

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

Last month, I, somewhat jokingly, suggested a format that might be considered for a fun one-off event.

A 'team' event where each member of the team contributed their own expertise to various aspects of the contest (ie bidding, declarer play and defence).

The former editor, Dee Harley, contributed his idea with respect to the scoring.
It follows here –

My own preference is to reward the bidders who take the risk of bidding higher to make their contract.

*Since the score at bridge always end in a 0, I liked the concept of adding the level to which the contract was bid into the units column, thus:
1NT making 8 scores 121 but 2NT making 8 gets 122.
1S making 9 -141 but 3S making 9- 143
4S+1 vul 654 but 5s+vul 655.
etc.*

Undertricks would be unaffected.

It would make little difference to IMP scores I think, but would sure spice up matchpoints!

Editor's note:

It is a very interesting concept. Using 'bridge mates' the scores would be generated automatically but trying to program the machines might be time consuming.

It would certainly reduce the likelihood of two scores being the same to settle break ties.

With the aim of offering different ideas to 'spice up' the game, perhaps other options can be considered.

There is a certain golf practice that if you win a hole, then you must drink some alcohol. Imagine, if you made a hand as declarer, you must drink some alcohol. This would ensure that the better declarers will be less effective as the event proceeded. I know that I would be severely affected early in the piece.

PLEASE TAKE ALL OF THE ABOVE AS THE STRANGE WANDERINGS OF THE MIND LIKE THAT SEEN IN JAMES JOYCE'S 'ULYSSES'.



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

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.

Note: the following two pages highlight very interesting updates from the Bridge Victoria Operating Committee.

Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC) News for August.

We have been busy! And as with the change in weather, we are hoping that the changes we are working on will make a difference to bridge across Victoria.

Trialling of state events. We are pleased to announce that the trialling of state events at other venues will start this year. There were three clubs who declared their interest in holding this event and Waverley has been selected. The event is the **Victorian Swiss Pairs** and will be held face to face at Waverley on Wednesday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of November. We hope that this event will be hugely successful.

BVOC met for their first Strategy and Planning Session this month and devoted a full Sunday to prioritising initiatives to help clubs. In preparation for the workshop, each BVOC member contacted clubs to find out their wants and needs. These were prioritised and initiatives decided. The following are the areas BVOC will pursue for the next 6 to 12 months:

- **DEMOCRATISATION.** This paper was distributed for comment to clubs by Derek Poulton. This feedback has been incorporated in the final paper. The aim is to enable fair representation from clubs across Victoria. It is envisaged that a new voting system will be in place by March next year.

- **EDUCATION.** Two streams of activity were identified.
 - Beginners: goal is to enable all clubs access to beginners' education at a reasonable cost.
 - Directors: goal is to increase director's courses per year in order to increase the number of directors and improve the qualifications of existing directors.

- **RUNNING BRIDGE.** Two streams of work identified.
 - Increase interest in state events. a variety of actions, including the trial mentioned previously, promotion, and understanding our clubs' ideas through a survey and monitoring other states.
 - Lobby the ABF for another Victorian state gold point event. look at running regionally on a weekend.

- **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING.**
 - **WEBSITE GO-LIVE.** We are launching the new bridge Victoria website in mid-September. It is regarded as a work in progress, and we would like constructive feedback and input to make this the 'one-stop' shop for all Victorian bridge players and clubs. A portal to entries and results, but also the communication of events, news and useful tools for clubs.
 - **MARKETING** This was identified as an area that clubs need help with. We plan to run workshops and post results on website for all to see.

- **GOVERNING AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION: THIS IS ALL ABOUT GROWTH OF BRIDGE ACROSS THE STATE.**
 - **GROW.** Using the new website to post tip sheets and advertise growth workshops.
 - **ATTRACT.** Further develop the offering for clubs on the website. understand the potential areas to source new players and engage.
 - **PROMOTE.** Bridge as a mind game and assist in the creation of club stories.

- **TEACHER ACCREDITATION.** Two teachers were approved for accreditation based on BV criteria. This adds to the 6 approved last month and increases our accredited teachers to 26, all of whom have contributed significantly to the development of bridge in Victoria for many years. Congratulations Leeron Branicki and Ian Mansell.

For nominations, please contact the chair of BVOC at chair@bridgevictoria.au.

- **VOLUNTEERS:** We are interested in hearing from people who would like to volunteer their time, particularly people with skills in IT, as many clubs identified this as an area where they need help.

We wish you a great month of bridge and please feel free to contact any of our members on info@bridgevictoria.au or use the website to send us a message.

PRESIDENT VBA LTD. - CHRISTOPHER LEACH

The World Bridge in Morocco!

As I write the World Bridge Championships are proceeding in Marrakech, Morocco with Australian teams in all four divisions. It is an exciting time for our representatives in an exotic location.

The Australian company BridgeTV is broadcasting daily from the Championships with excellent commentators. Link to: [About us - BridgeTV](#) if interested. You can also find Pete Hollands here, doing a great daily summary.

This is the pinnacle of the game and while less than one percent of Australian players may get to world class level, every level of bridge provides challenge and opportunity, and we can only learn from watching these great players.

Bridge as a Mind Game.

It is interesting that the benefits for mental agility and social interaction that bridge provides are equally valid at any level. In fact, one could suggest that, for beginners and improving players, each increase in capacities at the table, be they related to bidding, card play or defence, provides new neural connections and enhances the plasticity of our minds, to say nothing of its effects on our confidence and enjoyment of the game.

The Organisation of Bridge in Victoria.

Many people have been asking members of Council either for basic information about, or updates on, the profound changes that bridge administration and organisation has undergone in Victoria. I am happy to reiterate for those who missed earlier explanations and provide some recent news.

Over the last few years, the VBA Council has pursued a strategy to enable a more secure future and better representation for Victorian bridge clubs and a better environment for our club members. We are now at the stage where we are implementing the organisational model to support these objectives. We have restructured the VBA Organisation such that there is separation of State and Club activities and accounting.



The VBA Council, the Board of the Victorian Bridge Association Limited (VBA), will continue to provide oversight, governance and overall direction. A Shared Services function will provide accounting and IT services to all areas. Both BVOC and the VBC OC, described below, will report into the VBA Board.

State operations are now managed by the **Bridge Victoria Operations Committee** (BVOC) to be supported in due course by a State Manager. BVOC, representing clubs across Victoria, will be influential in determining and directing initiatives to grow and improve bridge across the state.

Club operations is to be under the direction of the **VBC Operations Committee**. The move to Dendy Park and the merging of two bridge clubs, creating the VBC, has relocated the club into an environment which is lower cost, with excellent parking and better facilities for players. The club is now administratively separated from state activities, with its own web-site.

These changes are envisaged to improve bridge in Victoria by enabling focus on what the game and clubs needs to grow. The settlement of Poath Road permits genuine funding of initiatives to grow our great game. We look forward to unfolding the next page of our new chapter.

Editor's Note:

The following picture (although a little blurred) shows the amazing venue in Marrakech.

The Australian teams and the other competing countries are in awe of the playing area.



TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

NORTH

♠KQ32
♥A2
♦T32
♣6543

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠J954
♥JT43
♦AJ
♣K72

West leads the ♦4 and, after East plays the ♦K, South wins the ♦A. and then

Decide how you are going to play this contract.

There are a few things that must go right to make this contract.

What is your plan from here?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1♦	DBL	2♦
DBL	P	3♠	P
P	P		

The less said about the bidding the better but you find yourself in an aggressive (but not totally unreasonable) contract of 3♠.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

West leads the ♠Q.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

NORTH

♠A9543
♥AT
♦J9432
♣4

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠K
♥KQ9842
♦8
♣KJT76

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♥	2♠
P	P	3♣	P
3NT	DBL	4♥	P
P	DBL	P	P
P			

2♠ is a weak (albeit vulnerable) jump

BRIDGE HUMOUR



REMEMBERING A GREAT – BOBBY RICHMAN

I never had the pleasure of partnering or playing in the same team as Bobby Richman but I had played against him many times.

He passed away suddenly in a hotel room waiting to play in the Asia Pacific bridge championships in Hong Kong in 2013. The same event that I mentioned in a previous 'Bridge Humour' article with my Mandarin experience against Chinese opposition. There were three Australian senior teams scheduled to play at this event. After Bobby's death, the two other Australian teams were discussing whether they should withdraw from the tournament but it was eventually decided that they should play.

He had an amazing record in bridge tournaments. His many excellent results on the national and international stage have been documented elsewhere. My experiences playing against him were always challenging but always enjoyable.

They were challenging because he was technically gifted and also knew how to exert pressure on the opponents. In the auction, he would make well designed bids to make your life difficult. I can remember several occasions where a well-judged bid by Bobby would give me an extremely awkward problem that a 'coin-flip' seemed my best option. It is surprising how often a 'coin-flip' in these situations came up the wrong way. Then in the play of the cards, the pressure continued because his ability to play the best card for the situation was uncanny.

They were enjoyable because he had a light hearted nature at the table. He made witty off the cuff comments while playing. They were not intended to distract the opponents but to keep a fun environment. There was always smiling faces during these encounters (until the score up at the end of the session).

If I could remember them, I could quote some of these hilarious witticisms and fill an entire bulletin.

However, I can remember one particular situation that highlighted Bobby's contribution to the general bridge scene. He travelled extensively and enjoyed life but, like other people I have known, money burned a hole in his pocket and it disappeared as fast as it was earned.

At the end of the Gold Coast bridge tournament one year, I was wandering around and decided to go to the casino and watch some tables in action whilst waiting for a friend. I happened to see a large raucous crowd around the 'Craps' table. I went over there and saw that the player with the dice in his hand was Bobby Richman. He was entertaining the other players and spectators with his witticisms. These people weren't bridge players but casino patrons that were thoroughly entertained by this showman.

I was advised later that Bobby not only put his opponents under pressure but also himself. In a very strong Gold Coast bridge congress field, Bobby had to finish in the top three of the pair's event and then first or second in the teams in order to pay for his accommodation.

He in fact won the pairs and was on the winning team in the team's event. The additional money earned for this feat was his bank roll for the night at the 'Craps' table.



RESULTS

RESULTS FOR AUGUST-VICTORIA

THEODOR HERZL CONGRESS

SUNDAY 30TH JULY

38 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1 st	Bertha Dembo	Franci Halmos
2 nd	Kae French	Sue Beckman
3 rd	Maggie Callander	Penny Corrigan

KNOX CONGRESS

SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST

50 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1 st	Lindsay Young	Jens Norlyng
2 nd	Leo Saoud	Mohamed Ghatwari
3 rd	David Samuels	Gulzar Bilal

TRARALGON CONGRESS

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 19TH/20TH AUGUST

30 pairs contested this event on the Saturday and the placegetters were

1 st	Dee Harley	Anna St Clair
2 nd	Jan Tunks	Marion Spurrier
3 rd	Jean Macleod	Alison Farthing

13 teams contested this event on the Sunday and the placegetters were

1 st	Judy Banks	George Campbell	Anna Kearon	Sandor Varga
2 nd	Sally Murray-White	Marion Spurrier	Jan Tunks	Geoff Whiting
3 rd	Sue Beckman	Kae French	Matthew Sieredzinski	Wojciech Sieredzinski

COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST

4 teams (two from the western region and 2 from the eastern region of the state) contested this event

1 st	Stephen Lester	Denny Newland	Douglas Newlands	Arthur Robbins
2 nd	Geoff Chettle	Roger Gillard	Gordon Myers	Michael Stokie
3 rd	Deborah Anglim	John Currier	Clive Hope	Alan Johnston
4 th	Kenneth McKenzie	John Quayle	Marie Sands	Matti Shub

RACV CONGRESS

SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST

58 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1 st	Dee Harley	Phillip Fent
2 nd	Neil Ewart	Christopher Leach
3 rd	Christine Louie	Herman Louie

TEAMS OF THREE

On Sunday the 6th August, the Victorian Bridge Centre at Dendy Park hosted a 'teams of three' event.

In this format, each team has an 'expert' captain and three less experienced players. The captain sits North and plays with each of the other players twice during the day over the course of six matches.

It was pleasing to see sixteen sets of three people take advantage of this 'educational' day. The results were less important than the learning experience.

By all accounts, it was a successful day. Moreover, it was pleasing to see the playing area fully utilised (which unfortunately is not often the case).



RESULTS FOR AUGUST- NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

18TH YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

VELDHOVEN THE NETHERLANDS

It ran from the 31st July to the 8th August

Veldhoven is about 130 kilometres south east of Amsterdam. A pretty rural town.



The Australian team in the Under 26 teams was

David Gue	– Joshua Tomlin
Sebastian Langdon Macmillan	– Tomer Libman
Damon Flicker	– Seb Wright
Mike Doecke (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where the partnership of Damon Flicker and Seb Wright are from Victoria and they were part of Victoria's successful Youth team in Perth.

They eventually finished 19th in a field of 24. They gained a lot of experience and an indication of what is required to feature well in these events.

USA1 finished first in the round robin and selected Singapore (who finished 8th in the round robin) as their quarter final opponents. A match in which Singapore won.

The strength of the field is perhaps shown by the composition of the USA1 team –

Noah Apteker (who has featured in the semi-final of the Gold Coast teams a few years), Zack Grossack (a well-established professional who features prominently in Open USA events), brother and sister Finn and Emma Kolesnik (where Finn was at this year's Gold Coast congress – winning the pairs and a semi-finalist in the teams), Ben Kristensen (a very promising young player) and Kevin Rosenberg (who was on the semi-final team with Finn Kolesnik in the Gold Coast this year and has played with a lot of our top players while studying in Australia). Their captain was Ishmael DelMonte (who a lot of people might remember as a major force in Australian bridge before moving to the USA).

Given this sort of talent in these events, it puts the Australian result in perspective.

The Australian team in the Under 21 teams was

Jack Luke-Paredi	– George Bartley
Lara Topper	– Jacob Rose
Alex Goss	– Bertie Morgan
Rebecca O'Reilly (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Alex Goss is from Victoria and he was part of Victoria's successful Youth team in Perth. Moreover, the non-playing captain, Rebecca O'Reilly, is Victorian and she has spent a lot of time improving youth bridge in our state.

They finished a very credible 10th in a field of 20. As in the Under 26 section, the top eight teams qualified for the knockout rounds.

COFFS HARBOUR CONGRESS

AUGUST 8TH-13TH

An event in which attracts many Victorian players.

104 pairs contested this event in the Open field and the placegetters were

1 st	Sandra Richman	Andrew Richman
2 nd	Terry Brown	Bruce Neill
3 rd	David Weston	Kim Morrison

58 teams contested this event in the Open field and the placegetters were

1 st	Andrew Mill	Justin Mill	Peter Hollands	James Coutts
2 nd	Terry Brown	Bruce Neill	David Weston	Kim Morrison
3 rd	Liz Adams	Marlene Watts	Shane Harrison	Peter Gill

The following was submitted by Dee Harley (who was at the Coffs Harbour Congress)

♠ T7
♥ K9
♦ KQJ765
♣ K82

WEST

♠ K54
♥ A65432
♦ T
♣ AJ3

EAST

♠ J963
♥ J
♦ A432
♣ T954

SOUTH

♠ AQ82
♥ QT87
♦ 98
♣ Q76

After a specialised bidding sequence where South had opened 1NT and West had overcalled by bidding 2♥, North and South bid to 3NT.

West leads the ♠4 and in the first trick the ♠7 is followed by the ♠9 and the ♠Q.

Trick 2	♦ 9	♦ T	♦ J	♦ 2
Trick 3	♦ K	♦ A	♦ 8	♥ 2
Trick 4	♠ J	♠ A	♠ 5	♠ T
Trick 5	♥ 7	♥ A	♥ 9	♥ J
Trick 6	♠ K	♣ 2	♠ 6	♠ 2
Trick 7	♥ 3	♥ K	♣ 4	♥ 8
Trick 8	♦ Q	♦ 3	♣ 6	♣ 3
Trick 9	♦ 7	♦ 4	♣ 7	♥ 4

♠
♥
♦ 65
♣ K8

WEST

♠
♥ 65
♦
♣ AJ

EAST

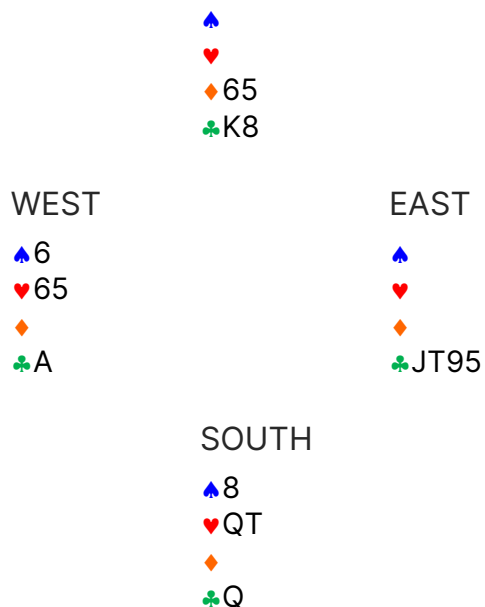
♠ 6
♥
♦
♣ T95

SOUTH

♠ 8
♥ QT
♦
♣ Q

The defence have three tricks and South is not sure whether East or West has the ♠6. (In the actual layout, it makes no difference what South does as East has no entry)

However, the final layout might be as follows.



If you play the last two ♦s from dummy, you throw the ♥T on the first but what do you throw on the last ♦ (as either of the two shown positions could occur)?

This problem is resolved by playing the ♣8 now. Now either dummy or your own hand can take three tricks no matter what West does.

According to Dee, it is 'kinda' funny that you don't run the long suit.

Editor's note: Thank you for your contribution, these things make my job easier.

46TH WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARRAKECH MOROCCO (I have seen the city spelt both ways – Marrakesh and Marrakech)

It ran from the 20th August 20 to the 2nd September

Obviously, there was exceptionally strong competition in each category. An Australian team would have done very well to finish in the top 8 in any field (where they would have competed in the knockout Quarter finals).

OPEN (BERMUDA BOWL) the open team finished 16th out of 24.

Tony Nunn	– Paul Dalley
Tony Leibowitz	– Paul Gosney
Robert Fruewirth	– Jamie Thompson
David Fryda (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Robert Fruewirth is Victorian and Jamie Thompson, although now in NSW, we claim is Victorian.

MIXED (WUHAN CUP) the mixed team finished 12th out of 24 [at various stages they were in a qualifying position].

Lauren Travis	– Phil Markey
Sophie Ashton	– David Wiltshire
Renee Cooper	– Ben Thompson
Mike Doecke (Non-Playing Captain)	

Where Ben Thompson is Victorian.

WOMEN (VENICE CUP) the team of women finished 19th out of 24.

Avril Zets	– Helena Dawson
Kinga Moses	– Nazife Bashar
Jenny Thompson (Wei Zhang)*	– Catherine Zhang
Peter Buchen (Non-Playing Captain)	

** Unfortunately, Wei Zhang was unable to play in the event, so Jenny Thompson (of Victoria) has played with Catherine Zhang throughout.*

SENIORS (D'ORSI TROPHY) the team finished 13th out of 24 [at various stages they threatened to qualify].

David Beauchamp	– Avinash Kanetkar
Stephen Burgess	– Gabi Lorentz
Robert Krochmalik	– Paul Lavings
John McIlrath (Non-Playing Captain)	



UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB 2023 CONGRESS

Ballarat Bridge Club

2023 CONGRESS

SATURDAY 9TH & SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Venue: 1001 Eyre Street, Ballarat Central 3350

Director: Martin Wilcox

Entries on Bridge Unlimited

www.bridgeunlimited.com

\$25 cash, per person, per day, payable at BBC on the day

BYO lunch. Morning & afternoon tea will be provided

**Drinks and nibbles at presentation at the end of each
day**

PROGRAM

Saturday (9.30 am registration) 10.00 am start Pairs

Sunday (9.30 am registration) 10.00 am start Teams

Convenor Bruce Morley bruce.morley@bigpond.com

MORNINGTON PENINSULA CONGRESS

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

MORNINGTON PENINSULA BRIDGE REGION

MPBR SWISS PAIRS

Description 10:00 start please arrive 15 minutes early

Directions St Francis Xavier Hall, Rear of 60 Davey Street, Frankston

Cost **Entry to the event will cost \$40.00 per player**

Lindsay Young, 0414824313, [Email](#)

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.

Entries

Club Secretaries are asked to register their Club Teams entries with the Convenor, Mike Stokie, by email to: stokiemds@gmail.com .

REAL DEAL BRIDGE 1ST CONGRESS (brochure on the following page)

By Laura Ginnan (Tournament Organiser)

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to join our inaugural Congress. At the heart of the event, and its planning is the goal of delivering a top-quality event that is full of fun, smiles and opportunities for all.

The Congress begins with a full day of development workshops by the powerhouse teaching trio of Peter Hollands, Mary Elson and myself. We then move into the ever-popular Swiss Pairs format which features one of the rare opportunities for newer players to compete in their own under 20 Masterpoint section - this is a great chance for newer players who might even be dipping their toes in the Congress scene for the first time. On Saturday, the Graded Pairs event divides the field into sections so that pairs only compete against nine other partnerships who are all of a similar skill level. This will mean that less experienced players feel right at home and the sharks will be vying for top honours in a great field. Rounding out the program on Sunday is my personal favourite - Swiss Teams.

The creative and carefully curated event program isn't the only thing a little outside of the box. We'd love to see a great turnout of players from outside the metropolis and are pioneering a Billeting Program to match up metro players with a spare room(s) with regional players who would enjoy staying with fellow bridge players. The billeting program will make it that bit easier for regional players to join and we will also be providing a small fuel subsidy to players from afar to help with the costs of attending.

Whether this will be your first Congress or your 100th, I look forward to delivering a great event for you and hope that you will support our inaugural Congress with your attendance.

Entries are taken on our website at www.realdealbridge.com/congress. The website is also filled with great information to find out more about the events and plan your weekend.

Please don't hesitate to reach me at laura@realdealbridge.com or on 0411 694 248 (email preferred) if you have any questions, are looking for a partner/teammates, or would like to be involved in the Billeting Program.

Laura Ginnan

Managing Director





**REAL
DEAL
BRIDGE**

is proud to present our

1st ANNUAL CONGRESS

Whether it's your 1st or your 100th Congress, this event promises an unforgettable experience for all. We take immense pride in curating a program to intrigue and challenge players of all skill levels and can't wait to bring together bridge enthusiasts from near and far.

It might be our first Congress but we are hitting the ground running with a billeting program to unite metro players who are eager to welcome regional guests, a whole day dedicated to teaching and empowering players to enhance their skills and a venue impress.

THURSDAY 28th SEPT – SUNDAY 1st OCT 2023
THE VILLAGE GREEN HOTEL MULGRAVE

[To secure your entry now or find out more CLICK HERE](#)

 [The Village Green Hotel](#)  events@realdealbridge.com

AN EARLY NOTICE OF A CONGRESSES IN OCTOBER

BAIRNSDALE CONGRESS

Saturday 14th October – Swiss Pairs 12 noon

Sunday 15th October – Swiss Teams 10.00am.

Venue: St. Mary's Parish Centre

(enter through McDonalds car park)

[Email: langdonggoode@gmail.com](mailto:langdonggoode@gmail.com)

Jane West

Congress Secretary



Proudly presents

THE RIVERSLEIGH AND EAST GIPPSLAND IMMERSION

WITH MARY ELSON AND LAURA GINNAN

October 10th – 15th

Renowned bridge teachers, Laura Ginnan and Mary Elson join forces to create the East Gippsland Bridge Immersion. Indulge in this ultimate escape of development workshops hosted by the Paynesville and Bairnsdale Bridge Clubs, local experiences and the springtime beauty of East Gippsland. The 4-star Riversleigh Hotel in Bairnsdale will be your home away from home and the holiday runs alongside the Bairnsdale Bridge Club Congress where you can test out your new skills.



ABOUT MARY ELSON

Mary has been teaching bridge for over 30 years and was named as the first Victorian Teacher Of The Year. Clarity and consistency are her watchwords. Mary has a way of communicating the logic behind 'all those rules' and delivers lessons with patience, humour and flair to ensure that her students enjoy their lessons as they gain skills and challenge themselves.



ABOUT LAURA GINNAN

Laura has won multiple National Championships and is a regular on the Victorian Womens Team. She is a National level 2 qualified director and has won a bronze medal in the World Junior Championships when representing Australia. As a teacher, Laura is relaxed, approachable, & patient and enjoys the challenge of delivering thought-provoking content with cards in your hands as much as possible.

www.realdealbridge.com/gippsland-immersion
to find out more or secure your booking today!

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

TERRITORY GOLD BRIDGE FESTIVAL

ALICE SPRINGS

SEPTEMBER 6TH – 10TH

Sessions: Matchpoint Pairs - Sept 6th 9.30am and 2.15 pm and Sept 7th 9.30am

Swiss Teams - Sept 7th 2.15pm Sept 8th 9.30am and 2.15pm

Swiss Pairs (with PQP's) - Sept 9th & 10th at 9.30am & 2.15 pm

ALL WITH GOLD MASTERPOINTS and CASH PRIZES

HGR MEMORIAL CONGRESS

PERTH

SEPTEMBER 16TH – 17TH

The Hans G. Rosendorff Memorial Congress comprises two GOLD POINT events:

Mixed Swiss Pairs with PQP:

(1st 20, 2nd 14, 3rd 10, 4th 6, 5th 4 and 6th 2)

Restricted Swiss Pairs:

Open to players with less than 300 Masterpoints as of 31 March 2023.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONGRESS

MT MAUNGANUI

SEPTEMBER 23RD – 30TH

The 37th New Zealand National Bridge Congress is the premier bridge event in our annual calendar. In 2022, we saw just over 600 players attend for some or all of the 8-day period. We are confident that there will be a greater number in 2023. We will be providing full information on prices and events in due course.

There will be some changes this year. We will be returning to the original 3 stage competition for New Zealand Open Pairs while the Restricted Open Pairs will be a 3-session qualifying and a 3 session Final/Plate event. Day 3 for those

who do not make the Final or Plate of the New Zealand Open Pairs will be a 1-day MatchPoint Swiss Pairs event. There be a 1-day Intermediate and a 1-day Junior Pairs event on Sunday 24th September.

The NZ Open Teams Swiss Qualifying on Tuesday and Wednesday will be 8x 14 board matches, as will the Restricted Open, Intermediate and Junior Teams which run alongside it. In NZ Open Teams, top16 will still qualify for the knock-out stages and there will be the normal 36 board Round of 16 on Thursday morning. However, the Quarter and semi-finals are being replaced by a Round of 4, involving 3 matches on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. The winners of each group will contest a 60 board final on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

For those who do not qualify for the Round of 16, and those in the other Teams competitions, Thursday morning will be free though there will be walk-ins available. There will be a series of Match-Point Pairs events on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning (2-session) and a series of Swiss Pairs events on Friday afternoon and Saturday, 2 1/2 sessions, finishing with a finger-food reception and prize-giving as per 2022.

There will be other changes to session times/lunch breaks which we will tell you about closer to the time.

The Organising Committee hopes these changes will produce an improved Congress for all.

The 37th New Zealand National Bridge Congress is the premier bridge event in our annual calendar. In 2022, we saw just over 600 players attend for some or all of the 8-day period. We are confident that there will be a greater number in 2023. We will be providing full information on prices and events in due course.

There will be some changes this year. We will be returning to the original 3 stage competition for New Zealand Open Pairs while the Restricted Open Pairs will be a 3-session qualifying and a 3 session Final/Plate event. Day 3 for those who do not make the Final or Plate of the New Zealand Open Pairs will be a 1-day MatchPoint Swiss Pairs event. There be a 1-day Intermediate and a 1-day Junior Pairs event on Sunday 24th September.

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CANBERRA IN BLOOM BRIDGE FESTIVAL

CANBERRA

SEPTEMBER 29TH – OCTOBER 2ND

This event contains

- a variety of Swiss Pairs events for open and restricted fields.
- Open and Mixed team categories

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	3♥	P	P
DBL	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Dummy as NORTH

♠A65
♥87
♦KQ4
♣AKJ76

Your hand as EAST

♠K8
♥KQJ6543
♦T6
♣83

Partner leads the ♥A and another ♥.
Everybody follows to two rounds of ♥s.

What do you lead now?

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

What is your plan from here to defeat this contract (if possible)?

Answer at the end of the bulletin

OTHER

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS – AS UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN JULY 2023

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Owen, Robynne	Silver National
Bayside Bridge Club	Hallett, Disa	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Lee, Kim	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Lloyd, Alexandra	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Scanlan, Sandy	Club
Bendigo Bridge Club	Dempsey, Eamon	Club
Bendigo Bridge Club	Martin, Tony	Silver Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Raw, Jo	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Young, Charles	Bronze State
Berwick Bridge Club	Patullo, Philip	Silver Local
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Blecher, Miriam	Bronze Local
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Newman, Fran	Silver Local
Donald Bridge Club	Brasier, Brian	Bronze State
Donald Bridge Club	Brasier, Enid	Bronze State
Frankston Bridge Club	Shaw, Libby	Bronze Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Sieredzinski, Matthew	State
Geelong Bridge Club	Foard, Glenn	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Gdak, Michael	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Gude, Rhonda	Regional
Geelong Bridge Club	Lee, Linda	Silver Local
Geelong Bridge Club	McGonigal, Jean	Regional
Geelong Bridge Club	Smigowski, Pam	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Laidlaw, Kerry	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Sheahan, Jeanette	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Wooldridge, Sue	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Wright, Alison	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Wrobel, Pauline	Bronze Regional
Lyceum Club	Duke, Janet	Graduate
Maine Bridge Club	Costello, Lyn	Local
Maine Bridge Club	Ludbrook, Kylie	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Arnott, Toni	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hsu, Linda	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	McMahon, Peter	Club
Mornington Bridge Club	Blane, Rowena	Graduate
Mornington Bridge Club	Dwyer, Joan	Graduate
Mornington Bridge Club	Murphy, Fay	Graduate
Mornington Bridge Club	Spargo, Jill	Graduate
Nagambie Bridge Club	Davey, Irene	Bronze Local

Northern Bridge Club	Darmody, Rose	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Liu, Anita	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Pernat, Marie	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Apted, Carmel	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jebb, Reg	Graduate
Paynesville Bridge Club	Schwabegger, Rosemarie	Life
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Dooley, Mike	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Gray, Joan	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Olsen, Jo	Silver Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Watson, Eily	Bronze Local
Sale Bridge Club	Baldwin, Steve	Silver Local
Sale Bridge Club	Steele, Marilyn	Graduate
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Graham	Club
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Kath	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Fowler, Alan	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Gosch, Marg	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Hume, Andrew	Bronze Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Owen, Margaret	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Walsh, Sandra	Bronze Local
Traralgon Bridge Club	Chand, Roshni	State
Traralgon Bridge Club	Lohr, Glenis	Bronze Life
Victorian Bridge Association	Douglas, Linda	Club
Victorian Bridge Association	Finn, Sharon	Club
Victorian Bridge Association	Jasper, Colin	Life
Victorian Bridge Association	King, Annette	Bronze Regional
Victorian Bridge Association	Michaels, Barry	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Balachandiran, Kandapillai	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Crook, Sue	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Dean, Colleen	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Goldwater, Steve	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Jerkovic, Debbie	National
Waverley Bridge Club	Lucas, Stephen	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Spreckley, Michele	Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Clark, Billy	Club
Williamstown Bridge Club	Lloyd, John	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Robertson, John	National
Wodonga Bridge Club	Kielbasa, Kim	Regional

Congratulations to all of the above.

The following podcast is regularly heard by several bridge players.

I found most interviews excellent and I encourage you to listen for yourself. So, I have included the details here.

Sorry Partner Podcast



Did you know that the World's most popular bridge podcast is co-hosted by a Victorian! Sorry Partner is a podcast about bridge and all things interesting to bridge players, presented by bridge partners and besties, Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz. During each episode Catherine and Jocelyn interview expert players from around the globe, discussing anything and everything from top tips to the funniest thing that's ever happened at a game. If you're looking to take your bridge obsession to new heights (or lows), then welcome to the table.

This week Catherine and Jocelyn interview ABF Councillor and Victorian Justin Mill. Other Victorians including Peter Hollands (episode from August 3rd) and Andrew Mill have been interviewed along with superstars from all over the globe.

Check out their podcast at <https://sorrpartner.com>

JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE



Editor's Note: Jenny Thompson was a last-minute replacement for an unwell member of the Australian Women' team in Marrakesh. She has been very busy playing but still sent the following article.

I am currently in Marrakesh playing alongside hundreds of bridge champions and lovers of our game.

I have had many conversations with representatives from different countries and they are all looking into the future of the game after covid. The future may be a hybrid of online and face to face but there is a future.

This will need a concerted effort from everyone. Please encourage players to become involved, either socially, at club or at state level. At State level the events starting in Sept are the Online Victoria Open Pairs (starting 4th Sept) and the Pennant teams, the event that dates right back to 1934, which commences on 6th.

Thank you

Jenny Thompson

Chair MTC



FEEDBACK

An interesting decision at the Team of 3 contest at the Victorian Bridge Centre

What do you bid on the following hand when partner opens 1NT (15-17) and the next hand passes?

SOUTH

♠98
♥T8752
♦AKT842
♣

This is a very interesting situation.

1. The safe course is to bid 2NT as a transfer to 3♦s and pass. This will almost certainly produce a plus score of 110 in the contract.
2. Another option is to bid 2NT as a transfer to 3♦s and then bid 3♥ as a natural game force. The potential problem with doing this is that partner is going to bid 3NT even with a three-card ♥ suit (not playing you for a five-card ♥ suit).
3. A third option is to highlight the five-card ♥ suit by bidding 2♦ as a transfer to ♥s and then bidding 3♦ as a game force. At least this way, partner may well bid 4♥ with a three-card ♥ suit of their own. Another plus, if partner bids 3NT, is that you have probably stopped a ♥ lead from the opponents and partner has a nice potential source of tricks in ♦s.

Does your action depend on the vulnerability? Possibly I suspect.

Which action do you prefer?

There is no right or wrong answer and it might well depend on the nature of your glass (half full or half empty).

Please submit your queries to the email address.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? – SEPT Solution

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	3♥	P	P
DBL	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

♠A65
♥87
♦KQ4
♣AKJ76

♠K8
♥KQJ6543
♦T6
♣83

Partner leads the ♥A and another ♥.
Everybody follows to two rounds of ♥s.

What do you lead now?

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

What is your plan from here to defeat this contract (if possible)?

For the jump to 4♠, South must have a non-minimum. Therefore, South will probably have the ♦A (if not, then it is probably not going anywhere).

So, assuming South has the ♦A, the only hope is in the ♠ suit.

You need to promote trump tricks in West's hand. The way to do this is by giving declarer a ruff and a sluff in ♥s (despite what most people say, this does work sometimes).

There are several ♠ holdings that West might hold that are relevant including J9X (JTX, Q7X and QT doubleton). Lead another ♥.

If West has ♠J9X, for example, if South ruffs the third round of ♥s with the ♠T, then West overruffs with the ♠J forcing the ♠A in dummy. You, as East, win the first ♠ and then lead another ♥ promoting West's ♠9.

Try it yourself on the other ♠ holdings by West suggested for defeating the contract.

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – SEPT Solution

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

NORTH

♠KQ32
♥A2
♦T32
♣6543

WEST

♠876
♥K98
♦Q654
♣QT9

EAST(D)

♠AT
♥Q765
♦K987
♣AJ8

SOUTH

♠J954
♥JT43
♦AJ
♣K72

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1♦	DBL	2♦
DBL	P	3♠	P
P	P		

The less said about the bidding the better but you find yourself in an aggressive (but not totally unreasonable) contract of 3♠.

'''

West leads the ♦4 and, after East plays the ♦K, South wins the ♦A. and then

Decide how you are going to play this contract.

There are a few things that must go right to make this contract.

What is your plan from here?

You have at least one loser in every suit and that is all you can afford.

Therefore, given that West led a 4th best ♦, use you ♦ pips to get rid of a potential ♣ loser before the defence switch to the suit.

Therefore, at trick 2 (before pulling trumps) lead the ♦J and, if the defence now switch to a ♣ (of course you need West to hold the Ace), then win the first or second ♣ (depending upon when they take the Ace) and go over to the ♥A and throw your remaining ♣ the ♦T.

Now you have a fighting chance (still some luck is needed). Trying to cross ruff as much as possible, you lead the ♥2 from dummy and hope you can hold your trump losers to one.

The following layout is one of your options to make the contract.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH AUG 23 SOLUTION

The following hand took place both vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q32
♥ AJ73
♦ J4
♣ AJ43

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ KJ65
♥ Q4
♦ AKQ632
♣ 5

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

4♦ was Minorwood and 5♣ showed two + Q of trumps

The bidding was a little agricultural but you, as South, must give yourself the best shot.

TP sent the following succinct email –

Heart finesse must work and S suit has to break or look for East with Ax. After the CA play S2 from dummy and play K or J from hand if A failed to surface. Then play trumps 3 or 4 rounds as required. Then play H4 from hand and J from dummy. Now play S3 from dummy. Either SA come up now, if not hope S to be 3-3

Thank you, TP for taking the time.

West leads the ♣7.

You win the ♣A

East follows suit.

Obviously, the ♥ finesse must be working and a reasonable ♦ break (not 5 – 0).

What is your plan from here?

This is a shocking contract. Yes, you need the ♥ finesse but what about your 4th ♠ (there will be no ♦s in dummy after you pull trumps).

A 3 – 3 split in ♠s will work out fine but is there anything better (without seriously risking the contract)?

If East has specifically AX in ♠s, you can give yourself a possible extra chance. Assuming West would have led a singleton ♠, a possible line of play is ♦A and then ♦J and playing a small ♠ toward the ♠K.

If West wins the ♠A, then you **only** need a 3 – 3 ♠ break and the ♥ finesse

If the ♠K holds, then pull the remaining trump(s), finesse the ♥ and play another small ♠ toward the ♠J. if the ♠A doesn't appear, you have to hope for a 3 – 3 break.