

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION BEN THOMPSON



Ben Thomson has been promoted to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Management Committee. Ben provides this summary of his new role:

•WBF bio:

I am a management consultant from Melbourne, who was elected President of the South Pacific Bridge Federation (Zone 7) and a member of the WBF Executive Council in 2018, and a member of the WBF Management Committee in 2019. I have previously been a member of the Australian Bridge Federation Council and Management Committee.

A WBF World International Master, I first represented Australia in 1989 at the World Juniors and have since played on numerous Australian teams, regrettably no longer in any of the youth categories.

•WBF governance

The WBF Management Committee is much like the ABF Management Committee in concept. The Executive Council meets once a year (at the world championship) to discuss and decide on the big issues. It's a bit like the AGM of a company. There are 20 voting members of the Executive Council; my place is as president of the South Pacific Bridge Federation - the zonal body that includes Australia and New Zealand.

There are EC members from several other sources - eg 2 from the High-Level Players

•WBF Committee

The Management Committee (MC) is selected by the Executive Council (EC) from amongst its members, with some restrictions to ensure a spread of representation. The MC is the body that is responsible for decision-making between meetings of the EC; in practice the President, the Treasurer and our small staff are the operations team. The MC meets a few times outside the world championships, and also via email/skype/etc.

As an example of how the decision-making flows, the host city for the 2020 world championship has not yet been finalised. There is a leading candidate (and a couple of alternates), which was discussed by EC in Wuhan. We anticipate the Terms and Conditions will be settled by mid-November and so MC will consider (and hopefully approve) them and the contract at our meeting in early December.

•WBF Function:

It's important for our geographically isolated zone to have a voice at the highest levels of governance in world bridge. It ensures that the WBF considers issues that are important to us (for example reasonable access to WBF tournaments, training, and development support in our geographically vast zone). Our zone's input has traditionally been valued at world level for our fair-minded independence, as well as our technical and organisational excellence as evidenced in our putting on several of the world's largest and best-run tournaments (eg the Gold Coast Congress).

The South Pacific was represented extremely well by my predecessor, John Wignall of New Zealand, for over 30 years. I do not expect to match John's tenure or track record, but I shall do my best.

Victoria is well represented in world bridge, as our own Laurie Kelso is WBF Head Tournament Director.

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS	
Emerald Grand	
Simon Hinge	VBA
Gold Life	
Gordon McRobert	Moonee Valley
Ruth Kingham	Waverley
Silver Life	
Marina Darling	Waverley
Sue Duff	Geelong
Paula Bailey	Warrnambool
Bronze Life	
Jenny Johnstone	Geelong
Life	
Barb Evans	Bendigo
Michael McTiernan	VBA
Ann McKay	Waverley
Meg Waterworth	Waverley
*National	
Delma Casabene	Whittlesea
Denise Donald	Frankston
Sally Foster	Melbourne
Robynne Owen	Paynesville
National	
Peter Cooke	Warrnambool
Bei Tang	Yarra Valley
Mary Colling	Frankston
Steve Colling	Frankston
Lyn Smark	Lakes Entrance
*State	
Constance Bruce	Kooyong
Peter Weste	Ballarat
Michael Mandeltort	Berwick
Paul O'Hare	Bendigo
Patrizia Butler	Moonee Valley
State	
Angela Morgan	Kooyong
Garry Campbell	Kooyong
Dorothy Bennett	Mornington
Gill Soso	Williamstown
Penny Thomas	Warrnambool
Charles Young	Bendigo
Peter Waters	Melton
Robert Maclellan	Phillip Island
*Regional	
Kyoko Yagi	Ravens
Margie Michaels	Gardenvale

Regional	
Janice Meldrum	Moonee Valley
Tony Cullenward	Deniliquin
Michael Bugler	Melbourne
Carol Borella	Echuca
Allan Aberdeen	RACV
John Sroka	Moonee Valley
Judith Thomson	Ovens and Murray
Pat Green	Waverley
Norma Buntine	Northern

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

VBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The VBA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th December at 6pm at the VBA.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

Sat. 9th November, 12pm Swiss Pairs
Sun. 10th November, 10 am Swiss Teams

Venue: Grandstand Function Centre
Roughead Street. Leongatha

Contact: Neville Chapman
Phone: 0356783323

Kooyong Tennis and Bridge Club

Sun. 17th November, 10 am IMP Swiss Pairs

Venue: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club,
489 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong

Contact: Maria Campbell 041133133
Email: mariacampbell@3eight.com.au

Tivoli Bridge Club

Sun. 24th November, 10 am IMP Swiss Pairs
There is extra prize money allocated to the best RESTRICTED PAIRS in this tournament. (neither Player has more than 300 MP).
Thanks to TBIB Insurance

Venue: VBA Clubrooms,
131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena

Contact: Leeron 0412884446
Email: leeron.branicki@gmail.com

Dendy Park Bridge Club

Sun. 1st December, 10 am IMP Swiss Pairs

Venue: Dendy Park clubrooms,
Breen Drive, East Brighton

Contact: Boris Tencer, 0414353996
Email: mailto:boris@dpbridge.com

CONGRESS RESULTS

Albury Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery
2. Thilak Ranasinghe, George Lovrecz
3. Arjuna De Livera, Emlyn Williams

Swiss Teams

1. Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery,
James Coutts, Elena Moskovsky
2. Betty Mill, Tania Gariepy,
Shirley Collins, Chandradeep Chakravorty
3. Zyg Roberts, John Friesen,
Mary Prowse, Richard Harman

Warrnambool Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. Patricia Frost, Shannon Irwin
2. Douglas Newlands, Denny Newland
3. Gavin Bailey, Kirstin Bailey

Swiss Teams

1. Douglas Newlands, Denny Newland,
Anna St Clair, Dee Harley
2. Patricia Frost, Shannon Irwin,
Anne Gunst, Alison Feiner
3. Peter Cooke, Jan Cooke,
Janet Attrill, Penny Thomas

Bairnsdale Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. Colin Manley, Lewis Seychell
2. Dorothy Jesner, Alison Farthing
3. Stan Klofa, Stephen Weisz

Swiss Teams

1. Stan Klofa, Stephen Weisz
Lindsey Robinson, Chris Fernando
2. Colin Manley, Lewis Seychell
Jack Kuiper, Arendina Drury
3. Jean Macleod, Pam Dingwall
Alison Farthing, Dorothy Jesner

Sunbury Bridge Club

Swiss Pairs

1. Kim Frazer, Jamie Ebery
2. Andrew Hegedus, Justin Mill
3. Seb Wright, Damien Flicker

TBIB Restricted Prize:

1. Seb Wright, Damien Flicker
2. Ron Wescott, Graham Forbes

PLAY PROBLEM #2 DEE HARLEY

I have had no feedback from last month's tricky play problem. Maybe it was too easy. Maybe not. Any feedback is welcome. I have a lot of problem hands of this type. I do not have the full layout of any of them, but they are very useful in training you how to think about problems of this nature.

I urge you to give this problem your best consideration. Take all the time you need and mull things over. Make a decision on your line of play before looking to see what I think should happen.

Here is play problem #2:

Dir: South	♠ K62										
Vul: All	♥ A2										
	♦ 832										
	♣ AK1098										
♠ ?	<table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ ?
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 5?		♥ ?									
♦ ?		♦ ?									
♣ ?		♣ ?									
	♠ A754										
	♥ KJ										
	♦ KQJ5										
	♣ J54										

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	1NT ¹	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
¹ 15-17			

Lead: ♥5

I shall give you a head start again. South must find 9 tricks before the opponents can cash 5 tricks. You have 6 tricks to start with. If the club finesse works or the Queen drops, then you would have 9 easy tricks. Is that the best option? Can you find any way to improve the chance of making this?

Decide on your line and then turn to [page 7](#) and see what I think.

**A COW FLEW BY
DEE HARLEY**

This hand occurred in the Senior Teams qualifying round 1 of the Spring Nationals in Sydney. I was South. (Hands rotated for convenience)

Dlr: East ♠ AQ9752
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1086
 ♦ 6
 ♣ KJ9

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

♠ 10
 ♥ KJ7543
 ♦ AJ543
 ♣ 7

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	1♥
Dbl	1♠	2♣	2♦
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

The Lead: ♣A

Ok so I was a bit cheeky in the bidding, and I was not really surprised that I was doubled.

Overall, however it is not that bad a contract. When the ♣A held the trick, West continued with another club, and I took stock. I have a couple of trumps to lose probably, and some diamonds to take care of. I felt however that I did not particularly need a discard on the club if the Queen was with West, but if the queen was with East, they are starting to shorten my trumps before I am ready for it. If I need an extra trick later then the Spade finesse will probably work. So I called for the ♣K and led a diamond from dummy to my Ace and ruffed a diamond. East followed with the ♦10 and then the ♦Q. Do you approve of my line? Well maybe you do, maybe you don't but I didn't tell you which card I ruffed the diamond with. Do you think it matters? Ha! Had a cow flown by? Of course it matters. I ruffed with the ♥6 and doomed myself. I then ruffed a club back

to my hand and ruffed another diamond with the ♥10. This was overruffed by the ♥Q and Now East was on lead: the remaining cards are:

Dlr: East ♠ AQ9752
 Vul: E/W ♥ 8
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

♠ ?	N	♠ ?
♥ ?	W E	♥ A92
♦ ?	S	♦ ?
♣ ?		♣ ?

♠ 10
 ♥ KJ754
 ♦ J
 ♣ -

East returned the ♥2.

East obviously had all the remaining trumps, so I couldn't afford the ♥K or ♥J, as that would promote the ♥9 for East. In effect I had trapped myself in dummy. What a difference it would have made if I had ruffed with dummy's ♥8 instead of the ♥6, then I could win the trick with the ♥7 in hand, knockout the ♥A and then draw the trumps, then take the spade finesse for the tenth trick. One down cost -100, but our team-mates had somehow defeated 4♥x by TWO tricks for +300. Our bad board ended up gaining 5 IMPs – how lucky was that! This was the full layout.

Dlr: East ♠ AQ9752
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1086
 ♦ 6
 ♣ KJ9

♠ K843	N	♠ J6
♥ -	W E	♥ AQ92
♦ K9872	S	♦ Q10
♣ AQ86		♣ 105432

♠ 10
 ♥ KJ7543
 ♦ AJ543
 ♣ 7

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
DEFENCE NEEDS A PLAN TOO

This hand continues the theme of safety plays in teams play. This time it is when missing Q10xx in a nine-card fit in a crucial suit. North easily bid to the correct contract either by noting they had 16 + 3 = 19 points or that they had 5 losers opposite 9 or less losers.

West might have bid 4♥ rather than 3♥ but it would not hinder NS in this case. On the low heart lead and continuation, South correctly counted which tricks were available. There are four diamond tricks even if the finesse loses, one club trick and one heart ruff. Thus, only 4 trump winners are necessary to bring the total to ten. The safety play to avoid two losers, is a little unexpected. South knew the safety play and cashed the ♠A and led towards the ♠K intending to finesse the ♠7 if East has shown out on the first round. Then, after the ♠K, South led a diamond to the ♦10 partially because there is no convenient entry to take the finesse and partly because it doesn't matter if there is a diamond loser. East could take his ♦K and West a trump trick but that was all.

The Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

Lead: ♥3

Teams:

Dir: North

Vul: All

♠ Q103 ♥ Q9832 ♦ 83 ♣ K93	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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		♠ 6 ♥ AKJ75 ♦ K62 ♣ J762
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ AJ984 ♥ 104 ♦ 1094 ♣ 1084										

Although declarer has played competently, West was not impressed by their partner's defence and you may like to consider what went wrong before reading on.

Like declarer, defenders need a plan and East seems to have omitted to make one. It is clear to East that the defenders are getting only one heart and one diamond. The only way to score two more tricks is to hope that West has a trump trick and something that allows the defence to develop a trick in clubs.

If East shifts to a low club at trick two, declarer will probably insert the ♣8, hoping that this will force an honour from West. However, West will cover this with the ♣9 and dummy will win with the ♣Q. Declarer will play the king and ace of trumps, finding that there is a loser in the suit. Now, when the diamond finesse fails, East plays a second club and West's ♣K will force dummy's ♣A out.

When declarer plays on diamonds, hoping to discard his club loser, West ruffs the third round and plays a club to East's ♣J to defeat the contract.

SUIT COMBINATION

How would you handle 932 in hand opposite AJ765 in dummy if you need three tricks from the suit.

Secondary question: Can you find the safety play to ensure two tricks?

You can assume that in both cases above that you have as many entries to either hand as you require.

[Solution](#) on P6.

VALE PETER HAVLICEK

Peter Havlicek passed away a few weeks ago after a short illness. Peter had a stint in hospital and made a brief return to the club. We were hoping to see him on the road to better health, but unfortunately, it was not to be.

Peter was the definitive gentleman. Always alert, meticulously courteous and never without a smile, Peter brightened the room wherever he was. A master of many languages, he was one of very few people who enjoyed the challenge of completing cryptic crosswords in their third tongue. His Bridge was precise, and his legacy is a wonderful collection of hand-written papers on bidding theory.

At the VBA, Peter leaves behind many friends and partners. I know this to be the case at many other clubs as well.

We will miss Peter enormously. Vale

Solution to Suit Combination (page 5)

You 932 Dummy: AJ765

Needing 3 tricks:

lead the 2 towards dummy, playing the 5 unless lefty plays a higher card, in which case you can cover it. If the 5 loses, then return to hand and lead the 3, covering lefty's card. The interesting feature is the power of the 9, should lefty play the K or Q or the 10 on the first round – you then play low towards the 9. This guarantees your three tricks unless it was a singleton honour, in which case your goose was already well and truly cooked.

Secondary problem: The safety play for 2

tricks: Again, the nine plays a huge part. Lead low towards the 9, and you can pick up 5-0 breaks in either hand (if Rightey has all 5 missing cards, you lead up towards the 9 three times! Rightey can make his K, Q and 10, but you will make your Ace and Jack.

EDITORIAL DEE HARLEY

I have come across another free website which may assist you with your bidding. It is called www.correctcontract.com. It allows you to sign up, and then you and your partner can generate a set of hands which you take turns in bidding. Once you have made all your bids for the set, your partner is notified by email and they can then make all their bids, and so on until the bidding of all the hands is complete. Then you can review and discuss what happened.

On another note I was delighted to see that a young Victorian pair came in third at the Sunbury congress. They were also winners of the TBIB trophy for the best restricted pair as well. It is great to see youth bridge blossoming (well why shouldn't it), but the sponsorship of TBIB is marvellous - particularly if it encourages these youngsters to compete in local congresses. More sponsorship for restricted players is forthcoming from TBIB for the upcoming Tivoli congress.

Did I mention that I would welcome any contributions from our readers? Whatever format you like is fine for me. I will do my best to print all contributions. In fact, I am considering hosting a Letters to the Editor page, so please do not hesitate to write to me and I will publish your letter if I can.

This year Victoria did not fare too well in the Spring Nationals, with the exceptions of Simon Hinge and Stephen Lester, who were runners up in the Senior teams, A sprinkling of Victorians were competing, but without a great deal of success (apologies if I failed to spot your significant result). I want to explain that in general we might show the top three in any one event. Coming fourth is very nearly good enough for a mention, but the best way to see your name in this bulletin is to win (or write me a letter explaining why you didn't).

email me at: dee_harley@hotmail.com

**HENRI DE JONG
BY SAM ARBER**

VALE HENRI DE JONG

27TH DECEMBER 1934 – 5TH OCTOBER 2019

Henri was born in Holland in 1934 and was a child holocaust survivor. His experiences during the holocaust was a topic that he was very reluctant to discuss. Henri became an accomplished sportsman, representing Holland in tennis at the 1961 Maccabbiah Games in Israel. It was here that he met Eva Duldig, a very talented Australian tennis player who had just reached the quarter finals at Wimbledon. It was love at first sight. They became engaged 5 days later and this good-looking couple were married in Melbourne at the St Kilda Synagogue in February 1962 and thereupon moved to Holland for several years where Eva continued to excel in her tennis and among many other things, won the Netherlands Women's Singles title.

Henri and Eva along with their first born, a daughter, Tania, moved to Melbourne to live in the mid-60's. Their sons, Antony and Pieter were born in Melbourne. Henri and Eva had every reason to be proud of all their very accomplished children.

Henri joined the VBA at their Latrobe Street premises. He had learned to play bridge as a young man, by watching his parents play. He recently gained Honorary membership of the VBA after 50 years as a player and contributing member of committee. Henri was also made a life member of the Kooyong Tennis Club.

My first experience of Henri was in the seventies. I had just started learning bridge and was playing at a club in Hampton run by Bill Austen. One weekend the club was holding the prestigious Valentine's Champion of Champions Pairs. I went along to kibbitz. The event was won by Henri and his partner, John Pettit (also known as Moppy) Henri and John formed a very successful partnership for many years. When their partnership eventually dissolved, I became Henri's new partner for many years. We had great success together, the most notable was winning the Seniors' Pairs at the Gold Coast and being part of the winning Victorian Seniors Team in the ANC Congress held in Darwin in 2012.

Apart from playing bridge, we also enjoyed playing golf together and spent many hours discussing soccer, tennis and bridge hands. Henri, Richard Greenfield and I, enjoyed weekly lunch meetings together, and more recently, Howard Silver joined the 3 of us for lunch. Henri always took great delight in joking with and teasing, the waiters.

Henri had been in good health up until very recently when he suffered a severe infection that appears to have been endocarditis – an infection of the heart valve, after which he spent 2 weeks in Cabrini Hospital. Just as he seemed to be recovering, he suddenly passed peacefully in his sleep.

Henri will be very sadly and sorely missed by all his family and friends, his fellow bridge players and members of Kooyong Tennis Club.

Long may he be fondly remembered.

Solution to Play problem #2 (Page 3)

Win the Heart lead in dummy and play a low diamond towards the ♦KQJx, if East hops up with the ♦A then you will have three diamond winners to go with the 6 tricks you started with to enable you to make the contract. If the Diamond loses to West, then you will have to fall back on the club finesse unless the diamonds turn out to have broken 3-3 (or the ♦109 was doubleton). If the ♦K holds the trick then you can cross to the ♣K (unblocking your ♣J) and lead another small diamond towards your hand, if this one holds, you cross to the ♠K and lead a third diamond from dummy. If you cannot make 3 diamond tricks, then you can resort to the club finesse to make your contract. By playing on diamonds, you have enhanced your chances of making this contract – anytime East holds the ♦A, anytime diamonds break 3-3 (or 4-2 with the doubleton ♦109) and anytime the ♣Q is onside.

Note that if you won the opening lead in hand then you will not be able to combine all these chances. You must take the first trick in dummy!

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – TUSCANY 2020 BRIDGE PLAYING HOLIDAYS WITH MARY ELSON

Stay in a Tuscan farmhouse just a few minutes drive to the nearest town, sharing marvellous homemade meals created by Rosalinda and her mother, Lilla, or sometimes just enjoying the quiet of your own apartment, sharing a living room and kitchen with one or two other guests.

All your breakfasts, three evening meals each week, wonderful farmhouse-style accommodation with large in-ground pool, transfers and stunning **tours** are included in the price. (As well as all the bridge, of course!) Rosalinda will drive you to a nearby restaurant on the nights we are self-catering or you can enjoy making your own Italian meal in your own kitchen. (Of course, no-one will tell you that you can't make steak and chips if you prefer!)

Regular half day and three full day tours are included each week and we shall visit such wonderful places as Siena, Perugia, Assisi, Cortona and Montepulciano among other trips. There will also be opportunities to visit Florence or Orvieto and the UNESCO World Heritage site San Gimignano.

Free: the best sunsets Tuscany can provide!

Bridge will be played every day, and there will be lessons available as well as play.

There are only twelve places available, and bookings are already coming in.

Dates are:

Saturday August 22 to Saturday September 5

Ring Mary on 0431 581 304 and have a chat about the holiday.

Price per person will be approximately AUD\$4150 (depending on the exchange rate) plus optional single supplement.



Check the website at www.tuscansun.com.au

Some reviews of the 2018 and 2019 holidays:

Location: Beautiful views overlooking valley. Wake to cocks crowing and church bells calling to service.

Hosts: Host facility was excellent. Rosalinda was an excellent host, very friendly, even under pressure.

Tours: Every trip was well organised and interesting.

Food: Utterly delicious. Suited me very well.

Bridge: Good bridge play and lessons.

Venue: The accommodation was very good and I really enjoyed the visits to local towns and villages.

Overall: It was a delight!