

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2022

Editor: Dee Harley

VCC RESULTS

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

1. Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart
2. Kim Morrison - Chris Hughes
3. Phil Gue - George Kozakos

Jim & Norma Borin Mixed Pairs

1. Michael Courtney - Joan Butts
2. Simon Hinge - Jenny Thompson
3. Pele Rankin - Stephen Fischer

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. Penny Bowen - Rodney Macey
2. Rosemary Polya - Jolanta Terlecka
3. Lynda Young - Philip Young

Frank Power Trophy <200 MP Swiss Pairs

- Lynda Young - Philip Young

Victor Champion Cup

1. Robert Fruewirth - Jamie Thompson
Liam Milne - James Coutts
2. Avinash Kanetkar - Andrew Spooner -
Ron Klinger - Philip Markey
3. David Wiltshire - Sartaj Hans - Andy
Hung - Sophie Ashton

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

- Ruitian Lang - Darren Brake
Damon Flicker - Joshua Tomlin

The best all-Victorian pairing were evergreens Bob Gallus and Stephen Weisz, who also continued a terrific year that has seen them qualify for both the national and Victorian senior teams, by finishing in 5th.

The best all-Victorian team, finishing 21st was a popular grouping of stalwarts Len Meyer, Phyllis Moritz, teaming up with Geelong players Denny Newland and Doug Newlands.

It was great to see Victorians featuring so well in the results.

GOOD LUCK IN THE ANC

It is just time to wish our Victorian teams the best of luck in the coming Australian National Championships. Those of you who will not be there in person can follow the play at this [website](#).

As usual there are four categories of competition and Victoria will be represented in each of the categories: Open, Women, Senior and Youth.

Go Victoria!

STATE RESULTS

Rothfield Teams

1. James Coutts, Justin Mill,
Ben Thompson, Robert Fruewirth
2. Neil Ewart, Simon Henbest,
Chris Hughes, Dee Harley,
Steven Sharp, Danny Sharp, Jeff Fust

Rothfield Plate

1. Stan Klofa, Lindsey Robinson
Robert Gallus, Stephen Weisz
2. Eva Caplan, Kitty Muntz,
Lisa Yoffa, Kim Frazer,
3. Eva Samuel, Peter Hollands
Ben Kingham, Sylvia Gluck

Winter Swiss Pairs

1. Eva Samuel, Pete Hollands
2. Kim Frazer, Andrzej Krolikowski
3. Stan Klofa, Kate Gullan

Blutstein Swiss Pairs

1. David Morgan, David Beckett
2. Eva Caplan, Jenny Thompson
3. Sam Arber, Howard Silver

Silver Grand	
Kim Frazer	Moonee Valley
Gold Life	
David Yoffa	Berwick
Silver Life	
Sylvia Gluck	Bridge Fanatics Club
Life	
Peter Lardy	Frankston
Sally Thornton	Waverley
Alan Race	Yarra Valley
Silver National	
George Del Papa	Ocean Grove
Bronze National	
Sandy Spencer	Berwick
Helen Schapper	Northern
National	
Sue Napier	Ocean Grove
Merlyn Pritchard	Bendigo
Allan Hardie	VBA
Bronze State	
Robyn Svefvar	Moonee Valley
Debbie Jerkovic	Waverley
Alex Jones	Waverley
Mohamed Ghatwari	Moonee Valley
Lynda Young	Moonee Valley
Allan Leiba	Dendy Park
State	
Margot Slonim	VBA
Nanette Cooper	Gardenvale
Bronwyn Simmonds	Moonee Valley
Jilly Pettit	Bayside
Sue Michelmore	Royal South Yarra
Anne Heyes	Waverley
Ranjit Bhagwandas	Moonee Valley
Simon Tissera	Waverley
Robyn Lichter	VBA
Judy Leiba	VBA
Bronze Regional	
Sandra Newns	Bayside
Regional	
Libby Owen	Dendy Park
Suzie Pearce	Benalla
Penny Robertson	Northern
John Prowse	Geelong

Regional (continued)	
Michelle Mellinger	Gardenvale
Helen Wallace	Bayside
Moyra Kwan	Waverley
Ramona Enconniere	Northern
Cindi Damian	Kooyong

EDITORIAL

Winter has set in. The cold has permeated my bones and, it seems, my soul! The nights are long and uncomfortable, so the European Championships of bridge claimed my attention most nights recently. It is a wonderful thing to be able to "watch" on BBO as the Dutch Team gained their revenge on the "Swiss" team (comprising professional Dutch, Polish and Italian players) who had earlier this year taken out the Bermuda Bowl in Italy.

It must be a bit disconcerting for native Swiss bridge players to have these professionals bought (or brought!) in to represent your country. As such a player would you be happy if your country won the Bermuda Bowl, or disappointed that no matter how well you played, you would not be able to represent your own country whilst the big-money Pro's were on the payroll?

When I played cricket at a total amateur level, our club decided it could afford to bring in a professional to help with coaching and to improve the on-field results. The coaching aspect was good, but during matches the pressure on the pro to perform was occasionally devastating as the boost in morale for the other team in taking the pro's wicket often meant that our side collapsed. One person cannot do it all, you need significant contributions from all players in a team.

The same, I'm sure, is true at the bridge table.

JOAN SMURTHWAITE RETIRES

Recently on ABC, there was a report about Joan Smurthwaite, who has just retired from playing bridge at age 106. She has played at the Melbourne Bridge Centre for over 80 Years.

You can read the full article by clicking on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yppbbfwb>

**ROTHFIELD BLUES
BY DEE HARLEY**

I have just finished reading "Under the Table" by Avon Wilsmore.

I liked this quote: from Avon's book: "Alfred Sheinwold once wrote that the most popular type of newspaper bridge column was one that contained a foolish mistake by a top player. He suspected that many readers thought along these lines:

- A great player made a mistake
- I make mistakes
- Therefore, I am a great player "

So, I played in the final of the Rothfield Trophy against our Victorian Open team of 2022. The boards were quite swingy, but there were 2 slam swings which sounded our death knell. (Hands are rotated for convenience).

Dlr: East ♠ AK1095
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK9
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ K6

♠ 4	N	♠ QJ632
♥ Q102	W E	♥ 653
♦ J103	S	♦ 85
♣ AQJ952		♣ 843

♠ 87
 ♥ J874
 ♦ K9742
 ♣ 107

W	N	E	S
Dee	Ben	Chris	Robert
3 ♣	Dbl	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♦	All Pass	

I tried to make it difficult for our vulnerable opponents to hit the right spot, but Robert Fruewirth landed in 6♦ and I led my singleton spade.

Take a moment to look at the North/South hands and see how you would play this contract. (No peeking at the East/West hands allowed!).

Robert took three rounds of trumps ending in hand and lead a spade to dummy, hoping for spades to break. When they didn't, he ruffed a spade and lead a heart towards dummy. I smoothly played low - and regretted it! Robert won the trick with dummy's ♥9.

Of course, I should have played the ♥10 to force the ♥K, and then if he ruffs a spade back to hand he has no entry to his long heart suit, or he can try to drop the doubleton ♥Q10 in my hand but either way he would go down.

If he had been sure my lead was a singleton he can lead a heart to the ♥9 earlier (so Deep Finesse always makes 12 tricks) however his line of play was excellent, and he took full advantage of my slip up.

A few deals later in the match I picked up the South hand as shown here:

Dlr: North ♠ A973
 Vul: none ♥ K6543
 ♦ 83
 ♣ A3

♠ Q54	N	♠ 108
♥ 102	W E	♥ J87
♦ 974	S	♦ J10652
♣ J7652		♣ Q84

♠ KJ62
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ K109

I was still counting my points when partner opened 1♥. I found out he was a minimum with the ♠A, the ♣A and the ♥K. I couldn't stop myself from bidding 7NT. It was the same as the contract in the other room, but I didn't play it as well as Justin did. He played 5 rounds of Hearts and East allegedly discarded a spade, so the King, then Jack of spades brought home the bacon. I didn't think I could know what to throw on the hearts so I just plumped down the ♠A and went down.... Big swing! Well done Open team and I'm singing the Rothfield Blues! (to the tune of "Empty Pocket Blues" by the Incredible String Band - worth a listen?)

COMING CONGRESSES

Yarrawonga Congress

Friday 22nd July – Matchpoint Pairs 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd July - Swiss Pairs 12 am

Sunday 24th July - Swiss Teams 9:30 am

Venue: Venue: Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort, Gulai Road, Mulwala
 Contact: Jan Hackett, 03 5744 1017
 Email: hackett5@bigpond.net.au

CONGRESS RESULTS

Geelong Swiss Pairs

1. Piyush Jain & Geoff Chettle
2. Kim Frazer & Jeff Fust
3. TP Ranasinghe & Leo Saoud

Geelong Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. Jennifer Blyton & Linda Lee Score
2. Wendy Dennis & Catherine Bowman
3. Alan Blackburn & Kathy Thomas

Geelong Swiss Teams

1. Stephen Lester & Denny Newland
Douglas Newlands & Arthur Robbins
2. Piyush Jain & Gary Ridgway
Roger Gillard & Michael Stokie
3. Kae French & Penny Corrigan
Jan Hackett & Tom Hackett

RONKLINGERBRIDGE.COM

The RonKlingerBridge.com website has been relaunched and is aimed at improving every bridge player's game. To celebrate the launch, there is a new premium member offer to subscribe for \$49 per year (less than 20c per column) up to July 31. The subscription price will then increase to \$59 per year. Publication of content will commence on 3 July, 2022. Paid members enjoy the full benefits of the platform, including five emails a week of bridge columns, as well as access to the archive of previous bridge columns from 2022 onwards. For more details, please check out our updated website or visit ronklinger.substack.com to join.

2ND IN HAND PLAY HIGH BY DEE HARLEY

When you first learn to play bridge, it is really helpful to have sayings like “2nd in hand play low, and 3rd in hand play high”, but what you soon learn about bridge is that no aphorism is always correct (It is a bit like saying “All generalisations are false”).

Take this (made up) hand for instance:

Dlr: South	♠ AJ1098		
Vul: Both	♥ 432		
	♦ 432		
	♣ 32		
♠ Q54			♠ K76
♥ QJ109			♥ 876
♦ 76			♦ QJ1098
♣ 10987			♣ QJ
			♠ 32
			♥ AK5
			♦ AK5
			♣ AK754

South has arrived in a contract of 3NT. West is likely to lead the ♥Q. South should duck the first trick and take the heart continuation. The only hope for extra tricks to be able to make the contract is the Spade suit, so South would start by leading the 2 from hand. Spotlight on West. If West follows the old adage “2nd in hand play low” and follows with the ♠5 North will play the ♠J (or 8, 9, 10) and East is in a pickle. If he takes the ♠K and returns a heart, South can now pick up the whole spade suit for an overtrick by finessing for the ♠Q. If East decides to duck, South having gained 2 spade tricks without loss, can revert to clubs, making on the nose if clubs break 4-2 or an overtrick if they break 3-3.

Look at the difference if West is alert (we need more lerts!) and plays the ♠Q. North can duck and hope for ♠KQ being in the West hand, but as the cards lie there is no way to make the contract (unless you spot something I didn't).

PLAY PROBLEM #30 SOLUTION

Last month you were asked to make 6♠
On the ♣3 lead...

Dlr: South ♠ A1097
Vul: Both ♥ J104
 ♦ AK654
 ♣ A

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

♠ KQJ8
♥ A2
♦ 832
♣ J754

Contract 6♠ Lead: ♣3

East follows to the first trick. Can you see any way to 12 tricks?

Mercifully all your trumps are high here! Nevertheless, I found it difficult to spot where 12 tricks could come from. If diamonds break 3-2 then we might manage 4 diamond tricks, a club trick and a heart trick will make 6, so we need 6 tricks from trumps.

That means ruffing 2 clubs in the North hand. If we do that, we will not have entries for the diamonds unless we are very careful.

Win the lead and duck a diamond (preserving diamond entry for later in the hand). Opponents may return a heart or a trump. Let's deal with a trump return first...win it in hand with the ♠K (playing the ♠10 from dummy) , ruff a club with the ♠A and play the ♠7 to the ♠8 in hand and ruff another club with the ♠9. Now play a heart to the ♥A and draw the trumps (throwing hearts), now you play a diamond to dummy smiling slightly as they break 3-2, for you have the rest of the tricks.

I will leave it to you how to deal with a heart return at trick three.

Piyush provided the correct solution 😊

PLAY PROBLEM #31

Dlr: South ♠ Q108
Vul: Both ♥ QJ9
 ♦ A542
 ♣ Q32

♠ ?	N	♠ ?
♥ ?	W E	♥ ?
♦ ?	S	♦ ?
♣ J10?		♣ 64?

♠ AK4
♥ AK1087
♦ 8763
♣ 7

Contract 4♥ Lead: ♣J

Bidding:
East-West passed throughout.
South opened 1♥ North made a limit raise and South went on to the game contract.

You play low from dummy on the ♣J lead. East encourages, and West continues clubs. Can you see your way to 10 tricks?

Send [me](#) your solution if you can see one.

SUIT COMBINATION

You(South): J874 Partner(North): AK9.

What is the best line for 3 tricks?

And what if you need all 4 tricks?

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 [P6](#)

♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
A MINOR ERROR

This hand came from a high level match. In the open room, South made a general game try with 3♠ and was raised to game. In the closed room, South made a try in clubs and, when partner showed something useful in hearts, bid the game. In both rooms, the defence started with a club to the ace and the ♣Q returned to South's king. In the open room, declarer played a spade to the king and ducked one on the way back losing to the jack. When West played ace and another diamond, declarer could ruff, draw trumps and claim 10 tricks. In the closed room, South decided to ruff a club at trick three and West discarded a heart. After a heart to the ace, the last club was ruffed while West shed a diamond. After cashing the ♠K, declarer exited with a diamond since it was clear West was now out of hearts but the defence continued diamonds to force declarer and the bad trump split meant he had to go down.

Teams

Dlr: West ♠ K63
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ1052
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ J3

♠ J542 ♥ 98 ♦ A10943 ♣ 72	N W E S	♠ Q ♥ 643 ♦ KJ72 ♣ AQ1095
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♠ A10987
 ♥ AK7
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K864

Contract 4♠ Lead: ♣7

Bidding: Open Room

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

Bidding: Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠

Pass 2♠ Dbl 3♣
 Pass 3♥ Pass 4♠
 All Pass

The score up was not happy but can you see who was at fault and why? The defence in the open room was at fault. If they had led diamonds initially and at every turn, declarer has no chance. However, this isn't a fair criticism since partner has bid clubs and clearly has them. The problem is not thinking at trick one. East must play the ♣9 (or ♣Q if dummy plays the ♣J). This lets declarer win a trick he is always getting but it maintains communication between the defenders. If declarer draws three trumps then the defenders can cash three clubs, one diamond and one spade. If declarer cashes the ♠A and runs the ♠10 and then plays hearts while the ♠K is still an entry, West ruffs the third heart and the defence can cash ♦A, ♣A and continue clubs forcing the ♠K to ruff and promoting the ♠J. The play by East at trick one is the key to this hand.

SOLUTION TO SUIT COMBINATION

You(South): J874 Partner(North): AK9.

Needing all 4 tricks:

The best option is to attempt to drop the doubleton Q10 in either hand or the doubleton Queen in West (so after the AK drop the Q you finesse the 9). This will be successful about 10.90% of the time.

Needing 3 tricks, again you are best served by cashing the Ace and then the King and leading towards the Knave.

You can hope for any singleton or doubleton 10, any singleton or doubleton Queen or any 3-3 break or any void, singleton, or doubleton in West – since after cashing the Ace and King you will lead towards the Knave.

85.47% success rate

In case you wonder how I choose these suit combinations, This one stuck in my head after the [Rothfield Blues!](#)