

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2022

Editor: Dee Harley

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The Australian Bridge Federation has just released its Strategic Plan for the next three years and it is pleasing to see our national governing body taking a very positive and engaged position on many fronts as we emerge from the pandemic. The plan in its totality may be found on the ABF website and comments are being sought from all the States and Territories as I write. Perhaps most challenging of the Plan's goals is to oversee the return of player numbers to pre-pandemic levels and beyond and also to attract 1000 youth players during the Plan's period of currency. The devil is in the detail, which is still to come, but the necessity of these things is surely difficult to dispute in principle.

Return to face-to-face (F2F) bridge across Victorian clubs is patchy and not being aided by a new sub-variant of Omicron Covid, plus news regarding the waning protection of third doses. As I write, it seems much of the bridge

cohort will be lining up for yet another dose (our fourth) from April onwards. That ... and no more sinister forms of Covid emerging, could just be what we need for some normality to reappear, though there is no doubt some of the old cohort are lost for good and all clubs will need to work hard to attract new participants. On that front, one is hearing the encouraging view people gained from lockdowns that "life is short" and that a game that is very compelling, time consuming and good for us, is just what the doctor ordered. At the VBA we are seeing excellent numbers attending beginner classes.

Our main national event in Victoria, the Victor Champion Cup IS going ahead on the Queen's Birthday weekend and we are examining venues somewhat frantically at present, the Marvel Stadium idea having been somewhat torpedoed by the AFL's incomplete fixture list. It is our great desire to see this event occur "live", while online remains our final backstop. More news should be available soon after this publication appears.

Finally, at the pinnacle of the game, the World Team Championships are about to occur in Italy. Our best wishes and congratulations go to Victorian James Coutts in the Open Team and to Ellena Moskovsky in the Women's event. They face a tough task, as do all the Australian contingent, against countries whose players are effectively full-time professionals.

A large group of bridge people organized by the VBA recently attended a film made about recent cheating scandals in the international game, which was showing in Melbourne. It is unimaginable to almost all of us that players at any level would knowingly thwart the rules of our great game. I am sadly assured that the game at the top level is still not fully "clean" and the fight goes on to rid us of this scourge. In the meantime, enjoy the last of the current beautiful weather and good bridge over the next few months.

VICTORIAN ONLINE OPEN PAIRS AND TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Kitchener_Wants_You

All Victorian players are invited to play in the Victorian Online Open Pairs and Teams Championships.

The Pairs Championship starts on Monday 2 May and runs for four weeks. The Teams Championship starts on Monday 8 August and will also run for four weeks.

As well, all the VBA's Monday night events are being held online on RealBridge and are open to all Victorian players. You do not have to be a VBA member to play nor do you have to be an expert. If you need help arranging a partner or teammates please contact the VBA manager Andrew Macready-Bryan by email info@vba.asn.au or phone (03) 9530 9006.

This is your chance to test your skill and have fun against other Victorian players!

The state Thwaites mixed pairs started on Wednesday April 30th for 4 weeks. This is a face-to-face competition held in the VBA Clubrooms...

The Victorian daytime Swiss pairs will be held in the VBA Clubrooms at 10am on Monday 25th April.

The Match and Tournament Committee would like to wish Australian representatives all the best at world teams in Salsomaggiore especially Victorian players James Coutts and Ellena Moskovsky.

TAS....MANIA

Victorians featured prominently in the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge.

Kitty Muntz and Leigh Gold took first place in the Mixed Swiss Pairs.

Neil Ewart playing with Ian Robinson (Canberra) won the Roger Penney Swiss Pairs, and Andrew Mill and Simon Hinge bagged second place.

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Silver Life	
Kim Hoff	Waverley
Life	
Pauline Grodski	VBA
State	
Pip Thornton	Melbourne
Douglas Bell	Kooyong
David Roseman	Gardenvale
Ken Bierman	Waverley
Bronze Regional	
Max Pilbeam	Ocean Grove
Elinor Winter	Warrnambool
Susi Wardrop	Kooyong
Regional	
Peter Hannemann	MCC
Stan Angelidis	Northern
Lilian Young	Moonee Valley

HANDS SENT IN BY READERS

It is great to hear from our readers! I've been sent a couple of hands this month. Please don't hesitate to send me hands which I will publish for you.

Ralph sent me this one from the Victorian Open Butler qualifying. (Board 30 on 9th March)

Dir: East ♠ 8765
 Vul: None ♥ Q8
 ♦ J1093
 ♣ K10

♠ K4		♠ 103
♥ AK1063		♥ 94
♦ 875		♦ AK4
♣ 743		♣ AJ8652

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AQJ92
 ♥ J752
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ Q9

Contract 4♥x Lead: ♠7

Bidding:

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

2♣ - precision style

Ralph was sitting North defending 4♥x, and lead the 7♠ to Prithiraj's Ace. After Prithiraj returned a low heart George sitting West played carefully to emerge with 10 tricks for a very good score. Ralph's question was how do you defeat 4 Hearts? (GIB claims you can hold it to 9 tricks after this lead). I shall let you ponder the problem and send [me](#) your answers. I think Ralph has asked an excellent question!

Meanwhile TP sent me board 27 from the Seniors/Women's qualifying. I have set out the hand as it happened, and you have the undoubted joy of TP talking us through the hand.

Dir: South ♠ Q
 Vul: None ♥ 7
 ♦ K1085
 ♣ AKQJ1086

♠ 87542		♠ AK1063
♥ KJ1052		♥ Q3
♦ AJ4		♦ 97632
♣ -		♣ 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J92
 ♥ A9864
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 95432

Contract 4♥x Lead: ♠7

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
1♠	2♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

In a T20 cricket match you try to hit the last ball of the innings for a six. When I played the last board of the Seniors Selection Trials, I got a loose ball and I hit a six.

After South passed, seated West, I decided to open the bidding with 1♠ (7 losers, 9 hcp, satisfying the rule of 18 😊). North overcalled 2♣ and my partner bid 4♠, which was passed around to North. He bid 5♣ which was passed around to me. It was decision time. If my partner got a good hand, he would have cue bid first and supported Spades later. I couldn't see any possibility of defeating 5♣. So, I bid 5♠ as a sacrifice. The lead was ♥7 and south won with the ♥A. South most probably could not visualise the lead was a singleton as he couldn't place a 5 card Heart suit with me. So, he decided to look for partner's ♦A to get a ruff. He played ♦Q instead of a H. Whilst both opponents were looking for ruffs, I claimed 11 tricks.

This is a funny hand. Most popular opening was 2♥ by West. One South also opened 2♥. Nobody seated West opened 1♠, except me.

EDITORIAL

The excitement of going to the World Championships in Salsomaggiore in Italy has suddenly faded for me. Having suffered from an emergency appendectomy last month I followed up with a collapsed lung this month and was desperately disappointed not to be allowed to travel with the team. So I am having to resort to supporting them from afar. From Home in fact.

What is particularly galling is that the Scottish Women's team were granted a late entry to the Venice Cup, and I missed out on the opportunity to meet up with some of my former friends and colleagues.

Ongoing results for the four main events can be seen [here](#)

Another interesting way to follow progress is at Peter Cox's x Bridge TV [website](#). He is planning to issue daily bulletins from Salsomaggiore. I am looking forward to that.

While on the subject of interesting websites...I found this great viewing...
<https://tinyurl.com/2c2mjhcZ>
This features a robot battle between Zia and Andrew Robson. Give yourself half an hour or so to revel in it!

Please feel free to [email](#) me if you have any comments, issues or interesting hands!

MEDICAL PROBLEM

Jim: Did you hear that Bob won't be going to any more bridge tournaments because of his arthritis?

Joe: Has he seen a doctor?

Jim: Yes, he's been to many doctors.

Joe: Can't they eliminate the pain?

Jim: Oh, sure. But they also eliminated all his money.

(Ed: I have sympathy with this...)

SUIT COMBINATION

Try this one:

You: A104 Partner: Q9763.

How does your play vary if you need:

- a) 3 tricks
- b) 4 tricks
- c) 5 tricks

Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

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

RESULTS

Victorian Open Butler:

1. Neil Ewart & Simon Henbest
2. Stephen Weisz & Robert Gallus
3. David Beckett & Simon Hinge

Victorian Seniors/Women

1. Gordon McRobert & Thilak Ranasinghe
2. Eva Samuel & Laura Hollands
3. Neil Ewart & Simon Henbest

PLAY PROBLEM #27 SOLUTION

Last month you were in 3NT...

Dlr: East ♠ A3
 Vul: Both ♥ K5
 ♦ Q9432
 ♣ K1032

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ ? ♠ ?
 ♥ ? ♥ ?
 ♦ ? ♦ ?
 ♣ ? ♣ ?

♠ K6
 ♥ Q764
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ AQJ6

Contract 3NT Lead: ♠Q

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	

West leads the ♠Q.

You have 2 spade tricks and 4 clubs on top, you will be able to force two diamond tricks, but if the suit breaks 4-1 and is not "pickupable" you may only have 8 tricks. This diamond suit requires some thought. If West has 4 diamonds (including the ♦A10) you can pick them up by leading twice towards your ♦KJ in hand and then if East shows out on the second round, you can finesse the ♦9. but if East has 4 diamonds (including the ♦A10) when you lead diamonds toward your ♦KJ twice, on neither occasion can East afford to play the ♦A (or you are presented with 4 diamond tricks). If indeed West shows out on the second round, then you have made your 2 diamond tricks and can now switch to hearts making a total of 2 spades, 4 clubs 2 diamonds and one heart. Contract made! Does it matter where you win the first spade trick? Not that I can see, although I would be inclined to win in dummy so I can lead the diamond to the ♦K, if that wins, I can use one of the club entries to dummy to lead another diamond towards my ♦J.

PLAY PROBLEM #28

Dlr: West ♠ A2
 Vul: None ♥ KQJ5
 ♦ 65
 ♣ AQ543

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ ? ♠ ?
 ♥ ? ♥ ?
 ♦ ? ♦ ?
 ♣ ? ♣ ?

♠ KQJ1097
 ♥ 864
 ♦ AK
 ♣ 76

Contract 6♠ Lead: ♦Q

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠

Dealer

Perhaps you wrong-sided this reasonable 6♠ contract, but you are lucky enough to avoid the dangerous club lead. Can you find a way to make this? What do you need?

SOLUTION TO SUIT COMBINATION

With A104 opposite Q9763

The recommended line is to cash the Ace and play towards the Queen (you can lead the 10 or the 4), intending to run the 10 or finesse the 9 unless the interceding offender plays the Knave or the King.

This is the recommended line for 3 tricks in the suit, 4 tricks in the suit and 5 tricks in the Suit! (Respectively 100%, 67.26% and 2.82%)

**♣♣♣ 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 in the diamonds in a very inferior manner.

Dlr: East		♠ J104											
Vul: N/S		♥ Q8632											
		♦ J862											
		♣ 7											
♠ 8532 ♥ K4 ♦ K75 ♣ QJ54	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ AQ6 ♥ A9 ♦ Q10943 ♣ AK10		
	N												
W		E											
	S												
		♠ K97											
		♥ J1075											
		♦ A											
		♣ 98632											

Contract 3NT Lead: ♥3

Bidding:

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

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 ace 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.

- *I picked this hand from the Knave of Clubs collection because of the similarity to play problem #27 – the solution of which we saw above – Ed.*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRIDGE
ASSOCIATION - CLUB MANAGER**

The SA Bridge Association (previously known as SABA) is the primary South Australian bridge club and the second largest bridge club in Australia with an income over \$0.6m per year and venues at Unley, Walkerville, Mt Barker and Glenelg North. It has a proud history of club activity, membership growth and educational programs. Impacted recently by the impacts of COVID, we seek a manager to lead the club into the next phase of growth and development who will be responsible for all the operational activities of the Association's venues.

(Details on the next page)

The Manager will:

- ensure the SA Bridge Association provides necessary capabilities and a friendly environment for the playing Bridge.
- manage the SA Bridge Association's staff and facilities and liaise with stakeholders
- promote the interests of the SA Bridge Association and its members.
- develop and implement marketing plans to promote the game of Bridge and identify new opportunities to increase membership and enhance the playing experience.
- work with the Treasurer to manage the Club's finances
- manage the Club's teaching and coaching programs
- manage membership
- undertake operational tasks as specified in the Role Description document To be successful in this role you will ideally have a background in leading a team in the clubs or community services sector. You will be a good communicator who enjoys organising and delivering successful programs, encouraging and supporting members and contributing to the club's development. Reporting to the club's President, you will enjoy a high level of autonomy while demonstrating a focus on collaboration. You will be supported in the role by a part time Book Keeper, bridge sessions directors, bridge education teachers and tutors and a large number of services contractors

The sort of person we're looking for:

- management experience, leading a team in the clubs or community services sector
- experience in managing business relationships with landlords, suppliers and other stakeholders.
- broad knowledge of contemporary human resource management principles and practices.
- knowledge of occupational health, safety and welfare legislation and equal opportunity legislation.
- high level of motivation and skill to deliver excellent customer service to members and other bridge players.
- demonstrated ability and willingness to use initiative and judgement.
- highly developed communication skills that contribute to effective working relationships.

- highly developed interpersonal skills which foster trust, co-operation and support of others.
- broad experience of budget and financial management.
- working knowledge and experience in the use of personal computers and the range of Microsoft Office suite software programs and data analysis programs.
- experience in planning, organising and prioritising tasks and resources for self and others to ensure work is completed efficiently and effectively.
- broad experience in website management.
- have police check; working with children check and driver licence As the game of Bridge is the main function of the club, the following are desirable:
 - advanced knowledge of the game of bridge and how a bridge club operates
 - advanced knowledge of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge
 - experience as a director of bridge sessions.

The club is offering a base annual salary of up to \$80,000 plus superannuation for a full-time employee for three-year contract.

Flexible working arrangements are possible. The position can be offered as part time (from 0.7 FTE) or fulltime depending upon the applicant's background and experience.

Further details, including a full Role Description, are available from the Club President. Please phone 0402 433 674 or email at aabdelha@icloud.com

Applicants should provide evidence that they satisfy the majority of the requirements for the position listed above, provide any other relevant information and list at least two relevant referees.

Application should be forwarded to the Club Secretary at secretary@sabridgeassoc.asn.au by no later than Friday 22 April.