bronze State
Ballarat Bridge Club	Oswell, Mary	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Walsh, Karen M	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Baernreuther, Rosa	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Harrison, Lynne	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Lindsay, Heather	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Mackiggan, Rebecca	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Manix, Cheryl	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Robson, Ted	Regional
Beaumaris Bridge Club Inc	Miller, Alan	Local

Beaumaris Bridge Club Inc	Rose, Francis	State
Beaumaris Bridge Club Inc	Saunderson, Jack	Regional
Benalla Bridge Club	Bassett, Judy	Silver Local
Benalla Bridge Club	Holmes, Christine	Bronze State
Bendigo Bridge Club	Forrest, Yvonne	Silver Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Friesen, Sandra	State
Bendigo Bridge Club	Gao, Wen	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Gunn, Kevin	Bronze National
Bendigo Bridge Club	O'Hare, Paul	National
Bendigo Bridge Club	Shearer, Cathie	Regional
Berwick Bridge Club	Nicol, Dianne F	Bronze Life
BWOnline Bridge Club	Hawkins, Mary	Graduate
Frankston Bridge Club	Baxter, Karen	Silver Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Diamond, Susan	Club
Frankston Bridge Club	Sieredzinski, Matthew	Bronze Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Maver, Lyn	Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Rose, Annie	State
Gardenvale Bridge School	Foks, Jack	Bronze Regional
Gardenvale Bridge School	Jones, Sally	Regional
Gardenvale Bridge School	Nissen, Pearl	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Ilic, Mary	Local
Kattery Bridge Club	Williamson, Ginny	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Angelatos, Elizabeth	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Bloom, Lorraine	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Dhingra, Poonam	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Guest, Merran	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Kalra, Sangita	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Sahely, Viv	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Yarwood, Virginia	Graduate
Knox Bridge Club	Cox, Ian	Regional
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Sampson, Desma	Grand
Maine Bridge Club	Griffin, Louise	Bronze Local
Maine Bridge Club	Landers, Sheila	Graduate
Maine Bridge Club	Stack, Judy	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Bailey, Katheryn	Club
Melbourne Bridge Club	Easson, Geoff	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Rudman, Shan	Regional
Melbourne Bridge Club	Sampson, Sean	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Slonim, Toni	Bronze Regional
Melbourne Bridge Club	Walsh, Yvette	Regional
Melton Bridge Club	O'Connell, Dale	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Beasley, Nu	Silver Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Cassar, Mark	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Ding, Faye	Bronze National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Eccles, Fred	Life

Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Ghatwari, Mohamed	National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hopkins, Terri	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Image, Lindsay	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Pietrzak, Teresa	Bronze Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Raggatt, Sue	Bronze Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Remedios, Valerie	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Tracy, Jenny	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Freedman, Morry	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Karapetric, Diane	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Smit, Jack	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Tickler, Ros	Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jansen, Stella	Local
OZ Bridge Club	Goldenfein, Diana	Regional
Peninsula Bridge Club	Riddell, Katherine	Graduate
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Anglim, Deborah	Bronze Life
Phillip Island Bridge Club	McKergow, Wendy	Local
RACV Bridge Group	Costello, Tim	Club
RACV Bridge Group	House, Bob	Bronze National
RACV Bridge Group	Hurley, Jennifer	Local
RACV Bridge Group	Hyndman, Margaret	Club
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Von Bibra, Petille	National
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Patterson, Bill	Graduate
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Currier, John	Silver Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Stiles, Maureen	National
The Quiet Club	Lanyon, Chris	Club
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Spicer, Michael	Regional
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Van Der Hoek, Martha	Bronze Regional
Traralgon Bridge Club	Marsiglio, John	State
Upwey Bridge Club	Craig, Sandra	Bronze Local
Upwey Bridge Club	Tang, Bei	Silver National
Victorian Bridge Association	Aizen, Flossie	Life
Victorian Bridge Association	Beale, Glenda	Local
Victorian Bridge Association	Bird, Maryanne	Bronze Life
Victorian Bridge Association	Kaytaz, Bulent	Bronze State
Victorian Bridge Association	Lawrence, Jillian	Silver Life
Victorian Bridge Association	Mao, Daniel	Bronze State
Victorian Bridge Association	Roe, Duncan	Bronze Regional
Victorian Bridge Association	Rosenthal, Stan	National
Victorian Bridge Association	Whiteman, Simone	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Lazarou, Lef	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Smith, Sandra	Club
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Lines-Kelly, Michael	Local
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Picone, Linda	Bronze National
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Plevier, Tony	Bronze Regional
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Southey, Robin	Club

Waverley Bridge Club	Balasubramaniam, Bala	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Belousoff, Julie	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Bhide, Raj	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Collins, Gay	Bronze Life
Waverley Bridge Club	Czarny, Anita	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Evans, Sheila	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Goss, Peter	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Humphris, Debbie	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Miller, Robert	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Rahman, Atom	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Samarasingha, Hiranthi	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Samarasingha, Nalin	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Spencer, Sandy	Silver National
Waverley Bridge Club	Tissera, Simon	National
Waverley Bridge Club	Vanselow, Elizabeth	Silver National
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Bunyard, Geoff	Regional
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Knowles, Phillip	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	George, Peter	Bronze National
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Baughan, Moira	State
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Koper, Marcel	Local
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Ryan, Maureen	Silver Local
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Wade, Keith	Regional
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Henderson, Carol	Regional
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Williams, Les	Club

Congratulations to all of the above.

THE SALE BRIDGE CLUB HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS BULLETIN

Rob Ziffer of the Sale Bridge Club sent the following –

THREE GENERATIONS PLAY AT THE SALE BRIDGE CLUB

Recently for the first time in our 50 years of bridge we had three generations of the one family play at the same duplicate session.

Each played with another member of the club in what is quite an unusual occurrence.

Laurie Bjorksten is a long-standing club member but in recent years over the pandemic his daughter Wendy Cummings and then her daughter Georgie Cummings attended our bridge education sessions followed by periods of supportive play before joining our duplicate sessions

We were thrilled to have such an endorsement of the ability of bridge to be enjoyed by all age groups and potentially be played by families at home



LAURA GINNAN (A WELL-KNOWN VICTORIAN PLAYER AND TEACHER) SENT ME THE FOLLOWING

She attended the Ern Palfreyman Teams 2023 at the Sale Bridge Club

In June, I had the pleasure of directing the Palfreyman Red Point Teams at the Sale Bridge Club. This event is truly fantastic, as it pairs a newer partnership with a pair of more experienced players, providing an ideal introduction to a format that can initially seem daunting. It was particularly significant for the inexperienced players, as it marked their first-ever teams' event.

Before the games began, the club arranged a pizza dinner, and some players enjoyed a glass of wine, creating an atmosphere brimming with fun, excitement, and perhaps a hint of nervous anticipation. To initiate the event, we decided to have a preliminary practice match, allowing everyone to become familiar with the proceedings.

As a purist, I strongly believed in hand scoring for this match. It was crucial for the less experienced players to grasp the purpose of teams scoring. Consider the analogy of learning to play footy without knowing which goal posts to aim for or playing doubles tennis without being aware of the boundaries of the court. All the less experienced players rose to the occasion admirably. By hand scoring the match, we facilitated their understanding of how teams scoring functions, ensuring they could fully engage in the game.

When the dust settled, the ROBINSON team came out on top. They almost survived being undefeated. However, the ZIFFER team (Rob Ziffer, Marg Ziffer, Lisa Booth, Debbie Kruik, Marg Castle) handed them a crushing defeat in the final round cementing their second place.

When I inquired about the origin of the name "Palfreyman Teams" from Libby Thomson, the Secretary of Sale BC, her face lit up with a smile. Ern was a city player from the VBA when it was located in Prahran. This is way back when cigarettes were smoked at the table and hand scoring was the only option.

Ern was not only a dedicated player but also a genuine enthusiast of the game, embodying the very spirit of bridge as something fun and enjoyable. During the 1970s, when Sale BC was still in its early stages, Ern played a crucial role in its establishment. Libby emphasised that without Ern's invaluable assistance, the club may never have taken off.

Ern's commitment extended beyond Prahran, as he made several trips to Gippsland to help the Sale BC gain momentum and find its footing. His passion for the game was truly infectious, leaving an indelible mark on those who knew him. Therefore, the Palfreyman Teams event, as it is celebrated today, serves as a genuine tribute to both the player and the remarkable person that Ern Palfreyman was.

With Ern's name and legacy intertwined with the event, the Palfreyman Teams embody the joy, camaraderie amongst players of all experience levels, and sportsmanship that he brought to bridge, making it a fitting celebration of his memory and contributions.

The first and second place teams are shown on the following page.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Perhaps another Victorian club has a story to highlight in the Bulletin in the future



ROBINSON (Libby Thomson, Lorraine Robinson, Raynor Castles and Barney Castles) are shown above



ZIFFER (Marg Castle, Lisa Booth, Debbie Kruiik, Rob Ziffer) are shown above

REAL DEAL BRIDGE 1ST CONGRESS (brochure on the following page)

By Laura Ginnan (Tournament Organiser)

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to join our inaugural Congress. At the heart of the event, and its planning is the goal of delivering a top-quality event that is full of fun, smiles and opportunities for all.

The Congress begins with a full day of development workshops by the powerhouse teaching trio of Peter Hollands, Mary Elson and myself. We then move into the ever-popular Swiss Pairs format which features one of the rare opportunities for newer players to compete in their own under 20 Masterpoint section - this is a great chance for newer players who might even be dipping their toes in the Congress scene for the first time. On Saturday, the Graded Pairs event divides the field into sections so that pairs only compete against nine other partnerships who are all of a similar skill level. This will mean that less experienced players feel right at home and the sharks will be vying for top honours in a great field. Rounding out the program on Sunday is my personal favourite - Swiss Teams.

The creative and carefully curated event program isn't the only thing a little outside of the box. We'd love to see a great turnout of players from outside the metropolis and are pioneering a Billeting Program to match up metro players with a spare room(s) with regional players who would enjoy staying with fellow bridge players. The billeting program will make it that bit easier for regional players to join and we will also be providing a small fuel subsidy to players from afar to help with the costs of attending.

Whether this will be your first Congress or your 100th, I look forward to delivering a great event for you and hope that you will support our inaugural Congress with your attendance.

Entries are taken on our website at www.realdealbridge.com/congress. The website is also filled with great information to find out more about the events and plan your weekend.

Please don't hesitate to reach me at laura@realdealbridge.com or on 0411 694 248 (email preferred) if you have any questions, are looking for a partner/teammates, or would like to be involved in the Billeting Program.

Laura Ginnan

Managing Director





REAL DEAL BRIDGE

is proud to present our

1st ANNUAL CONGRESS

Whether it's your 1st or your 100th Congress, this event promises an unforgettable experience for all. We take immense pride in curating a program to intrigue and challenge players of all skill levels and can't wait to bring together bridge enthusiasts from near and far.

It might be our first Congress but we are hitting the ground running with a billeting program to unite metro players who are eager to welcome regional guests, a whole day dedicated to teaching and empowering players to enhance their skills and a venue impress.

THURSDAY 28th SEPT – SUNDAY 1st OCT 2023
THE VILLAGE GREEN HOTEL MULGRAVE

[To secure your entry now or find out more CLICK HERE](#)

 [The Village Green Hotel](#)  events@realdealbridge.com

JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE



The Victorian Open Pairs, previously scheduled to be a face to face 6-week Wednesday night event will now be reduced to a three-night event finishing on 9th August. To follow this a 3-week Swiss Pairs event will now be held starting on 16th August finishing on 30th August.

So that you can start planning for September please join us, playing in the Pennant, which is Victoria's most prestigious teams' event. It started in 1934 and is the second longest running team event in Australia. Teams making the Pennant finals will win VQP points towards qualification for the playoff to select the 2024 Victorian Open Team. The final is being held on the 4-5th November.

This is a good time to remind players that the selection process for the 2024 Victorian State Open Team has changed from previous years. The selection for the Victorian Women's, Seniors and Youth Teams remains unchanged.

For the Open Team Selection, the previous four-way pathway system is being removed and players will be asked to form teams based on VQPs only, with the top 4 teams playing in a semi-final and final to become the Victorian Open Team for the ANC. This follows the current ABF system.

Additional events in 2023 have now be awarded VQPs as follows:

Pennant (1st = 20 VQPs, 2nd = 10 VQPs, losing semi-finalists = 3 VQPs).

Butler final (1st = 10 VQPs, 2nd = 6 VQPs, 3rd = 4 VQPs).

VBA Open Pairs (Wednesdays), with VQPs at the same rate as the current formula for congresses.

Monday online events (State Online Open Teams (8, 15, 22 & 29 May), State Online Open Pairs (4,11,18 September & 2 October) VBA Open Pairs (20, 27 November, 4 December) – with VQPs at the same rate as the current formula for congresses.

Regional Pairs Championship, VQP award rate 1.5 x congress rate

Members of State Teams who make the finals at the ANC in the previous year are awarded VQP's (1st = 8 VQP's, 4 VQP's for 2nd).

Thank you

Jenny Thompson

Chair MTC



FEEDBACK

An email from Thilak Ranasinghe (known universally as 'TP') which I greatly appreciate is the basis of this month's column.

Hi Chris

Not very often you come across a 12 card trump fit (7-5), perhaps 1 in a billion deals. The hand below came up recently in a BBO tournament (Bridge West on 28 June) and after my partner seated South opened 1S, I couldn't believe that I was holding a 7 card of his suit. (Over 50 years back I had the opportunity to benefit from a 7-6 fit in a rubber bridge game with a Goulash deal).

With a 12- card fit, 8 hcp but with very few losers and a void, I couldn't think of a straight forward way to proceed. None of the standard methods seemed applicable. I started thinking about various tools such as splinter, void key card Blackwood and forcing 1NT. I decided to bid a forcing 1NT, mainly to give my partner an opportunity to describe his hand further and delay my action. As I was just about to bid, I noticed that my RHO had already bid 2D. I didn't notice his bid as I was so engrossed in thinking about this unusual situation. Suddenly it became necessary to think about a different strategy.

If partner had a minimum opening, something like KQXXX, QXX, KXX, KJ, even 4S can go down. So, I was not keen to check key cards straight away. So, I decided simply to double and wait for partner's response and then take control. Surprisingly, it was passed out. Though it was a lay down Grand slam, I don't think there was a foolproof way of bidding it. No one bid 7S, almost half the field bid 6S and others bid 4 or 5S.

Surprisingly my cautious action earned us a top board with a score of 1400 😊

Remember, "Miracles do happen, only if you look for them"

Regards

The following is the scenario that TP presented.

The bidding is on this page and the hands are shown on the following page

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♠	2♦
DBL	P	P	P

The opponents were vulnerable and your side was NV.

TP was sitting North.

NORTH

♠AJT9752

♥K984

♦

♣95

WEST

♠

♥QT65

♦AJ742

♣KJ83

EAST

♠6

♥J732

♦Q8

♣QT7642

SOUTH

♠KQ843

♥A

♦KT9653

♣A

This is a very instructive hand for a variety of reasons.

1. South elected to bid 1♠ rather than a six card ♦ suit and later bid ♠s at a higher level (even after potentially competitive ♥ bidding by the opponents).
2. In the 1♠ opening as presented, if West passes and North bids a forcing 1NT and South bids 2D, will South ever believe that North has seven-card ♠ support no matter what North bids now? In the current auction, even if South bids 3♣ or 2NT over 2♦ over your double (with a different hand than that shown), how do you convince partner that you have seven ♠s?
3. West bid a poor ♦ suit at the two-level (this is a common mistake made by non-expert players especially when vulnerable – I dare say you would see no expert make this bid even with a reasonable hand in a different hand structure). West has a clear DBL of 1♠.

Editor's note:

Sometimes a 'miracle' happens as incredulous as it seems at the time. Believe and accept it and move onward. 'TP' has a better propensity to generate very good results than me.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

TP has subsequently sent be an email suggesting that he has been involved in two twelve card fits since the above incident.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? – AUGUST Solution

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♠	P
3♥	4♥	4♠	5♥
P	P	5♠	DBL
P	P	P	

This was the enterprising auction on this board in the semi-finals of an international tournament in the USA.

Partner leads the ♥J. You overtake with the ♥Q.

What do you lead now?

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

♠QJT3
♥2
♦QT4
♣QT952

♠4
♥AKQ876
♦8765
♣43

Since partner has doubled the final contract, he/she has points in the minors. Partner doesn't have AK in either ♦s or ♣s as, presumably, they would have led them. Moreover, if partner has both the A of ♦s and ♣s, then there is no issue.

The problem arises if partner has the A of one suit and the K of the other minor. (Note: if you play another ♥, declarer will ruff and pull trumps and lead the suit that West has the A in and discard the loser in the other minor on the established suit – unless declarer has 3 ♦s and 2 ♣s and is missing the ♦A – where there is no pitch).

Therefore, playing a minor at trick two looks right but which one? Suffice to say, this world class player switched to the wrong minor (ie the one partner held the A in and let the contract make – as declarer discarded his loser in the other minor on the established minor that you just led). Having said that, I firmly believe that he made the higher percentage play.

Sometimes doing the best thing doesn't always work. (he switched to a ♦ but declarer had KJ in ♦s and AJ in ♣s, so the ♣J was thrown on the third ♦).

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – AUGUST Solution

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH

♠ Q3
♥ J74
♦ KQJ2
♣ A432

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ AJ7652
♥ Q
♦ T98
♣ KQ5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	P	1♠	P
1NT	P	2♦	P
2NT	P	3♠	P
4♠	P	P	P

In a checkback style where 2♦ is GF.

South bids 3♠ which must show 6 (as North has denied three ♠s).

So, North decides to bid a touch and go 4♠.

West leads the ♥A and after East discourages, West plays a small ♣.

Decide how you are going to make this ♠ game.

What is your plan from here?

You win the ♣K and take stock.

You must lose the ♦A and, therefore, you can only lose one ♠ trick to make the contract.

If you go to dummy with the ♣A and lead the ♠Q, is this right play?

If ♠s are 3 – 2, then, unless there is a ruff in a minor, you are making no matter what you do. So, lead the ♠A and then another ♠.

If ♠s are 4 – 1 and one hand has four ♠s including the ♠K, you are probably going down.

If ♠s are 5 – 0, then you are playing for practice only.

There is one holding, (other than ♠s 3 – 2) that gives you a chance when ♠s are 4 – 1. That is either hand holding ♠K and the other hand ♠T984. Now you have one ♠ loser if you **lead the ♠A and then another ♠ which is the best play.**

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH JULY 23 SOLUTION

The following hand took place both vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 32
♥ AQ54
♦ 943
♣ KJ98

WEST

♠ KQJT54
♥ KJ987
♦ 5
♣ A

EAST

♠ 9876
♥ T6
♦ 876
♣ QT76

SOUTH

♠ A
♥ 32
♦ AKQJT2
♣ 5432

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♦	2♦
DBL	2♠	3♦	4♠
P	P	5♦	P
P	P		

2♦ is Michaels showing both majors

North doubles to indicate penalty ambitions of one of their suits.

South is not interested in penalties and bids 3♦.

East shows a very strong distributional hand by bidding 4♠.

When North does not DBL 4♠, South bids 5♦.

Chen Ding came up with the correct line of play. Well done.

West leads the ♣A and switches to the ♠T.

You play the ♦A and both opponents follow suit.

Solution

Surely, at this vulnerability, West is 6 5 1 1 for the bidding and has the ♥K.

Finesse the ♥Q and ruff the ♠3 with the ♦T.

Play your last ♥ to the Ace and ruff a ♥ with the ♦J and lead the ♦2 to dummy's 9.

The cards remaining are

♠
♥ 5
♦ 4
♣ KJ9

♠ 9

♥

♦ 8

♣ QT8

♠
♥
♦ KQ
♣ 543

The lead is in dummy. Work out the play yourself. What do you lead from dummy to make the contract?