

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2022

Editor: Dee Harley

**VBA PRESIDENT
CHRISTOPHER LEACH**



As I write this column, I have just returned from the Sunbury Congress, my first for some time (and now I have sorted out my daytime playing partnerships, hopefully the first of many). It was a lovely day and great to see everyone again, with only a few lightweight masks in sight. Yet, despite the dramatic fall in COVID cases, there was still an underlying atmosphere of struggle and stress among the Sunbury office bearers, as well as among visitors from the many other clubs represented. Numbers participating in the congress were half of what could be accommodated, and all present reported a similar scenario with the attendance at club duplicates. There is no doubt COVID has knocked us collectively to the canvas and we are all still struggling to get up.

As I have mentioned earlier this year, we all need to make a special effort and, if necessary, amalgamate our resources for vital club-building activities like lessons and supervised play. There appear, encouragingly, to be many people who have emerged from the pandemic with the desire to get on with life and learn new activities. They have learned how precious our time on this earth is. Those clubs that are doing best at the moment are offering lesson programmes and are attracting lots of newcomers. We need to build on that curiosity, do everything possible to create a welcoming and supportive environment and gradually rebuild our great game.

Speaking of rebuilding, many of you are aware that we are in the process of a once-a-generation reset of the governing body of bridge in Victoria, the VBA. This has been a long and arduous process and although we have entered the home straight, we are not yet ready to make definitive announcements. We profoundly hope these are close to hand, however... and the long-awaited expansion of the VBA's capacity to support clubs and dynamically assist a revival of bridge in Victoria will take place.

One aspect of the changes wrought to bridge is the decline in evening participation in the game. As our players age, many are less comfortable going out at night. Moreover, many people have trouble sleeping after bridge and also avoid evening bridge for that reason. As to the latter, as someone who suffered once from this phenomenon, I have a tip to share. When you get home, put your racing (but tired) mind to work on another, different (but demanding) activity, but which doesn't stimulate you particularly. This might be a cryptic crossword, reading in another language or a tough sudoku or other game. For me this works like a charm by dissipating all that remaining mental hype, calming the mind and, combined with general good sleep hygiene, assures when you hit the pillow you

will conk out.... even if on the last board you went down in that unmissable 4S! We need to preserve evening bridge for the sake of those coming into the game who still work and can't play during the day.

As I have said before, it has been a great year among our elite players and there have been consistent reports on our VBA website of triumphs by Victorians in the national events and beyond. At present an all-Victorian seniors team of Dee Harley/Phillip Fent, Stephen Weisz/Bob Gallus and Geoffrey Johnson/Alan Race are in Jakarta representing Australia in the Asia Cup. The presence in Indonesia of these great players, in the twilight of long careers in our wonderful game, evokes great pride among all at the VBA and hopefully for you as well.

This is my last column before the VBA AGM and I would like to thank once again my wonderful Council members, the VBA Manager Andrew Macready-Bryan, the indefatigable volunteers and behind-the-scenes supporters of all we do ... and thank you, the Victorian bridge community for your kindness and support throughout the past year.

BULLETIN EDITOR WANTED

It's time for a fresh voice at the bulletin desk.

We need a bright shiny new editor who is competent at bridge and who will produce a completed bulletin by the 1st of each month (starting from February 2023).

The successful candidate will receive a small honorarium.

I am happy to assist with the transition as needed.

In the first instance approach Christopher Leach (President).

Email: president@vba.asn.au

TOURNAMENT DIRECTION LAURIE KELSO

After the conclusion of the World Championships in Poland, the European Bridge League organised a four-day Directing workshop/camp and invited most of the leading European TDs. This served several purposes; firstly, it allowed everyone to re-acquaint themselves with colleagues, many of whom they had not seen since the advent of Covid. Secondly, it provided an opportunity for professional development, including formal assessment of candidates wishing to improve their directing credentials. Finally, and most importantly, it provided a forum for much constructive debate and discussion (predominately in respect to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, but also on many other aspects of tournament organisation).

TDs work in relative isolation, especially those at club-level. The lone TD is expected to handle all the aspects of a session's organisation; this includes the production of scores, selection of a movement and the making of rulings; plus, answering of a multitude of player inquiries. Even though the average grass-roots Director might sometimes feel alone, he needs to remember that there is really a large community of like-minded individuals facing exactly the same challenges across many different environments.

Mentoring is a key aspect to any Director-development program. This is where more experienced and knowledgeable TDs make themselves available to offer advice and encouragement to those aspiring to improve their skills and performance. An occasional get-together can therefore be very beneficial as it gives everyone the opportunity to learn from each other about a variety of different approaches to common problems and to receive both general support and encouragement.

This sort of networking can be especially useful at club-level where different Directors within the same club often work independently of each other at different sessions. Therefore, if you are a local TD in a particular region, I would encourage you to try to maintain regular contact with your fellow TDs. It is also worth considering putting aside one day a year for the group to assemble and discuss what will invariably be a very similar set of issues.

EDITORIAL DEE HARLEY

I was lucky enough to play in the Asia Cup this year representing Australia Seniors. The team of Stephen Weisz, Bob Gallus, Geoff Johnston Alan Race, Phill Fent and I went to Jakarta and played bridge for 10 days. We were competitive but not good enough, so we failed to reach the quarter finals.

Australia had also entered a Women's team (but no Open team, and no Mixed team), they were close but also failed to reach the quarter finals.

Results were very hard to find. The website appears to have been unresponsive from Australia. It was somewhat reachable in Jakarta, but there were no results for the pairs which followed the teams matches. We did however retain the hand records and so have been able to analyse our performance. However, it is disappointing not to be able to see the results online.

Regardless of the results it was a very enjoyable event and a great experience. We played against teams from China Tai Pei, China Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia (Hosts), India, Bangladesh... and more! It is a great thing that all these teams have a common language – Bridge!

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS JENNIE CODOGNOTTO

The McManamny Club Teams is a rebirthing of the Crofts Teams run by the FABCV (Federation of Affiliated Bridge Clubs of Victoria), that was aimed at improving the growth and standard of bridge in Victoria.

A total of 20 teams played together on October 1st from the Geelong, Moonee Valley, Williamstown, Whittlesea and Waverley Bridge Clubs. The team composition had to conform to pairs with specific masterpoint limits. The experienced players competed against other experienced teams and the same went for the inexperienced teams.

The event was hosted by the Moonee Valley Bridge Club but had to be relocated to the

Waverley premises at the last minute, owing to an electrical issue (no power) at the Moonee Valley Bowls Club.

After an exhausting but exhilarating 54 boards:

- the CROFTS Trophy, for the best performing Club overall went to Geelong
- the Waverley team of Peter and Alex Goss, and Rob Quirk and Elizabeth Vanselow had a narrow win over Geelong 2 team of Arthur Robbins, Douglas Newlands, Jennifer Blyton and Linda Lee for the Stokes Trophy by winning the highest number of Victory Points.

The overall results were:

	Team	IMPs	VPs	W_D_L
1	WAVERLEY 3	119	83.11	4-0-2
2	GEELONG 2	46	79.19	5-0-1
3	GEELONG 5	57	77.29	5-0-1
4	WILLIAMSTOWN 1	33	70.47	4-0-2
5	GEELONG 1	24	68.62	4-1-1
6	MVBC 2	22	66.73	3-0-3
7	MVBC 1	15	64.44	3-0-3
8	MVBC 3	23	62.65	3-0-3
9	WAVERLEY 5	4	61.53	2-2-2
10	WILLIAMSTOWN 2	3	61.49	3-0-3
11	WAVERLEY 1	5	60.9	2-2-2
12	WHITTLESEA 1	1	58.61	2-0-4
13	GEELONG 3	-11	56.3	3-0-3
14	WILLIAMSTOWN 3	-28	53.12	2-2-2
15	WILLIAMSTOWN 4	-18	51.14	1-1-4
16	MVBC 4	-53	50.14	1-2-3
17	MVBC 5	-36	49.06	2-0-4
18	WAVERLEY 4	-45	44.96	1-0-5
19	GEELONG 4	-76	42.06	2-0-4
20	WAVERLEY 2	-79	40.2	3-0-3

CONGRESS RESULTS

Sunbury Swiss Pairs

1. Kim Frazer, Jeff Fust
2. Leo Saoud, Gordon McRobert
3. Gus Ghali, Victor Zhang

Bairnsdale Swiss Pairs

1. Anna Kearon, Judy Banks
2. Rob Hurst, Whalley Robin
3. Kaye Douglas, Greg Nicholson

Bairnsdale Swiss Teams

1. Kae French, Maryanne Bird
Steven White, Chelliah Arul
2. Colin Shugg, Chris Fernando
Lindsay Young, Denise Donald
3. Susie Groves, Alastair Lowe
Mary Colling, Steve Colling

STATE RESULTS

Pennant Trophy

1. COUTTS - James Coutts, Justin Mill, Robert Fruewirth, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson, Simon Hinge
2. SMART - Diana Smart, Jenny Thompson, Andrew Macready-Bryan, Eva Caplan, Sam Arber, George Gaspar
3. FRAZER - Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery, Kitty Muntz, Leigh Gold, Ben Kingham, Sylvia Gluck

Country Teams Championship

1. NEWLANDS - Douglas Newlands, Denny Newland, Arthur Robbins, Gary Ridgway
2. QUAYLE - John Quayle, Matti Shub, Deborah Anglim, John Sutton
3. LAWRIE - Richard Lawrie, Terry Johnston, Shannon Irwin, Kathryn Graham

NATIONAL RESULTS

Victoria was well represented in the Sydney Spring Nationals:

James Coutts was in the winning team of the TBIB Open Teams, as well as winning the Mixed Teams along with Ellena Moskovsky.

Eva Caplan and Jenny Thompson were in the winning team of the Women's Teams Championship.

Jenny Thompson was also to finish in an extremely fine second place in the Open pairs event - the Dick Cummings Trophy.

COMING CONGRESSES

South Gippsland Congress

Saturday 5th Nov - Swiss Pairs 11 am
Sunday 6th Nov - Swiss Teams 10 am

Venue: Dakers Centre aka Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre, 23 Smith St, Leongatha, VIC
Contact: John Quayle, 0427392979
Email: sbridgeclub@hotmail.com

Tivoli Congress - Sunday 13th Nov.
Contact: Leeron Branicki, [0412-884-446](tel:0412-884-446)

Kooyong Congress - Sunday 20th Nov.
Contact Kerry-Anne Hoad, 0421 731 852

Dendy Park Swiss Pairs - Sunday 27th Nov.
Contact: George Gaspar 0417-052-246
Email: ggaspar@netspace.net.au

**WATCH THOSE COMBINATIONS?
GREG QUITTNER**

This deal occurred at the Moonee Valley Bridge Club on a Tuesday afternoon.

Dlr: East ♠ J972
 Vul: N/S ♥ J10
 ♦ 942
 ♣ 8732

♠ A654	N	♠ Q1083
♥ 632	W E	♥ AKQ94
♦ Q1053	S	♦ K
♣ A10		♣ KQ9

♠ K
 ♥ 875
 ♦ AJ876
 ♣ J654

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

♠ Whilst East should be thinking of slam after West's jump to 3♠ the singleton ♦K should be a strong deterrent.

♥ Rather than support hearts initially West temporizes with a bid of 1♠

♦ If you were in 6♠ you would have to play the spades correctly to make 12 tricks. Lead the ♠3 and watch the ♠K fall. Now you can finesse the ♠8 on the way back. If you lead the ♠Q you will lose a spade and a diamond.

♣ The hand was played 8 times in game. Only one declarer made 12 tricks.

**CRACKIN' HAND FROM BW
DEE HARLEY**

I was browsing the [bridgewinners](http://bridgewinners.com) web site and came across a hand which was posed as a hand to play. I was so taken with the winning line that I thought I would share it.

Dlr: South ♠ J105
 Vul: E/W ♥ A7
 ♦ J653
 ♣ K842

♠ ?	N	♠ ?
♥ ?	W E	♥ ?
♦ K?	S	♦ 9?
♣ ?		♣ ?

♠ AK764
 ♥ Q65
 ♦ -
 ♣ AQJ76

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Lead: ♦K

Think how you would go about playing this one.

Spoiler alert – I am about to give the line of play that will guarantee the contract subject to spades not being 5-0.

The idea here is to lose 2 trumps and a red suit.

So, ruff and cash 1 top trump – assuming both follow then you are home – start playing clubs until they ruff. Ruff the diamond return (best) and cash the second top trump, now play clubs again. If they have any trumps left, they can ruff and play another diamond which you can ruff in hand and play clubs discarding a heart, then you will make the ♥A and a trump in dummy.

I think this is an amazing line. I love it!

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Bronze Life	
Michael McTiernan	VBA
Nick Walsh	Shepparton
Life	
Deborah Anglim	Phillip Island
Silver National	
Michael Halfpenny	Moonee Valley
National	
Sue Kinnear	Royal South Yarra
Leslie Decker	Royal South Yarra
Gayle Bagg	Bridge Fanatics Club
Moya Crowley	Phillip Island
Bronze State	
Marie Warncken	Northern
Paula Hillis	Warrnambool
State	
Robin Lacey	Dendy Park
Robert Scott	Ballarat
Kim Model	Sunbury
Ruth Stevenson	South Gippsland
Bronze Regional	
Deirdre Fitzgerald	Melbourne
Sarah Walter	Kooyong
Cheryl Merritt	Torquay
Tina Beyer	Williamstown
Regional	
Peter Schuster	Peninsula
Sandra Friesen	Bendigo
Patricia Hanley	Nagambie
Jean Tan	Waverley
Andries Britz	Waverley
John Phyland	Yarra Valley
Noel Howard	Warrnambool
Jan Downing	Melbourne
Cliff Strahan	Northern

**A HAND FROM THE ASIAN CUP
DEE HARLEY**

I thought I should include at least one hand from our adventure in Jakarta. I found myself as dealer at game all with this hand.

♠6 ♥A6 ♦AQ10874 ♣KQ94.

It's a decent 1♦ opening so I was happy to do so. The auction went as follows:

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♥	3♠	?	

What is going on? Partner couldn't bid over a 1♠ overcall and now he comes to life with 3♥ at the 3 level. He must have noticed that I didn't double 2♠ but chose instead to bid 3♣. Partner must know I have shortish spades, but I didn't double so I will have less than 3 hearts. Why and how can he bid 3♥? The way we play this can only mean that he has a club fit of sorts and his hand has improved since his pass of 1♠.

I was about to choose between pass and 4♣ on this basis when I realised that he must have 6 hearts (maybe not very good ones), so I chose the IMP gaining bid of 4♥. The full hand was:

Dlr: East ♠ AK987

Vul: Both ♥ Q

♦ K962

♣ 762

♠ J

♥ J87542

♦ J5

♣ AJ103

	N		♠ 6
W		E	♥ A6
		S	♦ AQ10874
			♣ KQ94
			♠ Q105432
			♥ K1093
			♦ 3
			♣ 85

Perhaps North should have bid 3♠ or even 4♠ on the first opportunity, but maybe he had seen his partner's 1-level overcalls before. Anyway, my partner made the requisite 10 tricks gaining 11 IMPs as our team-mates played in 4♠ by South going down 1. My partner's judgement was good. We can also make 5♣ as the cards lie.

PLAY PROBLEM #34 SOLUTION

IMPs

Dlr: West ♠ AQ
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ973
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ 1092

♠ ?	N	♠ ?
♥ ?	W E	♥ ?
♦ J?	S	♦ 4?
♣ ?		♣ ?

♠ 54
 ♥ AK865
 ♦ K82
 ♣ K53

Contract 4♥ Lead: ♦J

Bidding:

	N	E	S
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♦J and East will follow suit.

I had a few correct solutions sent to me – including Phil, TP, and Danny. Well done! There are no guarantees on how easy or otherwise these problems are – they are just in a collection I have. I have no answers either.

This one however is a guaranteed outcome if you find the sequence of plays:

Draw trumps in as many rounds as it takes, cash your diamond winners and then play the ♠A followed by the ♠Q. If it holds the trick you are home, but if it loses, whoever wins the ♠K will be endplayed into leading a club or conceding the contract. Of course, leading a club will also concede the contract, if West leads a club your ♣K must make a trick, and if East leads a small club you can play low so west is on lead and must give you the contract, if west leads a quack (queen or Jack) you cover with the ♣K to promote a trick for your ♣109.

Yes, it is easy! Decide if you would find this play at the table.

PLAY PROBLEM #35

IMPs

Dlr: South ♠ AJ10
 Vul: All ♥ AK54
 ♦ A10
 ♣ Q985

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

♠ Q2
 ♥ 632
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ AKJ1076

Contract 6♣ Lead: ♥Q

Bidding:

	N	E	S
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

I like the bidding here – but I’m not sure if I like the final contract. Maybe you will all find it too easy, but I’m not so sure...

Can you see a way to make 12 tricks?

Send [me](#) your solution if so.

SUIT COMBINATION

You(South): J2 Partner(North): AQ9863

You need 5 tricks from this suit (your trump suit)

How do you play? – estimate your chances of success

You have plenty of entries to both hands.

Decide how you would play before peeking at the [Solution](#) on [P8](#)

♣♣♣ KNAVE OF CLUBS ♣♣♣
NON-VUL FUN AND GAMES

Responding to a preemptive opening with weaker hands with a fit offers scope for imagination.
 The first hand arose in the GCC teams event.

Dealer: North ♠ 54
 Vul: none ♥ KJ875
 ♦ 65
 ♣ K972

♠ AQ92 ♥ AQ3 ♦ KQ872 ♣ Q	N W E S	♠ K10763 ♥ 64 ♦ AJ93 ♣ 108
-----------------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ J8
 ♥ 1092
 ♦ 104
 ♣ AJ6543

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
	Pass	Pass	3♣
DbI	3NT	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All pass		

South made an aggressive pre-empt in third seat and North then considered his options over the double. The simplest options are to raise to 4♣ or 5♣ but these bids can clarify a shortage for the strong side. Passing 3♣ doesn't expose the fit and a West, who is short may think his partner has some length in clubs. Consequently, they may go wrong by bidding 3♠ and not 4♠, by bidding 4♠ when they should stop in 3♠ and by bidding or not bidding slam. North may also psyche 3♠ but North here tried to deflect the opponents by bidding 3NT. Nine down not vul and not doubled is a good score and a great tale for the bar! If they double, North runs to 4♣ and South should not disturb this. At the table, EW brushed this aside and when the lead was made, West asked North what 3NT was. North smiled disingenuously and everyone burst into laughter!
 A sometime partner of South noted that he had seen North do this before and was going to alert it in future.

Sometime later, in a club setting, the sometime partner sat West and felt the need, to alert the 3N and explain that it might be weak!

Dealer: West ♠ AJ73
 Vul: NS ♥ QJ94
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ A96

♠ 8642 ♥ 107 ♦ AKJ10743 ♣ -	N W E S	♠ K109 ♥ AK53 ♦ 52 ♣ KQ102
--------------------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------

♠ Q5
 ♥ 862
 ♦ 96
 ♣ J87543

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
3♦	DbI	3NT	4♣
Pass	Pass	DbI	All Pass

As club players do, when told by an expert that a bid might be weak, South then bid a very rash 4♣ and went for 1400!
 Should West feel uneasy about his alert? What do you think?

SOLUTION TO SUIT COMBINATION

You(South): J2 Partner(North): AQ9863

Needing 5 tricks:

One solution here is to lead the Knave and run it if West follows with a low card.

If the holds, you can now finesse the Queen happily.

If you lose to the King, you cash the Ace and Queen, hoping for an initial 3-2 break.

An alternative solution is to play low to the Queen and if that holds, run the Knave.

Both lines are acceptable and have the same percentage chance of success (84.78)

This combination came up in a hand recently(in Jakarta). It stuck in my head!