

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

MARCH 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

During the course of February, I received various comments about the first bulletin that was distributed at the beginning of the month.

Most comments were favourable. However, there was one person who suggested that it was 'not bad' for a first bulletin.

When I queried this person on what could be improved, to that person's credit, they did suggest some constructive criticism.

As is my nature, I listen to all criticism and, before I discard it out of hand and 'crack a wobbly', I do think about it for a while. In this case, I have taken the comments on board and tried to include it in future bulletins.

As an aside, my wife, Iris, and I went to England late last year for an extended holiday as our son is working there. As I am English born, I am aware of all of their idiomatic expressions.

Anyway, our youngest grandson said that he didn't want to go to pre-school one morning because he was not happy there. Being the experienced diplomat that I am (or so I thought), I managed to persuade him to go. When I dropped him off, I spoke to the manager and asked her, if she had time, could she please see how well our grandson interacted with the other children as he seemed unhappy.

She immediately said to me "you mean he cracked a wobbly this morning. He'll be alright as there is a power struggle going between two gangs at the moment".

After translating the English slang to his mother and suggesting that the Jets and the Sharks in West Side Story was not a fair comparison as they were four-year olds, everything turned out for the better.



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

An addition to this month's bulletin is two declarer play hands rather than one. In trying to cater for the wide range of abilities of players, I have included a hand for the less experienced player 'test your declarer skills' and the 'hand of the month' for those who wish a challenge.

The solution to the former one will be at the end of the current bulletin.

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

One of those constructive criticisms was to change Christopher Leach's title in the bulletin. It is believed that the above heading better reflects his extensive duties in the Victorian bridge scene.

Having said that, there is no update for this month.



TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

The following hand took place in a recent team's event

NORTH

♠AT932

♥JT654

♦

♣K95

WEST

♠

♥

♦

♣

EAST

♠

♥

♦

♣

SOUTH

♠KQ75

♥AKQ

♦KJ97

♣86

West leads the ♥9.

As it is a team's event, your job is to make ten tricks with ♠s as trumps.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♦	P
1♥	P	1♠	P
4♠	P	P	P

You may not agree with the bidding but the contract is an excellent one with even a chance for twelve tricks.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

The following hand took place at the Yarra Valley congress.

What is your plan from here?

Submit all your input to my private email address

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

NORTH

♠ AKQ
♥ KJ9762
♦ QT
♣ T2

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ 86
♥ Q53
♦ A743
♣ AK75

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♥	P	2♣	P
3♥	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	6♥	P
P	P		

Both North and South decided to take aggressive views in the auction. North by jumping to 3♥ with a patchy suit and only 15 points. South then compounded the aggression by bidding 4NT with a lot of extras required from partner (that they didn't have).

Is there any chance of making this on a ♠ lead from East?

YOUTH BRIDGE

Moonee Valley Bridge Club recently held a Learn to Play Bridge night targeted at youth players. At the learn to play night, new players received guidance from a teacher and experienced players assisting at each table, all while enjoying the fun and relaxed atmosphere of the event, complete with free pizza.

If your club is looking to bring some extra excitement and attract new young players please reach out. Moonee Valley Bridge Club and Bridge Victoria are here to help and support you where we can.

It is important to introduce the game to new generations to ensure that we have a vibrant and thriving bridge community for years to come. Our youth players meet weekly at the Victorian Bridge Centre, Tuesday's from 6:30pm and any new comers are welcome!

Congratulations to our Victorian Youth players selected to represent Australia in the upcoming World Youth Teams Championships to be held in the Netherlands.

U26 - Damon Flicker & Seb Wright

U21 - Alex Goss

Rebecca O'Reilly
Youth Bridge



Editor's Note:

Rebecca is doing an excellent job in promoting the wonderful game of bridge to our younger community.

As she states in her article, it is gratifying for a bridge club to see new members and to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the young players and their 'teachers' (the free pizza was just a bonus).

What she doesn't mention is the amount of time and effort that she puts in to achieve her task.

I encourage any club to contact her and lift the profile of the game in general and their club in particular.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



Two married couples had been friends for years. All four people enjoyed to play bridge but their busy lifestyles meant that committing to play in bridge events at a club once a week was not always practical.

Therefore, they agreed many years ago that they would play socially at their homes when it was a mutually convenient time.

The first time they enacted this plan, Bob and Susan hosted the evening at their home. The hosts spent a lot of time ensuring that the catering met their high standards and the evening was an enjoyable success.

The next mutually agreeable time was two weeks later. Charles and Sandra hosted this time at their house. They both agreed that the first night went very well so they had to ensure that their catering skills would not be seen to be of a lower standard. They needed to improve in some way on Bob and Susan's efforts and did their best to do so.

This state of friendly but competitive hosting efforts meant that, after the first year, the catering turned into a fully blown dinner before the bridge game with a scrumptious dessert served half way through the evening with sufficient liquid refreshment (mostly non-alcoholic – they were playing bridge after all) of a suitable quality.

This friendly but competitive rivalry extended to the bridge results as well. Even the most social events do have winners and losers.

On this one evening, Charles and Sandra were just in front in this total point scoring method that both couples had agreed. It was the last hand of the evening and Bob and Susan had bid to a grand slam in spades. It was clear from the auction that they were missing the queen of spades. Obviously if Susan made this contract, then they would win the evening.

Sandra led a small diamond and Bob put down the dummy a little reluctantly knowing that Susan would have to find the queen of spades in this contract. There was clearly a two-way finesse so she could play either opponent for the queen.

At that moment, Charles, sitting to Susan's right, dropped his pencil on the floor and, as he bent down to pick it up, exposed his hand to Susan. Susan smiled to herself and successfully finessed Charles for the queen of spades to win the evening.

Charles looked at Susan and said "I hid the queen of spades in my hand, so you couldn't see it". Susan replied "No I didn't see it but you only showed me twelve of your thirteen cards. I know you are a prankster and, besides, you are normally more careful when you drop your pencil". "Touché" said Charles, "it was worth a try".



RESULTS

CONGRESS RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY-VICTORIA

The Yarra Valley congress was held on Saturday 4th February. The event was held at the spacious Waverley Bridge Club.

It was good to see a large turnout of 68 pairs wishing to play face-to-face bridge

1st Alan Race & Martin Willcox (Martin in the chair)



2nd Chen Ding & Ming Zhang



3rd Robert Gallus & Stephen Weisz (no picture)

NORTH

♠ T8762

♥ 5

♦ T752

♣ 973

WEST

♠ J

♥ KT642

♦ AK98

♣ A86

EAST

♠ A954

♥ 98

♦ QJ

♣ KQ542

SOUTH

♠ KQ3

♥ AQJ73

♦ 643

♣ JT

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1♣	1♥	P
P	DBL	P	P
P			

Alan Race gave showed me hand on the previous page which helped them gain 10 imps against the average on their way to victory.

Sitting East with both pairs non-vulnerable, Alan opened 1♣. The auction proceeded as shown above.

Martin led the ♠J and when the hand was completed, declarer made three ♥ tricks only – 4 off for a score of 800 when the rest of the field were making ten or eleven tricks in 3NT (for a score of 430 or 460). I am sure South was muttering to themselves ‘but I had a fantastic overcall, there is nobody in the event that wouldn’t have bid on my hand’. This shows good judgement where West passes and East reopens with a double with short ♥s even with a minimum opening bid.

 Chen Ding sent me the hand on the right-hand side of the page. He was on lead against South’s contract of 6♠.

He led a ♥ and declarer won the ♥A in dummy with the revealing ♥K played from his hand. Declarer led a ♠ and played the ♠Q which Chen ducked smoothly.

Declarer played the ♦J to the ♦K and led a ♠ and played the ♠J. Chen won the ♠K and returned a ♦. What is declarer to do about the ♣ losers? With no further entries to dummy, declarer won the ♦ in dummy and needed ♦s to be 3-3. No such luck, as Chen’s ♠T became the setting trick.

Chen modestly wrote that “Oh my god, I later realised that I found a fantastic defence which is quite out of my expectation.”

Having no idea where the setting trick was coming from, Chen ducked the ♠K to see what might happen and voila.

Sometimes good things happen to those that wait!!

NORTH

♠83

♥AQ

♦AKT63

♣T732

WEST

♠KT5

♥876542

♦95

♣Q4

EAST

♠97

♥JT93

♦8742

♣J98

SOUTH

♠AQJ642

♥K

♦QJ

♣AK65

I would like to thank both Alan and Chen for their contributions.

NATIONAL RESULTS

The Gold Coast congress has just finished. It started on February 17th and finished with a dinner dance on February 25th.

As far as I am aware, it is still the biggest congress in the southern hemisphere. This year, there were 6457 tables of play in total for the week.

There are many New Zealand players that play along with a select few from the Americas and Europe.

Every American that plays here comments on the efficiency of the event and the surrounding ambience of the Broadbeach area.

The World Bridge Federation president, Jan Kamras, was in attendance. He was promoting a new concept of a world tour where players can earn qualifying points from selected events around the world in the course of a calendar year (like in tennis for example). This congress has been awarded this distinction.

Therefore, in 2024, when this concept starts, there will be many world class experts from around the world at this congress.

You could view this in two ways

- It is hard enough to do well currently and this will make it harder or
- It gives me a chance to play against famous bridge names in my own country

There are events for all levels of players from novice, several layers of restricted and open.

I shall only mention the open results in this summary.

The major pairs event (depending on where you qualified, there were seven sections in the final – where even some of the middle to lower sections had quality pairs) the top section was won by two young Americans – Finn Kolesnik and Adam Kaplan.

The major teams event was won by four of the current Australian Open team – Paul Dalley, Paul Gosney, Tony Leibowitz and Tony Nunn.

Notable Victorian results - Justin Mill and James Coutts, playing on the Ziggy team and lost in the semi-final.

The Ivy Dahler Swiss pairs East-West winners were Neil Ewart (from Victoria) and David Smith (who used to live in Victoria before the Queensland lifestyle was too big a temptation)

The two American youths who won the pairs have a small Australian/Victorian connection.

Adam Kaplan has been on the major bridge scene since he was 13 and now, at the ripe old age of 26, is a bridge professional/college student.

Finn Kolesnik is 18 years old and plays like a seasoned professional. When he was 15 years old, he played with Leigh Gold of Victoria in one of the major US National events. Leigh was looking for a partner and Finn said that he was young and enthusiastic (Leigh states he was also a fine player back then and his rise has been meteoric). More recently, Finn partnered with Ishmael Del Monte to win one of the four major US National events.

I played against them and I can confirm that they are excellent players and, just as important, they are very pleasant and well-grounded youngsters at the table.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

VICTORIA

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

BWONLINE BRIDGE CLUB

72 WESTCOTT PDE, ROCKBANK, VIC, 3335

An affiliated club of the Victorian Bridge Association

Contact: [Jim Naughtin](mailto:Jim.Naughtin@gmail.com)

Phone: [0435 572 698](tel:0435572698)

eMail: Jim.naughtin@gmail.com

Website bridgewebs.com/BWOnline

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

RYE-DROMANA BRIDGE CLUB

ROSEBUD RSL (ROSEBUD), WATSONS PAVILION (PORTSEA), OLD SHIRE
OFFICE (DROMANA)

An affiliated club of the Victorian Bridge Association

Secretary: Jill Haworth (Mob) 0410 652 298

MP Secretary: Ted Fielding 5988 9868

Contact: Contact Jill Haworth 0410 652 298 or Margaret Morgan on 0447 806 699

Email: [Jill Haworth chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Jill.Haworth@chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au)

Website

The Fun Club

(see their flyer at the end of this section)

VICTORIA CONTINUED

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

WHITTLESEA BRIDGE CLUB

WHITTLESEA BOWLS CLUB 101 CHURCH STREET

An affiliated club of the Victorian Bridge Association

Contact: [Lyndall Shaw](#)

Phone: 0426 601 111 or 03 5786 1839

eMail:

Website

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH (PAIRS) SUNDAY 26TH MARCH (TEAMS)

FRANKSTON BRIDGE CLUB

ST FRANCIS XAVIER HALL CORNER BAXTER AND DAVEY STREETS

FRANKSTON

An affiliated club of the Victorian Bridge Association

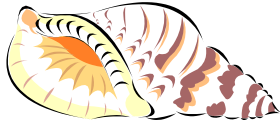
Contact: Paul Corry

Phone: 0400 246 495

eMail:

Website

The following is a promotional flyer for the Rye Dromana congress.



RYE - DROMANA BRIDGE CLUB

ONE DAY SWISS PAIRS CONGRESS

SATURDAY MARCH 11th 2023 10:00 AM

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

VENUE: DROMANA COMMUNITY HALL

2A VERNON STREET, DROMANA, 3936

PARKING: There is sufficient parking adjacent to the venue.

REGISTRATION: Opens at 9:15 am with play commencing at 10:00 am.

COST: \$40 per player.

CATERING: Lunch is **NOT** provided but tea, coffee and ample snacks will be available.

CONVENORS: Margaret Morgan Tel: 0447 806 699 Email:
mjmorgan@bigpond.net.au

Jill Haworth Tel: 0410 652 298 Email:
chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au

DIRECTOR: Laurie Kelso

ENTRIES VIA: www.bridgeunlimited.com

CONDITIONS:

The Congress will be conducted under current VBA Rules and Regulations.

Entries may be refused at the discretion of the Conveners.

System cards are mandatory. Highly Complex Systems not permitted.

Monetary prizes in all sections subject to entries.

Monetary prizes for best restricted players subject to entries.

Mobile phones are to be switched off for all sessions of play.

A smoking zone applies being outside and at least 10 metres from the building.

NATIONAL

Tasmanian Festival of Bridge – Hobart	March 23-26
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Organiser: Katherine Marsden

Phone: 0418 135 618

Email: kmarsden26@gmail.com

Entries Co-ordinator: Hugh Grosvenor

Phone: 0447 044 141

Email: hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com

Chief Tournament Director: Simon Edler

Scorer: Chris Carolan

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
			3♣
DBL	P	5♦	P
P	P		

Sitting West, you open a 3♣ preemptive bid.

North Doubles and his partner leaps to 5♦.

Your hand as WEST

Dummy as NORTH

♠ J2
♥ 8
♦ T54
♣ AKJ9863

♠ AKQ95
♥ AKJ9
♦ 76
♣ Q2

You cash the ♣A and K and everybody follows.

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

What is your plan from here?

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.



When I initially asked Alan Race (one of the players who won the Yarra Valley Congress – see the article in the previous pages), he sent me this photo of himself.

I am not sure whether he works for the company or is advocating its ability to enhance your bridge playing skills.

However, if it is the latter, then I suggest that it is probably not for everybody.

JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE

The Match & Tournament Committee is calling for volunteers to join the Committee. Currently there are 2 vacancies to be filled.

MTC is responsible for organising bridge events conducted under the auspices of Victorian Bridge Association including the approval and allocation of all congresses and the preparation of the yearly calendar of state events.

MTC normally meet via zoom meetings approximately 4 to 5 times a year with other work done via email exchange.

Please contact Jenny Thompson on jtbt@optusnet.com.au if you are interested in participating in this committee.

Earlier this month, I called into the Ormond Senior Citizens Club on the request of my cousin to meet up with his father-in-law and chat to his bridge group there. They play Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 to 8pm. It is very much a social game, no moving tables, dealing own hands, and it was a lot of fun. The group, they had about 4 tables of players, all were of Russian descent and spoke Russian nearly 100% of the time. The 3 at my table only learnt about 5 years ago. They were of a really good standard given that. I thought they might have stopped for a snack but we played straight through. Apparently, they learned from one of their own communities and used one of Paul Marston's books for reference.

I thought I might deal one goulash hand and picked up void, xxxxx x AK10xxxx and was first in hand. I did not know what to bid without any system discussion and newish players, so, I passed and partner opened 1S. I said to myself what do I bid and decided on 1NT, she bid 3S and again I said to myself what do I bid, I decided to bid 4H which she passed, and she came down with KJxxxxx; AKx, KQx, J. On a club lead I made 4. Difficult hand even if you have a system but, in the circumstances, it was even harder.



They really enjoy their bridge. I played with – Ella Shiber, Ilya Gluzman and Leonid Loupou.

Jenny



FEEDBACK

Chris

I had this following problem at a local club competition

I was sitting South and the auction had gone as follows

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
			P
1♥	P	4NT	P
5♣	P	?	

What should I bid now with the following hand after partner had showed one key card?

- ♠ J2
- ♥ KQ432
- ♦ A32
- ♣ AK863

Answer:

Unless you have an urgent appointment after the game, you don't need to rush with big hands. Partner might have a bare minimum opening or a reasonably good opening (ie partner might have the ♠ KQ, ♥ A and the ♦ KQ or have the ♠ Q3, ♥ A and the ♦ KQ and answer the same 5♣ to roman key card Blackwood).

Give partner a chance to cooperate with a reasonable hand or back off with a poor hand. Bid 2NT Jacoby game force and await developments.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

I created this problem myself. It would be helpful if somebody sent a situation to be evaluated this month.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? - SOLUTION

NORTH

♠AKQ95
♥AKJ9
♦76
♣Q2

WEST

♠J2
♥8
♦T54
♣AKJ9863

EAST

♠T876
♥QT5432
♦J
♣T5

SOUTH

♠43
♥76
♦AKQ9832
♣74

You really don't have a choice. Given the bidding South must have six or seven great diamonds and has turned up with two clubs. Even if he has five major suit cards, dummy has them all covered. Your only chance is to find partner with a diamond honour even a singleton jack, queen, or king will do the trick. Partner "uppercuts" declarer and your ten of diamonds turns out to be the setting trick

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS - SOLUTION

NORTH

♠AT932
♥JT654
♦
♣K95

WEST

♠J864
♥9
♦QT32
♣J832

EAST

♠
♥8732
♦A8654
♣AQT4

SOUTH

♠KQ75
♥AKQ
♦KJ97
♣86

West leads the ♥9.

There are ten tricks for the taking

Five ♠ tricks and five ♥ tricks.

What can go wrong?

Nothing really, so why not lead a ♣ towards the ♣K and if West has the ♣A, you make twelve tricks.

Look at the layout of the opponent's cards and see what might go wrong.

Draw trumps and make ten tricks. You can cater for four trumps in either hand by leading the ♠K first.

After pulling all the trumps and cashing the ♥K and Q, you now can lead a ♣ towards the ♣K and if West has the ♣A, you make eleven tricks (with no risk).

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH - Solution from FEBRUARY'S BULLETIN

Thank you to those who replied all who had the correct approach.

The contract is 4♠ played by South.

West leads the ♣J and it goes ♣5, ♣4 to your ♣K.

At trick 2, South leads the ♥K and it goes ♥3 ♥2 and ♥8.

At trick 3, South leads the ♥A and it goes ♥5 ♥4 and East ruffs this with the ♠2.

At trick 4, East leads the ♦K and it goes ♦A ♦6 and ♦7.

So, West had a six card♥ suit headed by the QJT9 but choose to lead the J♣ instead. It smells of a singleton lead.

This is now the position.

NORTH

♠QJ8
♥
♦T
♣A9876

WEST

♠K74
♥QJT9
♦84
♣

EAST

♠3
♥
♦Q532
♣QT32

SOUTH

♠AT965
♥76
♦J9
♣

You almost certainly must lose a ♠ and a ♦

along with the one trick that you have already lost. Therefore, you can't afford to lose any more tricks.

Solution is

One option is to ruff the ♥7 with a ♠ in dummy (the QJ and 8 are all equal as you have the T and 9 in your hand).

If East discards, then the key play comes play the ♦T (this does two things, it establishes your ♦ trick but more importantly it cuts the defence off from each other – a scissors coup). If instead, you play the ♣A instead of the ♦T look what might happen. You throw the ♥6 and West ruffs and returns a ♦ to partner's ♦Q. East leads another ♣ and West must win the ♠K for one down.

There are other ways of countering this defence (you can work them out for yourself if you wish).