



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](mailto:editor@bridgevictoria.au)

# IN THIS EDITION OF THE BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

|  |    |
|--|----|
| PRESIDENT VBA - CHRISTOPHER LEACH.....         | 4  |
| BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – COLIN JASPER.....      | 5  |
| TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS JULY.....            | 6  |
| BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH JULY.....             | 7  |
| THE INTERVIEW.....                             | 8  |
| BRIDGE HUMOUR.....                             | 12 |
| BRIDGE RESULTS.....                            | 13 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY/AUGUST.....            | 15 |
| WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? JULY.....                | 17 |
| RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS.....                 | 18 |
| OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS.....                   | 21 |
| FEEDBACK.....                                  | 23 |
| WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – JULY SOLUTION.....      | 24 |
| TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS - JULY SOLUTION..... | 25 |
| BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – JUNE SOLUTION.....  | 26 |

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> August. It would be great to have entries from across the state. Finally, the Butler Pairs Championship starts on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Events

### State Events

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

### Congresses:

- Gardenvale – 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Theodor Herzl – 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Knox – 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- Traralgon – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August
- RACV – 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> May to and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July

## **THEODOR HERZL CONGRESS**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July

## **KNOX CONGRESS**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

## **TRARALGON CONGRESS**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August

## **WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB (AVEO SPONSORED EVENT)**

The event will run over 2 Saturdays on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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



WAVERLEY  
BRIDGE CLUB  
MELBOURNE

# AVEO SWISS 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           |
| Yarrawonga 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 6<sup>th</sup> July through to the 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.