



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

JULY 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to a lady who is relatively new to the bridge scene and is still considered as an ‘experienced restricted’ player but has made a large impact behind the scenes as an administrator especially in the Frankston and Mornington part of the state. Her name is Anita Spurling about whom you will hear more about in this month's interview.

Believe it or not, your editor has other interests in life besides family and bridge. In a previous editorial, I indicated that I tried to stay fit. My two most common fitness regimes include officiating soccer and riding my indoor bike as fast as I can to nowhere for about an hour.

An hour coincides with about two quarters of an AFL game, just over half a rugby or soccer game when you include the ‘Youtube’ commercials, the daily highlights of the three major cycling classics (Giro Italia, Tour de France and the Vuelta) and nearly half of an NFL game (American football). This way I have some sport to watch at any time of the year whilst on the bike.

The most famous NFL coach was a man named Vince Lombardi (the trophy awarded to the ‘Super Bowl’ champions is named in his honour).

He was a hard-nosed individual. The players on the team said that he didn't want to see ‘unnecessary’ flair but expected mistake free play in all games and would not tolerate any player who failed in this endeavour. He wasn't great as a ‘player manager’ but he got the results because his players feared him. One of his favourite sayings was "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Imagine if Vince Lombardi was captain of your bridge team. How would you perform under this pressure?

I don't think that many people have ever played a mistake free session. Of course, there are ‘mistakes’ and ‘MISTAKES’. There are always things that I think about after the session, as I try to sleep, that I could have done differently.

Bridge is often called a ‘bidder's game’. Also, it is generally acknowledged that the winner is generally the one who makes the fewest mistakes.



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

Perhaps Vince Lombardi was on to something after all.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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PRESIDENT VBA - CHRISTOPHER LEACH

I am pleased to note that the most successful Victor Champion Cup carnival since Covid took place over the June King's Birthday long weekend. This is wonderful news for Victorian bridge, as not only does the state benefit from the surplus generated by the event to advance development of bridge for all, but we have also showcased our ability to hold a great gold-point event and introduced new categories that demonstrated clearly, we are focused on increasing the opportunities for participation by all levels of players.

At the event I announced the retirement of our excellent Tournament Organiser for the last six years, Geoff Schaller, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. Geoff took on this event just before Covid and then led the event back to health during very difficult times. He has done a magnificent job and all involved in the management of Victorian bridge are in his debt. As well as acknowledging Geoff, I was very pleased to note the handing of the baton of Tournament Director to Laura Ginnan. Laura is well known already for her directing, teaching and focus on promoting youth bridge. She has also run successful tournaments already. We look forward to seeing the VCC reach even greater heights in 2025.

The VBA Council continue to work on implementing our four-stage strategy with the ultimate objective of exploring legal separation of state and club when appropriate. Legal separation would happen when both of the VBA's now administratively separate entities, Bridge Victoria and the VBC (the VBA's club located at Dendy Park, Brighton) demonstrate financial viability and operational stability. The Council has approved updates to the VBA constitution to reflect the devolution that has taken place already and to remove certain now archaic Council practices. These changes, which will be presented at the AGM this year, include changing the current mode of election of Special Councillors (club representatives) to a selection process run via Bridge Victoria.



This will remove duplication and simplify a currently cumbersome process. There are also administrative updates to the way the VBA Council itself operates, which will better reflect the current devolved situation.

These proposed changes nevertheless still recognize that the Council, which is the Board of Directors of the Victorian Bridge Association Limited (VBA), will continue to provide oversight, governance and overall direction. The proposed changes were envisaged to enable us to continue moving towards the independence model where Bridge Victoria and the VBC are financially viable and operationally stable.

BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – COLIN JASPER

Bridge Victoria Committee Update

Last weekend, the [Bridge Victoria Committee](#) met to discuss our strategy. I'm grateful to these volunteers for giving up their Saturday to meet and discuss how we can grow Bridge in Victoria, particularly those who came from regional areas.

We identified thirteen priority areas and have allocated individuals to lead each area. This covers our role of:

- Promoting bridge throughout Victoria,
- Running state bridge activities, and
- Supporting affiliated clubs.

The focus is now on action. More to come next month!

Lapsed Members

As many of you know, Bridge Victoria's primary focus is growth. Attracting more players into the game, to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the game. Over the last few months, I have mentioned the Master's Thesis from BAMSA (Bridge: A Mind Sport for All) on promoting bridge. One of their eight recommendations is to focus attention on retrieval recruiting. Those players who have not been at the club in recent months.

The ABF is starting an initiative focused on lapsed members. How do we identify them? What can we do to reengage them with the club and the bridge community. Many clubs have welfare officers who play an important role in this regard. But over the last couple of months I've also heard two great individual stories, of players taking action.

In the first, Phil noticed he hadn't seen a player at the club for a while. The call to the lapsed member was received with gratitude as their partner had decided to stop playing. While we would like the lapsed player to reach out to the club to help them find a new partner, sometimes we need to make it easy.

The second story was of a state player who had stopped playing for 8 years! Martin contacted them to see if they would play in a congress, and they are now seen regularly at congresses across the state.

I congratulate Martin and Phil on their actions. I know many others take similar, unheralded steps to support their local bridge community.

Who can you call today?

Play with a Star

In August we have three very different state events taking place. Firstly, on Sunday 4th August we have the annual



Teams of Three. This event is designed for beginners and developing players and provides an opportunity to partner with one of Victoria's leading players. It's always one of the most popular events on the calendar. Put together your Team of Three and enjoy the opportunity to play with – and learn from – some of the best.

Then for the more competitive players, the Victorian Online Teams Championship commences on Monday 5th August. It would be great to have entries from across the state. Finally, the Butler Pairs Championship starts on August 7th.

Upcoming Events

State Events

- Victorian Teams of Three – 4th August
- Victorian Online Teams Championship – 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th August
- Victorian Butler Pairs Championships – 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th August.

Congresses:

- Gardenvale – 20th & 21st July
- Theodor Herzl – 28th July
- Knox – 3rd August
- Traralgon – 17th & 18th August
- RACV – 25th August

Colin Jasper
Bridge Victoria – Chair

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

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS JULY

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH(D)

♠ 9
 ♥ T3
 ♦ AT92
 ♣ AJ9742

WEST

♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

EAST

♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

SOUTH(D)

♠ K862
 ♥ 96
 ♦ KQJ853
 ♣ Q

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	2♦	2♠
5♦	DBL	P	P
P			

With both sides vulnerable and opposite a passed partner, you decide to open a vulnerable natural 2♦.

You hoped to stop the opponents finding a ♥ and/or a ♣ fit.

The auction proceeded as shown.

After a bit of thought, West leads the ♣K.

West obviously was not prepared to lead from the ♠AQ as North could well be void with the raise to game.

Dummy comes down.

You have been given a lifeline with three top losers.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH JULY

Both sides nil vulnerable in a pair's match

NORTH

♠ Q32
♥ AT3
♦ 4
♣ QJ8632

WEST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ 4
♥ KJ9752
♦ AQ952
♣ A

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
			1♠
P	P	2♥	DBL
2♠	DBL	4♦	P
4♥	P	P	4♠
P	P	5♥	ALL PASS

North bid 2♠ as a cue raise and East's double, after an original pass and West's previous double showing a good hand, suggested a weak ♠ fit.

South showed a good two-suiter with the 4♦ bid.

After, South's 4♠ bid, North should probably double with a shortness in ♦s but, without the DBL, South bid 5♥ which ended the auction.

West leads the ♠A. Then accurately switches to the ♥4.

You play the ♥3 and East follows with the ♥8 and you win with the ♥9.

You lead the ♦A and West plays the ♦J and the rest of the trick is the ♦4 and the ♦6.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

THE INTERVIEW

THE FIFTH INTERVIEW IS WITH ANITA SPURLING



Anita Spurling is on the right. Standing with her is Karyn Pert. These two ladies, with some assistance, are the driving force behind the successful Frankston Bridge club and their April congress.

Editor:

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

Anita:

I was born in Mitcham Victoria. I have a zero birthday this year and looking forward to receiving my senior's card. 😊

Editor:

It sounds like the same year that the Beatles came to Australia. Where did you go to school?

Anita:

I grew up in county Victoria and then the family moved to Wheelers Hill. I went to High School there and then onto Monash University

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

Anita:

We and still are, a card family. Every Friday night, every school holidays we played Eucla, 500 hundred, knockout, gin rummy. You name it we played it. Later on, when I had moved out of home and working, I would meet my parents & a friend of theirs and we would play solo, every Monday night for about 6 years.

Editor:

What other interests did you have as a child?

Anita:

I loved reading and was a keen horse rider. I renewed horse riding when I semi-retired. A friend of mine loaned me her horse which I rode for a couple of years. Unfortunately, he became lame and I took to riding other horses. Horses that I wasn't familiar with. I had a very nasty fall in 2018 which was a very close call and I have never ridden again. 😞

Editor:

What direction did you take after finishing your education?

Anita:

I did, what so many people do. I started an 'Arts' degree, completed it and then thought now what! I travelled around the United States for 6 months, came back and realised I had bills to pay. I took up a sales position with Peter Isaacson Publications (publisher of various trade journals and suburban newspapers including the *Southern Cross* and the *Sunday Observer* in Melbourne).and stayed there for 7 years. I did a post graduate degree in Public Relations & Marketing and then went onto senior Business Management roles. I worked within the communications & printing industry for a number of years and then in 2003 began my new career path in commercial property. I was the Business & Marketing Manager for the Property Council of Australia and then started my own business in 2009. I never looked back.

Editor:

This why an 'Arts' degree is called a BA. This is the polite way of saying what use it is in getting meaningful paid employment. 😊

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

Anita:

I always wanted to learn Bridge. My mum died in 2007 and I was working long hours trying to overcome grief. I always said that I would learn bridge (she had always wanted to learn) and when I slowed down my corporate life, I had the opportunity to look around. Before Covid changed the world, I saw a post on the local Facebook page. The heading said it all for me – do you like playing 500? Would you like to learn Bridge? Yes, I said!!

Then we had the lockdowns. Sue Beckman was my original contact and she directed me to the online lessons with Paul Marsten. I did his first 2 courses, again online and was hooked – much to the dismay of my husband, a keen photographer but not a card player.

I started playing supervised Bridge at the Mt Eliza Bridge Club & then had lessons with Lindsay Young.

Editor:

Did you have a regular partner initially?

Anita:

I didn't have a partner to start with. I was left to my own if you like, which is one of my criticisms of this fantastic game and then a woman, about my age, turned up at my Eliza Bridge Club. Karyn Pert had been taught bridge by her dad in NZ and we became friends instantly. Of course, we all went into another lockdown so our learning has been and still is, curtailed by factors out of our individual control.

Editor:

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

Anita:

I love Bridge, I love the skill, the mind game and the people. I joined the Frankston Bridge Club as they offered guidance and have helped me and continue to help me on my journey. I retired in September 2022 and then have continued to meet others and learn more. I had been encouraged to push myself and played a number of state congresses, not realising that after playing for less than 2 years, I had SO MUCH to learn!

Karyn & I went to our first Gold Coast Congress in 2013 and I said a little prayer to my mum. We were in the section for players under 10 points and I vowed I would play so well that I would play with the "grown-ups" after that. I didn't tell Karyn my ambition. I kept it my little secret.

We came equal second in the novice section and I burst into tears. All of the people from our local club were there – Lindsay Young, Sue Beckman, Denise Donald, Colin Shugg, Chris Scott & Chris Fernando and they all congratulated us – anyone would have thought we won the tournament! I started to achieve my own personal goal and much to my husband's dismay, rebooked the 2024 Gold Coast Congress on the spot.

Editor:

When did you decide to get involved behind the scenes and why?

Anita:

I had a successful career and felt I wanted to use some of those skills in a different way. I enjoy giving back and I was a mentor for many younger people half-way into my career. I have come full circle with people now mentoring me – Viv Dacey, Gwen Branton and Sue Beckman. I want to encourage change in the direction of Bridge. I have some ideas in my head in how to encourage people to learn.

Editor:

What local results and achievements are you most proud of (playing and/or administration)?

Anita:

I haven't had too many successes at the card table but on a personal level I have met some wonderful people along the way. I am so proud of the record attendance we had at our last congress and as part of a committee we achieved a lot.

Editor:

Anita is discussing the record attendance at the recent Frankston congress which was held on the 6th and 7th of April.

How long have you been involved with the Frankston Bridge Club and how has the club evolved?

Anita:

I have been a member for 3 years and took over secretary position 9 months ago. The Frankston bridge club is like so many other clubs. It doesn't attract new people to play bridge. We need youth and vitality to increase participation across all clubs.

Editor:

What is your general style at the bridge table?

Anita:

I am keen to learn and be guided by others far more experienced than me.

Editor:

What is your preferred bidding system and why?

.

Anita:

This is the wrong question for me as I am very much a beginner. Bridge & Bridge Victoria needs to mentor, nurture people beginning the learning process.

Editor:

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

Anita:

We all need to be physically, mentally challenged, irrespective of age

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Anita:

To play better!

Editor:

Don't we all have the same goal. 😊

What are your goals for the Frankston Bridge Club?

Anita:

Frankston Bridge Club, like so many clubs, needs to address a bigger question - how can we achieve the goal of increasing Bridge Participation across all ages?

Editor:

Thank you, Anita.

There is a lot of effort going into trying to address this goal by the Bridge Victoria committee.

BRIDGE HUMOUR

RULES ARE RULES

NORTH	
♠	
♥63	
♦	
♣	
WEST(D)	EAST
♠	♠
♥KQT92	♥754
♦	♦
♣	♣
SOUTH	
♠	
♥AJ8	
♦	
♣	

East and West were a very experienced pair. Whereas, North and South were relative beginners who were playing their first game out of supervised play.

North and South had bid to 3NT.

This is a story about the ♥ suit only.

The experienced West led the ♥Q.

South asked East what the meaning of the lead was (ie do they over lead or under lead honours).

"It means, must drop the Jack," East replied (This is a common style for a lot of good pairs in no trump contracts. Even though you over lead normally, with a suit like KQT92, you lead the Q and ask partner to unblock with the J if they have the card. If they don't play the J, you know that declarer has the J).

"Really?!" says South, muttering to herself. "It's such an unfair rule," she says reluctantly as she drops her jack.

West assumed that South had an original ♥ holding of AJ. Therefore, the experienced West, led the ♥2 to indicate an entry in ♣s.

South won the trick with the ♥8.



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR JUNE

- VICTORIA

MOONEE VALLEY SUPER CONGRESS

Friday 31st May to and Sunday 2nd June

64 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Kathie Radcliffe	Greg Nunn
2nd	Heath Watkins	Damon Flicker
3rd	Anna St Clair	Dee Harley

25 teams contested the Teams and the placegetters were

1st	Justin Stark	Neil Ewart	Martin Willcox	David Beckett
2nd	Jane Rennie	Andrew Mill	Justin Mill	Annette Maluish
3rd	Kevin Chan	Jack Huang	Chen Ding	Andrzej Kwolikowski

YARRA VALLEY MINI CONGRESS

Sunday 16th June

34 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Victor Zhang	Philip Chang
2nd	Phillip Fent	Dee Harley
3rd	John Yang	Stephen Weisz

- NATIONAL (VICTORIA)

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

Thursday 6th June and Friday 7th June

106 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1st	Joachim Haffer	Philip Markey
2nd	Jessica Brake	Andy Hung
3rd	Ian Robinson	Neil Ewart

Note: Neil Ewart is a Victorian playing with his Canberra partner

MIXED SWISS PAIRS

Thursday 6th June and Friday 7th June

32 pairs contested this event and the placegetters were

1st	Liam Milne	Sophie Ashton
2nd	Lori Smith	Howard Melbourne
3rd	Paul Lavings	Helen Lavings

OPEN SWISS TEAMS

Saturday 8th June to Monday 10th June

74 teams contested this event and the placegetters were

1st	Gabby Feiler	Sartaj Hans	Andy Hung	David Beachamp
2nd	Joachim Haffer	Philip Markey	Ben Thompson	Jamie Thompson
3rd	Hugh McGann	Michael Ware	Justin Mill	James Coutts

Note: Ben Thompson and Justin Mill are Victorian and Jamie Thompson and James Coutts are Victorians living in NSW

Also, Neil Ewart playing with his Canberra partner finished 3rd in the pair datums (a measure of how the particular pair played during the team's event).



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY/AUGUST

GARDENVALE CONGRESS

Saturday 20th July and Sunday 21st July

THEODOR HERZL CONGRESS

Sunday 28th July

KNOX CONGRESS

Saturday 3rd August

TRARALGON CONGRESS

Saturday 17th August and Sunday 18th August

WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB (AVEO SPONSORED EVENT)

The event will run over 2 Saturdays on the 24th and 31st of August from 1pm-4pm in the Swiss Pairs format.

All bookings for the event will be made through MyABF. If you wish to get further information about the event, you can contact the club manager, Nik Naumovski, on 9807 6502 or office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au

Aveo have been kind enough to sponsor the event with \$2000 in Visa Gift Cards with Laurie directing the event.

The poster for the event is on the following page

The Aveo logo features the word "aveo" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized blue bird-like graphic is integrated into the letter 'v'.

WAVERLEY
BRIDGE CLUB
MELBOURNE

AVEO SWISS PAIRS

A stylized graphic of a bridge structure, composed of yellow and white lines, positioned to the left of the word "PAIRS".A stylized graphic of a bridge structure, composed of yellow and white lines, positioned to the right of the word "PAIRS".

Get ready for one of Victoria's biggest Swiss Pairs events, proudly sponsored by Aveo, at the Waverley Bridge Club! With a total prize pool of \$2000 in Visa Gift Cards.

The first-place winners will receive \$1000, runners-up will take home \$500, and there are special prizes of \$200 each for the best pairs under 100 and 300 masterpoints.

DATE: SATURDAY 24 & 31 AUGUST

TIME: 1.00PM - 4.00PM

COST: \$90 PER PAIR

**VENUE: 21A ELECTRA AVENUE,
ASHWOOD, 3147**

BOOKINGS:

**[HTTPS://MYABF.COM.AU/EVENTS
/CONGRESS/VIEW/1644](https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1644)**

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? JULY

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1♠	P
2♥	P	3♠	P
4♦	P	4♠	ALL PASS

Playing in a team's match where beating the contract is your main concern (overtricks are secondary).

A simple auction sees the opponents finish in 4♠. South has shown a very good ♠ suit in this auction.

NORTH

♠4
♥QJT96
♦AQT96
♣74

EAST

♠73
♥A852
♦8432
♣AT3

West leads the ♣Q. Dummy plays the 4, you play the A and declarer plays the 8.

Now what? Is there any hope?

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN MAY 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alphington Bridge Club	Mill, Justin	Gold Grand
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Peck, Tony	Local
Ballarat Bridge Club	Giles, Richard	National
Ballarat Bridge Club	Gunn, Ian	Bronze Local
Ballarat Bridge Club	Taylor, Lynne	Bronze Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Coldebella, Ron	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Forster, Robyn	Bronze Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Fuller, Susan	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Jacoby, Garth	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Levy, Sara	Bronze National
Bayside Bridge Club	Mackiggan, Rebecca	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Nicholson, Christine	Silver Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Stamer, Sonja	Bronze Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Agnew, Brigitte	Bronze State
Bendigo Bridge Club	Gardner, Robert	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Perkins, Bob	National
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Spicer, Cynthia	Silver Local
Frankston Bridge Club	Allen, Ros	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Jaffe, Linda	Regional
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Kaye, Valerie	Bronze Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Sisson, Andrew	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Baldwinson, Brian	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Donohue, Paula	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Howell, Gleniffer	Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Ilic, Mary	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Madden, Louise	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Campbell, Christine	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Brodmeier, Marcus	State
KLTC Bridge Club	Griffiths, Jane	Bronze Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Guest, Merran	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Liebelt, Pip	Bronze Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Murray, Brendan	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	North, Morag	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Richmond, Rosemary	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Senior, Cecile	Gold Life
KLTC Bridge Club	Sutton, Robyn	State
Lyceum Club	Clayton, Sandy	Graduate
Lyceum Club	Galbraith, Rhonda	Graduate
Lyceum Club	Richardson, Margie	Club

Maine Bridge Club	Ride, Jo	Local
MCC Bridge Club	King, Richard	Silver Local
MCC Bridge Club	Willersdorf, Linda	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Davis, Michael	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hardie, Simon	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Young, Philip	Life
Northern Bridge Club	Carbuhn, Ray	State
Northern Bridge Club	Classon, Jan	Regional
Northern Bridge Club	King, Jan	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Palmer, Judy	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Ryan, Michael	Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Tuck, Eve	State
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jansen, Stella	Silver Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Yates, Carolyn	Bronze Regional
OZ Bridge Club	Lefkovits, Dusha	Graduate
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Gillespie, Loretta	Graduate
Paynesville Bridge Club	De Jonge, David	Regional
Phillip Island Bridge Club	McKergow, Graham	State
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Murphy, Jim	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Airey, Sally	Regional
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Macneil, Jayne	Silver Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Watkins, Sam	Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Karol, Peter	Gold Life
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Graham	Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Kath	Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boyle, Jeff	Club
Shepparton Bridge Club	Earl, Geoff	Regional
South Gippsland Bridge Club	French, John	Regional
Sunbury Bridge Club	Hyland, Ruth	Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Erving, Lydia	Regional
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Roe, John	Club
Traralgon Bridge Club	Graham, Rob	Bronze Life
Traralgon Bridge Club	Halse, Cheryl	Graduate
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Wijeyaratne, Anoma	Bronze State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Boyar, Ros	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Harris, Jen	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	King, Annette	State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Spender, John	National
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Rosenow, Mark	Bronze National
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Cassidy, Marilyn	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Clement, Tim	Silver Local
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Hogan, Tarsh	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Van Baaren, John	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Baisch, Dieter	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Battley, Sue	State

Waverley Bridge Club	Bhide, Raj	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Hardy, Lydia	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Legge, Tim	Bronze Life
Waverley Bridge Club	Rennie, Susan	Bronze State
Waverley Bridge Club	Ruan, Paul	Silver Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Fitzgerald, Kathleen	Club
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Michelsson, Leif	Bronze National
Williamstown Bridge Club	Finn, Cathy	Local
Yarrowonga Bridge Club	Day, Ian	Graduate

Congratulations to all of the above.

A very special mention to a Victorian player that has attained a promotion with a 'grand' in the ranking.

This month a big milestone has been achieved for a relatively young and very talented player.

Justin Mill is now a 'Gold Grand Master' which indicates he has passed the 5000-master point level.

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

The July calendar is dominated by the Australian National Championships in Orange NSW from the 6th July through to the 18th July.

The Victorian teams are

THE OPEN TEAM

Chen Ding - Ming Zhang Serhat Ozenir - Kevin Chan Jack Huang - Daniel Mao Martin Willcox (NPC)

THE WOMEN'S TEAM

Kae French - Alison Farthing Diana Smart - Jenny Thompson Lisa Yoffa - Maryanne Bird Laurie Kelso (NPC)

THE SENIOR TEAM

John Yang - Stephen Weisz Dee Harley - Phillip Fent George Lovrecz - Robert Gallus Laurie Kelso (NPC)

THE YOUTH TEAM

Taydon Gold – Matt Sieredzinski Heath Watkins – Sam Goss Patrick Clifford – Seb Wright Damon Flicker (NPC)

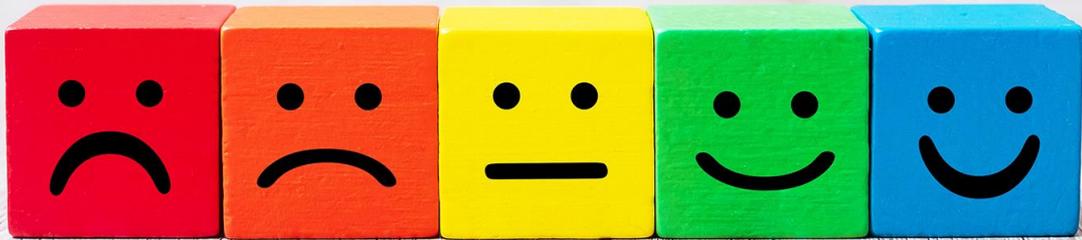
The following is an interesting item that Dave Beckett, a member of the Victorian Bridge Centre, asked me to publish.

The outlined 'substitution' rules only apply to players at the Victorian Bridge Centre but it might be seen as a useful guide for all clubs in addressing this issue.

SUBSTITUTES IN MONDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT EVENTS AT THE VICTORIAN BRIDGE CENTRE

The Match and Tournament Committee (MTC) and Bridge Victoria (BV) would like to remind players of the substitution rules for all Monday Night and Wednesday night events.

1. Please inform the MTC at the earliest possible opportunity of any substitution. (mtc@vba.asn.au)
2. For late substitutions (on the day of the session) please contact the director who will then inform the MTC.
3. Failure to inform either the director or the MTC may result in penalties to the offending pair or team.
4. Please make every effort to find a substitute of **equivalent** standard.
5. To evaluate whether a substitute is of a comparable standard to the absent player, the following factors will be considered:
 - a. The playing records of both the absent player and the substitute (i.e., their performance in events) both separately and in various partnerships
 - b. Each player's recent form as an individual. Longer term form may also be used, especially in the absence of recent activity
 - c. The respective experience levels of both partnerships. Ineligible substitutes include players who have contested the same stage of the competition, those who would not have been eligible to enter the competition, and those still competing in the competition
6. A pair or team employing an "overweight" substitute will have the result for the session in question adjusted to be the lesser of:
 - a. the actual score earned at the table, or
 - b. the average of the scores obtained by the original contestant.
7. Any such adjustment will be calculated at the conclusion of the event hence it will not impact upon the draw. At the conclusion of the event, the opponents of the unit containing the overweight substitute will receive, in lieu of their result for that specific encounter, the greater of either:
 - a. their actual table score, or
 - b. the complement of the offender's capped result



FEEDBACK

Chris

I saw this hand played on Bridge Base Online.

The match was between two top European teams both playing 2 over 1 (better minor approach).

South opened a normal 1♦.

North bid 1NT.

Now what?

SOUTH(D)

♠K654
♥AKJ3
♦A8764
♣

Answer:

This is a really tricky problem. You have a fifteen-point shapely hand but any reasonable action could be right or wrong.

Your ♦ suit is very weak to rebid. Your hand is not really strong enough to reverse into 2♥. If you 'pass', you may miss a game, when partner is maximum for their bid. If you bid 2NT, partner will raise with any near maximum and you have no idea if partner has any fitting honours in your ♦ suit.

Unwilling to miss a vulnerable game, I would bid 2NT and pray.

If I was not vulnerable (where missing a game doesn't cost as much), I would either 'pass' or bid 2♦ (on the theory that partner probably has at least two of them most of the time (and a lot of the time three)).

Therefore, 2NT when vulnerable and make a non-forcing bid when not vulnerable.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – JULY SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1♠	P
2♥	P	3♠	P
4♦	P	4♠	ALL PASS

Playing in a team's match where beating the contract is your main concern (overtricks are secondary). A simple auction sees the opponents finish in 4♠. South has shown a very good ♠ suit in this auction.

West leads the ♣Q. Dummy plays the 4, you play the A and declarer plays the 8. Now what? Is there any hope? Any ♦ honour West holds is onside, so look elsewhere (and South holds the ♣K).

NORTH

♠4
♥QJT96
♦AQT96
♣74

EAST

♠73
♥A852
♦8432
♣AT3

Answer: West needs ♥KX. Underlead the ♥A and then when West returns the other ♥. Lead a ♥ promoting the ♠J.

NORTH

♠4
♥QJT96
♦AQT96
♣74

WEST

♠J85
♥K7
♦75
♣QJ9652

EAST

♠73
♥A852
♦8432
♣AT3

SOUTH(D)

♠AKQT962
♥43
♦KJ
♣K8

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS - JULY SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH(D)

♠9
♥T3
♦AT92
♣AJ9742

WEST

♠AQT743
♥QJ75
♦64
♣K

EAST

♠J5
♥AK842
♦7
♣T8653

SOUTH(D)

♠K862
♥96
♦KQJ853
♣Q

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	2♦	2♠
5♦	DBL	P	P
P			

With both sides vulnerable and opposite a passed partner, you decide to open a vulnerable natural 2♦.

You hope to stop the opponents finding a ♥ and/or a ♣ fit.

The auction proceeds as follows.

After a bit of thought, West leads the ♣K.

West obviously is not prepared to lead from the ♠AQ as North could well be void with the raise to game.

Dummy comes down.

You have been given a lifeline with three top losers.

What is your plan from here?

After winning the ♣A, what do you play at trick two?

You must throw a losing ♥ from your hand but there is no hurry to do this.

You must set up the ♣ suit, so go ahead and lead a small ♣ and, since your ♦ spots are so good, ruff with the KQJ or 8.

Lead a ♦ to the ♦T in dummy and lead a small ♣ and, since your ♦ spots are so good, ruff with the KQJ or 8 again.

Lead a ♦ to the ♦9 in dummy and lead a small ♣ and, since your ♦ spots are so good, ruff with the KQJ or 8 again.

Your ♣ suit is now set up, so lead a ♦ to the ♦A in dummy (to pull the opponent's last trump). You can throw both your hearts on the ♣J and ♣9 clubs, and you can ruff one of dummy's last 2 hearts with your last trump. 11 tricks.

If you pull trumps before setting up the ♣ suit or ruff the first ♣ with a small trump (or play the ♣J) at trick two, the story will have a different ending.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – JUNE SOLUTION

Both sides are Vulnerable

NORTH(D)

♠ T92
♥ KQ8762
♦ A
♣ A63

WEST

♠ QJ54
♥ JT954
♦ J75
♣ 4

EAST

♠
♥ 3
♦ T832
♣ KQJT9752

SOUTH

♠ AK8763
♥ A
♦ KQ964
♣ 8

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♥	4♣	DBL	P
4♥	P	4♠	P
5♠	P	6♠	P
P	P		

South, over East's vulnerable 4♣ bid, has an awkward decision.

South is too good to bid just 4♠ but there is a potential misfit. South decides to Double.

Over North's 4♥ bid, South bids 4♠ and North, with good controls, bids 5♠ and South has an easy 6♠ bid.

West leads the ♣4.

You are pleased with how the auction went and smile openly.

You win the ♣A and lead the ♠2 on which East plays a small ♣ and smiles openly.

What is your plan from here?

Win the ♠A and play the ♥A and then a ♦ to the ♦K.

Now lead the ♥K and when East throws a small ♣ the situation is fairly clear.

For a vulnerable 4♣ bid, East will probably have eight of them. So, the original layout is something like the one shown.

You need to shorten your trumps and extract West's red cards.

So, the sequence goes as follows (although, it could be varied slightly).

Ruff a ♥.

Ruff a ♦.

Play the ♥Q and ruff a ♦.

Play the ♦K throwing dummy's last ♥.

Now exit with a small ♠.

At trick ten, West has ♠QJ5 left and you have ♠A87 left.

West is end played.