

BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to a person who is relatively new to the Victorian bridge scene but he has made a big impression in a short time. Philip (Phil) Young is a member of the Moonee Valley bridge club and an influential member of the Bridge Victoria Operational Committee. He is spending a lot of time effort to increase bridge player numbers across Victoria.

I have just come back from the National championships in Canberra. This gives me some time to complete the bulletin before the trip to Broadbeach for the ever-popular Gold Coast congress (it is billed as the last one but there is work going on behind the scene to try and continue the event in some format in the future).

The Gold Coast Congress is generally regarded as one of the best run large congresses in the world.

In Canberra, the team in which I was playing in the National Seniors event clutched defeat out or the jaws of victory to not qualify for the knockout stage. Then not to be outdone, given a favourable draw in the last round of qualifying, the team that I played on in the National Open Teams managed to fail to qualify again.

Now, I can see a pattern forming here. There were two players that appeared on both of these teams and I was one of them. I thought to myself is there anything that I could have done to alter the outcome in each of the last round of qualifying in each of these two events? The short answer is YES.

Was I the only one on the team that could have altered either result? NO.

However, making mistakes or playing well late in a long event is always seen as pivotal one way or the other despite what might have happened previously.

I was tired and had been a little sick all week but none of this should have mattered. In a long event, everyone gets tired (especially as you get older) but it is how you address this fact of nature that matters.

I must admit that, when I was tired, I tended to restrict the amount of time to think about what was the best course of action on any given hand. I then overlooked something that I didn't think enough about. So, this phenomenon happened in the last matches of each event.



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

Besides the loss of sleep and the guilty feelings, what have I learned?

Bridge is a game of skill with a luck component built in for good measure. As a general rule, the luck seems to follow you if you are playing well but deserts you otherwise.

However, the main lesson is to try and stay alert even though you are tired. It seemed to be easier when I was a little younger but the correct preparation before and during an event – mentally and physically is so very important.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

IN THIS EDITION OF THE BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS FEBRUARY	5
BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH FEB.	6
THE INTERVIEW.....	7
PHILL'S PHILOSOPHIES.....	12
BRIDGE HUMOUR	15
BRIDGE RESULTS	17
UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEB/MARCH	23
WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? FEB.....	25
RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS	26
OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS	29
FEEDBACK.....	30
WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – FEB. SOLUTION	31
TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – FEB. SOLUTION	32
BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – DEC. SOLUTION	33

BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – JAN VAN RIEL *The Year Ahead.*

It will be an exciting Year for bridge in Victoria. We already have a new club affiliating in Bright, new events for 2025 and we are trialling the possibility of others.

We will be delivering education resources for new teachers and get a director's program up and running. We have a lot of work to do and appreciate the many volunteers coming forward to contribute to growing bridge in Victoria.

Monthly Recognition of Volunteers.

There is a growing number of people who donate their expertise and time for bridge in Victoria, apart from those already on our various committees.

This month we would like to recognise Helen McAdam and Bill Jacobs.

Quietly and efficiently in the background Helen and Bill have assisted on dispute resolution cases. It involves time and commitment and the ability to see all sides of a dispute and come to fair and equitable recommendations. Thanks to both.

From the region we would like to recognise Derek Poulton. Derek has contributed to bridge in Victoria for many years and was the driving force behind the democratisation process for Bridge Victoria. Thanks Derek.

Please forward the name of someone you think should be recognised as an outstanding volunteer.

Nominations for the Bridge Victoria Operating Committee (BVOC).

One way for people to help make a difference to bridge in Victoria is to nominate to join BVOC. We have representatives from our 6 regions on the committee and 4 skills-based members.

A Bridge Victoria representative is expected to:

- Support clubs in their region (understand wants and needs of that region to be able to advocate for them within the context of BV)
- Act as a liaison between clubs and BV (another channel for clubs to get news immediately and provide their input)
- Take on a portfolio of work, usually working within a team to an agreed strategy (e.g. education, director development, marketing, growth).

If you are a team player, keen to contribute to bridge in Victoria, please contact me for further information.

MyABF Webinar. We are planning to host a webinar in March for sharing experiences and understanding a bit more about MYABF and how it can be used for clubs or events. Please contact Phil Young at BVOC@bridgevictoria.au for more information.



The only sure way to avoid making mistakes is to have no new ideas.' Albert Einstein.

My quote for this year.

Trying new things to grow our bridge community!

Director HUB. We have put a new resource on our website especially for directors or those want to find or become directors. This in development and any input would be welcomed: <https://bridgevictoria.au/directors-hub/>

New Events in 2025

Youth Fundraiser. This is the first youth fund raiser for 2025 on the 22nd February hosted by Waverly. All money raised will contribute to furthering youth bridge in Victoria Youth Fund. Please support youth in Victoria!

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2386>

The Victorian Singles Challenge. This new BV event will be run in 6 separate sessions spread throughout the year; red points will be awarded for each session. Read more [My ABF - Congress View](#).

Victorian Festival of Bridge. This is not a new event, as it has grown out of the VCC, but there is a new focus to grow the event to create a sense of a bridge community with opportunities to socialise and mingle – trivia, dinner and Jazz or footy anyone? Link here for more details [My ABF - Congress View](#)

Upcoming Events.

BV State Events

- Wednesday 5th Feb 2025 -Victorian Singles Challenge
- Saturday 22nd Feb 2025 -Youth Fundraiser
- Wednesday 26th Feb 2025 - Victorian Open Pairs
- Monday 31st Mar 2025 -Victorian Women's and Seniors ANC 2024 Teams Qualifying

Congresses:

- Yarra Valley Congress Sat, 15 Feb 2025
- MCC Congress at the MCG 02 Mar 2025
- Rye Dromana Swiss Pairs Sat, 08 Mar 2025

I will be travelling to the 63rd Gold Coast Congress (for the first time) next week and hope to see some of you there.

Happy Bridging!

Jan van Riel - Chair of Bridge Victoria
chair@bridgevictoria.au.au.

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS FEBRUARY

The following hand took place in a pair's event

NORTH

♠K82
♥AK986
♦853
♣A3

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠AQJ9
♥3
♦92
♣KQ9742

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

The auction starts out quite comfortably.

2♦ is fourth suit game forcing.

Now the problem arises as neither North nor South have a ♦ stopper.

Over the 3♥ bid, North has to decide whether to bid 4♣ or bid 3♠ with his powerful four card suit.

Because it is a pair's event (where a major suit like ♠s scores more than a minor suit like ♣s), North selects the latter and South bids 4♠.

After no thought at all, West leads the ♦A.

West leads the ♦T at trick 2. East wins with the ♦J.

At trick 3, East leads the ♦K and West follows with the ♦6.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH FEB.

Both sides nil vulnerable in a team's match

West leads the ♣Q.

NORTH

♠Q6
♥A87
♦J9873
♣AK5

WEST(D)

♠T8
♥
♦Q62
♣

EAST

♠754
♥
♦KT54
♣

SOUTH

♠AKJ932
♥KT2
♦A
♣843

To indicate the ♠ holding, I have shown you that trumps are 3 – 2.

Also, there is no real good fortune in the ♦ suit (ie KQ are not doubleton or tripleton).

Moreover, the ♥QJ are not doubleton.

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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

Both North and South took an optimistic view of their hands.

5♦ showed three of the five key cards and so North bid the small slam.

This hand was played in the Christmas Teams at the Victorian Bridge Centre and it was sent to me by Ralph Berlinski (thank you).



THE INTERVIEW

TO START 2025, THE INTERVIEW IS WITH PHILLP (PHIL) YOUNG

Phil is on the left and next to him is his wife, Lynda. The other two in the picture are Hannah O'Donnell and Greg Nunn.

Rather than send a picture of himself, he sent a group picture of his personal bridge highlight.

This picture was taken after the Moonee Valley Bridge Club based team won the intermediate teams at the Gold Coast Congress in 2024.



Editor:

Where and when were you born?

Phil:

I was born in 1964 in Dovercourt in the county of Essex in the United Kingdom. I emigrated as a £10 Pom in 1968 with my maternal grandparents, my parents and sister and most of mum's siblings. Apart from 4 years in Sydney for work, I have lived in Melbourne all my life.

Editor:

Who said the £10 Pom experiment was a waste of money? Look what Australia gained – a source of many jokes 😊. I have to own up that I am a Pom as well but Australia paid nothing to get me. I guess you get what you pay for after all.

Where did you go to school?

Phil:

That's a very Melbourne question 😊 I attended Lilydale Primary for most of my primary education, topped up with four weeks at Graham St Port Melbourne when, to my great surprise, my parents moved to Port in late 1975 just post Gough's dismissal. I then had a year at what used to be Albert Park High School and with a bit of good luck then managed to get into Scotch College. Having married a PLC (Presbyterian Ladies College) girl, we're quite the clichéd Melbourne couple.

Editor:

What interests did you have as a child?

Phil:

I was quite an avid reader of fiction before high-school made it compulsory. I lost count of the number of times I read Robinson Crusoe and Swiss Family Robinson, probably the Readers Digest versions as well as loads of Enid Blyton. I loved sport although wasn't very good. Scotch did give me a great environment to compete academically and to participate at all manner of sports. I have been a life-long supporter of Collingwood including attending almost every game in their wooden spoon year of 1976 but they did win the reserves Grand Final. It used to be Collingwood on Saturday and Port Melbourne (Fred Cook era) if they were playing at home on a Sunday.

Editor:

An Old Scotch Boy supporting Collingwood. What is the world coming to? 😊

What direction did you take after leaving school?

Phil:

I went on to Melbourne University and did the bare minimum 3 years of a science degree. I most likely spent more time at Naughtons playing Dig Dug than attending lectures. But a Science degree in Pure Mathematics left me working as a storeman at Kraft until my mother found a job ad for a student actuary role. This got me into the actuarial and the IT fields in superannuation and insurance and as some say life just happened whilst I was busy making other plans. I met Lynda at work and we've got 2 kids and I managed to see a lot of the world working as an IT consultant having set-up my own business the same month my daughter was born. I was working on a huge pension systems project based in London and after commuting for four years and completing large chunks of that project, I decided to early retire in 2019 to continue to travel the world but as a tourist. Then 2020 hit.

Editor:

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

Phil:

Lynda and I learned in the mid-1990s at Grand Slam Mosman. A work colleague suggested I might enjoy it and how right he was! John McIlwraith was our teacher and it was with great delight that we were actually seconded in to the open playing field so that there would be no 'sit out' after 2-3 weeks of lessons. Little did we know. Literally. We were reasonable card players. My nana had always taught me to play cards in the school holidays and canasta and rummy were favourites and there were no prisoners taken at 1c a point. We thought we were ok because we didn't know what we didn't know. We did manage to sit at Table 1 during the Canberra Summer teams in the 90s and then promptly got put back in our place.

Editor:

What made you get more serious about the game?

Phil:

We didn't play for about twenty-five years or so having moved back to Melbourne and having a family. In 2018, Lynda retired and took lessons again. I decided that playing again would be fun so I just started playing the same system I'd played in the 90s with my partner from the 90s who was also back in Melbourne. Now that I had retired with nothing but time, my obsession to improve took over. I realised how little I knew and just slowly started reading, playing with other people and trying to improve and learn a little at a time. We attended the 2020 Gold Coast congress and that's when we got totally hooked. We managed to do quite well, and I was shocked to discover that there was prize money. We are still working our way through the ranks and have been fortunate enough to win a few events and that fed the addiction for continual improvement.

As someone who enjoys puzzles, bridge is the greatest gift. Every hand is a puzzle. I seem to tie myself in knots sometimes solving the puzzles but it's a great experience playing with partners who you can learn and develop with.

I'm someone who enjoys getting beaten up by the far better players on my road to hopefully getting a little bit better myself. Watching expert players routinely playing quite differently to what I would contemplate is part of the learning curve.

Editor:

An unkind Australian might point out that getting beaten up by better opponents is a common English tradition. 😊

Did you have a regular partner initially and what about currently?

Phil:

I've always played with my wife Lynda. I worked out that with various club social friendlies and other short-term arrangements that I played with twenty-one people in 2024. I don't recommend this at all to improve your game. I thoroughly recommend it as a great social activity. I'm part of a little group of Moonee Valley players that are all playing pretty much the same system so any of us can pair up and we'd understand our core methods. A big shout out to my main regular partner, Greg Nunn. Greg is far more experienced than I am and I was quite nervous when I approached him to have a game and was so relieved when he said yes. Greg has taught me a lot and has tolerated my learning curve. I've also more recently played with Kim Frazer and Neil Ewart and am quite grateful that they didn't laugh, in real-time, at some of my ridiculous declarer play.

Editor:

What is your general style at the bridge table?

Phil:

I'm the one with a large collection of bridge T-shirts (go to Redbubble.com), shorts and thongs. So, I'm not quite as debonair as the immediate past interviewees. All those school and work years in suits had an impact post-retirement.

I'm generally aggressive particularly when partner has passed. I do try and be consistent but fail. I have a few, well-known to my regular partners, blind spots (yes you can make game opposite partner's initial pass).

I also try to be poker-faced, but playing with your life partner I am told of reactions she's aware of that I'm not. I do know that no partner plays any better from getting feedback during a session so I try and keep my mouth shut (but I do fail).

I also suffer from being easily distracted. Noise, chatting, general hubbub of club bridge is not my best environment. I've tried ear plugs but I think ultimately a few deep breaths and just cracking on is the best for my game.

Editor

What do you do mentally and physically to prepare for bridge?

Phil:

We do walk a lot and I'm generally fit, albeit, I could be 10kg lighter as I was before Covid shrunk my clothes. We often think about and talk about "bridge fitness". After playing at the Gold Coast and other multi-day events, we're always confident that we have got "bridge fit" and that we generally can keep our concentration going most of the day. Mentally, I almost always play one of the many BBO daily challenges at the start of a congress day to get my mind going. I try to kid myself that I will not make the same mistakes during the day that I make during my BBO warm-up. We also prefer to walk to and from wherever we're playing and our accommodation. A little bit of exercise helps. I do love the morning swims up at the Gold Coast.

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Phil:

Continued improvement. Keeping my group of playing partners as personal friends as well as bridge partners. I love teams bridge so doing well at one of the many teams' events with my bridge friends would be a thrill.

For bridge more broadly, it's only been 2024 that I've paid much attention to masterpoints, McCutcheon's and improvement rankings. I think as a bridge community we should do far more to celebrate the successes of a year's achievements. Well done to Dee Harley for winning the most masterpoints for a Victorian but just as importantly well done to Sam Goss, Heath Watkins and Sharon Michael for doing well at the lower rankings. As well as to Lynda and Hannah O'Donnell for their positions in the top 10 most improved as well.

I'd also like to encourage clubs to celebrate their players' successes and for all players to wait and applaud the winners at special events/congresses. It's a little disappointing that so few players wait to congratulate the winners.

Editor:

Why did you take on a role within BVOC/VBA?

Phil:

I was asked. There was a casual vacancy and I'm really keen to do something to help make sure bridge playing increases in Victoria.

It's quite boring but player behaviour, by an extremely small minority, remains a blight on the game and whilst merely unpleasant for many of us, it has an immeasurable impact on keeping new players away from the game. I know this is a contentious and fractious topic but how about adults behaving as adults? 100% of us, 100% of the time? How many times do learners get scared off by curmudgeons? We talk of zero-tolerance but I fear it's not enforced. Let's all do better. The anecdotes along the lines of "oh that's just <insert name here>, they're always like that" are unacceptable in my opinion. Poor behaviour needs to be stamped out. Sorry. End of boring lecture.

On a far more positive note, my interest in the mentoring program at Moonee Valley was entirely about making sure we had players, playing an improving standard of bridge so that our club survives and thrives. In the 1990s we were known as "the kids" at Grand Slam as we were by far the youngest players there. Sadly, when we started again in our late 50s there weren't many players younger than us still. Somehow, we all need to share the joy and beauty of a night of card playing to those who haven't been exposed to it yet.

I would say that mentoring for "intermediate", whatever that might mean, players is hard to find within a club environment where expert talent can be quite thin and/or stretched. I would say though every good player, when asked, has offered good advice. I think there's a great community of 'expert' players who just need to be asked and they will offer assistance (what word am I allowed to use Chris? 😊 – 'expert', 'top', 'state')

[Editor's note: This is a private joke; Phil and I have had many discussions on what terminology should be used for describing our better players].

I respect the past but that we must try "new things" to attract and retain players.

I'm learning the ropes of working on volunteer-based committees. My key responsibility is promoting the game. I have been excited to work with the MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) bridge club helping them establish their first congress. Hopefully anyone who is reading this will jump on MyABF, search for "Bridge at the G" and enter.

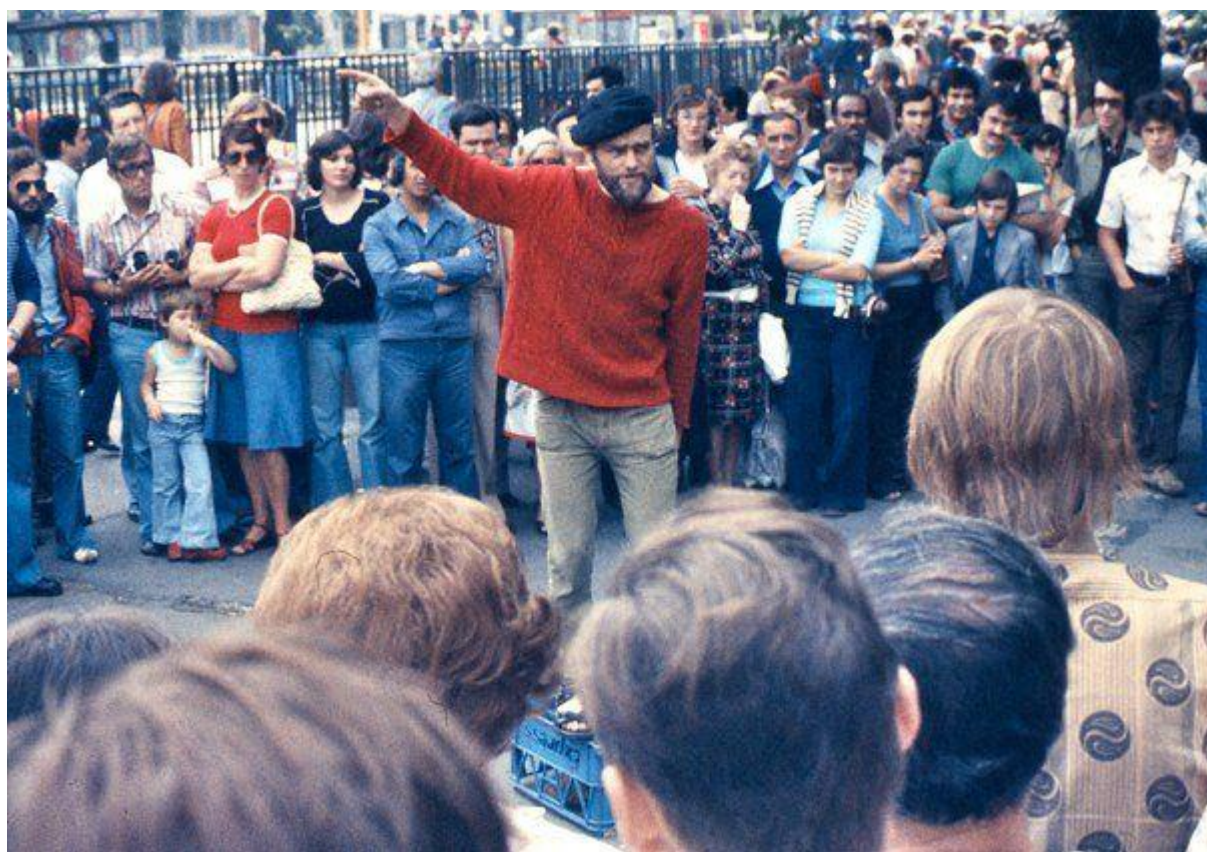
Bridge Victoria have set an audacious goal to double player numbers over 10 years. There's much to celebrate and enjoy about our game. Imagine if we could all bring along one friend or family member to the next club social bridge event. That will make our growth goals within reach as the social connection and joy of the game are very addictive.

Thanks for listening.

Editor:

Why isn't there a 'Speaker's Corner' in Australia?

Thank you, Phil, for your time and effort in accepting and completing this interview.



PHILL'S PHILOSOPHIES

INTERMEDIATE LESSON- COMPETITIVE BIDDING - LEAPING AND NON-LEAPING MICHAELS

When bidding over an opponent's weak two opening (whether the opposition use a Multi two diamond bid or just a normal weak two bid), a lot of players use Lebensohl continuations after a takeout double (a takeout double would normally indicate a hand that can tolerate any suit bid by their partner). Their partner will bid 2NT which usually shows a weak hand after your partner doubles.

This lesson adds to our armament when holding a strong 2 suited hand.

LEAPING MICHAELS



These are terrific bids to have in your armoury. They are highly descriptive, very effective but, just as importantly, enormous fun to play!

The basic idea is to play as follows:

Over a weak 2 ♦ opener:

- 3 ♦ = Asks for a stopper for no-trumps
- 3 ♥ / ♠ = Natural and strong (six plus cards, 16-18 HCP)
- 4 ♣ = Clubs + major (at least 5-5)
- 4 ♦ = Both majors (at least 5-5)

Over a weak 2 ♥ opener:

- 3 ♥ = Asks for a stopper for no-trumps
- 3 ♠ = Natural and strong (six plus cards, 16-18 HCP)
- 4 ♣ = Clubs + spades (at least 5-5)
- 4 ♦ = Diamonds + spades (at least 5-5)

Over a weak 2 ♠ opener:

- 3 ♠ = Asks for a stopper
- 4 ♣ = Clubs + hearts (at least 5-5)
- 4 ♦ = Diamonds + hearts (at least 5-5)

Over a Multi 2♦ opener:

3♣/3♦	=	Natural
3♥/♠	=	Natural and strong (six plus cards, 16-18 HCP)
4♣	=	Clubs + major (at least 5-5)
4♦	=	Diamonds + major (at least 5-5)

The principle is that you can 'leap' to a Michaels-style bid at the four level. These bids guarantee at least 5-5 in the two suits shown. Since they commit the partnership to the four level by deliberate choice, a good hand is needed, typically four or five losers at most. The current trend is to play the bids as almost forcing (95% or so, anyway).

What do you bid with hand A?

♠AKJT5
♥3
♦KQJ82
♣43

The opposition open a weak 2♥.

Over 2♥ (weak) you can bid 4♦ to show the two suits immediately (this is a minimum hand for this action).

The opposition open a 'multi' 2♦.

Over 2♦ ('multi') you can bid 4♦ to show the two suits - diamonds + major.

What do you bid with hand B?

♠A5
♥32
♦A8
♣AKQ7642

The opposition open a weak 2♥.

You could bid 3♥ over the opponent's opening 2♥ bid to ask for a ♥ stopper with no fear that partner would interpret it as a Michaels cue-bid.

The opposition open a 'multi' 2♦.

Over 2♦ ('multi') you can double (you cannot cue bid as you do not know their suit) to show a hand too good for an overcall. Then try and solve the problem later of where to play the hand (even an excellent convention cannot solve all your problems).

RESPONDING TO LEAPING MICHAELS

When the person who made the 'Leaping Michaels' bid has shown their two suits, then typically, what you do is to 'choose' to play in either of partner's known suits. You should rarely pass as partner may have game in their own hand.

When the person who made the 'Leaping Michaels' bid has shown a minor and an unknown major (over a 'multi' 2♦ bid), then typically, their partner must bid 4♥ to allow for partner to pass with ♥s or correct with ♠s.

Given that the Leaping Michaels bid shows a really good hand (sometimes considerably better than the one shown in hand A), the partner of the 'leaper' can sometimes make an immediate slam try either via a cue-bid of the opponent's suit or Roman Key-Card Blackwood (the partnership should discuss what works for them).

NON-LEAPING MICHAELS

If you do start playing these methods, it can be very rewarding – not to mention quite logical – to play non-Leaping Michaels as well. These bids apply when the opponents have opened at the three level. Thus:

Over 3♣ :

4♣ = Both majors

4♦ = Diamonds + major

Over 3♦ :

4♣ = Clubs + major

4♦ = Both majors

Over 3♥ :

4♣ = Clubs + spades

4♦ = Diamonds + spades

4♥ = Is a very strong takeout, probably 5044 or powerful 4144 wanting to play in game in any other suit except Hearts

Over 3♠ :

4♣ = Clubs + hearts

4♦ = Diamonds + hearts

Since you are not jumping, I suggest the need for such a good hand is not as stringent as in 'Leaping Michaels'.

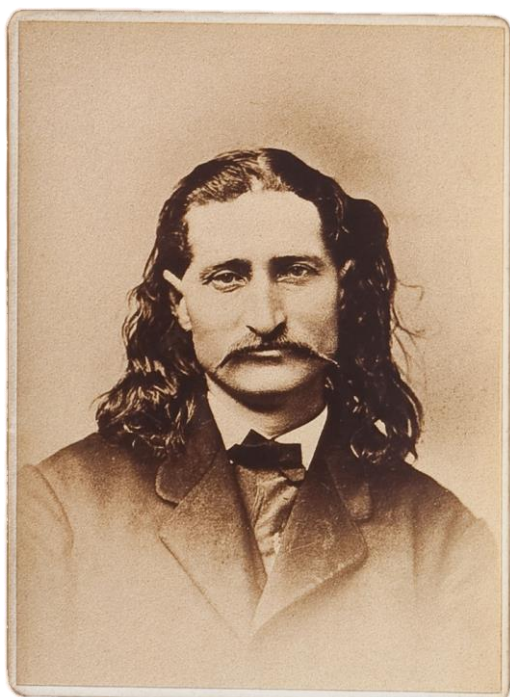
Editor's Note: NON-LEAPING MICHAELS isn't for everyone – for example what if you just have a ♣ suit over 3♥?

BRIDGE HUMOUR

DEAD MEN LOSE

Aces and eights. The infamous dead man's hand.

Four of the cards that James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok held during a five-card poker hand were two aces and two eights when he was shot by Jack McCall on 2 August 1876 at Nuttal & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory.



William "Wild Bill" Hickok is shown on the left and Jack McCall is shown on the right.



The story goes that a very inebriated McCall—who had introduced himself as Bill Sutherland—was playing poker with Hickok the previous evening and

lost heavily. Hickok encouraged McCall to stop for the night until he could settle up, and Hickok gave him some money for food.

When the insulted McCall entered the saloon the next day, he walked up behind Hickok—who was begrudgingly sitting with his back to the door as another player, Charlie Rich, wouldn't change seats with him—and shouted, "Damn you! Take that!" and proceeded to shoot Hickok in the back of the head with his Colt Model 1873 .45 calibre revolver. Hickok died instantly.

Most of us like to watch 'western' movies at one time or another. However, you may well ask, "What has this got to do with bridge and how can anybody find any humour in this incident?"

On several occasions at the bridge table, I have encountered as the declarer or as a defender the following situation. Declarer calls for the 'ace' or the 'eight' and dummy plays the opposite card (ie dummy plays the 'ace' when declarer asks for the 'eight' or dummy plays the 'eight' when declarer asks for the 'ace'). Declarer then proceeds to play the trick based on the card they called for without looking at which card dummy actually played.

The discovery of this misplayed card generally occurs when one side believes that they have won the trick and the opposing pair also believe the trick is their own.

A husband and wife were playing as North and South. The husband was playing South and was in a contract of 3♣. The remaining cards are shown below. Declarer had lost two tricks and only needed three more to make nine tricks.

NORTH	
♠	
♥AK	
♦5	
♣A8	
WEST(D)	EAST
♠T8	♠4
♥	♥QJ
♦Q	♦
♣KQ	♣J7
SOUTH	
♠	
♥2	
♦6	
♣943	

The lead was in dummy and declarer asked for the 'ace' of ♣s. East played the ♣7, the husband played the ♣3 and West the ♣Q.

The husband started to say, I will play safely by playing on ♥s in case the remaining ♣s are not split evenly to ensure the contract.

However, West played the ♦Q before the husband could finish. As quick as a flash, the husband blurted out that it was a 'penalty' card. West asked, "Why, I am on lead. I won the trick with the ♣Q?"

The husband looked up and saw the previous trick was actually the ♣8 from dummy. the ♣7 from East, his own ♣3 and West's the ♣Q.

The husband said that I asked for the ♣A not the ♣8. His wife, as dummy, said that she heard it as the ♣8. The husband then implied that his wife had a hearing impairment and she suggested that perhaps English wasn't his preferred language.

The opponents were asked what they heard. Both were not willing to take sides but they did say that they saw that the ♣8 was played.

The play continued ♦Q ruffed by East with the ♣J and then the ♥Q ruffed by West with the ♣K.

Therefore, declarer lost three of the last five tricks to go one down in an absolutely 'cold' contract.

The husband wasn't finished yet, "Why on earth would I play the ♣8 in this situation? Even your mother would have played the ♣A and she is senile". The wife retorted, "If she is senile and she would play the ♣A and you the ♣8, what does it say about your mental capabilities?"

It was just as well that it was the last hand of the evening. The rest of the players in the club all moved to the other side of the room. Moreover, it was just as well that the husband and wife came in separate cars. Everyone agreed that there would either be a substitute arranged for next week or that the husband would be quite as a church mouse.



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

- VICTORIA

GARDENVALE CONGRESS

Thursday 26th to Monday 30th December

32 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs on the 26th December and the placegetters were

1st	John Yang	Paul Ruan
2nd	Philip Chang	Martin Wu
3rd	Thilak Ranasinghe	George Lovrecz

24 pairs contested the Matchpoint Pairs on the 27th December and the placegetters were

1st	Chen Ding	Christophr Leach
2nd	Jens Norlyng	Kumara Nainanayake
3rd	Louis Cukierman	Gayle Bagg

42 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs on the 28th December and the placegetters were

1st	Phillip Fent	Dee Harley
2nd	John Yang	Jack Huang
3rd	Christopher Leach	Michael Sullivan

The placegetters are shown in the following pictures (left to right as in the order displayed above)

In the winner's picture, the organiser, Jeff Fust, is shown between Phillip and Dee.



42 pairs contested the Teams on the 29th December and the placegetters were

1st	Catherine Lachman	George Lovrecz	Ben Kingham	Sylvia Schwarcz
2nd	Philip Young	Lynda Young	Hannah O'Donnell	Carolyn O'Donnell
3rd	Heath Watkins	Matthew Sieredzinski	Neil Ewart	David Beckett

16 pairs contested the Restricted Matchpoint Pairs on the 30th December and the placegetters were

1st	Jan Van Riel	Sally Foster
2nd	Sigi Swieca	Cynthia Spicer
3rd	Stephen Singer	Peter Jaffe

- NATIONAL

This was dominated by two major events. One on-line and in Canberra.

2ND WBF Women's Online Bridge Tournament

Friday 3rd to Monday 6th January

By Kim Frazer

In 2023, the WBF launched its inaugural Women's Online Bridge Tournament but unfortunately it clashed with the Gold Coast so few from Australia were able to participate. In 2024 the organisers rescheduled the event to the first week in January, missing the GCC, but unfortunately this time the event clashed with a major tournament in Switzerland. Such is the difficulty for the WBF and NBO's in trying to schedule the annual calendar. Luckily for us, the timing was great & I formed a team from Victoria to both support the event and provide an opportunity for Victorian Bridge players to participate on the international stage.

Seventy-four teams contested the event from 40 countries including 6 teams from Australia. While there are some who dislike the concept of women's bridge events, there was certainly keen interest in this event from around the world, with the matches played in good spirit.

Editor's Note: some of the best female players in the world entered and the higher placed teams all featured very well credentialed participants

Teams nominated time slots they were available to play, and the Real Bridge organisers, Andy Bowles and Shireen Mohandes, did a stellar job organising the playing schedule. Due to the time zone differences, not all teams played the same boards during the event, but given the teams format, that hardly mattered except for those players that like comparing datums. For our team, we ended up with one daytime match and three- or four-night matches on each day with a total of thirteen matches overall. We won eight matches, drew one and lost four matches, finishing 29th overall. Our girls also were written up a couple of times in the daily bulletin for boards they played.

Our team had great fun and were delighted to have had the opportunity to participate. We are grateful to the organisers and the WBF for supporting this event & hope to be able to support future events.

Here are a few of the more interesting boards we played during the event.



SIX DIAMONDS team members

From left to right - Kim Frazer (C), Kitty Muntz, Maryanne Bird, Lisa Yoffa, Belinda Lindsay [and Maggie Klassen (not pictured)]

In our first match against Hibernians (from Ireland) which we won comfortably, Belinda Lindsay and Maggie Klassen opted for an aggressive approach to bid slam on this board which was written up in the bulletin:

NORTH	Lindsay	SOUTH	Klassen
	1♣	1♠	2♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	4NT
P	5♣	P	6♥

Maggie Klassen took the glass half full approach and found partner with perfect cards.

This was rewarded with a pickup when the Irish ladies stopped in 4♥.

There was nothing to the play.

The hand is shown on the following page.

NORTH

♠AKQ975

♥93

♦84

♣J54

LINDSAY

♠86

♥J65

♦K3

♣AKQT76

KLASSEN

♠T

♥AKQ72

♦AQ75

♣983

SOUTH(D)

♠J432

♥T84

♦JT962

♣2

This board from Day 2 matches saw Lisa Yoffa and Maryanne Bird talk their Turkish opponents out of a making 4♥.

Yoffa	EAST	Bird	WEST
	P	1♠	P
2♠	DBL	P	3♥
3♠	P	P	P

YOFFA

♠AKQT

♥975

♦864

♣T94

WEST

♠9654

♥KQJT2

♦K

♣Q72

EAST

♠

♥9643

♦JT93

♣AKJ65

BIRD

♠J8732

♥A

♦AQ752

♣83

Australian Youth Week – Canberra

Saturday 4th to Friday 10th January

Summer Festival of Bridge – Canberra

Tuesday 7th to Sunday 19th January

Victorians didn't shine in a lot of the events (although an ex-Victorian, James Coutts, was on the winning team in the National Open Teams final (the major event of the festival).

Having said that, there were some very commendable results by Victorians.

In the **OPEN SWISS PAIRS**

with a strong field of 146 pairs

STEPHEN LESTER playing with JANE LENNON from New Zealand finished 5th

SYLVIA SCHWARCZ playing with BEN KINGHAM finished 7th

In the **750/500 SWISS PAIRS**

with a field of 46 pairs

KEVIN GU playing with LILLY JIA from Queensland won the event.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEB/MARCH

YARRA VALLEY CONGRESS

Saturday 15th February (see the following page for details)

WESTERN REGION BRIDGE ASSOCIATION FINALS

Saturday 15th February

NORTHERN REGION BRIDGE ASSOCIATION FINALS

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd February

MCC CONGRESS AT THE MCG

Sunday 2nd March

RYE/DROMANA PAIRS CONGRESS

Saturday 8th March

WHITTLESEA CONGRESS

Sunday 9th March

GRAND PRIX CONGRESS

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March

EASTERN REGION BRIDGE ASSOCIATION FINALS

Sunday 16th March

BWONLINE BRIDGECLUB CONGRESS

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March



Yarra Valley Bridge Club Inc.
Yarra Valley Bridge Club 2025 Congress
Red Point Event

Swiss Pairs: SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2025, Starting Time 10.00AM

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
Electra Community Centre
21a Electra Avenue, Ashwood, Victoria

Entries: www.MyABF.com.au
Use your ABF number as your account

Director: Laurie Kelso

Congress Convenor: Clare Stratton (0438 547 647)
clarestratton@bigpond.com

Maureen Ryan Secretary, Yarra Valley Bridge Club:
yvbc@yarravalleybridgeclub.au (0402 241 200)

Registration opens at 9:30am

Table fees are \$45 per player.

We are strictly limited to 36 Tables, so this is likely to sell out! Get in Fast!

Tea, coffee, and snacks provided throughout the day,
please **Bring Your Own** lunch.

Our committee is very grateful for Waverley Bridge Club accommodating our congress.

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? FEB

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1♠	P
2♠	3♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	P	P	P

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♥.

NORTH

♠863
♥A875
♦KJ6
♣932

EAST

♠A4
♥K2
♦QT83
♣AKQ54

West leads the ♣6. Dummy plays the ♣2, you play the ♣Q and declarer ruffs. Declarer leads the ♥Q around to your ♥K.

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 DECEMBER 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Farquharson, Jayne	Bronze Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Charpentier, Dina	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Jebb, Reg	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Jones, Sally	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Rawlinson, John	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Rundle, Kay	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Whiting, Geoff	Grand
Beamaris Bridge Club Inc	Thorne, June	Graduate
Benalla Bridge Club	Monger, Jenny	Bronze State
Benalla Bridge Club	Murray, Frances	Local
Bridge Fanatics Club	Ajzner, Les	Life
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Dobos, Peter	Silver Local
BWOnline Bridge Club	Skeen, Jim	National
BWOnline Bridge Club	Wong, Peter	Graduate
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Burgess, Lynne	Bronze Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Goldschlager, Esther	Bronze Regional
Gardenvale Bridge School	Brewster, Geni	Silver Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Adams, Kathleen	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Fitzpatrick, Brig	Bronze State
Geelong Bridge Club	Hazledine, Brigitte	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Lehmann, Jennifer	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Melzer, David	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Ryan, Heather	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Swift, Suzanne	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Adler, Fiona	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Houseman, Rosemary	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Baker, Greg	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Griffiths, Jane	State
KLTC Bridge Club	Liebelt, Pip	State
Lyceum Club	Clayton, Sandy	Club
Maine Bridge Club	Baxter, Nic	Graduate
Maine Bridge Club	Bessell, Ken	State
Maine Bridge Club	Devereux, Louise	Graduate
Maine Bridge Club	Ridder, Peter	Graduate
MCC Bridge Club	Wigley, Jo	Club
Melbourne Bridge Club	Bergin, Susan	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Arnott, Toni	Bronze State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Deerson, Marianne	Club

Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Jessup, Bert	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Wyatt, Ben	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Abey, Shyamala	State
Northern Bridge Club	Barnett, Malcolm	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Dorman, Vera	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Hildebrand, Vicki	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Liu, Anita	Silver Local
Northern Bridge Club	Prohasky, Helen	Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Travers, Gordon	State
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Jansen, Stella	State
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	McDonald, Lee	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Renick, Bruce	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Ritchie, Marilyn	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Troedel, Prue	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Whitehead, Joan	Silver Local
OZ Bridge Club	Singer, Stephen	Bronze State
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Fenlon, Andrew	Bronze Local
RACV Bridge Group	Boyce, Ann	Club
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Michelmore, Sue	Bronze State
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Crockford, Joanne	Bronze Life
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Promnitz, Maureen	Graduate
Sale Bridge Club	Cumming, Georgia	Graduate
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Graham	Bronze Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Poulton, Derek	Bronze Life
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Ajzensztat, Frank	State
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Handley, Maria	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Peck, Peter	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Walsh, Sandra	Regional
Upwey Bridge Club	Miller, Max	Regional
Upwey Bridge Club	Rogers, Elizabeth	Local
Upwey Bridge Club	Willsher, Helen	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Beling, Chhaya	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Kagan, Bernard	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Kowarsky, Tamara	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Kras, Alan	State
Victorian Bridge Centre	Moskowitz, Sue	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Richards, John	State
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Holloway, Sylvia	Graduate
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Hudson, Hilary	Club
Warrnambool Bridge Club	Nicholson, Michelle	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Burrows, Catherine	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Christiansz, Robyn	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Crouch, Roderick	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Joglekar, Nitin	Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Orme, Marg	Bronze Regional

Waverley Bridge Club	Rodger, Ros	Regional
Williamstown Bridge Club	Finey, Michele	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Millington, Peter	Bronze State
Wodonga Bridge Club	Pallot, Marg	Graduate
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Castles, Anna	Local

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

Geoff Whiting of the Bayside Club who is now a grand master reaching the 1000-master point level.

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

VALE SIMON HINGE

Editor's note: The following is an abridged version of an article that Stephen Lester wrote for the ABF website

June 6 1952 – January 6, 2025

The Australian Bridge community is reeling after the sudden loss of one of the most colourful bridge personalities in Australia for more than half a century, Simon Hinge.

Simon, known to be intolerant of what he considered stupidity, could appear aloof and irascible, but he could also be extremely loveable.

In his 50+ years of competitive bridge, with Simon partnering many notable partners, Simon amassed nearly 11,000 masterpoints, making him a worthy Emerald Grand Master.

Simon also served the bridge community well. He was on the ABF Management Committee for a number of years, and was instrumental in helping design the current ABF website.

On Monday January 6, the end came suddenly for my dear friend. Travelling to our favourite event, the Summer Festival, a sharp cry and his head turned to one side, the life went out of Simon's eyes and despite the efforts of Andrew Mill, two willing onlookers, the ambulance and paramedic personnel, Simon could not be revived.

Editor's comments:

Simon Hinge was a South Australian who was skilled at both tennis and bridge. He never married but had many successful relationships with women throughout his life. He moved to Victoria and became heavily involved in the bridge scene.

I first got to know him whilst his bridge and female partner was Cathy Chua. After a few practice sessions at the bridge table, it was agreed that we should play as a foursome and go to Canberra for the National Open Teams championships in 2001. I would play with Cathy Chua and Simon would play with his South Australian friend, Phil Markey.

We had a good run in the event and eventually qualified for the final. Our opponents would be the Lavazza team (Maria Teresa Lavazza, of coffee fame, sponsored the Italian team that had just won the world championship and she brought several of them out to Canberra). We met them in one of the qualifying rounds and Cathy and I played against Maria (who was a very competent player in her own right) and her partner Giorgio Duboin.

Maria Teresa Lavazza didn't play in the final. The Italian final pairings were Alfredo Versace (world champion member) playing with a top ranked Italian player, Guido Ferraro and Giorgio Duboin playing with Norberto Bocchi (who played together in their world championship win). In the final, Cathy and I had the dubious pleasure of playing four sets of sixteen boards against one of the best pairs in the world, Giorgio Duboin and Norberto Bocchi.

I had always been a huge fan of Giorgio Duboin but to have him as my screen mate was a little intimidating. In the first set of sixteen boards, the Italians bid a lucky slam and took a small lead. A lead that they never relinquished and grew upon.

Despite our loss, Simon spoke to me about that event in 2001 in passing several times over the years.

Simon was all the things that Stephen mentioned in his article. I have experienced both his friendship and his loathing of fools or foolish comments through the years. Like Stephen stated, he will be missed.





FEEDBACK

This query was sent to me by Phil Young whilst playing in a team's event in the National Open Teams in Canberra.

Chris – what action do you take with both sides not vulnerable when the dealer on your right opens 4♠ and then you and your left-hand opponent passes and partner bids 5♥ passed back to you? What did you do?

SOUTH

♠AT965

♥A652

♦63

♣T5

Answer:

There is no correct answer.

By bidding over 4♠ with a bid of 5♥, partner almost certainly has a void in ♠s and a very good ♥ suit. Is partner bidding as a save or with a very good hand and bidding to make? there is a case to bid 6♥ but it is not a lay down action by any means (why punish partner when, perhaps, they have found what they believe is a good save against the opponent's making game – even though you are pretty sure their game would not make?)

For expert and well-honed partnerships, partner, over 4♠ had a choice of bidding 5♥ directly with a competitive hand or bidding 4NT for takeout and bidding 5♥ over your 5 of a minor bid to show a really good hand. This is only for top level partnerships and it isn't something I would suggest for average players.

Our auction was different as the dealer opened 3♠ and then you and your left-hand opponent passed and partner bids 4♥ passed back to you.

There is now a much wider range of hands on which partner would venture 4♥ and passing looks like the best option. Also, your ace of ♠s is probably opposite a void and it is not pulling its weight. All the experts that were faced with this scenario all passed.

6♥ was laydown but few bid it.

In summary, this is why people use pre-emptive bids to make life more difficult for the opposition. The great Tim Seres had a simple rule – bid one less after a pre-emptive bid as suits might well be breaking badly.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – FEB. SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1 ♠	P
2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♥	P	P	P

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 ♥.

West leads the ♣7. Dummy plays the ♣2, you play the ♣Q and declarer ruffs. Declarer leads the ♥Q around to your ♥K.

Now what? Is there any hope?

What is your plan?

From the auction, declarer appears to have a 5 5 3 0 shape. The two chances to defeat the contract are that

1. Partner has ♠AQX and a ♠ shift now defeats the contract.
2. Partner has a ♠ honour (probably the ♠Q) and the ♦A. If you lead a small ♦ now and partner plays back a ♦, then declarer, upon losing a ♠ trick, will have another ♦ loser (eg set up your ♦ tricks before declarer sets up the ♠ suit for ♦ discards in dummy).

Option two seems the more likely situation. So, lead the ♦3.

NORTH

♠ 863
♥ A875
♦ KJ6
♣ 932

WEST

♠ Q72
♥ 64
♦ A95
♣ JT876

EAST

♠ 94
♥ K2
♦ QT83
♣ AKQ54

SOUTH

♠ AKJT5
♥ QJT93
♦ 742
♣

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – FEB. SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a pair's event

NORTH

♠K82
♥AK986
♦853
♣A3

WEST

♠T543
♥Q74
♦AT6
♣JT8

EAST

♠76
♥JT52
♦KQJ74
♣65

SOUTH(D)

♠AQJ9
♥3
♦92
♣KQ9742

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

The auction starts out quite comfortably.

2♦ is fourth suit game forcing.

Now the problem arises as neither North nor South have a ♦ stopper.

Over the 3♥ bid, North has to decide whether to bid 4♣ or bid 3♠ with his powerful four card suit.

Because it is a pair's event (where a major suit ♠s scores more than a minor suit ♣s), North selects the latter and South bids 4♠.

After no thought at all, West leads the ♦A.

West leads the ♦T at trick 2. East wins with the ♦J.

At trick 3, East leads the ♦K and West follows with the ♦6.

What is your plan from here?

If you ruff the third ♦ with the ♠9, you are defeated. Why? You play three rounds of trumps and West has the last trump. West will wait until the second ♣ is played and then trump and lead a ♥ and you will be at least one down.

Just throw the ♣2 on the third ♦ trick. If a fourth ♦ is led, you can ruff in dummy and pull trumps.

To make you need trumps to be no worse than 4-2 and ♣s to be basically 3-2.

This is a much better chance than relying on ♠s being 3-3.

It makes perfect sense once you see the problem. You are rewarded with a score of 420 which beats a score of 400 for those in 5♣ and minus 50 for those in 3NT.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – DEC. SOLUTION

Semi-final of the Pennant (State Teams event)

Hand layout showing cards for North, South, West, and East (D).

NORTH
 ♠ T4
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ AK973
 ♣ QT53

SOUTH
 ♠ AQ865
 ♥ T75
 ♦ T
 ♣ AJ94

WEST
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

EAST(D)
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

NORTH
 ♠ T
 ♥
 ♦ A973
 ♣ QT53

WEST
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

EAST(D)
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

SOUTH
 ♠ A865
 ♥ T
 ♦
 ♣ AJ94

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

Against your, South's, 4♠ bid, West leads the J♥. East wins the ♥A and returns the ♥6 and West follows with the ♥4.

You lead the ♠4, East follows with the ♠9. You play the ♠Q and West wins with the ♠K.

West leads the ♦4, dummy plays the ♦K, East plays the ♦5 and you play the ♦T.

The above layout is now the current position, what do you do now?

What is your plan from here?

What do we appear to know?

It looks like West has a doubleton ♥ and East has six ♥s. Also, that ♠9 looks ominous (why would East play that card when you have the ♠8 and ♠T in your hand and dummy, unless it is a singleton of ♠J9 doubleton)? Even if it is ♠J9 doubleton, you must be careful not to promote West's ♠7.

East must have the ♣K, so play the ♣Q now as you have limited entries to dummy. As it turns out, West covers the ♣Q with the ♣K and you win ♣A and East follows with the ♣2.

Now what?

The best play is to play the ♣4 back to dummy's ♣T and see what happens. If East ruffs this card with the ♠J, you are in great shape (West will have started with four ♠s, two ♥s and either three ♣s and four ♦s or two ♣s and five ♦s. You will have easy access back to your hand to draw the outstanding trumps.

As it turns out, East throws a small ♥ on the ♣T.

Now you know the entire hand. Originally, West had five ♠s, two ♥s, two ♦s and four ♣s.

So, the remaining cards are as follows.

	NORTH	
	♠T	
	♥	
	♦A973	
	♣53	
WEST		EAST(D)
♠J732		♠
♥		♥986
♦4		♦QJ65
♣87		♣
	SOUTH	
	♠A865	
	♥T	
	♦	
	♣J9	

Cash the ♦A throwing the ♥T.

Now cash the two remaining ♣s ending in your hand and lead the ♠5.

West can only make one trick as their exit cards have been eliminated.