



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2024

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to Bianca Gold. She is the wife of Leigh Gold or perhaps Leigh is the husband of Bianca Gold. The interview is a little longer than usual for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, Bianca has had a very interesting life (and still does) and her accomplishments are very impressive. In the second place, Bianca has just started a new role in Bridge Victoria where her primary objective is to assist clubs with their overall development. I wished to introduce her to the bridge community as she has a lot of ambitious plans which are documented in a general form in the interview.

In this issue, I have added a new section titled ‘CLUB NEWS’. I spent days coming up with an appropriate title. It may not seem like it given the outcome of my deliberations but you would be surprised with some of the ideas that I finally rejected. In this section, Victorian clubs are encouraged to send articles that help promote their club’s activities. I am very gratified to see what various clubs do to boost the enjoyment of their members.

I thank the contributors for their articles for this bulletin. I ask for other clubs in our community to consider making a contribution in future bulletin editions. When all is said and done, the more that people know about your club, the more it benefits you.

In my role as State Manager – Operations, I was asked to attend a group discussion on culture and behaviour. It was unclear whether I was to be put forward as a positive or a negative example of what was expected from a bridge player. At the meeting, people were talking in a general fashion about how a club can create a positive ambience and what standards we expect from an individual.

Talking more seriously for a moment, it is in all of our best interests, when playing bridge, to



1. enjoy the challenge of the contest
2. make it enjoyable for our partner
3. make it enjoyable, but not too much so, for the opponents (as you triumph or lose graciously)
4. want to come back again on a regular basis

I have appended an article by one of Australia’s best players, Peter Gill, in the ‘OTHER’ section. It is an example of an encounter that Peter had with a new partner. It may be a little extreme but the point that it is making is valid.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – COLIN JASPER

Bridge Victoria Strategy Update

In my last report I highlighted we had put together a strategy, with a range of priorities, all focused on helping grow bridge in Victoria. Since then, we have conducted a survey amongst clubs, to verify the priorities which include:

- Promoting bridge
- Providing support to and materials for teachers
- The development and succession planning of directors.



Bridge Victoria Staffing

To help drive the implementation of our strategy, Bridge Victoria has appointed **Bianca Gold** as BV Clubs Consultant and **Chris Hughes** as BV Operations Manager. Both are well known in the bridge world. Bianca has run her own club and is attuned to the complexities as well as having a keen interest in teaching bridge and youth. Chris is a renowned Australian bridge player, respected throughout the bridge community and brings his wealth of experience to addressing State bridge.

BV Clubs Consultant is the first contact point for clubs. It is the first time in Victoria we will have had dedicated club support. The role encompasses communications with clubs, promotion of events and creating materials that help to manage and grow clubs.

BV Operations Manager will be focused on two areas, managing and growing of state bridge in Victoria, including working with clubs to schedule congresses and ensuring our IT infrastructure is fit for purpose as we grow.

The appointment of Chris and Bianca is a significant step forward for Bridge Victoria. We wish them well in their respective roles.

Director Training

We are aiming to become more regular in the offering of Director training courses. We know this is a significant need in many clubs. Last weekend, Martin Wilcox ran a course in Bendigo. We thank those who attended and Martin, for his efforts in preparing and running the course.

Our next Director training course will be run online, to enable participation from across the state. It will be held on Thursday night's starting on 10th October. Registrations can be made through [MyABF](#).

World Bridge Federation Championships

On 21st October, the WBF championships will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We congratulate the Victoria players who will be representing Australia at these games:

- Pete Hollands – Captain – Australian Open Team
- Jenny Thompson – Australian Women's Team

We wish them well.

Upcoming Events

State Events

- Swiss on Sundays – 13th & 20th October at the Moonee Valley Bridge Club.
- Victorian Swiss Pairs – 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Nov

Congresses:

- Warrnambool – 5th & 6th October
- Mornington – 19th October
- Waverley – 25th-27th October
- Sunbury – 2nd & 3rd November
- South Gippsland – 9th & 10th November
- Kooyong – 17th November
- VBC – 23rd & 24th November
- Beaumaris – 30th November

BV Chair

This will be my final column as Chair of Bridge Victoria. I'm very pleased to announce that **Jan van Riel** has been unanimously elected as the new Chair effective immediately. Jan will be well known to many of you, having played a key role in the establishment of Bridge Victoria.

I'm sure that Jan will do a fabulous job, with the ongoing support of the hard-working BV Committee.

Colin Jasper

Bridge Victoria – Outgoing Chair

Please feel free to contact us at: info@bridgevictoria.au.

CLUB NEWS

RACV CLUB

RACV City Club

501 Bourke St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Thank you to Mary Stoney and Sally Foster for providing me with the following article

The RACV Bridge Club operates under the auspices of the RACV City Club - a Club within a Club, some would say a private bridge Club which first commenced with social bridge in 1996 and was affiliated with the ABF and Victorian Bridge Association some years later. The Club elected its first President in 2010 and since then the Bridge Club has grown to have around 300 members.

Giving you a brief history of the how the RACV Bridge Congress came to be. After discussion at Committee level, during my term as President of the Bridge Club, it was agreed that I submit a proposal on behalf of the Bridge Club to the RACV City Club itself to hold a Club Congress. This Congress would be open to Club members and outside bridge players. After the proposal was accepted, I sought permission from Victorian Bridge Association to hold a Club Congress and so in August 2014 the RACV Bridge Club held its inaugural Congress. I was appointed Congress Convenor, a title I still have to this day.

Holding a Bridge Red Point Club Congress enables a Bridge Club to become recognised within the bridge world. It showcases the Club environment in which bridge is played together with facilities the Club has to offer its members and guests.

As you are aware the RACV held its inaugural bridge Congress in August 2014 with 24 tables – 96 players. The Congress has been run every year except for the COVID years. The table numbers have increased and at the 2024 Congress 78 pairs played in the event – 156 players. This was the most successful Congress to date with 80 entries in total but two withdrawing due to illness.

The Congress was held on 17th Floor of the RACV City Club which offers stunning views of the city and a very comfortable and light environment in which to play bridge. The Congress was directed by Laurie Kelso assisted by Ben Kingham.

What is good about the RACV Bridge Club Congress, is it attracts bridge players of all levels. This has assisted the Congress to grow in entry numbers over the years. It is now recognised as a great Club Congress to attend in Victoria. Bridge Victoria helps promote the Congress and has encouraged us to make it as big as possible.

The 2024 Congress placegetters are pictured.

RACV 2024 Bridge Congress 1st place were –

Christopher Leach and Neil Ewart

(Mary Stoney, the convenor is also shown)

It looks like Christopher and Neil are checking to see if a lift is available so that they can make a quick exit (presumably, in case the organisers find an error in the results).



RACV 2024 Bridge Congress 2nd place were –
Thilak Ranasinghe and Gordon McRobert
(Mary Stoney, the convenor is also shown)



RACV 2024 Bridge Congress 3rd place were –
Serhat Ozenir and Chen Ding
(Mary Stoney, the convenor is also shown)



I can personally attest to the excellent facilities and the view from the 17th floor is excellent.

The exceptional lunch provided and the beautiful ambience mean that this will not be the last time I attend this congress.

Thank you again to Mary Stoney and Sally Foster.

SALE AND PAYNESVILLE CLUBS

Exciting Revival of the Sale-Paynesville Interclub Shield

In a delightful twist of fate, the Paynesville Bridge Club uncovered a hidden gem during a recent clean-up—the prestigious Sale-Paynesville Interclub Bendigo Bank Shield, last contested in 2014! Originally donated by the local Bendigo Branch the shield has now made a triumphant return, thanks to the enthusiasm of John Haylock, who quickly reactivated this long-dormant competition.

On August 28, the Sale Bridge Club hosted the event, which featured both a **Restricted Section** (for players with fewer than 25 masterpoints) and an **Open Section**. Members of the Sale Bridge Club pulled out all the stops, providing a delicious lunch for all participants, which perfectly complemented the friendly and competitive atmosphere of the day.

Both clubs have a strong history of collaboration, having shared online beginner lessons with Laura Ginnan over the past two years. Earlier this year, new players from Sale visited Paynesville for their first taste of competitive play, and this time, the Paynesville crew made the trip by bus to Sale!

Founded in 1995 with Martin Willcox's help, **the Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA)** continues to be a cornerstone of competitive and social bridge in the region. The revival of the Sale-Paynesville Interclub is a testament to ERBA's ongoing impact, fostering connections through congresses, shared lessons, and the simple joy of playing bridge.

A special mention goes to **John Haylock**, who directed the event for the first time, after attending Director instruction days in 2024, sponsored by ERBA and supported by Vic Bridge. He handled the impressive turnout of **17 tables**—10 in the

Open Section and 7 in the Restricted Section—with great success.

For the restricted players, many of whom had only participated in Australia-Wide and ERBA Novice pairs, this was their first face-to-face competition with players from another club. The 7-table movement and shared lunch welcomed these new players into both the competitive and social aspects of the game. Meanwhile, the open players relished the chance to reconnect, play, and enjoy lunch together.

The event was very successful, with both clubs eager to make the **Sale-Paynesville Interclub** a regular fixture once again and to continue their shared online lessons.

Congratulations to the winners!

Restricted Section:

Kaye Thompson & Marilyn Steele (shown in the photo)

Open Section:

Lorraine Robinson & Libby Thomson

Here's to more fun, learning and competitive bridge in the future!



THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The Mornington Peninsula Bridge Association was incorporated on 25 September 2014 and acted as an umbrella organisation for Bridge Clubs on the Mornington Peninsula.

The clubs involved were: Peninsula Bridge Club (Mt Eliza), Mornington Bridge Group, Rye Beach Bridge Club and Dromana Bridge Centre. (the last two have now amalgamated to become the Rye Dromana Bridge Club).

The aims of the association were to promote and encourage the playing of Bridge by residents of the Mornington Peninsula.

Over the years, we financed our Association by holding an Annual two-day Congress in September.

However, after covid and with all of us aging, we have decided to dissolve the Association

We have therefore decided to fulfill our last aim by contributing our remaining money to Bridge Victoria for the express purpose to help fund the Waverley Supervised Youth Programme for a number of months.

Youth are the future of Bridge, so we are very pleased that we could make this donation.



The above photo left to right - Margaret Morgan, Jill Haworth, Sarah Livingstone and Lindsay Young

Absent: Ted Fielding, Geoff Fletcher

Editor's note: Jill Haworth sent this article and she wished to thank the named people above for their work and commitment (also, mentioning Brian Morgan, who is now deceased). What an excellent gesture.

The following is the result of The Mornington Peninsula Bridge Association's generous gesture

Supervised Youth Duplicate at Waverley – An afternoon of fun, strategy and pizza

We had our first Supervised Youth Duplicate this month on Saturday 7th of September. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young players to sharpen their skills and learn a little bit more about scoring while enjoying some delicious pizza! The atmosphere was lively, with lots of learning from one another and it wouldn't be youth bridge without a little bit of friendly competition!

While winning was not the end goal this month's bragging rights went to Samantha Beder and Bec O'Reilly with an impressive 79%.

The duplicate will be ongoing and held on the first Saturday of the month for the rest of the year at Waverley Bridge Club – 21A Electra Ave Ashwood Victoria 3147.

Thanks to our helpers and sponsors!

The amazing Christy Geromboux who will be running and directing the sessions for us and Waverley Bridge Club as our hosts.

Our experienced youth and not-so-youth players that partner up with our beginners and help answer questions, sharing their bridge wins and fails.

Lastly, a big thank you to the Mornington Peninsula Bridge Association that have funded these sessions. I'm sure the people would come without free pizza but I am grateful we will never need to test those limits!

Join Us Next Time!

We look forward to seeing more players at our upcoming Supervised Youth Duplicate on October 5th. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting, it's a great opportunity to learn, compete, and make new friends. If you are under 30 (or know anyone) and like bridge and free pizza this is the event for you!

Editor's note:

The article was sent in by Rebecca (Bec) O'Reilly.

She spends a lot of time nurturing our young players.



ABF UPDATES FROM JENNY THOMPSON

1st item

The following was sent to the Australian Bridge Federation from Anna Newton. Anna is the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Communications Manager

Subject: *The 2nd WBF Online Women's Teams Event - January 2025*

*Following the success of our inaugural event in February this year, we are delighted to announce our **2nd WBF Online Women's Teams event.***

Key details:

- *Transnational (i.e. teams can have players from many countries)*
- *Friday January 3rd through Sunday January 5th 2025*
- *Held on RealBridge.*

This tournament is a great opportunity for women players worldwide to participate in an international competitive bridge event without travel time or cost.

More information can be found at:

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/2025-wbf-online-womens-teams> and additional details and the registration pages will be available in due course.

We have also published the latest edition of the WBF Women's Newsletter, which you can download here:

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WBF-Womens-Newsletter-September2024.pdf>.

Please pass this link on to anyone who might be interested and please help us by publicising this exciting and enjoyable event as widely as you can!

This sounds like an excellent opportunity to play bridge with and against women from various countries.

Please look at the additional detail as highlighted in Anna's email and think about forming a team so that players from Australia are represented.



Join the ABF as Our IT Project Manager – Perfect for Retired Bridge Enthusiasts!

Are you an experienced IT Project Manager with a passion for bridge? The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) is excited to offer a unique opportunity for you to bring your expertise to the MyABF development project and make a significant impact on the bridge community.

About the Role:

We're looking for a skilled IT Project Manager to lead the development and enhancement of our MyABF platform. This part-time role requires approximately 2 to 2.5 days per week, allowing you to continue enjoying your bridge games while contributing to the growth and improvement of our software.

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee the end-to-end delivery of planned enhancements to MyABF, including integrating the Masterpoint Centre and a new scoring program.
- Manage stakeholder activities to ensure high-quality software delivery to the Australian Bridge Community (including ABF, states/territories, clubs, and players) within agreed scope, budget, and timeline.

Why This Role is Perfect for You:

- **Blend Passion and Profession:** Combine your love for bridge with your IT project management skills.
- **Flexible Schedule:** Work part-time and continue to enjoy other activities in your life including playing bridge.
- **Impactful Work:** Play a key role in delivering valuable enhancements to the bridge community.

Requirements:

- At least 5 years of experience in managing IT projects.
- You don't have to be a champion bridge player but a good understanding of the game itself and familiarity with how bridge clubs operate is essential.

Interested?

For more details or to view the full job description, please reach out to David Fryda, Executive Director of the ABF, at david.fryda@abf.com.au.

Apply now and be a part of our exciting journey to enhance the MyABF platform!

Jenny Thompson

THE VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

HONOURING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE:

(by Laura Ginnan)



The Victor Champion Cup Championship (VCC) is Victoria's annual opportunity to shine as we proudly host our prestigious ABF Gold Point National Bridge event.

My journey with the VCC began in 2008 when the event was at the Convention Centre, an experience that left such an impression on me that I moved to Melbourne just a year later!

The VCC has been more than just a tournament; it has marked significant moments in my personal and bridge journeys. I remember 2011 vividly when my team achieved an incredible 6th place finish—a highlight that prompted me to call my boss and request the next

day off to celebrate! One of my fondest memories is from the 2019 event when my breaks were spent refuelling my 9-month-old son, Damon. Amidst the chaos, my team clinched second place, and no day-off requests were necessary this time.

Over the years, I've taken on various roles—player, board dealer, and director. Now, I'm excited to be in the role of Tournament Organiser and I'm committed to bringing a fresh perspective while honouring the rich history of this event. The 2025 Festival promises to be transformative, featuring three significant changes that reflect our growth and evolution.

An Inclusive Identity

A new name. The Victor Champion Cup Championship has grown tremendously since its inception, expanding to include various esteemed competitions. While the Cup has traditionally been allocated to the Teams Championship, we now proudly feature events like the Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs, the Jim and Norma Borin Mixed Pairs, and the Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs. To encapsulate this evolution and the broader inclusion of the bridge community, the name **Victorian Festival of Bridge** has been chosen. The Victor Champion Cup will remain the heart of the festival, honouring the legacy of Victor 'Champ' Champion himself and the longstanding history of the event.

A New Home

In 2025, the Amora Riverwalk Hotel in Richmond will become the new home for the Victorian Festival of Bridge. This 4-star venue is perfectly situated, offering excellent accessibility where you can stay and play onsite. There is a tram stop right outside and paid undercover parking takes you directly to the playing floor. Attendees can look forward to an onsite restaurant and bar, as well as two barista coffee stations and cafes and restaurants nearby. Players can enjoy a specially curated lunch menu from the Reserve Restaurant, ensuring delicious meals, available quickly and at reasonable prices. The venue also features



spacious and luxurious break-out areas, along with a beautiful patio that leads directly to a park and the Yarra River, perfect for leisurely walks and relaxation.

Program Inclusions

By November, we'll finalise the Festival program, ensuring it lives up to its name. A highlight will be the Country Pairs, taking place on Thursday and Friday alongside the other prestigious pairs' events. This competition will be open exclusively to players outside metropolitan areas, fostering connections and competition among regional players from across Australia.

We are also excited to welcome newer players with events including an Under 20 Masterpoint and Under 100 Masterpoint Swiss Pairs, scheduled for Thursday and Friday with single-session formats. These events will include developmental talks to support player development. For those looking for a taste of the Festival in a limited time, we'll also host a variety of single-session events.

To add to the excitement, our social calendar is shaping up with a Trivia Night, Gala Dinner and Jazz Evening, and more!

The 2025 Victorian Festival of Bridge will be a wonderful opportunity for Club Administrators and Red Point Directors to enhance their skills while also joining in the festivities. We're on the lookout for enthusiastic Volunteer Festival Assistants, and you'll find more details on the next page.

As preparations continue, I'll be posting in each bulletin, with information about the 2025 event organisation and the rich history of the Victor Champion Cup. I'm particularly excited to start with an article about Champ himself in the November edition! If you would like to contribute or share your memories, I would be thrilled to hear from you to make the article even more meaningful.

Please mark the Festival in your calendar for the 2025 King's Birthday weekend, from Thursday, June 5th to Monday, June 9th. Join me at the Amora in honouring the rich legacy of the Victor Champion Cup Festival, welcoming the Victorian Festival of Bridge, and building memories of fun, friendships, pride, and prestige as we celebrate bridge and host a fantastic national event to showcase Victoria and the bridge community



VOLUNTEER

FESTIVAL ASSISTANTS - 2025 VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

The **Victorian Festival of Bridge** (formerly Victor Champion Cup Festival) welcomes a new home at the **Amora Riverwalk Hotel** in Richmond in June 2025. As Victoria's premier bridge event, the festival is expanding its offerings for greater inclusivity and is committed to supporting the development of emerging directors, bridge administrators, and tournament organisers.

We are seeking motivated volunteers for Festival Assistant roles, crucial to the smooth running of the event and offering a valuable opportunity to gain insights into bridge directing and event management. Two categories of assistants are being recruited.

1. Floor Staff/Director Development (8 positions available)

- **Eligibility:** Open to Club Red Point Qualified Directors.
- **Duties:** Assist with floor operations, including board checks, caddying duties, and managing boards in and out of play.
- **Opportunities:** Work closely with the Floor Manager and Directing team. This role provides exposure to National-level rulings and operations, offering hands-on development experience.

2. Customer Service and General Duties Assistant (4 positions available)

- **Duties:** Welcome players, assist with general enquiries, and manage ad hoc tasks.
- **Opportunities:** Collaborate with the Tournament Organiser (Laura Ginnan) and Floor Manager, gaining experience in event management and operations that can be transferred to your club.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be **financial members of the Australian Bridge Federation**
- For the first round of applicants, they must be members of a **Victorian affiliated club**

Shift Options

- **Pairs**
Wednesday afternoon June 4th - Friday evening June 6th
- **Teams**
Saturday morning June 7th – Monday afternoon June 9th

NOTE:

If assisting in the pairs, help packing up the room on Monday is appreciated if you're available

If assisting in the teams, help setting up the room on Wednesday is appreciated if you're available.

Volunteer Benefits

- Complimentary entry to the event you're not assisting with (eg., assist during the pairs, play free in the teams)
- Lunch provided daily
- A gift of appreciation
- Fuel subsidy of \$50 for volunteers residing more than 50km from the venue

NOTE: Accommodation and transport are not provided

How to Apply

Complete the Form at: <https://form.jotform.com/242728406075054>

Contact Laura Ginnan, Tournament Organiser Email: vcc@abf.com.au

First-round applications are open only to Victorian applicants and close on **15/11/2024**. If necessary, second-round applications will open to the wider bridge-playing community on **15/12/2024** and close on **31/1/2025**.

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS OCTOBER

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH

♠K3
♥J53
♦J9653
♣A82

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠AQ9654
♥8
♦AKT2
♣Q4

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1♣	DBL	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♠	P
4♣	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	6♠	ALL PASS

With both sides vulnerable, the auction proceeds as shown. Where 4♣ was a cue bid showing support for ♠s and 5♥ showed 2 key cards.

A little aggressive 6♠ became the final contract.

West leads the ♥A and continues with a small ♥ to East's Q.

You ruff and pull the three rounds of trumps to remove all the outstanding trumps (West had JT7).

You are in your hand.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.



BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

I was asked my opinion on the following By Ralph Berlinski, a prominent member of the Victorian Bridge Centre

NORTH

♠ A43
♥ 653
♦ K73
♣ KT83

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ 7
♥ AQ9
♦ J94
♣ AQJ752

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	2♠	3♣	3♠
5♣	P	p	P

A vulnerable East opens a weak two in ♠s.

The auction proceeds as shown.

West now leads the ♠2.

The duplication of declarers and dummy's length in the red suits makes this ambitious contract even more difficult.

What is your plan from here?

Is there an reasonable lie of the cards, given the auction, that gives you any hope at all.

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

THE INTERVIEW

THE INTERVIEW THIS MONTH IS WITH BIANCA GOLD

Editor:

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

Bianca:

My parents lived in Mt Gambier, but after a quick flight via air ambulance, my twin sister and I arrived safely in an Adelaide hospital. We stayed in Mt Gambier until I reached high school and then my family relocated to Adelaide.

Editor:

Where did you live and go to school?

Bianca:

In a country town like Mt Gambier, you were either 'in sport' or 'in trouble'. My parents were very sports orientated. My sister and I were in both the state swimming and state athletics team whilst in primary school. I still hold the local record for the 'under 6 girls' shot put.

I went to school at St Martins Lutheran Primary school in its opening year. There were approximately 20 students in the entire school. When we moved to Adelaide, I attended Norwood High. With a wait list of approximately a decade and over 1500 students, it was like being immersed in a new world. Thankfully for sport I survived high school.

Editor:

Did you play card games or something similar at home?

Bianca:

My family consisted of Mum and Dad, my twin sister and myself and a younger brother. We did play card games at swimming meets and on camping trips but since I was training day and night this was not a common occurrence.

Editor:

What other interests did you have as a child?

Bianca:

In my teenage years, my life revolved around water polo. I used to train about six hours a day. This meant that I got up 4:20am and went to the pool before school. As a Centre Forward, [Editor's note: this is the position in front of the goal where the defenders gravitate toward to try and prevent the ball reaching this player]. I regularly stayed behind after morning practice sessions to develop a strong backhand shot. I developed a signature shot, that would scare the strongest goal keepers.



A bad habit picked up while playing water polo was holding my breath, it is interesting to see that I still hold my breath when under pressure at the bridge table.

Editor:

What direction did you take after finishing your education?

Bianca:

My parents were not convinced that I could make a career out of Water Polo. After much thought, I decided to make the most of my opportunities and sponsorship and set up my first business before leaving high school. This business initially consisted of coaching, mentoring, sponsorship deals with sporting companies, public speaking, teaching first aid etc.

The Institute of Sport in South Australia asked me to coach teachers and initiate the first school girls' competition in South Australia. I was part of the big movement to have women's water polo included in the Sydney 2000 Olympics, only 100 years after the men's competition.

This role gave me more confidence to teach, once I had completed my 'Train the Trainers' course.

I continued my business for many years, adding in everything from running a swim school to project management. In 2003, I was competing in Waikiki, unfortunately, I received a career ending injury. I lost my spot in the team and the ongoing medical support was dropped.

However, on my return to physio, I found that western medicine is also unable to help. I withdrew from university and flew back to Adelaide.

Editor:

Wow. My sporting career consisted of whether I make the reserve team or no team at all. The small advantage is that I never got a career ending injury as I didn't have a career in the first place. 😊

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

Bianca:

Enter my knight in shining armour! Leigh did not know about my world and I certainly did not know or understand his. [Editor's note: Obviously, a match made in heaven 😊].

As a now physically injured athlete, I met Leigh when he needed marketing & project management support in the feasibility study for an International Bridge Competition. Despite the event not being feasible, I decided that Leigh was!

After we relocated to Melbourne in 2006, I decided if you 'can't beat them join them'. Leigh had a couple of attempts to get me to play using a couple of teachers. Although some may thrive in the small groups, I found that most of the attendees knew what the next bid should be when questioned. The fact that I didn't know terrified me. I didn't feel comfortable making mistakes in front of other people until I grasped the basics. Leigh made up a game, '2 player bridge' until I had the confidence to formally learn.

Unfortunately, as I was never taught about bridge etiquette and expectations at the table (including 'director calls'), when I ventured into the bridge world, it led to a series of 'bad experiences'. I then decided that bridge was not for me.

Editor:

This is a common situation. Beginners need to be taught the basics of how to play the game but also what other things they might experience during play at a club. It can be very daunting and my wife often relates to our friends her experiences the first time she played in an event. That was the first and only time and she hasn't played since. I try to explain to her that the opponent's director call was correct in the circumstances but she will not be convinced.

What did you do at that stage?

Bianca:

While Leigh was playing for Victoria in the Australian National Championships in Western Australia, I happened to meet Allison Stralow, who is now President of the Australian Bridge Federation. She wanted to

know why I wasn't playing. She convinced me to have a game with a youth player, wanting me to at least find the joy in the game.

I coined the phrase 'Don't let your last hand be your opponent's last game' She was so enthusiastic about this quote that she asked me to write an article expressing my views on table etiquette.

[Editor's note: this fits in well with some of the articles in this bulletin as we are currently trying to further promote these concepts at all levels].

Editor:

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

Bianca:

I dabbled in bridge when we returned from Western Australia.

One day, Neil Ewart and Blaine Howe asked if I would be their female player in a last-minute decision for a mixed team with Leigh as my partner. Unfortunately for teams 1,2,3, and 4, they were all very close going into the last round. Placed 5th, we had a maximum win in the last round to walk away with the state title. Despite the newspaper article headed "Beginner wins state title", I was quite sheepish, as I was very fortunate to play with 3 experts and we had a bit of luck in the last round.

Therefore, when I say to Leigh that I don't want to play in an event, he will reply that I am a 'state champion' what is your problem. 😊

When my son was a baby, I travelled with Leigh to the Gold Coast to become the 5th member of a youth bridge team. The deal was, if you were out for the set, you became the babysitter. Ben Kingham not only impressed me at the bridge table but I knew he was going to be a great father one day (or at least a great babysitter). Our team made the grand final of the event. I met my future bridge partner from the opposing team. It was a lose-win (or maybe a win-win).

I thought winning a state title and a second place in a national event should be all that I can want, but the GFC had other ideas.

In 2009; Leigh played in the Open Australian team, the birth of our son Taydon and the birth of our bridge club 'Tricks and Trumps'. Starting a club from scratch without any money, away from our local area was always going to be difficult. However, we wanted to open a club where there was a void proved to be challenging for many reasons. Therefore, to succeed can be very rewarding. I can really sympathise with the potential issues facing small clubs and country clubs.

We wrote articles for the local newspaper, ran lessons, congresses and did everything the hard way. After ten years of congresses, I hope in the future that I can assist other clubs in running a successful congress for their club and community.

Editor:

What is your preferred bidding system and why?

Bianca:

Relatively new to bridge, I didn't mesh with a lot of the number formulae for bidding. I was a person that liked to know the bigger picture, but why? When Leigh started to teach at our club, I quickly took over and often I offered ways that I memorized concepts. (for example, 'length is more important than strength') and then I would draw charts on the white board.

When I learnt basic bridge, within a week, Leigh told me I had to 'unlearn' my major raises, or I would land in bad games and miss skinny good games. Wanting to know why no-trump raises was not taught from the start as it would have been easier, he said 'because that is just standard practice to teach limit raises in a beginner's lesson'.

At this stage the athlete in me emerged, I wanted efficiency and accuracy without confusing learners. We thought no-trump raises was the best bidding system for beginner and novice learners and trialled it on our next class with much success. During this time at the club, we started to write a book on '2 player bridge' aligning it with the school curriculum.

Over the years, I tended to fill in where needed, so I essentially played any system my instant partner wanted to play.

Editor:

What is your general style at the bridge table?

Bianca:

My style is definitely relaxed, I like a happy table if possible. My favourite bridge partner, (shout out Tere Wotherspoon) is also an ex-athlete, with a successful daughter playing in the AFLW. I am hoping he will be down in Melbourne more often to have a game face-to-face. I think my biggest style is incognito as I will never put my surname on my system card as I didn't learn through osmosis.

Editor:

Perhaps, definitely relaxed except in a slam where you struggle to breath. 😊

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?

.

Bianca:

Interesting question, I certainly do not look as fit and fierce as I did whilst an athlete, nor do I think I would have the stamina to sit for hours at a time whilst training 6 hours a day.

When I first started bridge, I was working in Project Management and thought I would rather work for 8-9 hours without a break than play for 2.5 hours at the bridge table. However, once I understood that I couldn't learn everything within a couple of months, I managed my expectations and I felt much better.

Editor:

What are your goals in bridge?

Bianca:

To be honest, most of my goals now are about increasing the numbers of bridge players. Give competition players something to play for again. It doesn't matter whether that be entry into another event, an all-expenses paid trip to an interstate or international event or a free session with a professional player. I have noticed that the Waverley Bridge club just ran a large event with over \$1,000 in prize money. Bring it on!

I would like to look into other segments of our community that would love the game. This might include school children, university students, corporate people, semi-retired as well as ex athletes and ex-service men and women.

Encourage and assist our current players to continue to improve their game and bring the competition back to our clubs. Bring meaning back to Master Points and the achievements and recognition that come with this. In my new role, I would love to:

- help inexperienced teachers
- assist clubs in finding and keeping volunteers,
- assist clubs in encouraging congress play and running a congress for profit
- showing clubs how they can utilise their local council, media outlets and gain awareness
- using the clubs' awareness and success to gain sponsors and new players

Editor:

Thank you for your time in answering my questions.

This interview should give the reader a very good insight into your aims for your new appointment. I wish you good luck in this role.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



MY KINGDOM FOR A FOURTH

King Richard III yells out loudly this famous phrase, "A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!" at the Battle of Bosworth. His horse had been killed and he wandered around in the battlefield for hours.

When I first started watching bridge whilst at University, I didn't dare join in as I didn't want to make a fool of myself and let the others down. This practice went on for many months. One of the players would ask if I wished to play and I was always just about to attend a lecture or I would be late to catch a ride home or I left my lunch somewhere and had to get it as I was getting hungry. I spent more time thinking up excuses about why I couldn't play. It got to the point that when one of the four players left the table, I would exit stage left promptly.

Eventually, having exhausted my bank of excuses and having gained a small insight into how the proceeding developed, I decided to jump in the deep end.

A rubber bridge game was about to start I assumed as a person asked for 'a fourth for bridge'. Seeing that this is the cry when you have three other players and just need one more, I meekly said 'yes'. The individual walked around the room and asked for 'a fourth for bridge' until he got two more players.



"OH, THANK HEAVENS!! A FOURTH!"



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER - VICTORIA AND NATIONAL

PENINSULA CONGRESS

- Saturday 7th September
- 20 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Dee Harley	Anna St Clair
2nd	Kim Frazer	Lisa Yoffa
3rd	Matthew Sieredzinski	Heath Watkins

PHILLIP ISLAND CONGRESS

- Saturday 14th September
- 44 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Sebastian Yuen	Christy Geromboux
2nd	Lindsay Young	Chris Fernando
3rd	John Yang	Paul Ruan

- Sunday 15th September
- 15 teams contested the Teams and the placegetters were

1st	Vanessa Brown	Will Jenner-O'Shea	Sebastian Yuen	Christy Geromboux
2nd	Maggie Callander	Alison Farthing	Penny Corrigan	Kae French
3rd	Philip Chang	Kevin Gu	John Yang	Paul Ruan

BWONLINE CONGRESS

- Saturday 21st September Sunday 22nd September
- 40 pairs contested the Imp Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Jamal Yazdanparast	Virstine Yazdanparast
2nd	Maria Christensen	Naomi Peters
3rd	Hans Van Weeren	Aleksandar Milovenovic

- Sunday 22nd September
- 28 pairs contested the Match Point Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Dee Harley	Anna St Clair
2nd	Chelliah Arul	Leo Saoud
3rd	Jamal Yazdanparast	Virstine Yazdanparast

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS (GNOT) QUALIFYING

- Friday 20th September – Sunday 22nd September
- The following Victorian teams played in this event. Well done to **WEST VICTORIA** who qualified to play in the **National Non-Metropolitan Final** later this year.
- **MELBOURNE 1** - Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold, Ming Zhang, Dun Mao, Leo Saoud, Mohamed Ghatwar
- **MELBOURNE 2** - Robert Gallus, John Yang, Stephen Weisz, Kim Frazer, George Lovrecz
- **MELBOURNE 3** - Justin Stark, Simon Henbest, David Beckett, Martin Willcox, Neil Ewart
- **NORTH VICTORIA** - Kerry Delcourt, Ryan Touton, Tom Hackett, Jan Hackett
- **WEST VICTORIA** - Gary Ridgway, George Del Papa, Lynn Frankenburg, Piyush Jain
- **GEE LONG** - Alison Feiner, Anne Gunst, Richard Lawrie, Terry Johnston
- **GIPPSLAND** - Don Tylee, Helen McAdam, Robin Hecker, Moira Hecker

MCMANAMNY CLUB TEAMS

- Sunday 29th September.
- 26 teams contested the Teams and the placegetters were 1st Moonee Valley 4, 2nd Waverley 1, 3rd Waverley 3

1 st	Hannah O'Donnell	Lynda Young	Philip Young	Declan Gould
2 nd	Andrzej Krolikowski	Philip Chang	Kevin Gu	Samuel Goss
3 rd	Shirley Wanz	Susanna Mould	Jeffrey Schultz	Sally Bodo



UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

WARRNAMBOOL CONGRESS Saturday 5th October and Sunday 6th October

SWISS ON SUNDAYS Sunday 13th October Session 1, Sunday 20th October Session 2.

MORNINGTON CONGRESS Saturday 19th October

WAVERLEY SUPER CONGRESS

Friday 25th October, Saturday 26th October and Sunday 27th October. The flyer is on the following page.

(for the above two Waverley Bridge Club events, the contact details are as follows -

Nik Naumovski

Club Operations Manager

Phone +61 (03) 9807 6502

Email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au

Web www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au

SUNBURY CONGRESS Saturday 2nd November and Sunday 3rd November

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CONGRESS Saturday 9th November and Sunday 10th November.

The flyer is on a following page.

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE - JANUARY 2025

Victoria's own Laura Ginnan is the Tournament Organiser for this major event.

A flyer is on a following page.

2024 WAVERLEY SUPER CONGRESS

FRIDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Director - Terry Crawford

FRIDAY 25th 10:00am

OPEN MP SWISS PAIRS
Under 100mp MP SWISS PAIRS

ENTRY: \$90 PER PAIR

Prizes

1st Overall Open - \$300 Per Pair
2nd Overall Open - \$200 Per Pair
1st Overall U100 - \$250 Per Pair
2nd Overall U100 - \$200 Per Pair

Saturday 26th 10:00am

SWISS PAIRS

ENTRY: \$90 PER PAIR

Prizes:

1st Overall Open - \$500 Per Pair
2nd Overall Open - \$300 Per Pair
Best U300 - \$300 Per Pair
Best U100 - \$200 Per Pair
Best Waverley Pair - \$500 Per Pair
Only one prize per pair

Sunday 27th 10:00am

SWISS TEAMS

ENTRY: \$180 PER TEAM

Prizes:

1st Overall Open - \$800 Per Team
2nd Overall Open - \$400 Per Team
Best Waverley Team - \$400 Per Team
Only one prize per team

BYO Lunch

snacks, tea & coffee provided

Beer, wine, and soft drinks available for purchase

ENTER NOW THROUGH MYABF

[HTTP://MYABF.COM.AU/GO/WAVERLEYCONGRESS](http://myabf.com.au/go/waverleycongress)



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TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL

ALL ENQUIRES: office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au
21A Electra Avenue, Ashwood,3147

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL CONGRESS

Held over 2 Days

Red Point events



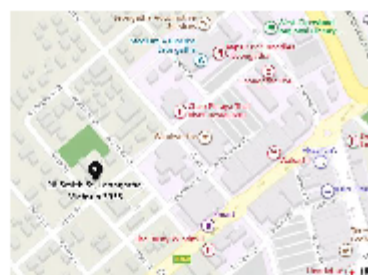
Swiss Pairs: 11am Saturday 9 November 2024

Teams 10am Sunday 10 November 2024

Venue: Dakers Centre aka Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre, 23 Smith St, Leongatha, VIC

Director: Martin Willcox

Convenor: John Quayle



ENTRIES:

- Entries on www.bridgeunlimited.com (upcoming events), close 6 November 5pm
- Entry fee \$45 per player per day with renowned Gippsland country fare lunch provided both days
- Prizes - depending on entries
- System cards mandatory. Highly artificial systems not permitted
- Further information John Quayle 0428204902 or email sqbridgeclub@hotmail.com
- Results can be viewed on the South Gippsland Bridge Club website www.bridgewebs.com/southgippsland/



January 7th – 19th
Canberra Rex Hotel

2025 Canberra **SUMMER FESTIVAL** of Bridge

Whether it's your 1st Festival or your 50th
COME HAVE SOME FUN

♠♥♣♦ **EARLY BIRDS** ♦♣♥♠

One lucky player will win the value of their entry back in ABF credits. Entries must be made and paid by **October 31st, 2024**. The draw will be held on January 7th.

BONUS EARLY BIRD OFFER FOR CANBERRA REX HOTEL BOOKINGS

Book and pay by **October 31st 2024** to be in the draw to win a \$100 dining voucher at the **HOWLING MOON**

[**BROCHURE**](#)

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

[**CONTACT**](#)

Tournament Organiser: Laura Ginnan email not@abf.com.au



WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? SEPT

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	P	1♠	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
3♠	P	4♠	ALL PASS

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

In the auction, 3♣ is checkback and 3♠ denies four ♥s but shows three ♠s. Your partner and yourself are playing reverse count (where high-low is odd and low-high is even).

NORTH

♠AQJ
♥A5
♦653
♣AQJ96

WEST

♠53
♥QJT8
♦AJ74
♣742

You, as West, lead the ♥Q, dummy plays the ♥5, partner the ♥9 and declarer wins with ♥K.

Declarer plays the ♠2 and dummy the ♠J and partner wins the ♠K. Partner now switches to the ♦9 and declarer plays the ♦K.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN SEPTEMBER 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Ballarat Bridge Club	Cunningham, Trudy	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Archer, Ailsa	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Costello, Margaret	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Donaldson, Gloria	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Hallett, Disa	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Mackiggan, Rebecca	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Murphy, Marion	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Ricketts, Diana	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Snell, Jan	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Williams, Maree	Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Bodey, Wendy	Bronze Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Burt, Glenda	Bronze Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Forbes, Graham	Bronze National
Bendigo Bridge Club	Young, Charles	National
BWOnline Bridge Club	Hawkins, Mary	Club
Frankston Bridge Club	Corry, Paul	Silver Life
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Bell, Sara	Bronze Regional
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Leske, Rena	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Macmarquis, Cathy	Graduate
Gardenvale Bridge School	Potter, Sue	Bronze Local
Gardenvale Bridge School	Ryan, Ann	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Smith, Lorraine	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Besley, Mary	Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Forsyth, Sue	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	King, Mary	Bronze Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Liberman, Helen	Silver Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Pacini, Barb	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Paget, Sally	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Pierri, Anna	Club
Lyceum Club	Kelly, Anne-Maree	Club
Maine Bridge Club	Williams, Jan	Regional
MCC Bridge Club	Broughton, Nigel	Bronze Local
MCC Bridge Club	De Young, Rosemary	Bronze Regional
Melbourne Bridge Club	Brumby, Joanne	Bronze Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Butler, Pauline	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Samuels, David	Bronze Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Simmonds, Bronwyn	Bronze State
Mornington Bridge Club	Anderson, Judy	Bronze National
Mornington Bridge Club	White, Keith	Bronze State

Northern Bridge Club	Bell, Jill	Bronze National
Northern Bridge Club	Crawford, Marg	Club
Northern Bridge Club	Garbutt, Elaine	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Gregory, Kerry	Bronze Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Drutchinin, Merri	Silver Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Forbes, Carole	Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Gregory, Hank	Regional
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Kinahan, Michael	Bronze Local
OZ Bridge Club	Bell, Aron	Silver Local
OZ Bridge Club	Bialylew, John	Silver Local
OZ Bridge Club	Dodge, Judy	Graduate
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Atkins, Pauline	Graduate
RACV Bridge Group	Condos, Peter	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Hunter, Marilyn	Bronze National
RACV Bridge Group	Mason, Gaye	Graduate
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Hornidge, Cassy	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	McDonald, Ro	Graduate
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Walter, Catherine	Club
Sale Bridge Club	Hudson, David	Bronze National
Sale Bridge Club	Sherrin, Jim	Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Parr, Mick	Regional
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Chapman, Neville	Silver National
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Rinder, Ann	Regional
Sunbury Bridge Club	Neale, Malcolm	Graduate
Traralgon Bridge Club	Lohr, Glenis	Silver Life
Traralgon Bridge Club	Tierney, Ken	Gold Life
Victorian Bridge Centre	Boyar, Ros	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Gibson, Trish	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Holding, John	Silver Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Jago, Diane	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Russell, Pauline	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Anania, Linda	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Harrison, Robyn	Local
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Leitl, Cheryle	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Luxford, Brian	Club
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Thomas, Paul	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Bodo, Sally	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Britz, Andries	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Burbeck, Andrew	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Kirkwood, Lyn	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Santhi, Nithi	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Spreckley, Michele	Bronze Local
Williamstown Bridge Club	Lamb, Chris	Bronze Regional
Wodonga Bridge Club	Stanford, Wendy	Regional

Congratulations to all of the above.

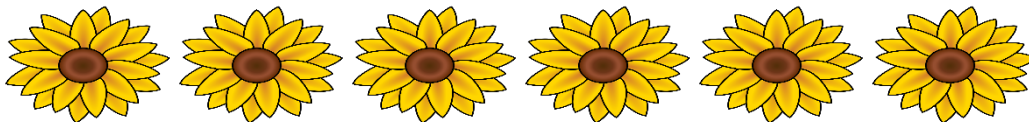
OTHER

The following advertisement has been submitted by Mary Elson. Mary has been a popular bridge teacher in Victoria for many years now. Her classes always receive excellent reviews.

For film buffs, when I saw this advertisement, it reminded me of Frances Mayes in the 2003 film 'Under the Tuscan Sun'. Tuscany is on many people's bucket lists.

TUSCAN MAGIC 2025

♠♥BRIDGE HOLIDAYS WITH MARY ELSON♦♣



Spend 2 weeks in a Tuscan farmhouse/villa complex relaxing, touring and playing bridge. Stay in your own house, sharing a living room and kitchen with one or two other guests with great value pricing and comfort.

All your breakfasts, three evening meals each week, wonderful air-conditioned farmhouse-style accommodation with large inground pool, local transfers and stunning **tours** are included.

There will be three full day tours each week as well as half day tours on most other days and we shall visit such wonderful places as Siena, Perugia, Assisi, Cortona, Arezzo and the wine area around Montepulciano as well as other trips

A full program of bridge and regular lessons is being offered. Mary was the inaugural Victorian Bridge Teacher of the Year and is a qualified director.

Dates are: May 31st to June 14th; or June 15th to June 29th.

Mary welcomes you to ring on 0431 581 304 for all information on pricing for this super value holiday. Or you can email to: maryelsonbridge@gmail.com

Some reviews of recent holidays:

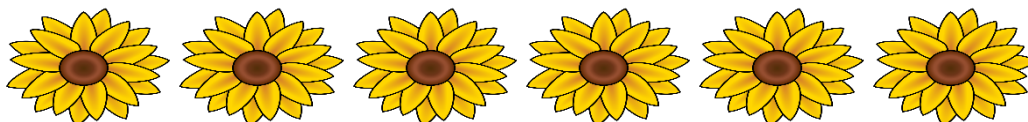
Hosts: *Host facility was excellent. Rosalinda is a marvellous host, friendly and helpful.

Tours: *Every trip was well organised and interesting. Tuscany is enchanting.

Food: *Utterly delicious. Suited me very well.

Bridge: *Well organized and fun and lessons were terrific. Mary is a wonderful teacher.

Overall: * It was a delight!



Smile Sweetly after Disaster

One of my favourite hands comes from the 1989 Victor Champion Cup, a National Teams event initially held Adelaide. My partner was Zibi Zeb, a representative of the Polish Junior Team in the 1980s, who was visiting Australia. On our Convention Card, he added "Smile Sweetly After Disaster" as one of our conventions.

Our opponents in the first match were two top players from the leading team whose big weakness was their temperament.

BRD 1: 1989 VCC: IMPs
Dealer N; N/S Vul

<p>♠ J9742 ♥ Q954 ♦ AJ6 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ KT6 ♥ 2 ♦ 75 ♣ QJT8754</p>	<p>♠ A85 ♥ AKJT873 ♦ QT3 ♣ -</p>
	<p>♠ Q3 ♥ 6 ♦ K9842 ♣ A9632</p>	

W	N	E	S
	Zibi Zeb		P Gill
	2NT*	4♥	4♠
Dbl	P	P	RDBL
P	P	P	

Our bidding sequence was not quite perfect. Zibi who had me playing a Krakow version of Polish Club, opened 2NT to show either a weak preempt in a minor or a good preempt in a major.

East overcalled 4♥, and having no system notes to deal with interference over the Krakow 2NT, I bid 4♠ on the assumption that my shortage there indicated that partner would surely have long spades. When West doubled, I had some concern, so I played safe by redoubling, hopefully for rescue, to "ensure" that partner bid his suit. You might think that 4NT would have been more prudent, but the outcome was about to become strangely satisfying.

July 2017

West led ♥4 to the king, East switched to ♦3 to my king and West's ace, and West switched to a spade to the ace and another to the jack. West played another heart, which I ruffed in dummy. Only now did I play clubs, playing ♠Q from dummy.

East thought for a while about my apparent club finesse, then discarded a heart, letting me win ♠A to escape for a mere penalty of 4000. Had I not played the hand so carefully, I would have gone for 4600.

Zibi greeted me with a beaming smile and got on with the next board as if nothing had happened. In return, I managed the best smile I could. Then it started...

East: "Why didn't you ruff the club? You blithering idiot, I've had a plus 4000 before, but 4600 would have been my highest score ever."

West: "But why didn't you exit a spade so that I knew what was going on? Or you could have ducked the diamond to my ten? You blame ME?"

East: "You're just an imbecile. Even a moron could have seen what was going on."

And on and on it went, as they abused each other.

At the other table, our team mates had reached 6♥. The declarer, David Beauchamp, ruffed the club lead, played a heart to the queen then made the vital move of a spade to the ace, before South realised that it was necessary to unblock ♠Q under the ace. Now three rounds of diamonds, taking the finesse, followed by a spade exit, end-played South, who had to concede a ruff and discard. Plus 920 reduced the loss on the board to only 23 IMPs.

This was the first board of a 20 board match. The datum (i.e. "our table") score for the match was 86 - 24 IMPs in our favour. Zibi and I outscored them by 86 to 0 on the remaining 19 boards, because they were so upset with each other leading to a maximum win.

I recommend the Smile Sweetly agreement to all bridge players.

© PETER GILL



FEEDBACK

NORTH(D)

♠A5432
♥J9
♦AQT43
♣2

WEST(D)

♠7
♥T6543
♦92
♣AQJ63

EAST

♠J986
♥AKQ87
♦6
♣K98

SOUTH

♠KQT
♥2
♦KJ875
♣T754

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
			P
1♠	2♥	3♥	4♥
P	P	4♠	5♥
P	P	?	

Catherine Harris of the 'Sorry Partner' podcast asks, as South, should I have doubled the EW contract of 5♥? The answer was, that in the position that you were in, it was hard to tell what the right action was.

NORTH	EAST, a	SOUTH	WEST
			P
1♠	2♥	3♦	4♥
5♦	P	P	5♥
P	P	?	

A new auction. As South, you intended to bid 4♠ over the 4♥ bid but partner raised to 5♦ in front of you. Now the situation has changed you have a double fit (♠ and ♦) and they have a double fit (♥ and ♣). Now it is not clear who can make what and their 5♥ may make (which it does) and your 5♠ may make or be a cheap save (insurance).

The power and the concern of a double fit. Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – OCTOBER SOLUTION

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

You are defending against a North-South contract of 4♠ by South. Your partner and yourself are playing reverse count (where high-low is odd and low-high is even).

NORTH

♠AQJ
♥A5
♦653
♣AQJ96

WEST

♠53
♥QJT8
♦AJ74
♣742

EAST(D)

♠K64
♥97632
♦982
♣K5

SOUTH

♠T9872
♥K4
♦KQT
♣T83

You, as West, lead the ♥Q, dummy plays the ♥5, partner the ♥9 and declarer wins with ♥K.

Declarer plays the ♠2 and dummy the ♠J and partner wins the ♠K. Partner now switches to the ♦9 and declarer plays the ♦K.

What is your plan?

What do you know about the hand? Partner's ♥9 shows an odd number. Therefore, declarer has only two ♥s (declarer can't have four ♥s, as declarer denied this in the auction).

Partner's ♦9 denies an honour. Therefore, declarer has the ♦KQT. If you win this trick, the defence is stymied. You can't return a ♦ and if you play anything else, declarer can throw the ♦T on a high ♣.

If declarer has the ♣K, the hand can't be beaten. Therefore, assume your partner holds this card. The answer now becomes clear. You duck this trick and when partner gets in with the ♣K, they can return another ♦.

The four hands must be very similar to the setup shown above.

Editor's note: Dee Harley, whilst proofreading the bulletin (thank you Dee) made a very interesting and valid comment. If you sit for a while and duck the ♦K, it is likely to give Unauthorised Information (UI) to partner. This is a hand where you should have done all the thinking beforehand (this sort of thing is a concept that makes defending tougher than it already is).

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – OCTOBER SOLN

The following hand took place in a team event

NORTH

♠ K3
♥ J53
♦ J9653
♣ A82

WEST

♠ JT7
♥ AT972
♦ 4
♣ T973

EAST(D)

♠ 82
♥ KQ84
♦ Q87
♣ KJ65

SOUTH

♠ AQ9654
♥ 8
♦ AKT2
♣ Q4

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1♣	DBL	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♠	P
4♣	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	6♠	ALL PASS

With both sides vulnerable, the auction proceeds as shown. Where 4♣ was a cue bid showing support for ♠s and 5♥ showed 2 key cards.

A little aggressive 6♠ became the final contract.

West leads the ♥A and continues with a small ♥ to East's Q.

You ruff and pull the three rounds of trumps to remove all the outstanding trumps (West had JT7).

You are in your hand.

What is your plan from here?

'Eight ever and nine never' is a good saying for a general rule. However, general rules need to be guidelines at bridge.

East opened the bidding and West has shown up with the ♥A and the ♣J.

Your hand has fifteen points, West has shown up with five points and dummy has nine points. That is a total of twenty-nine points.

Who has the ♦Q?

Lead the ♣4 to the ♣A and then play the ♦J running it if the ♦Q does not appear. Your losing ♣ is thrown on dummy's fifth ♦.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – SEPT SOLUTION

Both sides nil vulnerable in a pair's match

NORTH

♠ A73
♥ A863
♦ 8652
♣ 65

WEST

♠ 942
♥ T72
♦ KT7
♣ KJ74

EAST

♠ QJT85
♥ K54
♦ J43
♣ 92

SOUTH(D)

♠ K6
♥ QJ9
♦ AQ9
♣ AQT83

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

West leads the ♣4 (your 1♣ opening could be as few as two cards).

East plays the ♣9 and you win with the ♣T. At trick two, you lead the ♥Q and East wins with the ♥K.

East now leads the ♠Q.

What is your plan from here?

[Hint – the ♥ suit is divided 3 -3]

West led the ♣6 at trick one, so presumably West has four or five ♣s. When East got the lead at trick 2, East led the ♠Q (which is presumably from a touching honour sequence of at least four cards in length). However, West with a four-card ♠ suit might have led a ♠ in this sequence rather than away from a KJ sequence into the opening 1♣ bid).

Therefore, the hand could well be similar to the one shown (East may have one more ♣ and one less ♠ or ♦ (with the location of the ♦K unknown)).

Duck the ♠Q and

- with a ♠ continuation, you win the ♠K and cash the ♥s and the ♠A and lead a small ♣. What is West to do now?
- If East switches to a ♦ rather than continuing with a ♠, you play the ♦9 and West wins and must exit with a major suit. You then cash the ♠K and cash the ♥s and the ♠A and lead a small ♣. What is West to do now?