

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to a lady who has broken onto the bridge scene with gusto both as a player and as an administrator. Her name is Kim Frazer. She is based in Melbourne.

This month I am writing the Editorial from the Sunshine Coast.

After a week of bridge in the annual Gold Coast Congress, my wife and I take the train to the Sunshine Coast to spend time with our daughter and her family. This year, they were doing track maintenance. Therefore, our train trip turned into a bus trip for half of the journey.

The day after the end of the Gold Coast tournament coincides with our eldest grandson's birthday party each year. He turned eleven and they had his party at the 'Treetop Challenge' which is a four-hectare area full of zip lines and obstacles amongst the trees.



I consider myself reasonably fit but, whatever my limitations are at bridge, this course presented many more limitations in this endeavour. I was assured that the safety equipment was of the highest standard and nobody had ever suffered any serious injuries. At one stage, I thought that I might break that record.



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

Within the 'VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION AND ABF UPDATES FROM JENNY THOMPSON' section, the Australian Bridge Federation and the World Bridge Federation are asking all bridge players to help promote the game of bridge to the younger community.

There are two separate activities outlined to help promote both Federation's efforts.

This is an important message to all of us to help the game of bridge to flourish. If there is anything that a club or an individual can do to promote these activities, we would all greatly appreciate your efforts.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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BRIDGE VICTORIA OPERATING COMMITTEE CHAIR – COLIN JASPER

"Every person can make a difference, and every person should try." – John F. Kennedy

During February I've been fortunate to have many, varied conversations with individuals who contribute their time – on a voluntary basis – to help run their local bridge clubs. It's often a thankless job, filled with a range of challenges. But the bridge community simply could not survive without their support.

As we increase our focus on growing bridge in Victoria in 2024, these volunteers are essential to our success. To those of you playing these roles, I thank you. To those of you interested in getting involved, I know most bridge clubs would welcome your offer to help.



Growing Bridge in 2024

At time of writing, we have commenced two state events and held one congress, and while the year has just started the initial signs are great.

The Felicity Beale Mixed Teams event (The state mixed teams' championship) had 15 teams competing, a 25% increase on last year. Congratulations to the Samuel Team (Eva Samuel, Serhat Ozenir, Sylvia Schwarcz, Ben Kingham) for their victory in this event, against strong competition.

The Victorian Open Pairs event has just commenced with 26 pairs entered, an 85% increase on 2023.

Yarra Valley held their congress at the beginning of February with 78 pairs competing, a whopping 240% increase on last year's event. Congratulations to Neil Ewart and David Beckett on a strong win.

Let's hope the growth in numbers is a sign of what's to come for the remainder of the year.

Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC) Elections

We are now in the final stages of electing the BVOC for 2024. There will be at least one representative from each of the three country regions (elections timed to take place during the regional championships). These will be matched by three representatives from metro regions.

If you have an interest in being involved, please feel free to contact me directly.

Upcoming Congresses

Please support the following upcoming congresses:

- Rye / Dromana – 9th March
- Whittlesea – 10th March
- BW Online – 23rd-24th March
- Frankston – 6th-7th April

Additional details can be found on the Bridge Victoria Website under [upcoming events](#). In addition to the open section, most congresses award prizes for the best restricted pair, to recognise and support players with less experience.

State Events

The Victorian Women's and Senior's Qualifying event will be played online, commencing on March 18th. You can therefore enter from any location. At the time of writing, we only have 6 entries for this event. The top performers qualify for the playoffs to take place at the end of April. The winners will then represent Victoria at the Australian National Championships. Why not enter?

The Altman Pairs is a four-week Swiss Pairs event commencing on 27th March. Entries can be made via [MyABF](#).

Colin Jasper
Bridge Victoria Operating Committee
Chair
info@bridgevictoria.au.

CLUB MANAGER, VICTORIAN BRIDGE CENTRE

ABOUT US: The Victorian Bridge Centre (VBC) is one of the largest bridge clubs in Victoria and is located within Brighton Bowls Club, Breen Drive, Brighton. The club is a community organisation with over 400 members and is overseen the Victorian Bridge Centre Operations Committee (VBCOC), a committee of its members.

ABOUT THE JOB: The Club Manager plays a pivotal role in the day-to-day operations and administration of the VBC. This multifaceted position demands expertise in administration, governance, marketing, finance, and information management. Responsibilities include the supervision of permanent and casual staff, as well as teachers. This is a part-time role, up to three days or equivalent hours per week, and comes with a competitive base salary plus superannuation, accompanied by flexible working arrangements.

ABOUT YOU: We seek a candidate with prior experience as a bridge club manager or an accomplished assistant Club Manager from a sporting or community club, ready to take on greater responsibilities. The ideal candidate is organised, tech-savvy, diligent, motivated, and possesses relevant qualifications and experience. Familiarity with bridge operations is advantageous but not essential. Experience in business administration or management, well-developed written and verbal communication skills, a high level of technological literacy, and experience in managing business relationships with various stakeholders will be highly regarded.

To express your interest or obtain further information, please direct applications and enquires via email to:

Maryanne Bird, VBCOC Chairperson

VBCOCchair@vba.asn.au

VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION AND ABF UPDATES FROM JENNY THOMPSON

1.

Nominations are now open for four **VQP teams** to participate in the Victorian Open Team Selection Final will be held at the Victorian Bridge Centre on the weekend of the 13th & 14th April. The winner of that final will represent Victoria in the Open Teams at the 2024 Australian National Championships to be held in Orange NSW commencing July 7.

Players are encouraged to organize teams from the [listing for 2023](#) and nominate teams of 4 or 6 players. Team nominations should be submitted to the Match & Tournament Committee via email MTC@vba.asn.au. The submission deadline is 22nd March with players only able to nominate within a single team for the team to be successful in selection. Teams with the highest combined VQP player totals will be invited to participate in the final.

Congratulations to Neil Ewart who won the most VQP's in 2023 with Chen Ding 2nd and David Beckett 3rd.

2.

The Australian Bridge Federation is funding an online course for youngsters

Paul Marston and Nevena Djurovic will present a special online Introduction to Bridge course for kids aged 14 to 24, in conjunction with the ABF.

The course will be in May 2024. It will consist of 4 lessons and 4 practice sessions of about one hour, and the whole thing will be entirely free. This course is a one-off. It will not be repeated.

The goal is to create a community of young bridge players who play in regular duplicates together. To achieve this goal, they will need to have a good number of students in the course.

Here they will need the help of the wider bridge community. We ask you to encourage all the kids you know to get on board and have a go. Please help us to reach a critical mass.

Registrations will open in April. The link to register will be available in the next Newsletter and on the ABF website at the end of March. Please pass this link on to any potential new students. It will provide them with interesting additional information, with an opportunity to grab a seat once bookings finally open.

Why should kids learn bridge?

- Teamwork: You always have a partner when you play bridge, so the game teaches you how to work together.
- Bridge is a great way to make new friends.
- Cognitive Skills: Since many of the cards are hidden, bridge is a strategic game. It helps to develop a young player's reasoning, logic, and critical thinking skills.
- Competition & Travel: Bridge students can go on to participate in Youth Bridge competitions locally, regionally, and internationally. Many trips are partially or fully funded. These events teach sportsmanship – how to be good winners and good losers. They also provide opportunities for kids to travel and see the world.

Why should kids learn with Paul and Nevena?

They can handle numbers. More than 2,000 students graduated from Paul and Nevena's course between June 2020 to June 2023 with greater than 95% retention. True, these were adults and kids are different.

That is the challenge ahead.

The course is very hands on. The lessons will follow the first four chapters in Paul's book Introduction to Bridge. These chapters focus on the basic conversation of bidding. That is, when to open in a suit, how to look first for a fit, ideally in a major, then decide about game.

This is the essential thinking of a bridge player. Once you understand this, you have reached first base. The opening bid of 1NT, overcalls and doubles can come later.

The card play topics are what to lead, the importance of drawing trumps, honour from the short hand, and promoting winners.



Paul Marston

3.

The World Bridge Federation have sent to the Australian Bridge Federation the following details on an email.

I have been asked to send you the attached poster and information about the BAMSA BAM which is raising funds for a global project on increasing youth and school bridge in many countries around the world. All project resources will be free and there will be templates that can be translated to other languages.

Please help by publicising this online team event on Saturday 27 April - Board-a-match as widely as you can.

[Players can register here](#)

Please note that under 21s can play for £5 (6 euros) each instead of £15 (18 euros) per player.

If the poster could be put in newsletters or articles that you may write, to encourage as many teams as possible to participate that would be really helpful.

The Scottish Bridge Union is awarding National Master Points to participating Scottish Teams and other NBOs are being encouraged to do likewise. The WBF will award WBF online master points to the leading teams.

More information about the BAMSA project on [mindsport education can be found here](#).

With kind regards

Anna

Anna Gudge

WBF Communications Manager

www.worldbridge.org

There is a flyer promoting this program on the following page.



Bridge: A MindSport For All
Connects People, Challenges Minds

BAMSA B-A-M

Saturday 27 April

2 session Board a Match (2x20 boards)

Fundraising for youth & schools bridge worldwide

Open to all - online on RealBridge

15.00 UK (BST) - 16.00 CET - 10.00 EDT

Entry: £15 per player (£60 per team, concessions U21s)

Register via [SBU Competitions](#)

Enquiries to: tournament@sbu.org.uk

Special prizes + hand commentary

Can't play but would like to support Youth Bridge?

Donations welcomed @ [Keep Bridge Alive Crowdfund](#)



Jenny Thompson

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH

♠ Q94
♥ KQ95
♦ AJ9752
♣

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠ K
♥ J74
♦ K86
♣ AKQ973

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1NT	P
2♣	P	2♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

South sorted their hand very quickly as they were running out of time in the match. They inadvertently saw the ♣3 as the ♠3 and opened 1NT (15-17).

After Stayman indicated that South had no major, North bid 3NT.

West leads the ♠3.

Dummy plays the ♠4 and East the ♠T and you win with the ♠K.

You now notice that the ♠3 is actually the ♣3.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH

Both sides vulnerable

West leads the ♦ A.

West continues with the ♦ 2 and you ruff this trick with a small trump.

When you lead the ♠ Q from hand, West follows with the ♠ 2 and East plays the ♦ 6.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

NORTH

♠ AJ74
♥ AKJT2
♦ T43
♣ 5

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠ KQ853
♥ 74
♦ K
♣ KT943

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

Over East's vulnerable 3 ♦ opening, South feels that they aren't strong enough to bid and so passes.

North opens with a takeout double over West's 4 ♦ bid and South happily bids 4 ♠.



THE INTERVIEW

THE THIRD INTERVIEW IS WITH KIM FRAZER

Editor:

Where were you born (you don't need to say the year)?

Kim:

I was born and raised in Melbourne as was my father, however my mother was raised in Sydney and always considered herself a New South Welsh girl at heart. Our family lived in St Kilda and then as we kids grew older, we moved to Middle Park. After my brother & I had both graduated from university in the late 70's, our parents retired to Coffs Harbour and I moved to Flemington while my brother went in the other direction to Mentone.

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

Kim:

Growing up in the 60's there wasn't the plethora of choice for entertainment that young people seem to have these days so for us it was board games like Chinese checkers, Chess, Monopoly and similar and card games like Canasta, Euchre, Cribbage and Solo Whist. I was lucky our family unit was a four which was perfect for most of these games.

Editor:

What comprised the family unit and is it still intact?

Kim:

I have an older brother who still lives in Melbourne but doesn't play bridge. My parents had children later in life and are both now deceased.

Editor:

When did you start getting interested in guns as a sport?

Kim:

I was always playing some kind of sport as a child, whether it was swimming, tennis, table tennis, netball, basketball and so on, I basically did a variety of sporting pursuits. I took up shooting at Melbourne University in 1977 as something to try and something I had never done before. At that time universities had a very vibrant scene of clubs & societies so there were a lot of activities to get involved in. I met a lot of my long-time friends in the shooting club, and we had great fun travelling to weekend competitions around the state and also to the Inter-Varsity (inter-university competition) around the country. Initially I wasn't very good, but about 6 months after I started, shooting technique suddenly clicked for me and I started to do well at it. Naturally, I trained a lot and our club was quite competitive, so those two factors helped me with my improvement.

Editor:

I assume it wasn't like 'Kent State' or other USA university incidents? I mean you weren't shooting people; I hope.

Kim:

I have never aimed a gun at any one in anger. My shooting was all done at paper on a wall. A shooting terminology I often use is that I own 'precision hole punching' equipment – an expensive way of putting holes in paper.

Editor:

What was the pathway to the Commonwealth Games?

Kim:

The shooting organisation held trials for the major events about a year ahead of time and I had switched from full-bore (7.62mm shooting in open range) to smallbore (.22 & air rifle) events. I had already represented Australia in full-bore shooting, but there was a large bias amongst the selectors to selecting females in open shooting events (men & women competed together in open events), so I had become a bit disillusioned with the establishment. I switched my focus to compete more in smallbore events which had separate men's and women's events and trials rather than selection by committee. Initially I competed in Oceania Championships in smallbore and then entered the Commonwealth Games trials which were being held in my home state that year (1994). There were two slots available in my preferred event (50M Prone), and I finished 2nd in the trials and headed off to Canada for the Commonwealth Games later that year.

Editor:

As a mere male, I can appreciate but not fully understand the gender bias. There are a few countries that select their national bridge teams by committee rather than by a formal selection process and the up-and-coming stars can be at a disadvantage as the committee tend to select the proven old timers.

Kim:

Shooting was always considered a male orientated domain. This gender bias has also been prevalent in other sports as well like surfing and golf.

Editor:

I know you don't wish to big note yourself, but how did you go at the Commonwealth Games? Also, did you ever try out for the Olympic Games?

Kim:

I went to four consecutive Commonwealth Games starting with Victoria, Canada in 1994. The picture, on the following page, shows me carrying the 'Queen's baton' in an outer suburb of Melbourne when I competed in Melbourne in 2006.

Commonwealth Games appearances

1994 – Gold Medal in the 50-metre prone pairs (2 women)

1998 – In Langkawi, Malaysia, I won the 50-metre prone pairs again with a different female partner

2002 – In Manchester England, I won the 50-metre prone individual (I had given up sharing my gold medal with somebody else).

2006 – I went back to the 50-metre prone pairs and we were unsuccessful sadly finishing 4th in the event.

Olympic Games appearance

2004 – I went to the Athens Olympics and enjoyed the Parthenon.

In shooting, I competed for nearly fourteen years at world cups and world championships all over the world. I enjoyed every minute and have been very grateful to have been blessed with the opportunity to pursue a sport at the highest level.



Editor:

When did you get involved in the local bridge scene and what prompted you to start playing?

Kim:

I'd played the odd hand at university with friends and always loved card games so after I was almost finished with my competitive shooting career, and I had stopped working full-time, in 2005 I was thinking about a hobby to take up and I thought about bridge and golf. So, I rang up my local club in the middle of winter and asked them about getting started. I headed there the following week for a game of duplicate and have been hooked ever since. Of course, the first game was very funny as I had no idea about duplicate bridge so on the first hand I played, I tossed my card into the middle of the table, just like we used to do in the café at Melbourne University! Hilarious. I was quickly advised about the correct protocols.

Editor:

What about the golf?

Kim:

Bridge is an all-season game whereas, especially in Melbourne, while golf is played all year round, the often-inclement weather makes it less enjoyable so by the time summer rolled around I was already getting enjoyment out of bridge and I was still training for my final Commonwealth Games, so didn't have time initially. Then later on bridge had become a bit of an all-consuming hobby so I just didn't have time to pursue golf.

Editor:

May I ask what your profession was before you retired? Working at a gun dealership?

Kim:

I worked at Kodak in Coburg for seventeen years after leaving university in a variety of roles in administration and marketing. Then I finished my corporate career at Telstra, where I worked in the mobile division in business development.

Editor:

Did you have a regular partner initially?

Kim:

When I started it was hard for me to find a partner as regular club members already had regular partners, so I was put with someone who hadn't played cards much and had just come out of lessons. I think she gave up bridge after about 6 weeks for family reasons, so I drifted through various people for a while. Eventually one of the guys at the club told me his partner was moving interstate and invited me to play with him and that was my first real regular partnership.

Editor:

When did you decide that this was an activity to pursue with gusto?

Kim:

I'd been playing for a little while with my first regular partner (maybe a few months) when another member asked me about playing with him in a congress (first time I heard of them) so I went along to Yarra Valley in 2007 (which was a huge event in those days) and I guess after that I was totally hooked and wanted to play in more competitions like that. After almost 30 years of shooting competitions which were usually outside, in cold and wet (or hot and blustery) conditions, with less than perfect amenities and start times of 8am or earlier in the morning, in bridge I found comfortable venues, great morning/afternoon teas, start times that were very civilised at 10am (or later) and cash prizes for when you do well. What was there not to like about this game?

Editor:

Is that last question rhetorical?

Kim:

Yes, I meant every word.

Editor:

What is your general style? Are you an instinctive player or do you prefer more structure in bidding?

Kim:

I like structure in bidding as I think having a strong understanding of your partner's bidding style is important as without this it is hard to achieve consistently good results. However, with card play, one of my former partner's told me that my card play is often instinctive so perhaps I combine the two styles a bit.

Editor:

What are your best local, national and international results?

Kim:

I was wondering how to answer this question, since I haven't really been keeping track and the information on the various websites is incomplete or hard to collate. However, my best guess on results is that:

On the local scene, I've won quite a lot on the congress circuit in both pairs and teams' events over the years, but the one that stands out for me was winning the Butler trials in 2016 to make the Victorian Open Team to the ANC for the first time.

Nationally, I was on the winning team in the Mixed Teams' event in Canberra several years ago before that event went into hiatus and was reincarnated in its present format, and I have had various decent, while not truly spectacular results in the Gold Coast in the Bobby Richman Match point Pairs winning the qualifying event (EW) in 2019 and winning the Plate the following year. I have also qualified several times for Open, Women's and Mixed playoffs, but I only made it past qualifying once in the women's in 2018. Internationally I competed in the 2018 World Bridge Games in Orlando on the women's team and while we didn't perform well. However, the highlight on the trip was when my partner, Anna St Clair, and I ended up 3rd in the Joan Gerrard Cup.

Editor:

What is your preferred bidding system and why?

Kim:

I've played strong club, relay and natural systems over the years and I think all of these have good and bad attributes. However, I prefer natural bidding systems – so Standard (including 2/1) and ACOL are best for me and my style of bidding. There are two main reasons for this which are firstly that I think in long tournaments, being able to save mental energy is important and natural bidding requires less mental effort and is less prone to bidding misunderstandings. The second reason is that it is often easier for you and your partner to make a decision after interference by the opponents.

Editor: When and why did you get involved so heavily in the administrative side both locally and nationally?

Kim:

I guess this was part of my upbringing where my parents instilled in us a sense of duty and volunteering. I like to give back to organisations that I am involved with and gaining enjoyment from, particularly since the spirit of volunteering is disappearing.

I started by helping with the newsletter at my local club and edited that for a few years. With the ANC coming to Melbourne in 2011, Jeannette Collins the organiser asked me if I could help her with some of the organisation.

Later in 2011 I joined the VBA Council as secretary, and I remained on the Council until I stepped down in 2018. Then in 2012 I took on organising the Victor Champion Cup (Victoria's main national event) which I did for six years.

I became a delegate to the Australian Bridge Federation in 2016, and eventually a board member and then secretary – a position I held for 4 years until stepping down in 2022.

I now chair the Australian Bridge Federation Foundation which I helped to establish as a bridge future fund to help support bridge in the long term.

Editor:

I know how thorough and dedicated you are in achieving your aims. Your administrative roles both in Victoria and nationally have helped in the development of bridge at various levels and you should be proud of your efforts.

Kim:

Thank you for your kind words. I was especially proud to have been recognised by being given a life membership of the VBA.

Editor:

What made you write your book on the mental aspects? Are there similarities between shooting and bridge?

Kim:

The book on the mental aspects came about from a conversation on the way home from bridge with David Morgan (now sadly deceased). We were discussing how hard it was to stop thinking about a bad board during a match and how this often led to another error. Since athletes often experience this circumstance,

sports psychology has become very well evolved and I had spent a lot of time on the application of sports psychology principles during my shooting career. When I mentioned that I had some ideas on how sports psychology could work at bridge, David invited me to speak to the Australian team that he was captaining that year, and from this I started to write some articles in bridge magazines, with a vague idea to turn these articles into a book since there didn't seem to be anything much on applying sports psychology at the bridge table.

I have found that there are many similarities between the two which include learning technical skills, developing the stamina and endurance to get through long matches without flagging, and of course dealing with adverse situations like a bad board or a distraction in the playing area or nerves and match pressure.

Editor:

This book received international acclaim. Can you tell the readers what award it won (perhaps you can name the title and give it a plug)?

Kim:

The book is called "Gaining the Mental Edge at Bridge" and it won the IBPA (International Bridge Press Award) prize in 2020. I also set up a website havingthementaledge.com where I post the articles I write for various journals.

Editor:

Obviously, mental awareness is important but do you believe that physical well-being is a significant factor in doing well at bridge especially as you age?

Kim:

Absolutely. If you want to be truly competitive, I don't really see how you can get through the rigours of a multi-day competition like the Summer Festival, or the Gold Coast without being able to maintain concentration, and your physical well-being and fitness is helpful in this regard. This is why I included a chapter in my book on this very topic. I've often seen players start out well in a tournament and then as the day/week goes on, they start to make what can only be classed as tired mistakes for players of their standard. Giving yourself a better chance by looking after your physical well-being can only help your bridge. I don't think you can be consistently competitive unless you have the whole package of technical skills, mental skills and physical well-being.

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Kim:

I always have goals for the year(s) ahead and I would like to think I have more to achieve in this game we all love.

Editor:

A lot of people make New Year resolutions and most don't see out the month of January. However, I do believe that you are made of sterner stuff. Good luck.

I have a further suggestion for the readers. If you're having an argument with Kim, please ensure that you are more than 50 metres away (check her shooting results!!).

BRIDGE HUMOUR

PETER FORDHAM



Peter died on Monday 22nd May 2023, with his family by his side, after a long battle with cancer.

For the last few years, he played in most of the major tournaments in the Australian bridge scene. He struggled physically but his brain was alert right up until his final days.

He played on the Australia team a number of times and won many Australian and State Championships. Over the years, he represented three States, Queensland, NSW and ACT, in the Australian National Championships – something few have achieved.

I never played with Peter but I played on a few teams with him as a teammate. He was an excellent player and he had a quick wit that was always greatly appreciated by all that knew him.

I have selected two funny anecdotes that are loosely bridge related.

The first one occurred whilst I lived in New South Wales, I remember one night after a weekly bridge evening that a group of us went to the casino for a few hours. At that time in Sydney, there was no such thing as the Star Casino. All casinos were basically illegal but tolerated by the authorities as long as there was no trouble. They were very careful about who they allowed into the playing area.

There were several people, which included us, waiting in a queue outside the door. There was a security guard standing by the door vetting all the people in the lineup. To say that this man was a large individual was doing him an injustice. He was 200cm tall with arms thicker than my legs.

As a person approached the front of the lineup, he would ask them a few questions that included what was their profession and where did they work. Most people, either truthfully or otherwise, would say something like a teacher in high school or a bricklayer at Joe's Builders.

When Peter was asked, he said an auditor at the Taxation office. The security guard was a little taken aback with the response. He looked Peter up and down and he must have thought that he was either joking or working in such a department that was not threatening to the casino. He eventually let him into the casino but whispered quietly to the manager that Peter should be watched.

I asked Peter why he gave this response. He innocently replied that it was the truth that is where I work. I said to him that sometimes 'people can't handle the truth' (as in 'A Few Good Men'). Truthfully, I am no longer a teacher at a high school and I know the rest of our group aren't teachers as well.

The second one also occurred whilst I lived in New South Wales.

As a background to this incident, the automatic recording of masterpoints wasn't done by the Australian Bridge Federation until around 1982. Since then, any masterpoints won, in any affiliated bridge club event in Australia, were automatically allocated to any member's record.

Before this time, the record of the masterpoints won at any event were written on a red piece of paper. It was up to the individual to let the official masterpoint recorder know of the awarded points. Peter, like many of us, didn't send these pieces of red paper to the appropriate person.

One Saturday, there was a bridge event at the New South Wales Bridge Association. The organiser decided to split the field into those that have less than one thousand masterpoints and those that had one thousand or more. Peter was to play with a friend who had diligently sent in the red pieces of paper and had more than one thousand recorded masterpoints.

Like an Authorised Officer in the train network, the organiser checked each player to see in which field they were eligible to play. When he came to Peter, he saw zero masterpoints on the official print and pointed him to that particular field. As Peter had won a few significant events, this was a little bit of a shock to him. Peter was well known by many of us and we suggested to the organiser that he was certainly capable of playing in the better field. The organiser insisted that rules are rules.

It just so happened that, at that time, Peter lived just around the corner from the club. As there were still twenty minutes before the scheduled start time, Peter went home. About ten minutes later, he came back with a box full of red masterpoint slips and placed them on the table next to the organiser. Peter suggested that he couldn't be certain of the exact number but there were well over two thousand points if the organiser wished to count them. He then sat down with his friend in the better section.



RESULTS

RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY -VICTORIA

YARRA VALLEY CONGRESS

Saturday 3rd February

78 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Neil Ewart	David Beckett
2nd	Chen Ding	Jack Huang
3rd	Mohamed Ghatwari	Leo Saoud

RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY – NATIONAL

GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Broadbeach Sunday 18th – Saturday 24th February

PAIRS

A – Final results

1st	Ella Jacob	Phillip Markey
2nd	Alex Smirnov	Andy Hung
3rd	Finn Kolesnik	Adam Kaplan

Victorian Results of worthy note

Jeff Fust and Andrew Macready-Bryan were 17th out of 20 in the A-Final. There were 223 pairs entered in the qualifying field so finishing this high was an excellent result.

TEAMS

Open Results

1st	Michael Ware Pete Hollands	Brian Mace Matthew Thomson	Hugh McGann	Tom Jacob
2nd	Arlene Dalley	Ashley Bach	Tony Nunn	Paul Dalley

Victorian Results of worthy note

As a member of the winning team 'G'day it's Pete here' Hollands (the introduction to his popular weekly bridge game on Youtube) certainly gets the accolades he richly deserves.

There were 148 teams in the qualifying stages of the Open teams' event.

These teams comprised players from many countries other than just Australia and New Zealand.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH/APRIL

VICTORIA

RYE/DROMANA PAIRS CONGRESS

Saturday 9th March

See brochure on a following page

WHITTLESEA CONGRESS

Sunday 10th March

WHITTLESEA BOWLS CLUB

101 CHURCH STREET WHITTLESEA

03 9716 1966

BW ONLINE CONGRESS

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March

FRANKSTON CONGRESS

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April



RYE DROMANA BRIDGE CONGRESS

One day Swiss Pairs event to be held on Saturday 9th of March 2024

Two Sections - **Open**
Restricted
(under 300 MP)

FRANK McCONVILL TROPHY - BEST LOCAL PAIR

(Please note: This is Labour Weekend)

VENUE: Rosebud Over 50's Social Club Rooms
121-123 Ninth Ave, Rosebud

REGISTRATION : OPENS AT 9.30am for 10am start

COST : \$45 per person

PAYMENT BY CASH OR CARD

LUNCH will NOT be provided but Tea, Coffee, Water
and ample snacks will be available.

(Sandwiches may be ordered prior to the day at a cost of \$8.00 per packet
by messaging one of the convenors)

CONVENORS:

Jill Haworth 0410652298 chefdaisy52@yahoo.com.au
Margaret Morgan 0447806699 mjmorgan@bigpond.net.au

DIRECTOR: Laurie Kelso
ENTRIES: BRIDGE UNLIMITED

The Congress will be conducted under current VBA Rules and Regulations

System cards will be mandatory
All mobile phones to be switched **OFF** during play

This is a long weekend, so book accommodation now, if needed.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE?

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1 ♠	P
2 ♦	P	2 ♠	P
3 ♠	p	4 ♠	All Pass

Both sides are vulnerable.

You are sitting East and see the above auction.

Your partner, West, leads the ♣6 (4th best) and dummy comes down as follows.

NORTH

♠8652
♥95
♦KQJT72
♣K

EAST

♠A4
♥J8732
♦A9
♣8543

Trick one proceeds - ♣K, you play ♣3 and declarer follows with the ♣9.

Declarer now leads the ♠2 from dummy.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN JANUARY 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Williams, Sue	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Bulman, Diane	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Mackay, Sue	Bronze Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Gao, Wen	Club
Bridge at Tivoli	Roosen, Deirdre	Graduate
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Blecher, Miriam	Silver Local
BWOnline Bridge Club	Tuxworth, Janice	Gold Life
Frankston Bridge Club	Penfold, Kitty	Bronze Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Sisson, Andrew	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Anderson, Marg	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Chipp, Lorraine	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Hayes, Marcella	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Lester, Cecily	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Marks, Betty	Regional
Maine Bridge Club	Nicholas, Athol	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Buckstein, Ruth	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Green, Sally	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hoysted, Karyn	Bronze Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Jones, Annmaree	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Utri, Christina	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Abey, Shyamala	Bronze Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Birch, Judy	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Brettargh, Dianne	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Michael, Sharon	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Davis, Ruth	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Fletcher, Clara	Silver Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Nolan, Kiara	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Taylor, Ralph	Graduate
OZ Bridge Club	Mannes, Margaret	Silver Local
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Fenlon, Andrew	Local
RACV Bridge Group	Hradsky, Karl	Graduate
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Wilson, Julia	Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Kuiper, Junice	Club
Sale Bridge Club	Krusic, Debbie	Graduate
Sale Bridge Club	McLindin, Lyn	Graduate
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Brewis, Mary	Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Harvey, Ruth	Bronze Local

The Real Deal	Beale, Deb	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Rizvi, Fazal	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Young, Barbara	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Czarny, Anita	Silver Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Dunn, Barbara	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Balachandiran, Kandapillai	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Balasubramaniam, Bala	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Bruce, Peter	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Burbeck, Andrew	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Chai, Weimin	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Collaris, Lana	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Gibas, Elizabeth	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Goss, Peter	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Kielzynski, Irena	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Pellegrino, Dom	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Ruan, Paul	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Samarasingha, Hiranthi	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Samarasingha, Nalin	Silver Local
Williamstown Bridge Club	Firth, Kerrie	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Hepworth, Alan	Local
Williamstown Bridge Club	Sewell, Andrea	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Stubbs, Arthur	Club
Williamstown Bridge Club	Stubbs, Marie	Club
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Carroll, Rod	State
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Williams, Les	Local

Congratulations to all of the above.



FEEDBACK

Chris

I had a good hand sitting East and we were not vulnerable and the opponents were vulnerable.

South opened a 15-17 1NT.

After two passes, I doubled (we play that this double is at least as strong as their 1NT). This ended the auction.

Partner led the ♦ 2 (4th highest) and dummy came down. Declarer played the ♦ 3 from dummy and I won the ♦ K.

What should I have led now?

♠ 943

♥ T987

♦ A83

♣ 753

♠ KQT62

♥ A6

♦ KT

♣ AQ94

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1NT	P
P	DBL	P	P
P			

Answer:

You have 18 high card points and dummy has 4 high card points. Declarer has 15 to 17 high card points. Therefore, your partner has 1 to 3 points.

From the lead, partner has four ♦ s as has declarer. Assuming partner would tend to lead a major with two four-card suits, declarer may well have a four-card ♥ suit as well. Therefore, five black cards. Put a top ♠ on the table.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1 ♠	P
2 ♦	P	2 ♠	P
3 ♠	p	4 ♠	All Pass

Plan 1

Play the ♠4 and hope that partner has the ♠Q and declarer finesses.

Partner will then win the ♠Q and presumably play a high ♥ looking at dummy (if that high ♥ is the ace, then the defence has four tricks).

Plan 2

Play the ♠A and lead a low ♥.

Since declarer is known to have the ♣A on the opening lead, if declarer has the ♥A as well, then Plan 1 will only result in three tricks because on winning the ♥ return from partner, declarer can throw the other ♥ loser on the ♣A.

Therefore, assume declarer doesn't have the ♥A and play for a layout like the one below seems the best chance.

NORTH

♠8652
♥95
♦KQJT72
♣K

WEST

♠JT
♥AQ4
♦643
♣QT762

EAST

♠A4
♥J8732
♦A9
♣8543

SOUTH

♠KQ973
♥KT6
♦85
♣AJ9

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – MARCH SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH			
♠ Q94			
♥ KQ95			
♦ AJ9752			
♣			
WEST		EAST	
♠		♠	
♥		♥	
♦		♦	
♣		♣	
SOUTH(D)			
♠ K			
♥ J74			
♦ K86			
♣ AKQ973			

South sorted their hand very quickly as they were running out of time in the match. They inadvertently saw the ♣3 as the ♠3 and opened 1NT (15-17).

After Stayman indicated that South had no major, North bid 3NT.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1NT	P
2♣	P	2♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

West leads the ♠3.

West leads the ♠3. Dummy plays the ♠4 and East the ♠T and you win with the ♠K. Dummy plays the ♠4 and East the ♠T and you win with the ♠K. You now notice that the ♠3 is actually the ♣3.

You now notice that the ♠3 is actually the ♣3.

What is your plan from here?

What is your plan from here? If you let East-West gain the lead, they might be able to cash at least four ♠ tricks plus the ♥A. The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

Therefore, it is best to not let them get on lead before you have secured the contract.

Plan 1.

Lead the ♦K and another ♦ and hope the ♦Q comes down (eight ever, nine never). Let us say it does, what happens now?

If you lead a ♦ back to the ♦8 to get to your hand to cash the ♣ tricks, you can't get back to run the ♦s without giving up the lead. Conversely, if you stay in dummy and run the ♦ suit, you can't get back to the ♣ suit without giving up the lead.

Plan 2.

Cash the ♣A, K and Q first. If the ♣ suit breaks 4 -3 with the three-card suit holding ♣JT X. You have nine tricks without worrying about the ♦Q (one ♠, six ♣ tricks and two ♦ tricks).

If the ♣ suit provides only three tricks, now you can lead a ♦ and hum – eight ever, nine never.

Be careful that you handle the entry situation between your hand and dummy.

Plan 3.

There is one other alternative at trick 2. Lead the ♦6 at and finesse the ♦J (unless West plays the ♦Q). As long as ♦s don't break 4 - 0 and East has the ♥A, you have retained communication between the two hands.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – FEB 23 SOLUTION

Neither side vulnerable

West leads the $\spadesuit 3$.

Your task is slightly different in this bulletin.

Assuming that each opponent has one of the two missing \spadesuit honours (Q and J) and \spadesuit s are 3 – 2, you must construct a layout of the opponent's cards and a line of play that allows the contract to make.

What is your plan from here?

There is more than one solution but the prettiest solution follows –

This is where you concede a trick in the \clubsuit suit but the defence doesn't make a \spadesuit trick. How is this possible you might ask?

Well, the defenders can never lead trumps at any stage or they will give you the contract and declarer doesn't lead trumps until trick eleven.

This requires a fairly specific hand pattern for the defence.

An example pattern is shown on the following page and declarer must be careful to lead suits in a specific order so that a side suit is not ruffed by one of the opponents in the middle game.

The great Australian bridge player, Tim Seres, made a grand slam on a similar sequence missing QJ and three other trumps (obviously, without any side suit losers in his case).

In the layout shown, the $\spadesuit Q$ and $\spadesuit J$ can be in either hand without affecting the play.

Moreover, the 'X' symbols can be any outstanding card in the suit. The first card played to a trick is shown as 'F'.

Where 'assumed' is shown, it doesn't matter what is done.

The contract will make on any lead. The example given to me by TP is a \spadesuit lead but it makes on any lead.

NORTH(D)

\spadesuit A6
 \heartsuit AK65
 \diamondsuit AJ8
 \clubsuit A954

WEST

\spadesuit
 \heartsuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

EAST

\spadesuit
 \heartsuit
 \diamondsuit
 \clubsuit

SOUTH(D)

\spadesuit KT9853
 \heartsuit 73
 \diamondsuit KQ6
 \clubsuit T8

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 \clubsuit	P	1 \spadesuit	P
2NT	P	4 \spadesuit	P
5 \spadesuit	P	6 \spadesuit	ALL PASS

I have indicated a possible full adrenalin auction.

The hand was given to me by TP, a regular and very much appreciated contributor.

He suggested that, if the contract is makeable, how do you proceed?

NORTH(D)

♠A6
 ♥AK65
 ♦AJ8
 ♣A954

WEST

♠QX
 ♥XXXX
 ♦XXX
 ♣XXXX

EAST

♠JXX
 ♥XXX
 ♦XXXX
 ♣XXX

SOUTH(D)

♠KT9853
 ♥73
 ♦KQ6
 ♣T8

A typical sequence of plays is as follows.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♦X (F)	♦8	♦X	♦K
♣X [assume wins]	♣4	♣X	♣T (F)
♦X (F)[assumed]	♦J	♦X	♦Q
♣X	♣A	♣X	♣8 (F)
♣X	♣5 (F)	♣X	♠3
♥X	♥A	♥X	♥3 (F)
♣X	♣9 (F)	♥X	♠5
♥X	♥K	♥X	♥7 (F)
♥X	♥5 (F)	♦X	♠8
♦X	♦A	♦X	♦6 (F)

Get a pack of cards (or hands written on a piece of paper) and try it yourself.

After the above sequence of plays, the following situation arises with North to play at trick ten. The ♥6 is led.

	NORTH(D)	
	♠ A6	
	♥ 6	
	♦	
	♣	
WEST		EAST
♠ QX		♠ JXX
♥ X		♥
♦		♦
♣		♣
	SOUTH(D)	
	♠ KT9	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	

The actual hand that TP was suggesting was given to me by him after I completed the above solution.

It follows –

I thought I will forward the actual hand for your information. The lead was ♦ 3 and I can see only one way to make the contract. A simple automatic Vienna Coup, just by placing any opponent with any 5 card H suit and KQJ of clubs.

Unlike many squeeze situations, the quality of one of the two suits is not relevant, because of that it is not easy to visualise a squeeze possibility. Hope you can come up with more solutions. If the lead was a ♣, I can't see any way to make this hopeless contract.

	NORTH(D)	
	♠ A6	
	♥ AK65	
	♦ AJ8	
	♣ A954	
WEST		EAST
♠ J7		♠ Q42
♥ 82		♥ QJT94
♦ 97543		♦ T2
♣ 7632		♣ KQJ
	SOUTH(D)	
	♠ KT9853	
	♥ 73	
	♦ KQ6	
	♣ T8	

Editor's note: assuming a ♠ isn't led, this hand will only make on a ♦ lead. The squeeze will not work on a ♥ lead (as well as a ♣ lead) because, when you give the defence their trump trick, they can return another ♥ and break up the squeeze.

I guess the moral to the story is play in more mundane contracts that don't require specific layouts and/or leads to make the hand.