

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2023

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

As you read this month's bulletin, I will be in Sydney.

Our son's family is returning from England and they are setting up their base in Sydney's inner western suburbs. My wife and I will try and assist with babysitting (grandparent sitting) and other household chores in the transition

Just before they returned, our nine-year-old grandson was one of the lead singers at a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Ralph Waldo Emerson apparently coined the phrase that an "apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

There must have been several apple trees near the hospital when he was born because he certainly didn't get his musical talent from this apple tree or from his parents.

I will be playing some bridge at the Spring Nationals in Sydney so I will not be entirely isolated from playing bridge. After taking care of two very active grandchildren for a week, bridge will be a piece of cake.



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.



VICTORIAN SWISS PAIRS

Wednesday: Nov 08, 15, 22 & 29, 7:30pm

To be hosted at The Waverley Bridge Club
21A Electra Avenue Ashwood Vic 3147

This is the first state event to be held at Waverley so we encourage all players to come and make this a successful event.

A State **RED POINT** event!

- This is a State IMP-Scored pairs event, with the match results then converted to VPs.
- It is open to all players who are registered members of an affiliated Victorian Club
- Cost will be \$16 per night. Please click [here](#) to enter.

bridgevictoria.au

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared in a team match

West leads the ♣5 and, after East plays the ♣J, South wins the ♣Q. and then

You lead the ♦7 and West plays the ♦Q.

What do you do now?

What is your plan from here?

NORTH

♠98
♥T8752
♦AKT842
♣

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠AKQ7
♥96
♦765
♣AQT7

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1NT	P
2♦	P	2♥	P
3♦	P	3NT	ALL PASS

The bidding was one of the options in last month's FEEDBACK column.

Whether you agree or not, your job is to make 3NT.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

NORTH

♠KQT96
♥T7
♦64
♣KJ43

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠6
♥AK8532
♦AQ953
♣5

After you insert the ♣J, East thinks for a little while (you think to yourself that where there is life there is hope).

East eventually wins the ♣A and exits with the ♦K and after you win the ♦A, West follows with the ♦2.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

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

You could have possibly bid 3♦ over 1♠ but that would have been a splinter agreeing ♠s and besides you agreed beforehand that 2♦ was forcing. After partner bids 2♥, you come to life and eventually bid 4♥ when partner cooperates with some points.

While you, as South, are waiting for West to lead, you see that they play reverse count and attitude and lead 4th best.

West leads the ♣2.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



Many years ago, an Australian representative team travelled to an event on the other side of the world. Australia was a country recognised for its relaxed lifestyle and dangerous creatures but not for its prowess at bridge.

At the entrance to the venue, there was a sign pointing to the location of a notice board. The notice board indicated the names of all the participating teams and an outline of the draw and the playing times for each session.

Whilst standing beside the notice board, one of the Australian team members heard the following comment.

“It is a pity that the Australian team spent so much effort to come here to play just to finish in last place. It is such a long way to come. This is a strong field containing world renowned experts”. The person making this comment was a playing member of the country hosting this major international event.

The Australian team member had just arrived at the venue after a long plane trip and a long wait in line for the mandatory custom procedures. After leaving the airport, he then had to find a taxi and indicate to the driver, who didn't speak English, where he wanted to be taken. Therefore, while overhearing this comment, he was casually dressed and not wearing any recognisable Australian team garments.

Not wishing to make any comment, the Australian representative went to the front desk of the hotel to get his room keys. He settled into his room and lay down on the bed for a rest after such a tiring journey. While he was resting, he thought about what he had just heard and hoped that the team could prove the comment to be untrue.

During the week-long tournament, the Australian player was busy concentrating at the bridge table and trying to get sufficient rest at night. He had completely forgotten the comment that he heard when he arrived.

The Australian team were not leading the multiple round robin event but they were always within the top group of the field. Good play, lots of rest and great morale in the team ensured that they remained very competitive for the duration of the event.

At the end of week, the Australian team's consistent performance earned them a bronze medal. All the players on the team had contributed equally to achieve such an excellent result.

The next morning, each member packed their belongings and went down to the foyer of the hotel to check out and wait for transportation back to the airport.

Since there was a delay in the taxis arriving, the Australian team representative went back to the notice board that he had seen at the start of the event. The placing of the various teams was listed under a heading called the final results. He glanced at the results and noticed that the team representing the host country had finished last. He turned around to go back to the rest of the team when he noticed the gentlemen who had made the comment when he arrived.

He rather cheekily said, “At least you didn't have to come far”.



RESULTS

RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER-VICTORIA

BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB 2023 CONGRESS

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 9TH/10TH SEPTEMBER

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

1 st	Denny Newland	Michael Stokie
2 nd	Douglas Newlands	Arthur Robbins
3 rd	Greg Nunn	Philip Young

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

1 st	Gavin Bailey	Kirsten Bailey	Douglas Newlands	Arthur Robbins
2 nd	John Campbell	Anne Fennell	Ping Li	Tony Li
3 rd	Damon Flicker	Kim Frazer	Kitty Muntz	Danny Sharp

MORNINGTON PENINSULA CONGRESS

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

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

1 st	Ming Zhang	John Yang
2 nd	Neil Ewart	David Beckett
3 rd	Dee Harley	Anna St Clair

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS EVENT

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

32 teams across many clubs contested this event on the Sunday and the placegetters were

1 st	Anthea Bickford	Leslie Decker	Joan Gray	Caroline Marshall
2 nd	David Casey	Douglas Newlands	John Prowse	Arthur Robbins
3 rd	Harry Blamires	Lanny Chan	Chris Lamb	John Robertson

REAL DEAL BRIDGE 1ST CONGRESS

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

The results will be in next month's bulletin.

RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER- NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

TERRITORY GOLD BRIDGE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 6TH – 10TH

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

1 st	Phil Gue	George Kozakos
2 nd	Shiela Bird	Felicity Smyth
3 rd	Gwyneira Brahma	Dave Munro

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

1 st	Sheila Bird	Caprice Davey	Jon Hunt	Justin Williams
2 nd	Don Allen	Geoff Holman	Chris Ingham	David Matthews
3 rd	Michael Byrne	Julia Watson	Peter Watson	William Van Bakel

HGR MEMORIAL CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 17TH

34 pairs contested this mixed pairs event on the Sunday and the placegetters were

1 st	Kimberley Zhao	Alan Cransberg
2 nd	Mimi Packer	Jonathan Free
3 rd	Leone Fuller	Trevor Fuller

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 OCTOBER

WARRNAMBOOL BRIDGE CLUB 2023 CONGRESS

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 7TH/8TH OCTOBER

Swiss pairs registration at 11:30am for play starting at noon on the Saturday (BYO lunch).

Team's registration at 9:30am for play starting at 10:00am on the Sunday (lunch and afternoon tea provided).

Register with Jan Cooke 0438724609.

BAIRNSDALE BRIDGE CLUB 2023 CONGRESS

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 14TH/15TH OCTOBER

Swiss pairs play starting at noon on the Saturday.

Team's play starting at 10:00am on the Sunday.

Venue: St. Mary's Parish Centre

(enter through McDonalds car park)

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

Jane West

Congress Secretary

SUNBURY BRIDGE CLUB 2023 CONGRESS

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Swiss Pairs is a 10:am start (lunch provide)

Sunbury Bowling Club 49 Riddell Road Sunbury

WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB 2023 SUPER CONGRESS

FRIDAY/SATURDAY/SUNDAY 27TH/28TH/29TH OCTOBER

SPONSORED BY TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL

Generous Prize Money

Director for all 3 days - Laurie Kelso

FRIDAY 27th, 10am

Open Match Point Swiss Pairs (\$90 Per Pair) [BOOK HERE](#)

Under 100 Match point Swiss Pairs (\$90 Per Pair) [BOOK HERE](#)

SATURDAY 28th, 10am

Swiss Pairs (\$90 Per Pair) [BOOK HERE](#)

SUNDAY 29th, 10am

Swiss Teams (\$180 Per Team) [BOOK HERE](#)

BYO lunch. High-quality grazing snacks, tea & coffee provided



**REAL
DEAL
BRIDGE**

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

AUSTRALIA WIDE KNOCKOUT TEAMS FINALS

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

There are still two Victorian teams left in the Quarter Final draw in the open division

The Victorian Bridge Centre team

ISMAIL GULEC, MARGARET YUILL, MARGARET KLASSEN, CHRISTOPHER LEACH, MICHAEL SULLIVAN

The Moonee Valley team

GEORGE LOVRECZ, THILAK RANASINGHE, GORDON MCROBERT, KIM FRAZER

SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS

WEDNESDAY TO WEDNESDAY 18TH/25TH OCTOBER

Canterbury Racecourse

See the details on the ABF website.

AUSTRALIA WIDE RESTRICTED PAIRS

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY 25TH/31ST OCTOBER

See the details on the ABF website.

THE FOLLOWING PAGE SHOWS A FLYER FOR A NOVEMBER EVENT

WODONGA BRIDGE CLUB

invites you to

A Weekend of Lessons and Play

With Jan Hackett

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th November 2023

Venue: Senior Citizens Club Wodonga
15 Havelock St, Wodonga, 3690

Saturday and Sunday

10.30 - 12.30	Improving & Intermediate Lesson with practical component
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch - Bring your own
1.30 - 4.30	Afternoon bridge play (open to all Border area and ABF registered bridge players)

Cost and Payment

\$10.00	per day for Wodonga Club Members
\$15.00	per day for non members
\$5.00	per day for afternoon bridge session

Cash or Credit Card on the day (we have a Square Reader)

Tea/Coffee/light refreshments provided each day.

For registration (required for planning) or for further information please contact:

Mary Prowse 0401132074 or mary.prowse@bigpond.com

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	1♥	DBL	P
2♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

Dummy as NORTH

♠93
♥A9
♦AQ9543
♣832

Your hand as EAST

♠AJ8
♥K7652
♦JT2
♣J9

Nothing serious, it is just the world championships.

South's initial DBL shows at least four ♠s and when partner shows no interest, South bids 3NT.

Your style is 4th best and partner leads the ♣5. You play the ♣J and South plays the ♣6.

What do you do now?

This problem is difficult.

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

Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC) News for September.

The focus this month has been on launching the Bridge Victoria website. This is a major initiative to match our new organisation with a fit for purpose portal to all things bridge in Victoria for clubs and players. We are depending on Victorian clubs and players to contribute to making this successful.

Another major first is fast approaching - the trialling of a state event at Waverley Bridge Club. Please support the Victorian Swiss Pairs which is to be held face to face at Waverley, Wednesday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of November. We hope this event will be hugely successful.

BVOC met on the 26th of September 2023 for their regular operational meeting. The following matters were addressed:

- TEACHER ACCREDITATION.** Three teachers were nominated and approved for accreditation based on Bridge Victoria criteria. This increases our accredited teachers to 29, all of whom have contributed significantly to the development of bridge in Victoria for many years.
CONGRATULATIONS TO JANET HILL, PAUL HILL AND JENNY HOFF, FROM THE WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB.
For nominations, please contact the chair of BVOC at chair@bridgevictoria.au.
- STATE DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE VACANCY.** It was proposed and accepted that Bob House (president of the RACV bridge club) fill this vacancy.
- SUPPORT ROLES.** Two part-time support roles have been identified, one IT role to support the new website functionality and provide IT support to clubs and the other to help with administrative matters such as updating our documents and to assist in promotion activities.
- STRATEGY.** Next steps are agreeing specific actions, timelines and responsibilities.
- WEBSITE GO-LIVE.** We are launching the new **BRIDGE VICTORIA WEBSITE ON SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER.** The aim is to create a one stop portal to all things bridge in Victoria for both clubs and players. It is a work in progress, and we would like constructive feedback and input to make this a valuable site for all.
 - For the new website link to Bridgevictoria.au and check it out. Clubs could provide details on congress results, communication of events and news to make it more valuable.
 - For the VBC website link to [Victorian Bridge Centre, Brighton, Vic Australia \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://Victorian Bridge Centre, Brighton, Vic Australia (bridgewebs.com)). This site is for all things about the Victorian Bridge Centre club but will also contain links to state events.
 - The VBA website will continue to exist, as a signpost to the BV and VBC sites, but also will contain and reflect the governance role of the VBA.

We wish you a great month of bridge and please feel free to contact us at this email address: info@bridgevictoria.au.

PROMOTIONS FOR AUGUST 2023

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Lowe, Annette	Local
Ballarat Bridge Club	Hill, John	Graduate
Ballarat Bridge Club	Morley, Bruce	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Blackett-Smith, Libby	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Bruton, Liz	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Ferguson, Karen	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Fitzgerald, Faith	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Hewett, Lorraine	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Koschade, Sue	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Noal, Wandini	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Siedle, Mark	Graduate
Benalla Bridge Club	Wagner, George	Silver National
Bendigo Bridge Club	Shaw, Polly	Club
Bendigo Bridge Club	Williams, Jan	Silver Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Friend, Kevin	Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Fisher, Curt	Bronze State
Frankston Bridge Club	Webster, Ross	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Crompton, Lilian	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Blyton, Jennifer	Regional
Geelong Bridge Club	Bowden, Phillip	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Drutchinin, Merri	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Munro, Maree	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Renshaw, Dianne	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Webb, Harvey	Club
Kattery Bridge Club	Kraehe, Graham	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Anderson, Denyse	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Everingham, Lisa	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Paterson, Judi	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Sofer, Dot	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Stuk, Louis	Bronze Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Burton, Cate	Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Duffy, Ruth	Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Mactier, Evelyn	Local
Maine Bridge Club	Jamieson-Ballard, Gryff	Club
Maine Bridge Club	Noble, Shelagh	Graduate
MCC Bridge Club	Whitford, Lindsay	Club
Melbourne Bridge Club	Muller, Barbara	Bronze Local
Melton Bridge Club	Urban, Bill	Graduate
Mildura Bridge Club	Mackay, Fran	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Buchanan, Lynn	Graduate

Moonee Valley Bridge Club
 Moonee Valley Bridge Club
 Nagambie Bridge Club
 Nagambie Bridge Club
 Nagambie Bridge Club
 Northern Bridge Club
 Northern Bridge Club
 Northern Bridge Club
 Northern Bridge Club
 Northern Bridge Club
 Ocean Grove Bridge Club
 Ocean Grove Bridge Club
 Ocean Grove Bridge Club
 Ocean Grove Bridge Club
 OZ Bridge Club
 Phillip Island Bridge Club
 Phillip Island Bridge Club
 Phillip Island Bridge Club
 RACV Bridge Group
 RACV Bridge Group
 Royal South Yarra Bridge Club
 Royal South Yarra Bridge Club
 Royal South Yarra Bridge Club
 Royal South Yarra Bridge Club
 Royal South Yarra Bridge Club
 Sale Bridge Club
 South Gippsland Bridge Club
 Traralgon Bridge Club
 U3A Knox Bridge Club
 Victorian Bridge Association
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 Waverley Bridge Club
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 Waverley Bridge Club

Gregory, Stuart	Club
Hanmer, Ian	State
Purbrick, Clare	Silver Local
Smith, Peter C	Graduate
Starmans, Ofa	Regional
Bruinsma, Jeanette	Bronze Local
Crawford, Marg	Graduate
Leighton, Bob	Regional
Millen, Joy	Regional
Speirs, Barbara	Graduate
Clark, Colin	Graduate
Clark, Glenys	Graduate
Gregory, Hank	Silver Local
Smith, Jenny	Bronze Regional
Aronson, Heather	Club
Shaw, Caroline	Regional
Short, Jill	Local
Wellwood, Marion	Silver Local
Patterson, Lynette	Club
Pattison, Dorothy	Bronze Local
Bickford, Anthea	Bronze State
Claney, Brigitte	Club
Griffith, Jillian	Bronze National
Habersberger, Pam	Graduate
Richardson, Alexandra	Silver Local
Cheyne, Carol	Bronze Local
Rinder, Philip	Local
Field, Anna	National
Churcher, Les	Silver Local
Baynham, Linda	Bronze National
Boag, Di	Graduate
Cohen, Julia	Regional
Grant, Margaret	Club
Hawkins, Annette	Local
Herbert, Lindy	Graduate
Huang, Jack	Bronze State
Kowarsky, Tamara	Local
McKenna, Lou	Silver Life
Moskowitz, Sue	Local
Sput, Michael	Silver Local
Crouch, Roderick	Graduate
Gu, Kevin	Silver Local
Hope, Carolyn	Local
Horne, Nola	Graduate
Irwin, Craig	Bronze National

Waverley Bridge Club
Waverley Bridge Club
Waverley Bridge Club
Waverley Bridge Club
Waverley Bridge Club
Waverley Bridge Club
Yarra Valley Bridge Club

Kilham, Andrew	Club
Martyn, Philip	Bronze Local
Silman, Annette	Graduate
Vermont, George	Bronze State
Weinbren, Arlene	Club
Woodard, Sharon	Graduate
Morton, Amanda	Silver Local

Congratulations to all of the above.

JENNY THOMPSON'S UPDATE



October Report

October sees the final weeks of the Pennant qualifying on Wednesday nights 4th & 11th. The semifinal and finals of the Pennant are being held on 4th & 5th November., with the winner of the Country teams joining the top 3 teams of the qualifying.

During October MTC will be putting together the 2024 Calendar of State events and club congresses for the year. Clubs have been requested to advise MTC of their proposed dates as soon as possible.

As a first the State Victorian Swiss Pairs, a four-night face to face Wednesday night event, is being held at the Waverley Bridge Club at 21A Electra Avenue, Ashwood. It runs for 4 weeks starting on Wednesday 8th November.

MTC encourage as many players as possible to give this a go.

On the 28th October the ABF Online Committee are presenting their recommendations to the ABF at their mid term meeting. If any club members or club administrators have any final comments, they would like to put to our committee before our final report is presented, please send me an email at jenny.thompson@duckcube.com.

The Victorian Qualifying Points (VQP's) spreadsheet has been updated to 30th September. MTC are also finalising the update of the State Regulation information, which will be completed shortly.

Jenny Thompson

Also included this month is an update from Julian Foster

MyABF

The steady increase in My ABF users continues. At the time of writing there are now 15,383 users. Of those 9,173 have registered with their own account and 6,210 have been added as members by their clubs.

All the upcoming national congresses (Canberra in Bloom, Spring Nationals, Golden West Swiss Pairs, GNOT National finals, Summer Festival 2024, Gold Coast 2024) are listed on My ABF and taking entries. There are also an increasing number of club and state events being listed. The long-term aim remains that this page becomes the definitive listing for all major bridge events in Australia rather than having lots of disparate systems at state and club level all around the country, some of which only handle entries and not payment. There are other advantages to a single listing as well:

- As we build up records of events over several years that allows organisers to look at trends.
- It forms a basis for a future national results database.

Duplicate pairs results display

I have started to get some feedback from players and clubs about the pair's results display. This is great – the more people use and see something the more feedback we get; hence the more we can improve things for you!

When a club publishes results of a session you played in, you get an email notification (you can opt out of this if you wish on your Settings page) with a link to the results. You can also see them on your My ABF dashboard. Here's an example of what it looks like there:

Your Recent Results

Date	Partner/Team	Event	Result
18 Sep 2023	Adrienne	Monday Afternoon - Section A (18-Sep-23)	4th
16 Sep 2023	Adrienne	Saturday Afternoon - Section A (16-Sep-23)	1st
14 Sep 2023	Verna	Thursday Afternoon - Section A (14-Sep-23)	5th
11 Sep 2023	Adrienne	Monday Afternoon - Section A (11-Sep-23)	5th
7 Sep 2023	Verna	Thursday Afternoon - Section A (7-Sep-23)	9th

Each of these is a link direct to the session results where your own position is highlighted and from there you can, as usual, view your or any pair's scoresheet and every result on every board played. The box on your dashboard shows just your 5 most recent results. A more comprehensive view is available through the Results page on your main menu:



That page contains sections showing all your own results, results for your teammates (i.e., people you have defined as teammates in your profile – usually those you play with regularly), all results for your club and all results for all clubs.

Of course, you can only see results from your club if the club chooses to publish them in My ABF. If your club isn't yet publishing its duplicate results why not encourage them to do so?

Note at this stage results display is limited to duplicate pairs. Obviously in time the plan is to accommodate all the common tournament formats as well – Swiss pairs, Swiss teams, knockouts, etc.



How clubs become active in My ABF

Of course, the starting point to any of this is for the club to become active in My ABF. All clubs have now been set up in My ABF but to become active a club needs to have an initial administrator who sees their Club Admin menu and can then control who else should have access. Just let us know who you want that to be and your club can be ready to go in a matter of seconds!

Club membership management

Let me next explain membership aspects a bit more. This is a list of the features around managing members, showing which ones are currently operational and which ones are still to be built.

Feature	Status in My ABF
Set up types of membership for your club.	Available and working
Upload a list of club members (from the masterpoint centre or external sources like Pianola, Compscore or a spreadsheet).	Available and working
Make changes to maintain that list as current.	Available and working
Download a report of members.	Available and working

Track home club members.	Built but deliberately not yet made visible so as not to conflict with the masterpoint centre
Send email communications to members or tagged subgroups of them.	Available and working
Use membership status to calculate different member and visitor table money rates for club sessions.	Available and working
Use membership status to calculate different member and visitor entry fees for tournaments.	Not yet available
Track dates for which players' membership is paid up to.	Not yet available
Facilitate payment for member annual renewals (by bridge credits or other means).	Not yet available

What this means is that clubs can maintain a list of their current members and use that list for communications and to calculate table money at club sessions. But they can't yet fully track the history of their members and process their annual renewals.

For a small to medium sized club where members don't change that much this probably isn't much of an issue. For a larger club that's using something like Pianola or Compscore to manage your members you will probably want to continue to use that for now.

Nevertheless, you can still use My ABF. Several larger clubs have uploaded their members, maintained the current list and used it for processing club sessions. Yes, at this stage there is a small amount of extra handling to keep the member listing up to date in My ABF and another system. But the convenience (both for the club and the players) of running club sessions and accepting payment with bridge credits far outweighs that!

Recent work

In the last couple of months travel and absences by members of the My ABF project team, including myself, has resulted in limited progress on the platform. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing timelines and planned release schedules, such as the highly anticipated 'membership management' enhancements and the "masterpoint" rollout for clubs. Our ambition and hope were to deliver this functionality by the end of this year, but resourcing challenges - yes, this affects us too - are impacting our timelines. We will provide an updated schedule soonest. Stay tuned!

By the way, the My ABF project team is always seeking augmentation. If you know of any Python developers that might be able to lend a hand, please let us know. We are actively looking! Other skills we are always interested in are solution architecture, change management and communications.

If you want more information about the possibilities for clubs there are written and video guides here: <https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>
Alternatively drop us a support request and we can talk to you individually. Help is available every step of the way to get going.

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FEEDBACK

How do you get to 6♥?

NORTH

♠98
♥KJT765
♦QJT87
♣

SOUTH

♠K43
♥A84
♦AK3
♣AQ43

South opens 2NT 20-22

As North, you bid 3♦ as a transfer to ♥s. South bids 3♥.

Now what do I bid as North?

An aggressive person might bid 6♦ and hope for the best.

A more scientific person might bid 4♦ and guess what to do over partner's next bid.

There is no clear answer as partner may have lots of points in ♣s and a doubleton ♥ and missing the top two ♠s.

I don't think it can be bid confidently unless you have a long partnership history of discussing similar auctions and, even then, the slam, played by South, is only reasonable and played by North is less than reasonable.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

loganrun@optusnet.com.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? – OCT Solution

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	1♥	DBL	P
2♦	P	3NT	P
P	P		

Dummy as NORTH

Your hand as EAST

♠93
♥A9
♦AQ9543
♣832

♠AJ8
♥K7652
♦JT2
♣J9

Your style is 4th best and partner leads the ♣5. You play the ♣J and South plays the ♣6. What do you do now? South has an opening hand (or equivalent) with a four-card ♠ suit, a ♥ stopper, a partial ♦ fit presumably and a ♣ stopper presumably. Partner has led a ♣ rather than a ♥, so presumably has more than four ♣ clubs and, looking at dummy's pips, probably has a five-card suit. Declarer probably has six ♦ tricks, a ♥ trick that you can see and a ♣ trick making eight tricks. If declarer has the ♣A and the ♠K, there is no chance to defeat it (declarer will take your ♣ continuation and eventually lead a ♠ towards their ♠K for their ninth trick). The best chance is to play a ♠ now and play partner for the ♠QT and the ♣A.

NORTH

♠93
♥A9
♦AQ9543
♣832

WEST

♠QT65
♥Q4
♦87
♣AT754

EAST

♠AJ8
♥K7652
♦JT2
♣J9

SOUTH

♠K742
♥JT83
♦K6
♣KQ6

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – OCT Solution

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared in a team match

NORTH

♠98
♥T8752
♦AKT842
♣

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠AKQ7
♥96
♦765
♣AQ74

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1NT	P
2♦	P	2♥	P
3♦	P	3NT	ALL PASS

The bidding was one of the options in last month's FEEDBACK column.

Whether you agree or not, your job is to make 3NT.

West leads the ♣5 and, after East plays the ♣T, South wins the ♣Q. and then

You lead the ♦7 and West plays the ♦Q.

What do you do now?

What is your plan from here?

Your best chance is to duck.

You may ask why? Because if ♦s are 2 – 2 you will get six ♦ tricks, two ♣ tricks and three ♠ tricks.

The question is what if West has the ♦Q as a singleton and you play the ♦AK. You now get only two ♦ tricks and little chance of nine tricks.

You may say that the defence might be able to cash four ♥ tricks now. Yes, that might be true in an extreme case but ♥s might be 3 – 3 or West has a very difficult ♥ lead from say a doubleton honour.

At pairs, this decision might be harder but at teams this is your best option (if West leads the ♥K from KX now and East has AQJX and defeats you, I would suggest two actions – congratulate West on a great defence and hold your hand closer to your chest on the next hand.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – SEPT solution

Both sides are Vulnerable when this hand appeared

West leads the ♠Q.

What is your plan from here?

From the two doubles, it would appear that East has ♥ length plus both the minor suit aces (at least).

You can suspect a layout like the one shown.

The first rule in these two-suited hands is to setup the second suit and/or play on a crossruff.

It may be tempting to win the ♠K at trick one and cross to the ♥A and lead the ♠A, but when East ruffs this trick, you are now in the wrong hand (plus you have weakened your trump holding). If you throw a ♦, all East has to do is play another ♦ to beat you. If you overruff, you are in the wrong hand.

It is a pity that you were dealt the ♠K, it is a distraction that stops you using the rule outlined above. If you win the ♠A and lead the ♣4, what is East to do?

If East wins the ♣A, then depending on what they do next, you limit your losers to three.

If East ducks the ♣A, you can still prevail as well.

NORTH

♠A9543
♥AT
♦J9432
♣4

WEST

♠QJT872
♥7
♦KQ6
♣982

EAST

♠6
♥J653
♦AT75
♣AQ53

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.