



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

APRIL 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to the former editor of this bulletin. His name is Dee Harley and he is Melbourne based.

This month I am writing the Editorial from home whilst looking at the stock market ebbs and flows and reading reports from financial analysts that I believe are astute investors (not speculators but middle to long term focused).

Those of you with knowledge of the stock markets (especially those with a US bias) will probably know of the huge conglomerate called Berkshire Hathaway.

Berkshire Hathaway has always been based in Omaha Nebraska (not in a large metropolis) and its original Omaha-local shareholder base has remained loyal over the years (obviously many other non-local shareholders are now involved) and they have been duly rewarded in the last forty odd years with the share price going from about \$400 to around \$600,000 these days.

The CEO of the company is the famous bridge playing investor, Warren Buffet. Until he passed away late last year aged 99, his offsideer was Charlie Munger. Each year, Warren and Charlie held there annual general meeting in Omaha and the attendees worshipped both of them and marveled at their wisdom.

At this point, as all financial analysts might say, I am not recommending that you buy the stock and I personally don't own any shares.

To many knowledgeable people, Charlie Munger was the investment guru in the organization.

One of Charlie Munger's many pearls of wisdom was the following “People are trying to be smart, all I am trying to do is not be idiotic, but it's harder than most people think”.

As bridge players, this sounds like a good philosophy to follow. It may not gain us the returns that Charlie Munger's disciples earned but it might help our bridge results.



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

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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PRESIDENT VBA - CHRISTOPHER LEACH

The Organisation of Bridge in Victoria.

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.

I am pleased that Bridge Victoria has now had its first election of representatives to form a Bridge Victoria operations committee achieving the democratisation goal they set themselves last year. This committee will build on the work done last year to achieve the best outcomes for bridge in Victoria. The VBC club has also recently appointed a new operating committee and they are performing well.

VBA Council Strategy Day.

It has been a year since the Council got together for a strategy and planning day. Last Sunday, the 24th March, the VBA Council spent the day reviewing our strategy and adjusting our planning to achieve improvements.

The outcome of this day is that we are continuing to implement our four-stage strategy with the objective of a legal separation of state and club based on the following criteria:

- **That Bridge Victoria and the VBC, demonstrate financial viability and operational stability.**

To get to that this position, and continue to improve current operations the following decisions were made:

- A representative from Bridge Victoria and the VBC will sit on the VBA Finance Committee with the objective of preparing budgets and initiatives for approval
- Investment will be made in initiatives, based on a good business case, for growth of bridge in Victoria and club initiatives for the benefit of members
- Investment in a BV State Manager to further enable BV initiatives to progress is considered a necessary condition for success
- Updating the VBA articles to reflect current practices, such that Council will need to meet less as a governance body, and changing special councillors to Bridge Victoria representatives to remove duplication and refine processes for both.



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

These changes are envisaged to enable us to move in a considered way to the independence model when Bridge Victoria and the VBC are financially viable and operationally stable.

BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – COLIN JASPER

One of the great things about organised bridge is that players can generally find a game that suits them. Over the coming months we have a range of events, targeting different players.

Victorian Restricted Pairs

On Saturday 11th May, we will be holding the Victorian Restricted Pairs event at the VBC.

The top pairs in this event will each be provided with a generous subsidy by the Australian Bridge Federation towards airfares and accommodation plus free entry to the Restricted Butler Pairs at this year's Australian National Championships (ANC) in Orange NSW in July.

This red-point event is limited to players with under 300 masterpoints (as at 31/12/2023). If this is you, we would encourage you to [enter](#).

State Bridge comes to Kooyong

On Thursday nights during May (9th, 16th & 23rd) we will be holding our first state event at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The event is named after Dr Ian McCance, one of Victoria's greatest ever players.

Ian first represented Victorian in the open teams as a 29-year-old and would be a constant in the team for many decades. By his mid-30s, he was also captaining the state team. He has the unique claim to having won the Australian National Championship Open Teams as a player, a player/captain and a captain in a period spanning 1966-2011.

Please help us make this event a [success](#).

Congresses

Attendances at congress this year are up over 20%. Please support bridge clubs near you by participating. In addition to the open section, most congresses award prizes for the best restricted pair, to recognise and support those with less experience. Upcoming congresses include:

- Frankston – 6th & 7th April
- Bayside – 4th May
- Sale – 18th & 19th May
- Bendigo – 25th & 26th May
- Moonee Valley – 31st May – 2nd June



Other State Events

Other upcoming state events include daytime events, online events, and mixed pair events:

- The Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs – Anzac Day at the VBC
- The Victorian Online Pairs – Offering access to a state event to participants from all over Victoria. Monday nights commencing 13th May
- The Thwaites Mixed Pairs – Commencing on 22nd May.

Victor Champion Cup

Victoria's Festival of Bridge will be a celebration, as players come from far and wide to join us at the Moonee Valley Racecourse. While many of the country's leading players will be in attendance, there will also be events for restricted and novice players. We encourage you to put our one gold-point event in your diary now.

[Victor Champion Cup](#) – 6th-10th June.

Youth Bridge – Free Online Lessons

We all know the importance of youth bridge to the future of our game. Do you know someone between the ages of 14-24 who might be interested in learning bridge?

The ABF is sponsoring free online beginners' lessons presented by Paul Marston. Further information is available at the [ABF website](#).

Growing Bridge in Victoria

A primary focus for Bridge Victoria is working with clubs to grow the game across the state. We have drafted a Marketing Strategy and have commenced activities.

One method of achieving growth is encouraging non-affiliated bridge clubs to join us. I'm pleased to report that the Euroa Bridge Club has recently affiliated. If you know of other clubs who may be interested, please let me know so we can contact them.

We will also be undertaking research amongst clubs during April to better understand how we can better support them, so that we can prioritise actions for 2024.

Bridge Victoria Committee Elections

A commitment we made last year was to hold elections that ensure Bridge Victoria is a representative body of bridge players and clubs across the state. This process is now complete with the following elected representatives to the Bridge Victoria Committee for 2024:

- John Walsh Western Region
- Kerry Delcourt Northern Region
- John Quayle Eastern Region
- Sally Foster Metro – North/Central
- Andrzej Krolikowski Metro – East
- Colin Jasper Metro – South / Peninsula
- Gordon McRobert Financial
- Graham Morris Legal, Discipline & Ethics
- Jan van Riel Strategy, Organisation & Comms

I'm grateful that these individuals have volunteered to help Bridge Victoria with our role of:

- Promoting the game throughout the state;
- Running state bridge activities, and
- Supporting affiliated clubs.

I would also like to thank our retiring committee members who helped establish Bridge Victoria last year – Deb Anglim, Derek Poulton and Richard Giles.

Colin Jasper
Bridge Victoria – Chair

WE WISH YOU A GREAT MONTH OF BRIDGE AND PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT: info@bridgevictoria.au.

A POSITION AVAILABLE

Our VCC Tournament Organiser, Geoff Schaller, has decided after a number of successful years to make 2024 his last year. We are looking for a new Tournament Organiser for the state's premier bridge event, the Victor Champion Cup, in 2025.

Key to the success of the event is the promotion and relationship management functions. Managing stakeholders such as venue staff, directing and dealing personnel, players and sponsors is critical. Other activities include managing the 'MyABF' website and making sure everything runs to time and budget.

We have started a new era with fresh sponsors, new directors and a new venue at the Moonee Valley Racecourse. There is an opportunity for a new organiser to observe operations in the lead up to the 2024 event before taking over the role completely in 2025. If you are interested in bringing innovation and energy to this role, please send an email with your details to info@bridgevictoria.au.

ABF UPDATES FROM JENNY THOMPSON

1. The Australian Bridge Federation is funding an online course for youngsters



Know Any Potential Young Bridge Players?

Opportunity for 14 - 24 year olds to learn Bridge - FREE!!

Learn Bridge Online Young Player Course

Age Range: 14 - 24 years

Level: Beginner Course

Location: Online

Date: Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd May 2024

Time: 7pm -Approx. 8pm AEST

Practice Sessions: Sunday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th from 11am-12pm AEST

Course Teachers: Paul Marston & Nevena Djurovic

Why Should Teens and Young Adults Learn Bridge?

- Academic Enrichment
- Socialise & Make Friends
- Enjoy Competition & Travel
- Connect with Family & Community
- Have FUN

About Our Course

Led by experienced Bridge teachers, Paul Marston and Nevena Djurovic, this course helps the next generation of bridge players master the important basics of the game.

Players enjoy using their new skills playing with and against the other emerging young bridge talent before advancing to level 2.

Spaces will be limited. Don't Miss Out!

Registration Opens - Monday 1 April.

<https://bridgelounge.online/youth-bridge-registration/abf/>



Paul Marston (picture shown at the bottom of the page) 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.



2. The World Bridge Federation have sent to the Australian Bridge Federation the following details about the BAMSA BAM which is raising funds for a global project on increasing youth and school bridge in many countries around the world.



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](#)





Executive Administrator Wanted

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) is looking for an Executive Administrator to join their team. Your new position will report to the ABF's Executive Director. This is a recently created role offering permanent part-time working mainly from home.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide high-level administrative support to ABF personnel
- Manage correspondence and filing systems
- Maintain financial management systems
- Coordinate management meetings
- Prepare documentation
- Support Tournament Organisers with ABF Bridge events
- Perform routine office duties
- Optionally perform Basic bookkeeping tasks

Type of Person We're Looking For

- ✓ Minimum 5 years' experience in an administrative role
- ✓ Bookkeeping experience will be highly regarded
- ✓ Ability to forge positive relationships with a range of stakeholders
- ✓ Effective communication skills
- ✓ Well-developed organisational skills
- ✓ Good attention to detail
- ✓ Intermediate proficiency in Microsoft Office minimum - particularly Word, Excel & PowerPoint
- ✓ Willingness to learn new skills
- ✓ Knowledge of Bridge is desirable - either already a Bridge player or a willingness to learn

The ABF will offer the successful candidate flexible working hours that meet their needs. Hours will range from 15 - 25 hours per week, depending on whether or not bookkeeping tasks are included, spread over 3 to 4 days per week. Salary will be in the vicinity of \$85-90K plus superannuation per annum, prorated according to actual hours worked.

This is a remote role working from home with the ABF assisting with home office set-up, if required. Some travel may be involved including at least 2 weeks in Canberra during the first month for handover.

Interested?

Contact David Wurth from Wurth HR BEFORE applying

Email: david@wurthhr.com.au or Phone: 1300 900 741



When applying please include current resume and cover letter outlining your claims to the position

Jenny Thompson

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS APRIL

The following hand took place in a team event

West leads the ♥J.

NORTH

♠AKQ32
♥K95
♦A4
♣Q73

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠97
♥A43
♦KQ3
♣AT654

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♣	P
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
4NT	P	6NT	ALL P

2♦ was an artificial game force

2NT denied four ♥s and three ♠s

4NT was quantitative (a general slam try)

6NT was bid by South as they had a maximum in the 11-14 range

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH APRIL

Both sides vulnerable in a match point pairs event

West leads the ♠K.

You duck this trick and West continues with the ♠2 and East plays the ♠T.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

NORTH

- ♠ 975
- ♥ AQ5
- ♦ AK9
- ♣ AJ76

WEST

- ♠
- ♥
- ♦
- ♣

EAST(D)

- ♠
- ♥
- ♦
- ♣

SOUTH(D)

- ♠ A86
- ♥ 973
- ♦ T72
- ♣ KQ95

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	P	P	P
1♣	1♠	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

North was too strong to open 1NT, so they opened 1♣.

A vulnerable East overcalled 1♠ (after passing originally) and after South showed some points with a ♠ stopper, by bidding 1NT, North bid 3NT.



THE INTERVIEW

THE FOURTH INTERVIEW IS WITH DEE HARLEY (the previous editor before myself)

Editor:

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

Dee:

I was born in Yorkshire (England) of Scottish parents, so by English law I am Scottish, by Scottish law I am English...but I consider myself a Scot (by Dee's law)

Editor:

Where did you go to school?

Dee:

My early school years were in Yorkshire, then, aged 8, I moved to Helensburgh on the River Clyde (about 22 miles west of Glasgow) - quite near Loch Lomond.

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

Dee:

Yes - I loved playing cards - my grandmother taught me a few patience games and we played whist, canasta (and monopoly) with my parents and siblings.

Editor:

What other interests did you have as a child?

Dee:

I can't draw, or paint or make things - I was more at home with numbers. I used to make 12*12 grids and fill it with the multiples, I learned my multiplication tables when I was very young. Also, I loved reading adventure books.

Editor:

Why and when did you come to Australia from Scotland?

Dee:

Anna's daughter married an Australian software engineer and between them they wrote a wonderful 'app' which automated food selling of various types. It was very successful in Australia, so they came to stay with us in Edinburgh to roll-out the system across the world. They stayed for a couple of years, during which time I got very involved in assisting with the 'app'. I had just retired from the company I had been with for 32 years, so when they returned to Melbourne, we thought we could come too. I could work on the software, and we would be eligible for a working visa.

Editor:

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

Dee:

In Edinburgh in the University Union, I was kibitzing a game when one of the players got called away. They asked if I could play, I rashly said yes! (gross exaggeration). The first hand went 1H x xx p p p. I wasn't familiar with doubles and redoubles, so that cost me a few pennies. Luckily, I met a guy named Neil, who was just learning Acol, and he and I formed a partnership. In those days I had an almost eidetic memory and could visualise the relevant pages on "All about Acol" when I was bidding.

Editor:

How long did this partnership last?

Dee:

I played with Neil for about 10 years – we used to go the Guardian Easter pairs every year in London. During breaks between play we would go to play pinball in the local arcade.

Editor:

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

Dee:

When I was 19

Editor:

What local results and achievements are you most proud of?

Dee:

Pride is a sin. Apart from that, I have been a frequent representative for Victoria in the ANC these past 12 years.

Editor:

What national/international results and achievements are you most proud of?

Dee:

Anna and I went on honeymoon in 2010 to Philadelphia to play in the world championships. We qualified for the final (I think it was a 50 pair final) We qualified in 11th place. Our other Scottish pair finished about halfway down the field in 273rd place (it was a big field!). The final was going well until the tenth straight day of bridge, noodles and honeymoon sank us. It was a fun time though.

On another occasion my partner and I played 48 boards of a 64 board match (in a team of 6) in the Spingold against Geoff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. (Our various team-mates played Hamman and Zia) and after 64 boards we were -11, and had we found the lead to beat a slam we could have won.

Editor:

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

Dee:

Rixi Markus caught my imagination – bid what you think you can make. In the Guardian Easter Pairs, we used to play precision but I found that at the end of the day I was exhausted by the memory strain to play the cards to their best advantage...so I like to have a few easy agreements to remember and focus on the card play.

Editor:

What is your preferred bidding system and why?

Dee:

I have played Acol, Precision, Standard (whatever that is) Polish club, 2/1, and 'Moscito'. I like various aspects of each, but in the end ANY easy to remember system will do. Focus on making the (wrong) contract that you are in and you will do well.

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?

Dee:

I am not as fit and healthy as I used to be! I wish I was. However, I kind of retreat into my brain when I play and don't tend to notice the physical world at all. It is better if you are fitter, but we must make do with what we have!

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Dee:

I really enjoy playing for Victoria – I hope I will be able to continue in that vein for a few more years...

Editor:

Diamonds seem to be a thing with bridge players – the ♦7 is a beer card especially for the younger brigade but you are more involved with the ♦9.

Dee:

There is no doubt that I like the beer card and claim it whenever I can. The ♦9 though has a checkered history in Scotland, the most prominent "rumour" being that the order for the massacre of the McDonalds was written on the back of the ♦9. I frequently will get rid of this this card as soon as possible. It's bad juju.

Editor:

Thank you, Dee for your time and effort in recording this interview.

Editor's notes:

When referencing 'Anna', Dee is referring to his wife 'Anna St Clair'.

"Rixi" Markus MBE (27 June 1910 – 4 April 1992)

She was an Austrian and British international bridge player. She won five world titles, and was the first woman to become a World Grand Master within the World Bridge Federation. She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to bridge in the 1975 Birthday Honours.

She was not only a good 'female player'. She was better than most world class 'male players' at the time and often partnered Charles Goren.

As Dee quite correctly points out, pride is one of the seven deadly sins. It is considered by some to be one of the gravest of all sins. In the theological sense, pride is defined as an excessive love of one's own excellence. It is just as well that some of us have little to be truly proud of in our bridge journey.

Dee mentions 'juju' at the end of the interview. 'Juju' comes from the traditional West African religion popularly known as 'Voodoo'. Therefore, it is suggested that don't annoy Dee especially if he is holding a small doll.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



I HEAR VOICES

While hearing voices can be a symptom of some mental health concerns, it can also occur while feeling very stressed, anxious, worried or tired. Hearing voices is actually quite a common experience: around one in ten of us will experience it at some point in our lives. Hearing voices is sometimes called an 'auditory hallucination'.

Well, a few years ago, an 'auditory hallucination' occurred at the bridge table.

Two young college students, Ben and Jerry, had recently learnt to play bridge at lunch time in the noisy confines of the common room at the university. After playing daily for a couple of months, they decided to test their abilities at the local bridge club.

They were greeted by the director and they were escorted to a table where two elderly gentlemen sat. The director stated that, this evening, we are playing match point pairs. The two college students looked a little confused but they were told that it was just a bridge game where you play a few hands against your opponents and then move to play somebody else. They introduced themselves to their opponents and waited for some boards to be placed on the table. Ben sat West and Jerry sat East.

The elderly gentlemen sitting North was dealer and he was contemplating what to do and eventually placed a 'Pass' card on the table. While used to spoken bidding in the common room, Jerry was patiently waiting for the gentleman to voice an opening bid. Jerry heard 1♣ (unfortunately, this was said by a gentleman at an adjacent table) and Jerry, having an opening hand with a shortage in the ♣ suit, remembered what to do and so said 'DOUBLE'.

The gentlemen sitting South pointed out to Jerry that he shouldn't really speak his bid but display it on the table by taking the appropriate action out of the bidding box and placing it on the table. Jerry found his bidding box and the red 'DOUBLE' card and placed it in front of him on the table.

The gentleman sitting South held a balanced ten count and pulled out the blue 'REDOUBLE' card and placed it in front of him.

Ben, having a weak hand, properly put the 'PASS' card on the table. North passed as did Jerry.

Ben was advised that it was his lead and he looked confused. The gentlemen sitting North, seeing Ben's confused look, graciously suggested to the new member that a trump lead is sometimes best against a redoubled contract.

Ben decided to call the director. The director came to the table and asked Ben what was the problem. Ben said that the kind gentlemen suggested that I should lead a trump against a 'redoubled' contract. However, I don't know what suit is trumps.

The director looked at the auction.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	DBL	RDBL	P
P	P		

Once, they worked out what had happened, all the players had a laugh. The director, however, had a headache as he had to work out how to score the board given all the unauthorised information.



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR MARCH

- VICTORIA

RYE/DROMANA PAIRS CONGRESS

Saturday 9th March

44 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Bob Geyer	Leo Saoud
2nd	Geoffrey Johnson	Kae French
3rd	Lou Innes	Shelley Shergold

The third placed pair were the best local pair.

Phil Douglas and Lucy Zammit finished 23rd and they were the best restricted pair.

WHITTLESEA CONGRESS

44 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

Sunday 10th March

1st	Thilak Ranasinghe	Kim Frazer
2nd	Catherine Lachman	George Lovrecz
3rd	Leo Saoud	Mohamed Ghatwari

BW ONLINE CONGRESS

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March

48 pairs contested the online Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Arjuna De Livera	Simon Tissera
2nd	Paul Ruan	Kevin Gu
3rd	Thilak Ranasinghe	Kumara Nainanayaka

– NATIONAL

TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

Thursday 14th March – Sunday 17th March

Below are the results of the two major events

TBIB AUSTRALAIN MIXED SWISS PAIRS

24 pairs

1st	Pele Rankin	George Kozakos
2nd	Jeanette Reitzer	Matt Smith
3rd	Ella Jacob	Joshua Tomlin

Victorian Results of worthy note

Jenny Thompson playing with David Fryda finished 7th

TBIB AUSTRALAIN SWISS PAIRS

90 pairs in a very strong field

1st	Pele Rankin	George Kozakos
2nd	Warren Lazer	Pauline Gumby
3rd	Avinash Kanetkar	Ron Klinger

Victorian Results of worthy note

Jenny Thompson playing with David Fryda finished 9th



UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL/MAY

VICTORIA

FRANKSTON CONGRESS

Saturday 6rd and Sunday 7th April

See the flyer on the following page

BAYSIDE CONGRESS

Saturday 4th May

See the flyer after the Frankston one

NOTE THE OTHER MAY CONGRESSES ARE LATER IN THE MONTH, SO THEY WILL BE SHOWN IN THE NEXT BULLETIN



Frankston Bridge Club

ANNUAL CONGRESS 2024

N



How would you bid on these hands?
Special prize for best answer!

E



Date: 6 April 2024

Time: 10am start – please arrive by 9.30am

Swiss pairs

Date: 7 April 2024

Time: 10am start – please arrive by 9.30am

Teams

Where: St Francis Xavier Hall, (Rear) 60 Davey Street, Frankston

Entry fee: \$45.00 per person per day. Pay online at
Frankston Bridge Club website

<https://frankston-bridge-club.square.site/shop/payment-portal/3>

OR Pay on the day by credit card or cash

Director: Martin Wilcox

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Convenor: Secretary Anita Spurling
email: secretary@frankstonbridgeclub.com.au

Entries close: Thursday 4th April 5:00pm.

System cards are mandatory and the Congress will
conducted under current VBA rules and regulations

BYO Lunch. Tea, coffee, water & morning tea provided

Thank you to our 2024 Partner –

Frankston Mazda

W



S





2024 Bayside Congress

Swiss Pairs - *Red Points*

Saturday, 4th May at 10am – 5pm

(please arrive by 9:30am)



Hampton Bayside Bowls Club
25 Fewster Road, Hampton
(parking front and
back of greens – off Earlsfield Road)

\$45 per person (cash / card / eft)

Prizes for first division & best Bayside pairs

Bring your own lunch. Snacks & tea/coffee provided

- System cards mandatory
- Highly artificial systems not permitted
- Entries may be refused at discretion of Convenor
- Entries seeded at discretion of Director

Director: Martin Willcox

Entries close: 3 May

Register: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Payment: cash/card on day or transfer funds to:

Account Name: **GAR Bridge Pty Ltd**

BSB No: **633 000**

Account Number: **181 259 656**

Reference: **Congress & name**

Host: Bayside Bridge Club 0493 112 412

email: baysidebridgeclub@gmail.com

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/bayside>

OUR SPONSORS



WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? APRIL

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	P	2♥	P
3♠	P	4NT	P
5♠	p	6NT	All Pass

Both sides are vulnerable.

You are sitting East and see the above auction (where 5♠ showed 2 key cards plus the ♠Q). You hoped they would 6♠ but South bid 6NT.

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

NORTH

♠AKQT96

♥9

♦52

♣K543

EAST

♠T8432

♥AJT

♦K987

♣J

Trick one proceeds - ♣3, you play ♣J and declarer follows with the ♣A. Declarer now cashes the ♣Q and ♣T and you discard the ♦7 and then the ♦8.

Declarer now leads the ♥K from hand and partner plays a small ♥.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN FEBRUARY 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Larsen, Susan	Regional
Alphington Bridge Club	Elliot, Kate	Local
Alphington Bridge Club	Rose, Mich	Graduate
Alphington Bridge Club	Stuckey, Jo	Graduate
Australian Club Bridge Group	Clarke, Stephen	Local
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	West, Jane	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Beck, Anne	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Carter, Melissa	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Charpentier, Dina	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Dwyer, Mary Louise	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Friedlaender, Leo	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Hitchin, Jenny	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Jackson, Pam	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Robertson, Gillian	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Shaw, Patti	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Strain, Susie	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Sutherland, Peter	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Vaughan, Rhonda	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Winocur, Sharon	Silver Local
Beaumaris Bridge Club Inc	Murray, Simone	Local
Benalla Bridge Club	Parris, Bill	Silver Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Mandeltort, Michael	National
Bridge Fanatics Club	Bagg, Gayle	Bronze National
Bridge Fanatics Club	Igel, Mark	Local
Bridge Fanatics Club	Irlicht, Sari	Bronze National
Bridge Fanatics Club	Shmerling, Arnold	Bronze Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Colling, Mary	Bronze Life
Frankston Bridge Club	Colling, Steve	Bronze Life
Frankston Bridge Club	Pert, Karyn	Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Casey, Nikki	Club
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Maver, Ross	Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Roseman, David	Bronze State
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Sisson, Tracey	Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Brewster, Geni	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Burke, Genevieve	Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Carland, Peter	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Dodgshun, Christopher	National

Geelong Bridge Club	Longland, Pat	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Campbell, Chris	Bronze Local
Kattery Bridge Club	Campbell, Chris	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Chapman, Barb	Club
Kattery Bridge Club	Urquhart, Lou	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Baker, Greg	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Kalra, Sangita	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Klemens, Cathy	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Norton-Old, Faye	Bronze State
KLTC Bridge Club	Smith, Jackie	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Snow, Karen	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Tang, Jane	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Wrobel, Pauline	State
KLTC Bridge Club	Wyatt, Gillian	Graduate
Lyceum Club	Clarke, Katherine	Bronze Local
Maine Bridge Club	Lavery, Des	Silver Local
MCC Bridge Club	Critchley, Greg	State
Melbourne Bridge Club	Grapsas, James	Bronze Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Brooks, Anne Maree	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Gilmartin, Eric	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Kanaris, Anne	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Louie, Christine	Grand
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Louie, Herman	Grand
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	McRorie, Tracie	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Morrison, Colin	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	O'Donnell, Hannah	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Saoud, Leo	Gold Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Tregaskis, Tina	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Trollope, Joan	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Young, Lynda	Bronze National
Mornington Bridge Club	Bennett, Dorothy	National
Mornington Bridge Club	Wayman, Greg	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Bullen, Margot	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Croagh, Geraldine	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Glyn, Brenda	Bronze Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Goethals, Molly	Silver Local
Northern Bridge Club	Liu, Anita	Local
Northern Bridge Club	McCormick, Barbara	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Templeton, Brenda	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Vass, John	Club
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Bell, Gerland	Bronze Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Del Papa, Jessamy	Bronze Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jansen, Stella	Bronze Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Wood, Suzanne	Bronze Local
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Walsh, Mary-Lou	Graduate

Peninsula Bridge Club	Schuster, Suzanne	State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Darvall, Sue	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Haig, Catherine	Regional
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Hanlon, Jayne	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Hunter, Robin	State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Marshall, Caroline	Bronze National
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Peters, Vikki	Silver Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Telford, Jenny	Club
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Wilson, Caroline	State
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Collis, Marion	Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Davis, Helen	Bronze Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Douglas, Phil	National
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Mellish, Liz	Graduate
Sale Bridge Club	Sherrin, Irene	Club
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Ajzensztat, Michelle	State
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Gould, Gary	Local
Theodor Herzl Social Club	O'Hara, Denis	Regional
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Swieca, Sigi	Bronze Local
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Weisz, Miriam	Bronze Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Banks, Tracey	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Bell, Judith	Silver Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Hume, Andrew	Silver Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Thoernberg, Carleen	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Yee, Barbara	Graduate
Traralgon Bridge Club	Kaminski, Fred	Bronze National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Bird, Maryanne	Silver Life
Victorian Bridge Centre	Blusztein, Gary	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Greenberg, Hannah	Silver Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Harris, Catherine	Bronze State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Heimer, Sylvia	National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Jankie, Jeffrey	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Sheehan, Annie	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Spernat, Julie	Bronze Local
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Nicholson, John	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Byrne, Anthony	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Byrne, Gail	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Dean, Brian	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Dickinson, Pam	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Finlayson, Richard	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Hill, Susan	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Hughes, Robin	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Jenkins, Basil	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Mills, Caroline	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Penington, Tracey	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Ruan, Paul	Bronze Local

Waverley Bridge Club	Skeels, Sylvia	Bronze State
Williamstown Bridge Club	Blamires, Harry	National
Williamstown Bridge Club	Kirkman, Hugh	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Kirkman, Judith	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Maxwell, Colleen	Club
Williamstown Bridge Club	Waddell, Denis	Club

Congratulations to all of the above.

SALE BRIDGE CLUB FUNCTION

An interesting Director Training course was held at the Sale Bridge Club. It was brought to the editor's attention by Libby Thomson.

Bridge Victoria and the Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA) funded, and the Sale Bridge club hosted the following -

Introduction to Directing days on March 3rd and March 23rd at the Sale Bridge Club

Laura Ginnan was the teacher, for both days. She provided lectures, notes, workshops on director calls, bridge mates and Compscore 3. This was a starting point for most of the 25 players attending and we hope to hold a follow-up day later in the year.

This was also Laura's introduction to all the Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA) clubs: Paynesville, Bairnsdale, Sale, Traralgon, South Gippsland and Phillip Island. A member of the 'almost formed' Warrigal Bridge Club also attended. Laura has conducted online lessons for both Sale and Paynesville and enjoyed meeting the other Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA) clubs.

The Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA) clubs appreciate the Bridge Victoria support in running this program.

A picture of the people attending this training is shown.





FEEDBACK

Chris

Is bidding a grand slam a realistic possibility?

I was sitting South and opened 1♣, West bid 3♥ and North bid 3♠. How should I continue?

NORTH

♠KQJ32

♥K

♦J64

♣KT93

WEST

♠T7

♥JT87652

♦KQ

♣84

EAST

♠964

♥Q93

♦T7532

♣J7

SOUTH(D)

♠A85

♥A4

♦A96

♣AQ652

Answer: It is very difficult to bid confidently unless you have strong partnership agreements.

South can now RKC in ♠s with a 4NT bid. North will show one keycard (playing 1430 for example) by bidding 5♣. South can ask for the trump queen by bidding 5♦. North, with the trump Q, can show the ♥K along the way by bidding 5♥.

South needs North to have the ♣K to have any chance of making 13 tricks. Now depending on your agreements, 5NT can ask for further kings (and North will bid 6♣ showing that card) or in another style 6♣ can ask partner for their ♣ honour holding. In either case, South is hoping for 5 tricks in both ♠s and ♣s and 2 ♥ and 1 ♦ trick (but it is still no guarantee that there are 5 ♣ tricks (South doesn't know that North has ♣ length – may only have 3 cards and the suit doesn't break)

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – APRIL SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	P	2♥	P
3♠	P	4NT	P
5♠	p	6NT	All Pass

Trick one proceeds - ♣3, you play ♣J and declarer follows with the ♣A. Declarer now cashes the ♣Q and ♣T and you discard the ♦7 and then the ♦8.

Declarer now leads the ♥K from hand and partner plays a small ♥.

What is going on here?

You know declarer has four ♣ tricks and is hoping for six ♠ tricks plus a ♥ trick (with entry issues, declarer must lead a ♥ now) and the ♦A (which declarer must have) which comes to twelve tricks.

However, you have a surprise for declarer, there aren't six ♠ tricks. If you duck the ♥K or win and play another ♥, declarer will be forced into taking the ♦ finesse to make twelve tricks.

Simply, win the ♥A and return the ♦9. Declarer, thinking they have twelve tricks, will win the ♦A and go two down.

NORTH

♠AKQJ96
♥9
♦52
♣K543

WEST

♠5
♥7642
♦643
♣98762

EAST

♠T8432
♥AJT
♦K987
♣J

SOUTH

♠7
♥KQ853
♦AQJT
♣AQT

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS - APRIL SOLUTION

Both sides vulnerable

West leads the ♥J.

NORTH

♠AKQ32

♥K95

♦A4

♣Q73

WEST

♠

♥

♦

♣

EAST

♠

♥

♦

♣

SOUTH(D)

♠97

♥A43

♦KQ3

♣AT654

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		1♣	P
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
4NT	P	6NT	ALL P

2♦ was an artificial game force

2NT denied four ♥s and three ♠s

4NT was quantitative (a general slam try)

6NT was bid by South as they had a maximum in the 11-14 range

What is your plan from here?

This is a matter of counting your tricks.

Let us assume that the ♠ suit breaks 3 – 3.

How many tricks have we? five ♠s, two ♥s, three ♦s and one ♣. This comes to eleven tricks.

Therefore, even if the ♠s divided 3 – 3, we are still going to need more than one ♣ trick.

Hence, we must try and get at least two ♣ tricks and hopefully four.

If we get four ♣ tricks along with our two ♥s and three ♦s, we only need three ♠ tricks to come to twelve tricks.

In summary, lead a ♣ at trick two.

Which ♣ you might ask? You have three options

- ♣4 to the ♣Q and if it loses, then cash the ♣A next time hoping for a doubleton ♣J.

- ♣3 towards the ♣A or T and hope you guess correctly

- ♣A and then small towards the ♣Q.

On the layout shown, any of the three options work but not playing the ♣A first does not leave you potentially two immediate ♣ losers.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – MARCH SOLUTION

Both sides vulnerable

West leads the $\heartsuit A$.

NORTH

\heartsuit AJ74
 \spadesuit AKJT2
 \clubsuit T43
 \diamond 5

West continues with the $\clubsuit 2$ and you ruff this trick with a small trump.

When you lead the $\heartsuit Q$ from hand, West follows with the $\heartsuit 2$ and East plays the $\clubsuit 6$.

What is your plan from here?

Answer on the following page

WEST

\heartsuit
 \spadesuit
 \clubsuit
 \diamond

EAST(D)

\heartsuit
 \spadesuit
 \clubsuit
 \diamond

SOUTH(D)

\heartsuit KQ853
 \spadesuit 74
 \clubsuit K
 \diamond KT943

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	3 \clubsuit	P	4 \clubsuit
DBL	P	4 \heartsuit	P
P	P	P	

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

North opens with a takeout double over West's 4 \clubsuit bid and South happily bids 4 \heartsuit .

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠AJ7
♥AKJT2
♦T
♣5

WEST

♠T96
♥?65
♦
♣QJ86

EAST(D)

♠
♥?83
♦QJ98
♣A72

SOUTH(D)

♠K85
♥74
♦
♣KT943

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

Editor's Note: TP, as usual and most welcome, sent a complete solution with various scenarios covered. He ruffed a ♦ with the ♠K after playing a small ♥ to the ace. This line can run into problems when East has four ♥s to the Q (or West has four ♥s to the Q) and East has the ♣A but all lines have issues.

I believe the best line is shown but it has possible complication as well.

After the first three tricks are completed, the current situation is shown on the left.

This 4 – 0 trump break makes the hand very awkward.

You have already lost a ♦ trick and you have a certain ♣ loser and you must setup the ♥ suit without losing trump control and/or be unable to draw all of West's trumps and/or East winning the ♥Q and West getting a trump promotion. You may well need to ruff you're losing ♦ in your hand as well.

There is only so much that you can cater for in the opponent's respective hands.

What about the ♥ suit? In most scenarios it will need to be either 4 – 2 or 3 – 3. However, the contract is makeable no matter who has the ♥Q (even East as long as they hold the ♣A as well).

There is another issue in a potential blockage in the ♠ suit (as dummy will need to extract the last trump from West).

Lead the ♠8 from hand (if West covers, win the ♠J in dummy and if West plays small then you are still in your hand rather than in dummy). Now lead the ♥J.

- if East wins and plays another ♦ (or plays the ♣A first), ruff with the ♠K and draw West's last two trumps by finessing in dummy and claim ten tricks.

- if West wins and exits with a ♠, win in dummy, ruff the ♦ with the ♠K and go back to dummy in ♥s to draw West's last trump and claim ten tricks (if West exits with a ♣, it is the same ending as before).

- If the ♥Q doesn't appear, then presumably, one opponent has four ♥s. Lead the ♥A and a small ♥ and ruff with the ♠K and pull West's last trumps and claim ten tricks