

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-team-announcements/>

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. Murrumbena. There will be two session open swiss pairs events, single session restricted and novice events and intermediate-advanced lessons. For further information go to <http://www.qvbridge.com.au>

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

| |
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| MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Grand | |
| Ellena Moskovsky | VBA |
| Silver Life | |
| Lorraine Griffiths | Bairnsdale |
| Peter Karol | Rye Dromana |
| Anne Laughlin | Waverley |
| Gus Ghali | Moonee Valley |
| Bronze Life | |
| Carol Anthony | Waverley |
| Paul Corry | Frankston |
| John Bristow | Waverley |
| Life | |
| 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 |
| Terry Earle | Beaumaris Bridge 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 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 Regional | |
| Galia Gerszonovicz | Dendy Park |
| Dulcie Miltz | Dendy Park |
| Gill Minson | Kooyong |
| Sandra Naftal | Dendy Park |
| Robyn Sutton | Kooyong |
| Christine Walker | Kooyong |
| Maurice Naftal | Bridge Fanatics Club |
| Lynn Frankenburg | Ocean Grove |
| Jenny Sin | Waverley |
| Robert Geschke | VBA |
| Wendy Harris | Bendigo |
| Maria Mactaggart | Traralgon |
| Wendy Spall | Waverley |
| Julie Sheehan | Whittlesea |
| Eva Leonards | Bayside |
| Val Sims | Moonee Valley |
| Mary Watson | Torquay |
| Tony Bishop | Dendy Park |
| Ray Gilmour | VBA |
| 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 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Marie Shenker | VBA |
| Jane Proctor | Frankston |
| Michael Coates | Waverley |
| John Marsiglio | Traralgon |
| Barbara Carter | Kooyong |
| Ray Carbuhn | Waverley |
| Adina Morris | Dendy Park |
| Barbara Appel | VBA |
| Maree Muir | Kooyong |
| Shyamala Abey | Waverley |
| Bill Griffiths | Gardenvale |
| Renate Eagle | Kooyong |
| Binny Thomas | Ocean Grove |
| Annie Bones | Rye Dromana |
| Myra Mortensen-Williams | Royal South Yarra |
| Lucy Zammit | Rye Dromana |
| John White | Ballarat |
| Marg Harding | Kooyong |
| Robin Hunter | Waverley |
| Geoff Rintala | Benalla |
| Marg Orme | Waverley |
| John Enconniere | Melbourne |
| Faye Solewicz | Dendy Park |
| Uri Abraham | Dendy Park |
| Juerg Stolz | Gardenvale |
| Sue Eccles | Waverley |
| Jane McLaughlin | The Quiet Club |
| Alan Blackburn | Geelong |
| Linda Shelton | Dendy Park |
| Ann Doyle | Waverley |
| Val Burgum | Moonee Valley |
| Fiona Ferwerda | Northern |
| Adam Santilli | Waverley |
| Anne Hede | Moonee Valley |
| Kerri Jones | Northern |
| Suellen Bowers | MCC |
| 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♠ bid which put the cat amongst the pigeons!

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| Dir: North | ♠ A103 | |
| Vul: N/S | ♥ Q85 | |
| | ♦ AQ107 | |
| | ♣ A86 | |
| ♠ 62 | | ♠ KQJ9874 |
| ♥ 2 | | ♥ 10943 |
| ♦ 6432 | | ♦ J |
| ♣ KQJ1053 | | ♣ 7 |
| | | ♠ 5 |
| | | ♥ AKJ76 |
| | | ♦ K985 |
| | | ♣ 942 |

Bidding:

| | | | |
|------|-----|----------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1NT | 4♠ | Dbl |
| Pass | 5♦ | All Pass | |

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.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|------------|--|----------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Dir: West | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vul: N/S | | ♠ AKQ87542 | | ♠ - | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ AJ8 | | ♥ 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ 10 | | ♦ AQ9854 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ 3 | | ♣ AKQ842 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | | | | |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ - | | ♠ J10963 | | ♠ - | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ K1097543 | | ♥ Q2 | | ♥ 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ K7632 | | ♦ J | | ♦ AQ9854 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 5 | | ♣ J10976 | | ♣ AKQ842 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Bidding:

| | | | |
|----|----|-----|----------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 4♥ | 6♠ | Dbl | All pass |

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♠ which was promptly doubled and defeated by one trick. Maybe this wasn't too bad a result because the opponents can make 6♦! The problem is they will not reach that contract after opening with 4♥. At the other table the bidding started with the same 4♥ 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 5th 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> | <u>Andy HUNG - Sartaj HANS</u> | 16.00 | 142.21 | 53.22 |
| 2 | <u>9</u> | <u>George SMOLANKO - George KOZAKOS</u> | 12.52 | 131.23 | 36.93 |
| 3 | <u>4</u> | <u>Wayne ZHU - Simon ZHANG</u> | 16.00 | 127.65 | 28.77 |
| 4 | <u>10</u> | <u>Mathew VADAS - Michael WHIBLEY</u> | 8.92 | 118.25 | 21.52 |
| 5 | <u>1</u> | <u>Geoffrey JOHNSON - Alan RACE</u> | 6.40 | 114.48 | 16.28 |

RESTRICTED BUTLER – FINAL

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

PLAY PROBLEM #24 SOLUTION

Last month you were in 5♣. TP nailed it!

Dlr: South ♠ AQ7
 Vul: None ♥ K6543
 ♦ J543
 ♣ J

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ ? ♠ ?
 ♥ J? ♥ ?
 ♦ ? ♦ ?
 ♣ ? ♣ ?

♠ J104
 ♥ -
 ♦ AKQ2
 ♣ KQ10987

Contract 5♣ Lead: ♥J

Bidding:

| | W | N | E | S |
|------|---|-----|------|----|
| | | | | 1♣ |
| Pass | | 1♥ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | | 2♦ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | | 3NT | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | | 4♥ | Pass | 5♣ |

All Pass

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 ♥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 ♥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 ♦A would 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.

PLAY PROBLEM #25

Here is an apparently easy 4♠ contract. Can you make it??

Dlr: South ♠ A1086543
 Vul: E/W ♥ 43
 ♦ K107
 ♣ 6

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ ? ♠ ?
 ♥ AKJ? ♥ ?
 ♦ ? ♦ ?
 ♣ ? ♣ ?

♠ QJ972
 ♥ 982
 ♦ AJ2
 ♣ AJ

Contract 4♠ Lead: ♥A

Bidding:

| | W | N | E | S |
|------|---|----|----------|----|
| | | | | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | | 4♣ | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | | 4♠ | All Pass | |

The defenders cash the ♥A and ♥K and lead a third round of hearts (the Knave). East followed suit to the first two tricks with the ♥10 and then the ♥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 [Solution](#) on [P8](#)

Send me the best line please:

dee_harley@hotmail.com

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
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 ♥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 ♥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.

Pairs

Dir: East

♠ J104

Vul: N/S

♥ Q8632

♦ J862

♣ 7

♠ 8532

♠ AQ6

♥ K4

♥ A9

♦ K75

♦ Q10943

♣ QJ54

♣ AK10

♠ K97

♥ J1075

♦ A

♣ 98632

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

Bidding:

| W | N | E | S |
|-----|------|-----|----------|
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Lead: ♥3

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 ♦Q10 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 ♦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.