



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

APRIL 2025

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, I talk to a hard-working person who is deeply involved in the Victorian and National bridge scene. Laura Ginnan is a name that should be familiar to a lot of bridge players in this state.

I would like to take a slightly different approach for his month’s editorial. On the 8th March, my best friend in the bridge community, Avinash (Avi) Kanetkar, passed away suddenly (he just collapsed in the car in a similar fashion to Simon Hinge).

I will list his many achievements in bridge. Avi has won more than 50 national events. They include 2 Open Playoffs, 9 Seniors Playoffs (including the 2025 Playoff), 8 Grand National Teams, 5 National Seniors Teams, 3 Spring National Teams, and a host of other events including the 1978 NOT. Internationally, he was part of the winning 2010 and 2013 Asia Pacific Seniors Teams and a finalist in several Seniors World Championships.

I was lucky enough to partner him in the NOT victory in 1978 and the Asia Pacific Seniors Teams victory in Hong Kong in 2013. Between the first and the second events, we never played together for nearly thirty years. Life got in the way, I moved from New South Wales to Victoria and we both had careers.

However, whenever we went to bridge events, we always allocated one evening for a meal together (even though we were on separate teams) with our respective spouses if they happened to be with us. Then we stayed at each other’s houses when bridge tournaments were nearby.

In the fifty years that I had known him, our friendship extended beyond bridge. One year, I found myself cheering for India in the Boxing Day test when I was with him.

Although a tough partner and a ‘lethal’ opponent, he was a ‘pussy cat’ away from the table. Family, friendships, the Indian community, bridge, medical commitments, cricket and golf were his passions probably in that order.

National bridge tournaments will not be the same now. He was the same age as me. Obviously, it creates thoughts of my mortality.



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

On different topic, I would like to promote a new online event appearing on the MyABF website entry facility.

Each of the four events is a separate entity where red points are allocated on the night of the event.

Moreover, there will be two prizes decided after the fourth night. The pair with the highest matchpoint score attained in any of the four nights plus a randomly drawn pair, from the list of all entries on each night, will have the opportunity to play with David Beckett and myself in a congress or a club event of their choice.

If the prize sounds like something that might interest you, or even if it doesn’t, then I hope that you would be interested in playing in this online event open to metro and regional players.

A flyer is in the UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

I would also like to promote the director’s courses to be held face-to-face at the Waverley Bridge Club and simultaneously shown online for others.

A flyer is in the UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – JAN VAN RIEL

One third of the way through 2025!

This time of year, marks the start for any newly elected members on the BV Operations Committee Council. It also marks the time of year when we are reviewing what we have done and looking at our strategies and plans both at the VBA Council and the BV OC level. The year has started with a number of successful congresses and with new ideas being implemented (Thanks Albert!). The first BV MyABF webinar has been successfully held and there are plans for a second. A director course is happening this month and the development of teaching resources for new teachers are reaching completion with deployment in the next month or so. Onwards and upwards!

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 the team of Kym Fraser, Lynda Young and John Quayle for the enormous amount of time and energy they have put into preparing resources for teachers.

Working in collaboration with NSW, particularly Steve English, they have almost finished the beginner's materials which will shortly be put on the Bridge Victoria website. They will start a teachers' forum after this to help teachers in using the materials.

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

The Bridge Victoria Representatives for 2025.

The process for electing or nominating representatives from each region has concluded. Please find the representative for your region below and keep them informed of good things or things to improve in your area

- In the **Western Region** John Walsh will be continuing
- For **Metro-South & Peninsula** Colin Jasper is standing down, having taken on the role of VBA President, and Heather Lindsay is now the representative.
- For **Metro Central & North** Sally Foster will be continuing.
- In the **Eastern Region** John Haylock will be continuing have taken over from John Quayle
- In the **Northern Region** Kerry Delcourt is standing down and Derek Poulton, who has previous experience on the VBA Council and NRBA, is now representing this region.
- For **Metro-East** Andrzej Krolikowski is continuing.



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

My quote for this year. as we try new things to grow our bridge community.

We also have four skill-based positions on the committee. One of these people, Graham Morris, has decided to step down. He has demonstrated much patience and skill as an objective mediator called upon by our clubs to assist with internal issues. Please contact the chair at Bridge Victoria if you have a skill that could be useful to fill the vacancy.

For Directors.

The Director HUB. Review our 'HUB' [here](#). This area is in development and any input would be welcome.

Director Training. Bridge Victoria is pleased to announce our first course of the year for new and inexperienced directors, to be held on Saturday 12th April 2025. Link [here](#) to enter.

New Events in 2025

Please support the Online Pairs League (OPL) – Autumn (7 April to 2 June). This is a collaboration with NSW – 'bite' sized bridge (only 12 boards or 1 hour on a Monday night) where you play against like players in a league event for red points. So, if you are just starting or improving player there is a level for you in this league. Have some fun and enter [here](#).

Victorian Festival of Bridge. It is coming closer and time to get your entries in. The focus is to create a sense of a bridge community with opportunities to socialise and mingle – trivia, dinner and Jazz or footy anyone? As well as great bridge. Link here for more details [My ABF - Congress View](#)

Presidents' Day. The last Presidents Day we held was favourably received and this year we intend to get even more of our bridge community to attend by having it on Wednesday afternoon June 4th, just prior to the Festival of Bridge, allowing regional people to attend this and then play in the VFoB. The focus is to talk about what we have done, what is still to do and the opportunities we have not yet explored. Please send any thoughts you have in these areas to your club President and/or your BV representative.

Happy Bridging!

Jan van Riel - Chair of Bridge Victoria

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS APRIL

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH

♠ A73
♥ QJ98
♦ T9
♣ QT87

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠
♥ KT7
♦ KQJ732
♣ AK32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	P	1♥	p
2♣	p	2♦	P
5♣	p	P	P

2♣ is forcing for one round and the final contract is great.

West leads the ♠5.

You win the ♠A and throw the ♥7.

You play the ♣7 to the ♣A and then the ♣K and both opponents follow to both trump leads. You then lead the ♣2 and pull the last trump.

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH APRIL



Vulnerable vs vulnerable in a team's match

West leads the ♥7 (4th best)

East plays the ♥T.

Where do you win the opening trick and how do you approach the play?

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au

NORTH

♠ QT5
♥ QJ5
♦ QJ6
♣ J986

WEST(D)

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ AK4
♥ K82
♦ K832
♣ Q75

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

2♥ is a weak two in ♥s.

THE INTERVIEW



THE INTERVIEW IS WITH LAURA GINNAN

Editor:

Where and when were you born? (no need to put the year in if you prefer)

Laura:

I was born in Canberra on the winter solstice in the year the Berlin Wall came down

Editor:

Where did you go to school?

Laura:

I completed year 12 in Canberra then moved to Melbourne after a gap year and went to Monash University where I completed a Bachelor of Business and Commerce.

Editor:

What interests did you have as a child?

Laura:

Sports—pretty much all of them! I played a bit of chess too. I loved high school sports days because I didn't have to go to school so I tried out for every team I could. I never made the table tennis team. I also played state-level softball a few times... and I think I'm going to give baseball a go this year!

Editor:

What direction did you take after leaving school?

Laura:

University was the expectation. I wanted to get out of Canberra. My family wasn't thrilled about that idea so I applied for Law at the Australian National University (which I had no hope of getting into) and then Business at Wollongong. You can receive an offer from other states, so I also applied to Monash. I figured I would need to save to move so I took a year off and worked at Reece selling toilets. I deferred my Wollongong and Monash placements because I couldn't decide where to go.



Editor:

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

Laura:

My grandparents looked after me when school finished. Twice a week, Grandma was at the local bridge club and didn't come home until 4.30pm. When I found out it was a card game, I wanted to learn because I thought that I was pretty good at snap and go fish. She eventually agreed to teach me and, once a month, I was able to leave school in primary school and go have a game at the club. There was a man who gave me chocolate. It was ginger, hated it! Back then kids used to grin and bear it in situations like that and said thank you. Dorothy & George Jesner ran a fantastic kid's program. They heard about me and reached out so I went along and found out very quickly that Goren wasn't played there. Not wanting to seem like too much of an alien, I think I just faked knowing how to play it.

Editor:

In a past life, I used to teach school after the era when children should be seen and not heard. My daughter teaches primary school at the moment and she says that I had it easy. She has to duck when chairs are thrown and accept that the language of the youth today uses far more expletives. 😊

George Jesner was a well-respected icon of the Canberra bridge scene for many years.

What made you get more serious about the game?

Laura:

I played in Youth Week every year since I was 10 years old and had a monthly game at the club, but I didn't get serious until I tore a cartilage in my knee—suddenly, my sporting options were gone.

In 2007, I joined the Colts team at the Australian National Championships in Perth—a team of "leftovers" who didn't make their state teams. We got *schooled*. In our first-round robin? We amassed the princely sum of -228 IMPs over 120 boards. The second-round robin wasn't much better and, although we were a country mile behind everyone in the overalls, we did manage to beat one team in the third-round robin. Instead of feeling crushed, I was hooked. Bridge lets you play the greats—unlike tennis, where you'd never face a Roger Federer. You can take on the legends of bridge in some larger tournaments. Furthermore, the great thing about our game...everyone makes mistakes and you have your chances to get even a good score (even if it's just one) off any player! I don't think any of us would have a chance of getting a point off Roger Federer (even though he has retired now). Some of my fellow "leftovers" from the 2007 Colts team were Shane Harrison (now on the 2025 Australian Mixed Team) and Renee Cooper (2025 Australian Women's Team). Not bad for a bunch of misfits!

I also promise that wasn't just youthful enthusiasm...10 years later, I teamed up with Jamie Thompson and some other up-and-comers to take on the Australian Open Team Playoffs—where we were almost guaranteed to be crushed by the Lazer Team. And we were. 354.1 to 163. A concession seemed obvious, but we were there for the experience, and our opponents were great sports and were happy to keep going.

Editor:

You make an excellent point Laura. Whilst I was living in Canada, I played in my first bridge congress. At one table, I played against a man whose bridge book I had just read.

I wasn't even a 'colt'. I was a 'foal'. 😊

When did you decide to get heavily involved in your bridge-based business activities?

Laura:

Honestly, I'm not sure I ever *decided*—it just kind of... happened. It started as a simple need for a job while I was at university, but then curiosity took over. How do the rules work? What goes into board dealing? What's it like to teach bridge?

From there, it just kept growing. Working in something you love is amazing, but every now and then, I do think it would be nice to see life on the outside. That curiosity does sneak out—early in 2024, I even applied for a six-month contract as a workforce planner for a business that's shutting down in 2028... because it sounded really interesting! I wasn't successful, but dipping a toe in was enough to satisfy the curiosity (for now).

Editor:

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

Laura:

I started with Stephen Williams and we kept on playing for about 10 years. By then I was in my early 20s. After that I played with Lucy Henbest for a few years. In 2014, I snagged Justin Mill as my youth partner because Pete (Editor's note: Peter Hollands is Laura's husband) became too old to qualify as a youth player a year earlier than we did. From then, I wanted to mix it up with different people to learn different styles. I had some success—winning nationals with six different partners.

I particularly enjoyed playing with Ben Thompson when we were hungry for a Melbourne win in the GNOT (I'm still hungry). If he ever writes a book on opening leads—read it!

Sebastian Yuen and I have enjoyed playing the odd game over the years, with a highlight being 2nd in the Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide (again, losing to the Lazer team). Sebastian and I always enjoy playing together, but now he's in a very successful partnership with Christy Geromboux, so even the odd game is on ice.

Currently, I'm not playing that much, but in 2024, Dave Beauchamp and I spiked up a partnership and were unsuccessful in our trials for the Australian Mixed Team. I'd love to play more with Dave, but he's on the Australian Seniors team—and since I'm captaining that team, I really shouldn't be tempting him away from practice with his partner, Maurits van der Vlugt (and, anyway, maybe I don't have the time and I can't show favouritism!).

If anyone's wondering about me playing bridge with Pete... It's a yes! We've had some success and enjoy it (me more than him). I want to play the odd thing partnering him, but really want to play with him more as a teammate.

Editor:

What is your general style at the bridge table?

Laura:

I try to be a bit of a chameleon and adapt to my partner's style. It's a great way to learn and see what works, and what doesn't with different approaches. I always try to add some value, though. For example, Dave and I wanted a very natural, simple system (one page of notes max!). I found an area that needed some extra help, so I suggested we introduce Swedish-style responses to untangle it. Dave loves the new toy! Plus, it's something we can use in a bunch of different sequences, which is a huge return on investment for learning a convention.

Editor:

Whenever I have used a Swedish invention, I often have to untangle it – IKEA 😊

When did you get involved with major tournaments as a convenor?

Laura:

It's probably about 15 years ago that I ran my first national—the Youth Triathlon. In the last few years, things have really snowballed. I just want people to have fun playing bridge at all levels, and there's something truly special about taking part in a major tournament.

Next up is the Victorian Festival of Bridge (formerly Victor Champion Cup) in June. This year will be the inaugural Victorian Festival of Bridge, which is all about celebrating bridge at every skill level in a fantastic venue. Whether you're a beginner or someone aiming for PQPs to trial for the National team, there's something to enjoy!

Later this year, I'm also the Tournament Organiser for the ABF Foundation's Bridge Day Out fundraiser on September 23rd! I'm really excited about this event—it's played in clubs, offers great learning opportunities, and is a huge step toward a nationwide bridge-in-schools program.

Editor:

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

Laura:

It's taken me a while to realise, but I don't have fun or play well unless I'm just a bridge player. If I'm answering questions or talking about events right before a game, it's the end of me, so eliminating distractions is essential. That's part of why playing has taken a backseat recently—I just can't do both. I can't help but think I can't be the only one whose game and enjoyment is affected, and I really admire those on local committees.

I do like to get in the zone before a game, though—usually with a pre-game swim and something “bridgy” like Bridgemaister to get me ready for board 1! Water, snacks, and attire to cope with all sorts of air conditioning are also essential!

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Laura:

With my game on the back burner, I'm not actively working towards any personal bridge goals at the moment, but in the future, I'd love to represent Australia in the Mixed or Open.

Right now, I'm currently focused on other areas: I really want to see the Australian Seniors' Team perform at their best. A medal at the Asia Pacific Championships in May or even the Worlds in August is within reach, and as their Non-Playing Captain, that would be amazing to be a part of.

Another goal is the success of the Victorian Festival of Bridge. With exciting event formats, activities, and a vibrant atmosphere, it's shaping up to be a great time for players of all skill levels. Convincing players to take the leap and lock it in is the tough part! I hope that if you're reading this, you'll round up your partner, lock it in, and join the fun. If you do, there's a good chance you'll have such a great time that it'll become an annual fixture. Won't it be great to be able to say you were at the very first one under its new identity?

Editor:

Do you have any secrets for raising a young family whilst being heavily involved in bridge as a player and an administrator?

Laura:

That's easy, it's bridge!

- Have an awesome partner – Because everything's better when you've got the right person by your side.
- Embrace the challenge – If it was easy, it'd be boring.
- Accept the squeeze – When you're stuck, roll with it. Then take a moment to ask yourself, "Could I have avoided this mess earlier?"
- Have fun and laugh – Chaos is inevitable, so you might as well enjoy the ride. Get comfortable with the uncomfortable and remember: it's all part of the adventure!

Editor:

Thank you, Laura for taking part in the interview.

I am certain that the readers will find your journey so far and your thoughts about congress and tournament bridge very thought provoking.

PHILL'S TEACHINGS

INTERMEDIATE LESSON- AVOIDING COMMON ERRORS AND TIPS ON BIDDING

AVOIDING COMMON ERRORS

All of the errors in this lesson are common, and I admit to having made many of them myself.

NOT ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

This point is simple but crucial. While bridge is an incredibly complex and intense game, it's also deeply rewarding. Sure, scoring +800 by setting 4 doubled or making 3NT with a clever play can feel great. But are you aiming for quick, flashy successes, or striving to be a solid player in the long term? Technical skill is necessary, but you'll fall short without understanding the game's "philosophical" aspects. Here are some common areas for improvement:

1. Inattention: Do you sometimes forget which card your partner played three tricks ago or how the bidding went?
2. Blame: When things go wrong, do you consider your part in it, or do you find a way to shift blame to your partner?
3. Lingering on Mistakes: After a poor result, do you dwell on it, or do you focus on the next hand?



STAYING FOCUSED IN ALL SITUATIONS

Almost every player has had a moment like this: You're declaring 3NT, but things go wrong as defenders run a five-card suit, and you're destined to go down one trick. Frustrated, you misplay your discards, ruining your entries. Three down. Even worse, you catch a glimpse of your partner mumbling to themselves. Sound familiar?

Negative emotions like disappointment and frustration are highly distracting. Good players know that when things go wrong, they must keep their focus. Tough players do this automatically, strong players manage it most of the time, and others only occasionally succeed. But knowing it intellectually isn't enough; you need to bring this awareness to a conscious, usable level.

[Avoid the Pitfalls of "Ecstasy"](#)

Negative emotions are challenging, but overconfidence can be equally problematic. Consider this example: The bidding goes 1NT - pass - 3NT. You lead from the following suit KJ8642, hoping for partner's ace. When your partner turns up with the ace for +200, it's easy to feel a rush of satisfaction. But now that you're on a high, can you remember the last few discards? If you lose track, you risk missing critical plays.

A GENERAL TIP

Whenever you feel yourself overtaken by any emotion—negative or positive—pause and focus

The next hand maybe critical as well

TIPS ON BIDDING

RAISING PARTNER'S ONE-LEVEL RESPONSE WITH THREE TRUMPS

When you open and partner bids a major at the one-level, consider raising with three-card support if you have the right values.

Consider the following auction

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	P	1♥	P
?			

In each of the following hands you have a weak outside doubleton. Therefore, bidding 1NT may not be best as a no-trump contract probably should be bid from partner's side if it is where the hand should be played. So, strongly consider bidding 2♥ even though you only have three of them

Example 1:

♠A97
♥KJ3
♦72
♣KQT73

Example 2:

♠83
♥AQ8
♦9432
♣AQJ6

In general, aim to raise your partner's major when you have three-card support and 13-15 total points.

REBIDDING ERRORS AFTER A TWO-OVER-ONE RESPONSE

When your partner responds with a two-over-one bid, opener must make careful rebid choices. Here are common mistakes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	P	2♦	P
?			

1. *Rebidding 2NT without a stopper in all suits:*

Example 3:

♠AJ652
♥762
♦K9
♣KQ7

Bid 2♠. Avoid 2NT since you lack a stopper in hearts.

2. Rebidding 2NT with a singleton in partner's suit:

Example 4:

♠Q9873
♥AQ6
♦6
♣KQ63

Bid 2♠. A 2NT rebid here would mislead partner about your hand shape.

3. Bidding a new suit at the three-level without a strong hand:

Example 5:

♠KJ873
♥AQ
♦6
♣QT873

Bid 2♠. A three-level bid implies a hand stronger than a minimum - it would be a reverse and game forcing

MISUSING MICHAELS AND UNUSUAL NOTRUMP

Two main issues arise with these conventions. The first is value range. For a Michaels bid or unusual 2NT, your partnership should set clear ranges, especially if you use mini-maxi (two distinct ranges) or a standard minimum strength based on vulnerability. Generally:

- Michaels: 8+ points if not vulnerable, mostly in majors.
- Unusual 2NT: Around 10 points, mainly in minors.

Some players use a mini-maxi approach, while others allow more flexibility based on hand shape and vulnerability. Each approach has its benefits:

- Flexible Range: Allows you to signal shape quickly and put more pressure on opponents.
- Divided Range: Lets partner make more informed decisions based on a narrower range.

Choose an approach that aligns with your partnership's style and discuss it thoroughly to avoid misunderstandings.

SUMMARY

In short, clear thinking, focusing on communication, and maintaining self-awareness at the table are key to steady improvement. Recognize your common errors, focus on your partner's signals, and avoid letting emotions cloud your judgment.



BRIDGE HUMOUR



WHO NEEDS A DIRECTOR!

Sarah and her husband, John, mostly enjoyed playing bridge at their local club. They nearly always finished in the top couple of most of the events that they entered. Another couple, Joan and Jason, were their main competitors for the outright win in the club on any given night.

Joan and Sarah were in the same grade in high school. They were competitive in high school and had remained friends ever since although Joan wanted to beat Sarah at any activity. This included boyfriends and school marks at school and any sporting activity after graduation.

As the ladies grew a little older and started a family, Joan's competitive spirit was not only directed towards Sarah but also her children against those of Sarah. John and Jason were more layback in their attitude toward life but, having said that, they enjoyed to win.

About six years ago, Sarah and John started to play bridge at the club. Joan saw this as another competitive challenge and Jason was 'encouraged' to play a proficient game of bridge with his wife.

It was the final evening of a three-night event bridge event to determine the club championship for 2024. At the end of the second session, Sarah and John were exactly tied with Joan and Jason for first place.

In the final round for the evening, Joan was getting a little agitated as she knew that they needed a good result against their rival to have any chance of winning. The bidding went as follows

JASON	JOHN	JOAN	SARAH
1♠	P	2NT	P
4♠	P	4NT	P
5♦	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	DOUBLE	

At this point, Sarah said that she wanted to call the director. Joan turned to Sarah and stated that she knew the rules and didn't want to disturb any other tables.

Joan pointed out that Sarah could accept her bid if she wished. Sarah was looking at the ♠A and ♠K in her hand. She wondered why Joan had doubled her partner's bid because she was about to take the same action.

Sarah said that she would accept Joan's bid and, what is more, she decided to redouble. Their respective husbands looked bemused but nobody else had anything further to say and this became the final contract. This hand decided the championship in favour of Sarah and John. An opponent at another table asked Jason why Joan or he had redoubled 6♠ because 6♠ doubled going one off would have allowed Joan and Jason to win. Jason pointed out that he didn't redouble and neither did Joan.

The opponent scratched his head in disbelief and decided to walk away rather than dwell on the point.



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR MARCH

- VICTORIA

MCC CONGRESS AT THE MCG

Sunday 2nd March (photos are shown on the following page)

120 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1st =	Serhat Ozenir / Chris Hughes	Alex Jones / Tim Legge
2nd =	Declan Gould / Kim Frazer	Ismail Gulec / Gus Ghali

RYE/DROMANA PAIRS CONGRESS

Saturday 8th March

48 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	John Yang	Paul Ruan
2nd	Jan Tunks	Marion Spurrier
3rd	Philip Chang	Victor Zhang

WHITTLESEA CONGRESS

Sunday 9th March

32 pairs contested the Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Kim Frazer	Kitty Muntz
2nd	Philip Chang	Victor Zhang
3rd	Ismail Gulec	Gus Ghali



GRAND PRIX CONGRESS

Saturday 15th March

28 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Neil Ewart	David Beckett
2nd	Philip Chang	Victor Zhang
3rd	Lisa Yoffa	Raman Jegatheesan

BWONLINE CONGRESS

Saturday 29th March

42 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs – imp scoring and the placegetters were

1st	John Yang	Dee Harley
2nd	Thilak Ranasinghe	George Lovrecz
3rd	Michael McTiernan	Dianna Middleton

Sunday 30th March

26 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs – match point scoring and the placegetters were

1st	Thilak Ranasinghe	Gordon McRobert
2nd	Chelliah Arul	Kumara Nainanayake
3rd	Paul Hendry	Annette Hendry

- NATIONAL

TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE –

Saturday 22nd March

28 pairs contested the Novice Swiss Pairs

1st	Jan Van Riel	Margaret Grant
2nd	Nat Wright	Jo Wright
3rd	Robyn Russell	Anne Donnelly

Well done to the Bridge Victoria Chairperson and her partner



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

FRANKSTON CONGRESS

Saturday 5th April and Sunday 6th April

MORNINGTON FESTIVAL

Friday 18th April, Saturday 19th April and Sunday 20th April. See a flyer on a following page

BAYSIDE CONGRESS

Saturday 3rd May. See a flyer on a following page

SALE CONGRESS

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May

BENDIGO CONGRESS

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th May

MOONEE VALLEY SUPER CONGRESS

Friday 30th and Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June

The MatchPoint Challenge!!



Enter at:
<https://myabf.com.au/events>

A NEW CONTEST FOR 2025 BROKEN INTO FOUR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.

* There are four separate events as follows: each played on RealBridge (online) for metro and country players.

* A pair may play in only one event or all four or any other combination they wish.

* NOTE: a player can play with a different partner each time if they so wish.

Event 1:

Wednesday 9th April 2025

Event 2:

Wednesday 30th April 2025

Event 3:

Wednesday 13th August 2025

Event 4:

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

PRIZES

After the final (fourth challenge in October), there will be two prizes offered:

Overall Prize:

The pair that attained the overall highest matchpoint score from any of the four events.

Drawn Prize:

The drawn prize will go to a pair randomly selected.

Both prizes will provide an opportunity to play in an event with Chris Hughes and David Beckett as partners or team mates.

1. Play in a team event as a pair with Chris and David being the other pair
2. Play in a team event where one of the pair plays with Chris and the other plays with David
3. Play in a pairs event where one of the pair plays with Chris and the other plays with David

This could be at a congress or a local club event by mutual agreement.

**ON-LINE
RED POINTS
PRIZES
LITTLE COMMITMENT**

**INTRODUCTION
DIRECTORS
COURSE**

WHEN:

Saturday 12th April 2025

COST:

\$15 includes directors book

TIME:

Start:
9:45 arrival,
10am start
Finish:
3pm

CATERING:

BYO lunch, snacks provided

HOST:

Leigh Gold

WHERE:

Waverley Bridge Club,
21a Electra Ave, Ashwood



ENTER ON MyABF



Enter at:
<https://myabf.com.au/events>

ABOUT THE DAY

9:45am: Arrival,

10-12: Introduction to Directing

- Overview of Directors role
- Duties of a Director
- Movements

12:30- 2:30: Laws of Bridge

- Investigating the most common laws
- Rulings

2:30: Q&A

EASTER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

PRESENTED BY

MORNINGTON BRIDGE CLUB

**VENUE: ST MARKS UNITING CHURCH
50 BARKLY STREET MORNINGTON**

GOOD FRIDAY PAIRS 18TH

1:00 PM TILL 4:00 PM \$15 PER PERSON

EASTER SAT SWISS PAIRS

10:00AM TILL 5:30 PM \$40 PER PERSON

RESTRICTED SECTION FOR PAIRS UNDER 100 MPTS
IF THERE ARE ENOUGH PAIRS

EASTER SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

10:00 AM TILL 5:30 PM \$40 PER PERSON

EASTER MONDAY MATCH POINT PAIRS

10:00 AM TILL 4:30 PM \$40 PER PERSON

BAROMETER FINAL

CONVENOR: CHRISTINE PARKIN

EMAIL: CPARKIN_82@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE: 0411 025 052

DIRECTOR: MARTIN WILLCOX

ENTRIES: WWW.BRIDGEUNLIMITED.COM

LUNCH WILL
NOT BE
PROVIDED BUT
TEA, COFFEE,
WATER AND
LIGHT SNACKS
WILL BE
AVAILABLE

**THE CONGRESS WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE CURRENT VBA RULES
AND REGULATIONS**

SYSTEM CARDS ARE MANDATORY

ENTRIES MAY BE REFUSED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONVENOR

HIGHLY COMPLEX SYSTEMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

MONETARY PRIZES IN ALL SECTIONS SUBJECT TO NUMBERS



2025 Bayside Congress
Swiss Pairs - Red Points
Saturday, 3rd May at 10am – 5pm
(please arrive by 9:30am)

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

\$45 per person (cash / card / eft)
Prizes for first division, novice & best Bayside pairs
Bring your own lunch. Snacks & tea/coffee provided

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System cards mandatory• Highly artificial systems not permitted• Entries may be refused at discretion of Convenor• Entries seeded at discretion of Director <p>Director: Martin Willcox</p>	<p>Entries close: 1 May</p> <p>Register: www.bridgeunlimited.com</p> <p>Payment: cash/card on day or transfer funds to: Account Name: GAR Bridge Pty Ltd BSB No: 633 000 Account Number: 181 259 656 Reference: Congress & name</p>
--	---

Host: Bayside Bridge Club 0493 112 412
email: baysidebridgeclub@gmail.com
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/bayside>

OUR SPONSORS





PRESENTS

AVEO SWISS PAIRS

VICTORIA'S PREMIER BRIDGE EVENT

Join us for the Aveo Swiss Paris! Enjoy food and compete for \$2,000 in prize money, thanks to Aveo

Event Details

 Date: Saturday, 26th April

 Time: 10:00 AM


 Cost: \$60 per pair


 Bookings: Through MyABF

 Food Provided

Prize Money Breakdown

 1st Place: \$800 per pair

 2nd Place: \$400 per pair

 3rd Place: \$200 per pair

 Best U300MP: \$200 per pair

 Best U200MP: \$200 per pair

 Best U100MP: \$200 per pair

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



*Masterpoints for competitors fields are applicable as of 31 March 2025



WAVERLEY
BRIDGE CLUB
MELBOURNE



ANTHEM OF THE SEAS

WBC BRIDGE CRUISE 2025

After the enormous success of our last two bridge cruises, we are thrilled to announce our third Bridge Cruise for 2025! This time, we're going international, offering an unforgettable experience aboard the magnificent Anthem of the Seas by Royal Caribbean Cruise Line traveling across New Zealand's Beautiful Coast

- November 10 - 20 - Departing From Sydney
- Explore Beautiful New Zealand across 10 days at sea
- Starting From \$2804 PP Twin Share (Includes Taxes)

Cabins are limited, so book now and secure your spot.



Book Now

(03) 9836 2522

STATE EVENT NEWS

RESULTS FOR EVENTS CONCLUDED IN MARCH

Victorian Open Pairs

26 pairs contested this State Championship

1st	Neil Ewart	David Beckett
2nd	Danny Sharp	Stephen Sharp
3rd	Kevin Chan	Martin Willcox

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

All face-to-face State events are currently held at the Victorian Bridge Centre.

State events shown in red below are online to encourage all Victorians to enter

Victorian Women's and Seniors Qualifying Monday 31 March, 7 and 14 April

Altman Swiss Pairs Wednesday 2, 16, 23 April and 7 May

Victorian Open Team Playoff Saturday/Sunday 5 and 6 April

Online Pairs League – Autumn 2025

Starting Monday 7 April – seven weeks ONLINE open to all players

Bridge Victoria Early April Matchpoint Challenge

Wednesday 9 April one day ONLINE open to all players

Victorian Anzac Day Swiss Pairs Friday 25th April

Victorian Women's Playoff Saturday/Sunday 26/27 April

Victorian Senior Playoff Saturday/Sunday 26/27 April

Bridge Victoria Late April Matchpoint Challenge

Wednesday 30 April one day ONLINE open to all players

Victorian Restricted Pairs Saturday 10 May

Victorian Online Pairs

Monday 12, 19, 26 May and 2 June ONLINE open to all players

Rothfield Teams Wednesday 14, 21, 28 May and 11 June

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? APRIL

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

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

The above auction sees the opponents finish in 3♠ (where West's 2♥ is a weak jump 7-9 hcps).

NORTH

♠A764
♥T3
♦AJ53
♣852

EAST

♠J98
♥A854
♦72
♣A963

West leads the ♥K. Dummy plays the ♥3.

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 FEBRUARY 2025

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Davies, Lisa	Graduate
Alphington Bridge Club	Rennie, Jane	Life
Alphington Bridge Club	Stuckey, Jo	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Hill, Helen	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Li, Ping	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Charpentier, Dina	State
Bayside Bridge Club	Coldebella, Ron	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Enkelman, Halina	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Fuller, Susan	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Koschade, Sue	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Mackiggan, Rebecca	Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Mahaven, Dennis	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	McKenzie, Jennifer	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Metcalfe, Christine	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Petering, Heather	Bronze Regional
Bayside Bridge Club	Robson, Ted	Bronze State
Bayside Bridge Club	Rouse, Kate	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Ryan, Jane	Local
Bayside Bridge Club	Sealy, Lillian	National
Bayside Bridge Club	Shiber, Ella	Graduate
Benalla Bridge Club	Lambell, Jeanette	Graduate
Bendigo Bridge Club	Brown, Jude	State
Bendigo Bridge Club	TOUTON, Ryan	Gold Life
Berwick Bridge Club	Hurren, Dennis	Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Mahendren, Durisamy	Regional
Berwick Bridge Club	McInerney, Lauris	Bronze Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Tinschert, Herbert	Graduate
Berwick Bridge Club	Wellings, Judy	Bronze State
Berwick Bridge Club	Westrip, Bob	Silver Local
Bridge at Tivoli	McDonald, Jill	Local
Bridge Fanatics Club	Igel, Mark	Silver Local
Bridge Fanatics Club	Jaffe, Peter	Bronze State
Bridge Fanatics Club	Rawicki, Barry	Gold Life
Bridge Fanatics Club	Shmerling, Arnold	Silver Local
BWOnline Bridge Club	Bruton, Joan	Graduate
BWOnline Bridge Club	Childs, James	Local
BWOnline Bridge Club	Flynn, Jo	Graduate
Frankston Bridge Club	Crawford, Barbara	Bronze State
Frankston Bridge Club	Spurling, Anita	Silver Local

Gardenvale Bridge Club	Craine, Dan	Bronze National
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Frydman, Ruth	National
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Naftal, Sandra	State
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Roseman, David	National
Gardenvale Bridge School	Sachwald, Henry	Graduate
Geelong Bridge Club	Foard, Glenn	Bronze Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Hawker, Rachel	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Ilic, Mary	Silver Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Neunhoffer, Alison	Regional
Kattery Bridge Club	Donald, Priscilla	Club
Kattery Bridge Club	Harrington, Anne	Graduate
Kattery Bridge Club	Ingall, Ruth	Silver Local
Kattery Bridge Club	Kennedy, David	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Damian, Cindi	State
KLTC Bridge Club	Day, Lynda	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Drillich, Ann	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Hilbert, Michelle	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Hodsman, Peter	State
KLTC Bridge Club	King, Mary	State
KLTC Bridge Club	Mackenzie, Jane	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Murray, Brendan	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Samuel, Jenny	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Trescowthick, Fiona	National
KLTC Bridge Club	Wooldridge, Sue	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Wright, Alison	Regional
Knox Bridge Club	Kerstens, Helma	Graduate
Knox Bridge Club	Kerstens, Theo	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Bland, Jane	Bronze Regional
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Blythe, Leonie	Bronze Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Brown, Peter	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Chestnutt, Sandra	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Cook, Andrea	Silver Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Crosling, Gretchen	Silver Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Delany, Kym	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Durham, Beverley	Silver Local
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Green, Tony	Club
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	James, Jill	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Park, Malcolm	Graduate
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club	Scrivener, Roger	Local
MCC Bridge Club	Godfrey, Alan	Bronze State
MCC Bridge Club	Vann, Vicki	State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Black, Jean	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Brooks, Anne Maree	Bronze Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Gorur, Ranga	Bronze Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Gould, Declan	Bronze Local

Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Hutton, Ralph	Regional
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Lenehan, James	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Morrison, Colin	National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Samuels, David	Silver Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Saunders, Myrna	Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Simojoki, David	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Slutzkin, Andrew	Silver Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Stephen, Annie	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Young, Philip	Bronze Life
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Yule, Nicholas	Bronze Local
Mornington Bridge Club	Johnston, Anna	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Byrne, Maritza	Silver Local
Northern Bridge Club	Freedman, Morry	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Moore, Christina	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Pernat, Marie	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Schultz, Jeffrey	Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Templeton, Brenda	Local
Northern Bridge Club	Vass, John	Local
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Reynolds, Lynette	Graduate
OZ Bridge Club	Behr, Merle	Club
OZ Bridge Club	Deague, Kris	Silver Local
OZ Bridge Club	Royle, John	State
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Conway, Leonie	Graduate
Paynesville Bridge Club	Kennedy, Lindsay	Graduate
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Anglim, Deborah	Silver Life
RACV Bridge Group	Evans, John	Life
RACV Bridge Group	McDonald, Graham	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Thomson, Hamish	Silver Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Ballantyne, Samantha	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Christian, Cindy	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Foreman, Judy	Bronze State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Maccioli, Lisa	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Nettlefold, Di	Bronze Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Nettlefold, Felicity	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Richardson, Alexandra	State
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Woodard, Amanda	Regional
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Jermyn, Cheryl	Bronze Local
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Wallace, Julie	Bronze Regional
Sale Bridge Club	Sherrin, Jim	Bronze Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Boast, Kath	Bronze Local
Shepparton Bridge Club	Buswell, Rae	Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Edwards, Susan	Bronze Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Perriam, Julie	Regional
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Quayle, John	Silver Life
Sunbury Bridge Club	Fahey, Aidan	Graduate

Theodor Herzl Social Club	Spicer, Michael	State
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Weisz, Miriam	Silver Local
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Jens, Damian	Graduate
Traralgon Bridge Club	Mactaggart, Maria	Bronze State
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Chan, Kathy	Club
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Harris, Lynne	Graduate
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Jensen, Carol	Club
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Johnson, Rex	Local
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Lang, Ross	Club
U3A Knox Bridge Club	McKay, Robyn	Local
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Ratnarajah, Ratna	Local
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Roos, Leon	Regional
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Senn, Pauline	Bronze Local
Upwey Bridge Club	Brown, Terry	Bronze Regional
Victorian Bridge Centre	Anderson, Ken	Grand
Victorian Bridge Centre	Dacey, Vivienne	Bronze National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Evans, Sally	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Goulding, Anita	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Polak, Vivienne	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Pumphrey, Laura	Club
Victorian Bridge Centre	Roosenburg, Rosalie	Bronze Regional
Victorian Bridge Centre	Rosenthal, Stan	Bronze National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Zurek, Nina	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Brink, Sue	Silver Life
Waverley Bridge Club	Finn, Jenny	Bronze Regional
Waverley Bridge Club	Goldsworthy, Andrea	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Hargreaves, Trish	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Hayes, Owen	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Martyn, Philip	Silver Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Pereira, Theo	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Quinlivan, Jo	Bronze State
Waverley Bridge Club	Spall, Tom	State
Waverley Bridge Club	Thorpe, Bronwyn	Graduate
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Geng, Jing	State
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Wirasinha, Rohan	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Black, Barbara	Local
Williamstown Bridge Club	Cronin, Daniel	Graduate
Williamstown Bridge Club	Lamb, Chris	State
Williamstown Bridge Club	Mudford, Serita	Bronze State
Wodonga Bridge Club	Rooney, Jane	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

Ken Anderson of the Victorian Bridge Centre who is now a grand master reaching the 1000-master point level.

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

The Following Article Was Sent by LYNDALL SHAW

Climate Change and the Whittlesea Bridge Club's 10th Anniversary

This year, the Whittlesea Bridge Club is celebrating its 10th anniversary. But the idea was born 7 years earlier.

At the time I was managing a very large teaching department at Kangan Tafe working too many hours and far too busy to indulge in my passion for teaching. Retirement was a couple of years away and the plan was to move to our weekender in Kinglake, build a house, plant some proteas and play bridge.

Now Kinglake was quite a distance from any existing bridge club. What is more, distance means petrol which is not good for the planet and climate change. Then the penny dropped: I could start a bridge club closer to our new home and indulge in my twin passions for teaching and for playing bridge!

Management? Well, that was on my CV. But the technical side of running a bridge club? Luckily, I am married to Peter Shaw who has on his CV: bridge directing, IT expert and renowned Problem Solver. And the ability to RTFM: Read The ... Manual!

Why Whittlesea? Apart from being close to home (Kinglake), Whittlesea is a geographical hub: not far from the northern suburbs of Melbourne and not a bad distance from the districts of Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford.

A bridge club requires members. It helps if they can play bridge. So first some classes were needed. After we had our arms twisted by a mover and shaker from Kinglake, Peter and I ran our first classes in Kinglake in 2007. The population of the Kinglake Ranges is spread out so it is logistically unsuitable for a bridge club.

We decided to run the next bridge classes in Whittlesea. This happened at the Neighbourhood House for about 6 months in 2008. A venue for the club was suggested by several members of the group who were also bowls players. The Members Room at the Whittlesea Bowls Club has thus been our main venue from the beginning of the club. When is it available? Mondays. So here we are and very appreciative too.

Very early in 2009 we gathered with about two and a half tables to play our first game. Then three weeks later came Black Saturday. While no club members lost their lives in the fires, we all lost friends. Two members lost their respective homes. Every member was affected. I will never forget a phone call from Don Heggie on the following Monday morning: "Lyndall, it's Monday. Is bridge happening?" Bridge, I thought. What is that? After I mumbled something, Don said "Well I will just go down to the Bowls Club in case anyone turns up." It was only later that I heard that Don had lost his home along with several horses.

After a ring around we returned to the bridge table one week later. The small group of about 12 players supported and sustained each other throughout the year that followed.

The first major task of the committee was to form an affiliated, incorporated club. I had only vague concepts of the meanings of those two words. We would need help. From everywhere. Advice and help came from many sources: Victorian Bridge Association, Waverley Bridge Club, Phillip Island Bridge Club and the Queensland Bridge Association. The best advice came from a Waverley committee member who said: "Take your time to get the Constitution right; it will be a big job but it is an even bigger job to get it changed down the track." We laboured for six months and I am pleased to say we have yet to find a need to make changes. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Andrew Poole who managed to dredge out all those errors made in the early drafts of the Constitution.

One of our club's Purposes (as in part of our Constitution) is "to participate in selected charitable activities". In our first year (2009) we chose our charity: Camp Quality: Supporting the families of children who have cancer. We have stayed with this charity for 10 years. Our annual Charity Day is a favourite event which includes a multi prize raffle. We have been known to exceed 57 varieties – I mean prizes! The lunch provided is paid for out of club funds to allow all the fees and raffle income to go to Camp Quality - usually over \$1,000. It seemed to me that in the first year of our

club members embraced Charity Day as an opportunity to return the favour shown by the donations many of us received as a result of Black Saturday.

Monday afternoon has remained our most dominant session time. We currently average 8 tables. As well as green point duplicate sessions we run 8 Red Point sessions spread over 4 events annually. Having an evening session to enable working people to play seemed to make sense. Interestingly we have been unable to attract many players who are still in the work force. Our Wednesday evening sessions have small numbers but continue to be enjoyed. The sessions that have thrived have been the Kilmore group's Thursday afternoon duplicate sessions. Started by Isabel and Russell Sayers and now continuing under the management of Frank Kool and Murray Pearce this session is seen as more relaxed as it does not attract masterpoints. People meeting to socialise and play this intriguing game is what it is all about.

Records show me that we ran our inaugural congress in 2012 – as a 3-year-old club. Each year since the members have worked hard to provide a congress with country hospitality. Loosely translated this means delicious home cooking. Having the CWA provide the lunches in the early congresses underlined this theme. As we all know there is much more involved in running a congress than just good food. Top Directors and great venues are fundamental. Appalled by the large plastic bags of rubbish filled with disposable mugs, glasses, plates and cutlery, this year we decided to be kinder to the planet and use washable eating utensils. A quote for hiring the same was \$300. Too much. So, we set about buying from op shops. The total? \$140! I must point out however that it may not be cheaper to use re-usables as the cost of labour for washing them may outweigh the cost of disposables. But hey folks – we have only one planet.

A fact facing bridge clubs in Australia and in fact the world is that the average age of bridge players is increasing. Sadly, eleven members of our club have passed away. Age or aging has also taken its toll on members who are now unable to play. The challenge is to keep up our numbers by attracting new members. We have been running Beginners classes every year. (No hardship for me – my passion for teaching has not diminished). The first 6 lessons are absolutely free. This year we will start a new group in August on Monday mornings.

The club's financial position has been aided by that friendly little word "free". No fees are paid for directing, teaching, setting up tables, dealing the boards or renting our playing room at Whittlesea Bowls Club. Our table fees have stayed at \$5 a session yet we have maintained a steadily increasing bank balance. Maybe we should call it a Future Fund?

It seems to me that after 10 years this club has "come of age". Debbie Goldsworthy has taken over from me as President and Cheryl Ogilvy and Sandy Peterson toppled Peter and I in a three-week event. So Congratulations, Whittlesea Bridge Club; you are all grown up!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Lyndall. A very interesting article.

Perhaps other clubs could send in an article describing the club's birth through to its current state.

The Following Article Was Sent by SAMANTHA PUNCH

Prof. Samantha Punch | Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA)

Faculty of Social Sciences | University of Stirling

Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland

We're delighted to announce PhD funding (3.5 years or Masters plus PhD 4.5 years) for a doctorate on **youth, schools and mindsport education** at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

The World Bridge Federation in collaboration with Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) is offering a studentship to research bridge as an educational tool in schools. International students are also welcome to apply, but must be willing to move to central Scotland if successful. No prior knowledge of mindsport is required.

We're looking for a social science student to join the research team – Bridge: A MindSport for All. For further info see:

[Stakeholder Approach to the Pedagogical Possibilities and Practices of the Mindsport Bridge - Scottish Graduate School of Social Science](#)

ESRC-funded Supervisor-led Studentship Stakeholder Approach to the Pedagogical Possibilities and Practices of the Mindsport Bridge

University of Stirling

First Supervisor: Professor Samantha Punch
Second Supervisor: Dr Alison Murray
Collaborating Partner: World Bridge Federation

Application Deadlines:

- Applications must be submitted by 10 April, 5 pm BST
- References are due on 16 April, 5 pm BST

To apply
go to
apply.sgsss.ac.uk



Editor's Note: Maybe one of our youth players would like to undertake an interesting degree in Scotland.

Another Interesting Item

On the Australian Bridge Federation website, the MyABF platform is currently a very useful tool for club usage (especially presidents, secretaries or treasurers) and other Bridge Victoria personnel.

The developers are planning to grow the functionality of the platform to make it even more useful.

To that end, there was the following -

A MyABF webinar -Thursday 27th March 2025

Phil Young hosted a discussion group for 8 clubs about the use of MyABF.

The focus was on the implementation and practical problem-solving transitioning from existing club systems to using MyABF "as much as practicable".

This included

- Setting up the public face of the club e.g location, session times, office holders.
- Establishing membership data
- How to implement and reconcile club sessions

The session was driven by questions in advance from the attendees.

Phil's observation was that if you have existing club systems across paper, spreadsheets, Bridgewebs, MailChimp or Pianola, that MyABF offers a potential one stop shop to deal with the majority of your club admin requirements.

Smaller clubs would get the benefits of using a platform that many others in the bridge community use, rather than their own ad-hoc or bespoke methods.

Further workshops will be scheduled in June or July 2025.

Phil can be contacted via pyoung64@gmail.com for more information.



ABF UPDATE – JENNY THOMPSON

The WBF Online Women's Spring Festival is taking place very soon on April 7 to 13.

Congratulations to 2024 Spring & Autumn winners.

Editor's Note: Well done to Lynda Young of the Moonee Valley Bridge Club



Amy Mitura (USA) won the 2024 Spring Festival, **Debbie Smith** (New Zealand) was second and **Carol Anne Stanton** (South Africa) was third.

Debbie Smith (New Zealand) won the 2024 Autumn Festival, **Louise Nielsen** (Norway) was second and **Lynda Young** (Australia) was third.

Information for the Spring Festival 2025

<https://news.bridgebase.com/wbf-womens-online-festival-spring-2025/>

(How to join etc.,) and also in this link

<https://news.bridgebase.com/womens-online-festival-home/>

The Festival is growing all the time as players network, make friends and enjoy. There are more opportunities to play. (12 games per day and you can play as many as you like).

Do join us and play!



FEEDBACK

This hand came up at the recent Melbourne Bridge Club congress which was held in the Member's lounge at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

NORTH

♠ Q7
♥ 6432
♦ AK73
♣ T86

SOUTH(D)

♠ AKT2
♥ AKQJT87
♦ 62
♣

Out of the sixty pairs that held these hands – two bid 7♥, thirty-two bid 6♥ and the rest failed to bid slam. My partner and I were one of the thirty-two in 6♥.

Answer:

If the opponent's bid and raise ♣s, then it may assist you but without it, it is difficult to bid it confidently. Partner's key cards are the ♦A and ♦K of course but also the ♠Q (unless North can show four trumps and even then, not 100% clear).

After a 2♣ opening and a subsequent jump to 4♥, North cue bid a ♦ control at the five-level. Pleased with this turn of events, South cue bid a ♠ control at the five-level but both parties were a little hesitant to bid the grand. We both felt that we could have done better.

How would you bid it?

It could involve either a 1♥ or a 2♣ opening. Then using exclusion blackwood after finding a fit and/or a 5NT grand slam try after South indicating possession of a solid ♥ suit and a ♠ suit headed by the A and K and first round ♣ control.

I will put some sample auctions in the next bulletin. However, it would be great if readers can send in their suggestions.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – APRIL SOLUTION

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

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

The above auction sees the opponents finish in 3♠ (where West's 2♥ is a weak jump 7-9 hcp).

West leads the ♥K. Dummy plays the ♥3.

Answer:

Partner will have six ♥s, therefore, declarer has one ♥. Any ♦ honour that partner may have is able to be finessed. Therefore, the contract depends upon partner's ♣ holding. The most likely option is the one shown below.

In all cases, overtake the ♥K with the ♥A and lead the ♣3 (a low ♣ indicating an honour). Partner wins the ♣J and then cashes the ♣K and returns the ♣4 to your ♣A. The lead of your last ♣ promotes a trump trick (West ruffs with the ♠T (which gives you a trump trick).

Note: West could switch to a ♣ themselves but they are unsure of your ♥ length and may find a ♣ switch too dangerous (moral – help partner where you can).

NORTH

♠A764

♥T3

♦AJ53

♣852

WEST

♠T3

♥KQT976

♦94

♣KJ4

EAST

♠J98

♥A854

♦72

♣A963

SOUTH(D)

♠KQ52

♥J

♦KQT86

♣QT7

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – APRIL SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH

♠73
♥QJ98
♦T9
♣T

WEST

♠Q96
♥A543
♦A6
♣

EAST

♠KJT84
♥62
♦85
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠
♥KT
♦KQJ732
♣2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	P	1♥	p
2♣	p	2♦	P
5♣	p	P	P

2♣ is forcing for one round and the final contract is great.

West leads the ♠5.

You win the ♠A and throw the ♥7.

You play the ♣7 to the ♣A and then the ♣K and both opponents follow to both trump leads. You then lead the ♣2 and pull the last trump.

What is your plan from here?

The remaining cards are shown.

You have won the first four tricks.

Option 1.

If you lead a ♥ now look what happens. West will win the ♥A and play a ♠ which you must ruff with your last trump.

Now when West gets in with the ♦A, the defence can cash a ♠ trick for one down.

Option 2.

You lead the ♦T and if West ducks this trick, lead the ♦9 and overtake with the ♦J. When West wins the ♦A and leads ♠, you must ruff with your last trump.

Now lead the ♦K and throw the small ♠.

The defence can only take two aces.

It is fairly obvious when you think about it but don't lose concentration.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – MARCH SOLUTION

EW are vulnerable and NS are not vulnerable.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ KJ654 ♥ 32 ♦ A4 ♣ K654</p>	<p>EAST(D)</p> <p>♠ AQ98 ♥ 954 ♦ KQ52 ♣ AQ</p>
<p>WEST</p> <p>♠ T72 ♥ J ♦ 863 ♣ JT9732</p>	<p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ AKQT876 ♦ JT97 ♣ 8</p>

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	1NT	4♥	P
P	P		

East opens a 15-17 1NT as dealer vulnerable.

You notice on their system card that 1NT doesn't have a five-card major.

You hum and hah very a few seconds wondering what to bid. Thinking that EW might have a ♠ or a ♣ contract either as a part score or at a game level, you decide to exert the maximum pressure and bid 4♥.

Nobody else as anything to say.

West leads the ♣J.

It becomes immediately apparent why EW are not playing either a ♠ or a ♣ contract.

However, North has a much better hand than perhaps you deserve.

You play the ♣4. East plays the ♣Q and leads back a small trump.

What is your plan from here?

Between your hand and partner's dummy, you have twenty-two points (eleven in each hand). Furthermore, West led the ♣J. So, there are seventeen points missing.

There is a reasonably good chance that East has all of them (maybe missing a Queen but no more).

The best chance is that East started initially with the doubleton ♣A and ♣Q.

Remove all of the opposition's trumps (hoping they are not 4 – 0).

Then lead the ♠3 and insert the ♠J. If East were forced to win the ♠A, your troubles are over.

East can't play the ♣A.

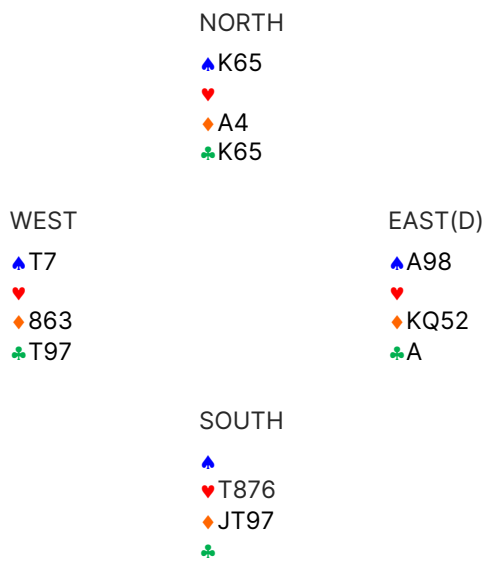
If East plays back a small ♠, you win in dummy discarding a ♦ and play a small ♣ and ruff out the ♣A. Now a ♦ to dummy's ♦A and throw another ♦ on the ♣K.

If East returns the ♦K (East must have the ♦K and ♦Q when East has the ♠Q), you win the ♦A and throw the ♦2 on the ♠K.

However, what happens when you lead the ♠3 and insert the ♠J, East wins the ♠Q.

You need a bit of luck now or a mis-defence.

The position is as shown on the following page.



East must return a ♦.

Let us say, East returns the ♦K.

South wins the ♦A and returns the ♦4 which East ducks to your ♦T and West follows with the ♦6.

What now?

Assuming East doesn't open 1NT with a five-card major (which you had noticed on their system card).

You know East had three ♥s and an assumed two ♣s. Therefore, East has eight cards in ♠s and ♦s.

So, East is either four - four in the suits or three ♠s and five ♦s.

If East has the latter then you are already down (East is going to get two ♦ tricks with the ♦Q and ♦8).

Therefore, your only chance is West having the ♦8 left and East the ♦Q and ♦5.

Lead the ♦9 and squash West's ♦7.