



BRIDGE VICTORIA BULLETIN

MAY 2025

EDITOR: CHRIS HUGHES



EDITORIAL – CHRIS HUGHES

For “The Interview” this month, like with Laura Ginnan last month, I talk to a hard-working person who is deeply involved in the local bridge scene. Jenny Thompson has been a stalwart of Australian and Victorian bridge for many years both as a player and an administrator.

The reason why this month’s bulletin is delayed by a couple of days is that my wife and I have just returned from a week in Phuket. I offered her a promise of a trip a while ago to coincide with her ability to undertake an international flight when she recovered from a few unwanted hospital visits. The time had arrived.

Whilst on the flight, I was thinking about the concept of an ‘auto pilot’ (generally called “George”) on an airplane. While the origin is not fully known, many believe the auto pilot started being called “George” during the World War II era when Royal Air Force pilots referred to their airplanes as “George” after King George VI who technically “owned” the airplane.

As published by airline companies, the human pilot on the airplane performs 100% of the take offs. Moreover, the human pilot undertakes 99% of the landings. Apparently, those 1% of auto pilot landings are more work for the human pilot than just hand flying the airplane themselves.

These are the statistics provided by the airlines but I have read that a few human pilots have let “George” take over one hundred feet after taking off.

Human pilots use computers to program an entire flight profile ahead of time allowing them to supervise its execution. These computers are called the Flight Management Computers (FMC). The basis of the auto pilot operation is error correction. When an aircraft fails to meet the inputs given by the FMC or human pilots, an error signal is generated, and this error has to be corrected to achieve the desired outputs. The auto pilot system automatically corrects the error and restores the flight programme originally desired by the human pilot.

However, human pilots can change or override the auto pilot command during flight

As I age gracefully or otherwise, it is getting harder to maintain the required concentration levels to compete at a level at which I feel (or like to think I feel) that I should be for extended periods of time.



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

What type of human pilot am I at the bridge table?

Ideally in shorter events, after the auction has determined the contract, whether as declarer or as a defender, I ‘take off’ with a plan. I then ‘hand fly’ the proceedings and adjust the plan as ‘turbulence’ or other issues require an alteration to the original assumptions. This is when my mind is relatively fresh and focussed (perhaps in the analogy on flights within Australia).

For longer events (on international flights), I ‘take off’ with a plan. I then ‘hand fly’ the proceedings and adjust the plan as ‘turbulence’ or other issues require an alteration to the original assumptions for a lot of the time. However, I am ashamed to admit that as I get tired, I go into auto pilot mode more often than I should after ‘take off’. When ‘turbulence’ or other issues require an alteration to the original assumptions, I am asleep at the wheel and letting the setup that I made originally (the programme in auto pilot) work out the problem (which might not be appropriate now).

So, I vary from human pilot throughout to switching to auto pilot one hundred feet after the auction has finished.

Chris, age is just a number. Get your act together and tell George he is not needed.

Submit all your input to the following email address

editor@bridgevictoria.au

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BRIDGE VICTORIA CHAIR – JAN VAN RIEL

Playing Around.

Over the Easter holidays I had the opportunity to play bridge with a friend from Sydney at a club I haven't played at before. We went to the Moonee Valley Bridge Club and enjoyed a great reception from the players there. What I was very impressed with was how easy it was. I put in my ABF number and then played. The payment was handled through MyABF and it was very, very easy.

This may be because Moonee Valley is the home club of our Victorian MyABF champion and now representative on the MyABF Steering Committee – Phil Young. If you need any help and guidance with MyABF please contact him, he is happy to take your calls on 0419 338 798.

Our teams for the ANC.

Our team selection process has been completed, and we have our representatives for the Australian National Championships 2025. We are sending 4 teams – Youth, Women's, Seniors and Open Teams. **Congratulations to all and Go Victoria!**

For many, it was the first time playing with screens. There were comments about how quiet it was and how much more conducive to thinking! Is this a comment on the amount of distracting noise usually heard in clubs? Just saying. The Seniors' and the Women's selection event for the Victorian team included country and metro pairs.

Monthly Recognition of Volunteers.

There is a growing number of people who donate their expertise and time for bridge in Victoria. **To make recognition of volunteers an enduring activity I have asked Kim Frazer and Derek Poulton to form the 'BV Volunteer Recognition Working Group'**. They will, with me, in the first instance, start this group in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, send the name(s) of those you think should be recognised as outstanding volunteers for consideration.

Bridge Victoria Representatives for 2025.

We are still looking for a representative for **Metro Central & North**. We also have a vacancy for a **skills-based position** on the Bridge Victoria Committee. Please contact me if you feel you would like to contribute and be part of making bridge great again (sic!).

Presidents' Day.

This year we would like 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. 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 related thoughts you have. If you are a club President or club contact, please enter [here](#).



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!

For Directors.

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

Director Training. After the course for new and inexperienced directors held on Saturday 12th April, we now have a course for experienced directors on the use of technology on Friday 16th May. This course is called 'PROBLEM SOLVING FOR DIRECTORS'. Laurie Kelso will address common concerns. Link [here](#) to enter.

Special Events in 2025.

Bridge Victoria Restricted Pairs 10th May (under 300 MPs).

At BV we are committed to growing players in the under 300 MP category, we encourage people to enter.

This red-point event is on Saturday 10th May commencing at 10am. **The winners will be awarded free entry to the Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs** at the **Victorian Festival of Bridge**. (Thursday 5th & Friday 6th June). A value of \$320 for the winning pair! Link [here](#).

Victorian Festival of Bridge

The focus is to create a bridge community with opportunities to socialise and mingle – trivia, dinner and Jazz or footy anyone? As well as great bridge. For more details, [My ABF - Congress View](#).

Bridge Victoria Online Pairs Championships.

For country and metro players this online event is the state's premier pairs event, introduced to allow Victorian players from all over the state to compete in a top-level event. Link [here](#) for more details.

Closing Thought

Meeting good people across Australia (either online or face-to-face) is part of the joys of bridge.

Happy Bridging!

Jan van Riel - Chair of Bridge Victoria

chair@bridgevictoria.au

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS MAY

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH(D)

♠ A
♥ AK
♦ 5432
♣ QJT987

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH

♠ KQJ
♥ J432
♦ AQJT
♣ 32

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

West leads the ♠8 at trick one. You win the ♠A perforce, East plays the ♠3.

What do you play at trick 2?

What is your plan from here?

The answer is at the end of the bulletin.

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH MAY

Vulnerable vs vulnerable in a team's match

NORTH

♠ Q86
♥ AK954
♦
♣ AJ876

WEST

♠
♥
♦
♣

EAST

♠
♥
♦
♣

SOUTH(D)

♠ JT97542
♥ 8
♦ K4
♣ T32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
P	1♦	1♥	p
1♠	2♦	3♦	DBL
3♠	p	4♠	DBL
P	P	P	

South passes as opener with a weak ♠ suit (3♠ is naturally an option).

North shows a good raise in ♠s and South bids 3♠ (which is stronger than passing over East's 3♦). This is raised to 4♠ and doubled by East.

West leads the ♣K.

You win the ♣A.

What do you lead at trick 2?

What is your plan from here?

Answer in the next bulletin.

Send in your play to

editor@bridgevictoria.au



THE INTERVIEW

THE INTERVIEW THIS MONTH IS WITH JENNY THOMPSON

Editor:

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

Jenny:

Born in 1954.in Melbourne in the back of my dad's car on the way to hospital.

Editor:

Where did you go to school?

Jenny:

Lauriston Girls School in Armadale Victoria.

Editor:

What interests did you have as a child?

Jenny:

All water sports, especially water skiing. I love footy – I got into it because of my brother Ian (we used to watch it together on TV every Saturday afternoon as kids)

Editor:

I believe that the red and black colours are



relevant colours.

What direction did you take after leaving school?

Jenny:

I started doing an IT course at RMIT, which I didn't like. So, I tried a secretarial (following advice from my father) and quit after the first lesson where they explained how to read a phone book. From there I got a job in administration.

Editor:

Most young people these days wouldn't know what a phone book was let alone how to read one. It has followed the telephone landline into oblivion. 😊



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

Jenny:

It was suggested that I would like bridge if I learnt it by one of my work colleagues (when I was around 18/19). So, I took up lessons at the Kew Bridge Club. I played in Victoria for a short time but then went over to Perth to live. This is where I met and lived with a great group of WA Youth players at the time at 21 Tate Street. Some of the other residents were Peter Reynolds, Peter Smith, Leiv Bornecrantz (both Peters went on to play for Australia); other regulars included Michael & Jill Courtney.

Editor:

What made you get more serious about the game?

Jenny:

Living with a really strong group of young players in Perth meant I played in a high-level group almost from the start. When I came back to Melbourne, I naturally fitted in with the emerging young players like Grant Kilvington and Robbie van Riel, and other great Victorian players like Bill Jacobs, Simon Hinge, Margaret Bourke, Tim Bourke, Lidia Kilvington, Ailsa Tandy, Felicity Beale and Ian McCance. I also met my first (David Smith) and second (Ben Thompson) husbands through bridge. Both of course are top level players.

Editor:

When did you decide to get heavily involved in the administrative side of bridge including the ABF responsibilities?

Jenny:

After returning from Perth, I started working at not for profits and did that for my whole working life until retirement in 2022. I did a Master of Accounting when I turned 40. It is a strong belief of mine to help others where I can and can be of benefit. Also, bridge has given me so much during my adult life it was so easy for me to make that my focus on helping others in our community. I have been involved in bridge administration since the 1980s in many roles, including on the VBA Council, and many subcommittees including Match & Tournament Committee, finance, and youth. Through my contact with ABF bridge administrators, I was asked to get involved at ABF Level which started with being involved with an online committee to investigate online bridge. I have recently resigned from the VBA Council, MTC & Finance Committee to focus on my ABF roles and private business activities. Currently I am a Board Member and Secretary of the ABF. For the ABF I am also on the MyABF Steering Committee and the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. I am also the Youth Liaison Officer. I am one of the two Victorian Councillors on the ABF Council.

Editor:

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

Jenny:

I have had many regular partners, mainly from Perth, Canberra and Melbourne. I am currently playing with my long-time partner, Eva Caplan and Di Smart and David Fryda.

Editor:

What is your general style at the bridge table?

Jenny:

I am pretty conservative at the table but recently have been trying to be a little more aggressive. I think being very steady and reliable means I am a good partner, which has brought me a lot of success with a lot of different players.

Editor:

What major administrative achievements are you most proud of?

Jenny:

Being able to contribute and bringing a calm and balanced view is very important to me and I think the people I work with. I really think about achieving as a team rather than as me.

Editor:

What major bridge achievements are you most proud of?

Jenny:

In the 2022 World Mixed Teams I played with Damon Flicker in an all-Victorian team (the other pair was Eva Caplan playing with my nephew, Jamie Thompson). We qualified for the knockouts where we got chosen by the top qualifier (over the objections of Fiona Brown – an Aussie who has lived in London for 20 years and won many world championships playing for England). Fiona was right! We defeated them by 40 imps, bowing out by a small margin in the round of 16.

(I've included a list of my results below)

Editor:

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

Jenny:

I don't do much to prepare for local events. For national and international events, I research our opponents (mostly their systems), review and tighten up my system with my partner, and do regular bidding practice (usually on BBO).

Editor:

Do you have any goals set for your bridge game?

Jenny:

Keep on playing at the highest standard I can.

Editor:

Is retirement all it is cracked up to be?

Jenny:

I keep myself very busy. I do that to stay mentally active, engaged with people, and to help others where I can. I don't really think about myself as being retired because I am so involved in various things – and I intend to keep on being busy.

Editor:

Thank you, Jenny for taking part in the interview.

I am reminded of part of her husband's (Ben Thompson) comments at Jenny's 70th birthday party. Ben stated that "Jenny is the nicest person that he knows. She likes to see the good in everyone." I couldn't agree more.

She is also down playing her bridge ability a little. She turned up as a non-player in the 46th World Bridge Teams Championships in Marrakech in Morocco in 2023. When one of the members of the Australian Women's team was unable to participate, she filled in and played with Catherine Zhang (from NSW) and this 'honeymoon' partnership became the team's most effective pair.

JENNY THOMPSON'S MAJOR BRIDGE RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL

Women's World Master, current world rank 185

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S TEAM

-as a captain

2016 World Bridge Games (non-playing captain) – qualified for round of 16

-as a player

2022 World Bridge Series (with Eva Caplan)

2023 Venice Cup (with Catherine Zhang)

2024 World Bridge Games (with Ella Jacob) – qualified for round of 16

TRANSNATIONAL EVENTS

Played in world championship transnational events every year from 2017 (except the covid break), including

2018 World Mixed Teams - playing with Ben Thompson, and Mike & Vivian Cornell – qualified for the knockouts

2022 World Mixed Teams – all-Victorian team playing with Damon Flicker, and Eva Caplan – Jamie Thompson – qualified for the knockouts, defeated the top qualifier (by 40 imps), bowing out in the round of 16

2023 World Transnational Open Teams – playing with David Fryda – qualified for the knockouts

NATIONAL

National Women's Teams – won 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011

– 2006 playing with Jeanette Collins, the others with Julia Hoffman

Linda Stern Women's Teams – 2007, 2022

– 2007 with Julia Hoffman, 2022 Eva Caplan

Australian Women's Team Playoff – 2022, 2024

– 2022 with Eva Caplan, 2024 with Ella Jacob

Dick Cummings Open Pairs – 2nd in 2022 with David Hoffman

VICTORIA

Pennant – 2001

– with Meredith Woods

Open Pairs – 1998

– with Meredith Woods

Mixed Pairs

– 2007, 2011, 2014

– all with Ben Thompson

Felicity Beale Mixed teams

– 2019, 2021, 2025

Women's Team (x12)

– 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2011, 2021, 2024 – with Cathie Lachman, Jenny Fox, Shirley Collins, Meredith Woods, Jeanette Collins, Eva Caplan, Di Smart

I also have been captain of various teams.

PHILL'S TEACHINGS

PLAY - FINDING THE QUEEN

When declarer is missing the queen in a suit, there are many techniques to use before resorting to a 50-50 finesse.

If there is only one way to finesse, such as:

NORTH

♠KJ2

SOUTH

♠A76

or

NORTH

♠9765

SOUTH

♠AKJ43



The old adage applies: "Eight Ever, Nine Never."

This means that with 8 (or fewer) cards in the suit, always (ever) finesse. With 9 (or more) cards in the suit, never finesse (play for the drop). So, in the 2 layouts above, finesse.

It gets more interesting if you can finesse either way, such as:

NORTH

♠KJT

SOUTH

♠A43

There are many techniques available (such as leading the jack to see if they cover). Experts often can locate the queen by counting the opposing points and/or distribution.

The best way to play any of these suits is not to play them at all! Let the opponents break the suit if possible.

Where is the Queen?

The Queen is not as powerful as the Ace or King of her suit. In fact, she isn't even counted as a control.

Some even argue that she is overvalued by the normal 4-3-2-1-point count.

But, despite all this, how often has one of your contracts depended on finding a queen?

How often do you find her?

Can you work out the defenders' hands from the bidding, the play, what is led, or what is not led?

Can you work out where she is?

Can you work out where she is more likely to be?

Sometimes your answer should be "Who cares!".

Perhaps you can force the opponents to help either to find the Queen or help you when they win a trick with her.

A plan

Have a plan.

Whatever else you do, have a plan.

You may not come up with the best one but as the saying goes "failing to plan is planning to fail".

Think about the hand when dummy comes down: winners, losers, sources of tricks, potential problems, or gifts if or when an opponent gets the lead. What did they lead? What are they up to?

Example 1.

NORTH
♠K32
♥A32
♦Q3
♣AT432

SOUTH
♠AQ4
♥KQ4
♦T86
♣KJ65

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	P	3NT	ALL PASS

West leads the ♦2. You try the ♦Q but it loses and the opponent's cash four ♦s with you discarding two ♣s from dummy and one ♣ from your hand. West exits a ♥.

Let's cash our ♥s and ♠s. All follow to the ♥s but West discards a ♥ on the third ♠.

How do you play the ♣s?

Answer:

West started with 2 ♠s, 4 ♥s and 4 ♦s. West has 3 ♣s.

East has 5 ♠s, 3 ♥s and 4 ♦s. East has 1 ♣.

Cash the ♣K and finesse.

More examples follow:

NOTE: Counting to or subtracting from 13 plays a significant role.

Also, counting the opponent's points is the other major consideration

Example 2.

NORTH

♠KT2
♥K32
♦QT32
♣432

SOUTH

♠AJ9654
♥AQ4
♦J94
♣Q

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

West leads the ♣J. East takes the ♣K and tries to cash the ♣A.

Who has the ♠Q?

Answer:

Do not forget that they all passed before you opened. And where are the ♦ honours? If West had both then West probably would have led one. If East had both then East would have opened with at least 14 points.

So, East has the ♣A and ♣K and one of the ♦ honours. If East had the ♠Q as well, then East would surely have opened in third seat with 12 or 13 points.

Play West for the ♠Q.

Example 3.

NORTH

♠JT2
♥AQ32
♦KT2
♣K32

SOUTH

♠AQ654
♥54
♦AJ4
♣654

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

West leads the ♣A and continues with the ♣Q. Dummy's ♣K wins.
 You run the ♠J losing to West's ♠K.
 The ♣J is cashed by West with all following. West exits with a trump.
 You draw trumps finding West had three.
 You play a ♥ to the ♥Q which wins, cash the ♥A and ruff a ♥.
 West plays small and then the ♥J and the ♥K.
 Where is that ♦Q?

Answer:

A bit of work with this one.

West has a balanced hand. We saw exactly 3 ♠s, probably 3 ♥s – could be 4, and exactly 4 ♣s. West has 2 or 3 ♦s.

With respect to points we have seen 14. West opened 1♣. If West had the ♦Q then that would total 16 points, a balanced hand and would have opened 1NT.

East has the ♦Q.

Example 4.

NORTH

♠92
 ♥AJ4
 ♦KQ32
 ♣A432

SOUTH

♠J854
 ♥KT6532
 ♦A
 ♣65

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	p	3NT	P
4♥	P	P	P

You reach 4♥ with no opposition bidding and West leads the ♣K.

You win the ♣A, unblock the ♦A, lead a trump to the ace and discard a ♣ on the ♦K. When you lead a ♠ next, East wins and plays a trump.

Finesse or play for the drop?

Answer:

This is a slightly different skill needed other than counting points of working out distribution. There is an avoidance play to be considered.

Finesse.

If West wins then you have a trump left to ruff the third ♠ and provide an entry to the top ♦.

If the finesse works, then you can cash the third ♦ and make the contract with 3 ♦s, one ♣ and six ♥s.

SUMMARY: There are a lot of hands where avoidance plays and/or a point count or suit length count can be a combined consideration.

To succeed as declarer, you must work out what the defence is trying to do to thwart you and, with this information on board, use it to Plan how to succeed.

BRIDGE HUMOUR



JACK OF DIAMONDS

Lonnie Donegan was a British singer songwriter who had a few hits in the late 1950's and 1960's. One of his songs was titled the "Jack of Diamonds".

The lyrics went as follows:

*Jack O'Diamonds Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card to play Jack O'Diamonds, yeah Jack O'Diamonds
This one-eyed prince, wears a single love
Oh sure, he's not that lovely
Jack O'Diamonds broke my hand*

Fast forward to the final of the Victorian Open Team playoff on Saturday 6th April 2025.

The following hand came up in the second set.

NS vulnerable vs EW not vulnerable

NORTH

♠JT94
♥Q753
♦K754
♣Q

WEST

♠32
♥86
♦Q963
♣AK964

EAST

♠AK987
♥
♦AT82
♣J873

SOUTH(D)

♠Q6
♥AKJT942
♦J
♣752

Ozenir	Harley	Hughes	Henbest
		1♥	2♣
2NT	6♣	6♥	7♣
DBL	P	P	P

I opened 1♥ and Simon Henbest bid 2♣ (which is not textbook at this level) and Serhat Ozenir bid 2NT (a four card ♥ raise with ostensibly scattered values – 8+ nominally). Dee Harley bid 6♣ what he thought was a chance.

I had no defence to this contract and took the vulnerable save in 6♥ (which goes for 800). Simon Henbest, perhaps a little embarrassed with his original bid, took the non-vulnerable SAVE in 7♣. Serhat correctly doubled the final contract.

A small ♥ was led and after ruffing a ♥ and playing a trump and ruffing the last ♥ and pulling trumps, Simon was at the crossroads. The only real chance, given the bidding, that allows the contract to make is to lead the ♦Q and hope that I hold the singleton ♦J.

I was sitting there knowing what was about to happen thinking of Lonnie Donegan. I wish that I had never heard the song before.

Sure enough, Simon played the ♦Q and I felt mixed emotions. Firstly, well done Simon to find the play (I said that to him later). Secondly, the “Jack O’Diamonds broke my hand”. I did find it a little humorous at the time in a morbid way.

7♣s doubled was worth 1630 to our opponents.

At the other table our teammates played in 3♠ which was worth 140.

The difference was 1490 which converts to 16 imps.

We lost the match by 3 imps. Obviously, there were many other things that happened in the match where either team could have affected the outcome but this hand was a body blow. Doing ostensibly the right thing by bidding 6♥ turns out so horribly wrong.



Rest in Peace Lonnie.



BRIDGE RESULTS

BRIDGE RESULTS FOR APRIL

- VICTORIA

FRANKSTON CONGRESS Saturday 5th April and Sunday 6th April

52 pairs contested the Swiss Pairs on Saturday and the top two finishers in the Open Pairs were

1st	Stephen Weisz	Robert Gallus
2nd	Nalin Samarasingha	Hiranthi Samarasingha



The winners from left to right Stephen Weisz and Robert Gallus

The top two restricted pair finishers were

1st	Heath Watkins	Matthew Sieredzinski
2nd	Sue Potter	Meg Thorley



The winners from left to right Heath Watkins and Matthew Sieredzinski

Winners from the Mornington Peninsula were Denise Donald and Kate Bechet

17 teams contested the teams on Sunday and the top two finishers in the Open section were

1st	Kae French	Sue Beckman	Maggie Callendar	Penny Corrigan
2nd	Kitty Muntz	Brigitte Kat	Christopher Leach	Sue Read

The top Mornington Peninsula team was

1st	Heath Watkins	Matthew Sieredzinski	Kerry Hosking	Wojciech Sieredzinski
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MORNINGTON CONGRESS

MORNINGTON GOOD FRIDAY PAIR - Friday 18th April

16 pairs contested the match point pairs (1st NS and 1st EW are shown)

NS	Jens Norlyng	Kevin Sertori
EW	George Lovrecz	Leo Saoud

MORNINGTON SWISS PAIRS – Saturday 19th April

32 pairs contested the Swiss pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Ismail Gulec	Serhat Ozenir
2nd	Leo Saoud	Elsabrou Mahmoud
3rd	Mary Allison	Robyn O'Dell

MORNINGTON SWISS TEAMS – Sunday 20th April

9 teams contested the teams and the top two placegetters were

1st	Neil Ewart	David Beckett	Chen Ding	Paul Ruan
2nd	Catherine Lachman	George Lovrecz	Sylvia Schwarcz	Ben Kingham



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY/JUNE

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

It will be held at a great new Building in Strathfieldsaye. The Bendigo Council has given the Bridge Club \$2000 to help run the Congress.

MOONEE VALLEY SUPER CONGRESS

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

YARRA VALLEY CONGRESS

Saturday 14th June

KOOYONG TEAMS CONGRESS

Sunday 22nd June

GEELONG CONGRESS

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June



Monash Children's Hospital Charity Day

Date: Saturday 10th May

Time: 10:00 am

Cost: \$20

Drinks at Bar Prices

BYO LUNCH

RED POINT EVENT

All proceeds going directly to the Monash Children's Hospital

BOOK HERE





BRIDGE WORKSHOP

With ANDY HUNG



Improving your hand evaluation for slam investigation



♣ High-card points are just the beginning! Join Andy as he reveals how expert players evaluate hands for slam—using shape, controls, and fit to make smarter slam decisions.

- ♦ A great opportunity – there is something for everyone to take away with lots of expert insider tips from Andy. These workshops include a PowerPoint lecture, boards to play, and well-presented notes for everyone to take home.
- ♦ An analysis of the played boards will also be provided for all.

When: Saturday May 31st (10am – 12 noon)

Where: Waverley Bridge Club (Electra Community Centre 21a Electra Ave Ashwood 3147)

Cost: \$30 – *partner not required* Bookings myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2750

Contact: Email: Office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au Phone: 03 9807 6502

Introduction to Andy hung



Andy is a professional bridge player who is a frequent member of the Australian Open Team. He often competes internationally (particularly in the US) and most notably winning the recent 2024 World Bridge Tour Finals (competed amongst the world's top 16 performing pairs in 2024).

Andy is also an ABF accredited bridge teacher. He has been teaching at a wide range of bridge clubs around Australia since 2010, and was based in WA Bridge Club for the past five years, now relocated back in Brisbane.

Andy has held successful bridge holidays around Australia, such as Noosa, Margaret River, Hervey Bay, Hunter Valley. Currently the holidays he has planned for this year 2025 is Noosa QLD in May, Spain/Portugal in September, and Barossa/Mclaren vale in Oct/Nov. For more info, contact him at hung.andyp@gmail.com or visit www.andyhungbridge.com



**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 APRIL

Open Teams Playoff Final

Congratulations to the winning team which will represent Victoria in the Open section in Brisbane at the ANC.

Played on Sunday 6th April

1st	Neil Ewart Paul Ruan	David Beckett Chen Ding	Simon Henbest	Dee Harley
2nd	Jamie Ebery Ming Zhang	Leigh Gold Daniel Mao	Serhat Ozenir	Chris Hughes

Losing semi-finalists played on Saturday 5th April

Philip Chang George Lovrecz Kevin Chan Mohamed Ghatwari	Alex Goss Kim Frazer Thilak Ranasinghe Leo Saoud	Kevin Gu Gordon McRobert	Seb Wright John Yang
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Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs

Friday 25 April

40 pairs contested the Swiss pairs and the placegetters were

1st	Alex Goss	Samuel Goss
2nd	David Beckett	Neil Ewart
3rd	John Yang	Dee Harley

(the top two placegetters are shown on the following pages – shown in the order that their names appear)

Victorian Women's Playoff

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 April

Congratulations to these three pairs who will represent Victoria in the Women's section in Brisbane at the ANC

1st	Hannah O'Donnell	Lynda Young
2nd	Bertha Dembo	Franci Halmos
3rd	Kitty Muntz	Kim Frazer

Victorian Senior Playoff

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 April

Congratulations to these three pairs who will represent Victoria in the Senior section in Brisbane at the ANC

1st	Denny Newland	Stephen Lester
2nd	Gordon McRobert	Thilak Ranasinghe
3rd	Stephen Weisz	Robert Gallus





AS I WAS UNABLE TO PROCURE ALL PHOTOS OF THE VICTORIAN TEAMS FOR THE ANC IN BRISBANE AT THIS TIME, PHOTOS FOR ALL REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN.

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

Online Pairs League – Autumn 2025

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

Altman Swiss Pairs

Started Wednesday 2nd April – finishes Wednesday 7th May

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

Thwaites Mixed Pairs

Wednesday 18, 25 June and 2, 23 July

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

Australia's Bridge Day Out - Registrations are now open and we'd love your club to join in the fun.

Players across the country will play the same set of deals on the same day, enjoying a great game in their local club while helping to fundraise for the **ABF Foundation** and support its 2025–2028 goal of building a **scalable, enduring Bridge in Schools program** that connects schools and bridge clubs.

The Bridge Day Out is on **Tuesday 23 September 2025**.

What's in it for your club?

- A fun, ready-to-run event with **deal files, expert commentary, and prizes provided**.
- Enjoy the game with **insightful analysis from some of Australia's top players**.
- Clubs can be selected to **host one of Australia's best**—a unique chance to have a bridge star at your table.
- **RED charity masterpoints**, great prizes, and plenty of room for creative fundraising.

Whether you keep it simple or make it a club celebration, your participation directly supports the Foundation's 2025–2028 goal of supporting a lasting, nationwide Bridge in Schools initiative.

Key Dates:

- **Zoom drop-in info sessions** Thu 8/5 or Thu 29/5 at 12.00pm AEST.
- **Register your club's involvement** – the earlier the better!
- Clubs wanting to be considered as **Super Supporters** (with a chance to host a bridge star) must register by **May 31st**.
- Deal files and prizes will be sent by **September 15th**.

Want to learn more?

We're running two optional **drop-in Zoom info sessions** for clubs to ask questions and hear more about how the day will work. We expect these sessions to run for approximately 30 minutes.

Thursday May 8th at 12:00pm AEST

Thursday May 29th at 12:00pm AEST

[CLICK THIS LINK TO ATTEND THE ZOOM SESSION \(at the meeting time\)](#)

A full **Info Kit** is attached to this email with everything you need to get started.

[REGISTER YOUR CLUB TO HOST A BRIDGE DAY OUT BY CLICKING HERE](#)

If you aren't available for the zoom sessions or would like to contact the Fundraiser Organiser Laura Ginnan please email proam@abffoundation.org.au

Let's come together for a great day of bridge—and help bring our game to the next generation.

Warm regards,

Laura Ginnan Fundraiser Organiser Australia's Bridge Day Out

On behalf of the ABF Foundation

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE? MAY

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		2♣	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	3NT	ALL PASS

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

2♣ followed by 2NT shows 22-24 and 3♣ asked for major and 3NT showed no major

NORTH

♠62
♥KQJ6
♦9642
♣853

EAST (YOU)

♠T73
♥975
♦A873
♣Q62

West leads the ♠5 (4th best). You play the ♠10 which loses to the ♠K in declarer's hand.

At trick two declarer plays the ♦K and partner discards the ♠J.

What is your plan?

Answer at the end of the bulletin.

RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS

UPDATED BY THE CLUBS IN MARCH 2024

CLUB	NAME	RANK
Alexandra Club	Ward, Judy	Club
Bairnsdale Bridge Club	Lawrence, Jen	Club
Ballarat Bridge Club	Hill, John	Club
Bayside Bridge Club	Krause, Pat	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Swabey, Peter	Graduate
Bayside Bridge Club	Williams, Helen	Bronze State
Beaumaris Bridge Club Inc	Miller, Alan	Bronze Local
Benalla Bridge Club	Kelly, Michael	Local
Bendigo Bridge Club	Dempsey, Eamon	Bronze Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Dale, Karin	Graduate
Berwick Bridge Club	Dudley, Craig	Club
Berwick Bridge Club	Friend, Kevin	Silver Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Gubbels, Lorraine	Bronze Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Gubbels, Matt	Bronze Local
Berwick Bridge Club	Mandeltort, Michael	Bronze National
Berwick Bridge Club	Wells, Colin	Club
Bridge at Tivoli	Roosen, Deirdre	Club
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Dyskin, Louise	Local
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Gostin, Suzanne	Regional
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Newman, Fran	Regional
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Newman, Steve	Silver Local
Bridge@Blake Bridge Club	Zarnowski, Alex	State
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Bock, Fay	Silver Local
Gardenvale Bridge Club	Lipton, Susan	Silver National
Geelong Bridge Club	Abraham, Ross	Local
Geelong Bridge Club	Bell, Barbara	Bronze National
Geelong Bridge Club	Bowden, Phillip	Club
Geelong Bridge Club	Phillips, John	Silver Local
Kattery Bridge Club	Critchley, Sue	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Bloom, Pauline	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Gerstel, Linda	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Gerstel, Mark	Graduate
KLTC Bridge Club	Hayes, Marcella	Regional
KLTC Bridge Club	Kornfeld, Lucy	Bronze Local
KLTC Bridge Club	Lardy, Peter	Silver Life
KLTC Bridge Club	Simonson, Gillian	Club
KLTC Bridge Club	Willison, Susie	Regional
Knox Bridge Club	Coombs, Brenton	Regional

Lyceum Club	Batten, Rosie	Regional
Maine Bridge Club	Griffin, Louise	Regional
Maine Bridge Club	McCready, Margaret	Graduate
Maine Bridge Club	Ride, Jo	Bronze Local
Maine Bridge Club	Stack, Judy	Club
MCC Bridge Club	Bone, Roland	Local
MCC Bridge Club	Broughton, Nigel	Silver Local
MCC Bridge Club	Case, Carmel	Local
Melbourne Bridge Club	Gray, Joseph	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Long, Gail	Graduate
Melbourne Bridge Club	Wardrop, Alan	Graduate
Melton Bridge Club	Murch, Sunita	Club
Melton Bridge Club	Urban, Bill	Club
Mildura Bridge Club	Gerber, Wolfgang	National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Elliott, Penny	Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Gould, Declan	Silver Local
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Harrison, Lindsay	State
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Nee-Salvador, Jo	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Spokes, Marie	Graduate
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Stewart, Jim	Silver National
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Utri, Garry	Club
Moonee Valley Bridge Club	Walby, Adrian	Silver Local
Northern Bridge Club	Adams, Jude	Bronze Regional
Northern Bridge Club	Enconniere, John	State
Northern Bridge Club	Gray, Jenny	Silver National
Northern Bridge Club	Ponsford, Anne	Bronze Local
Northern Bridge Club	Rose, Jane	Graduate
Northern Bridge Club	Rose, Kevin	Graduate
Ocean Grove Bridge Club	Burke, Genevieve	Silver Local
OZ Bridge Club	Shiffman, Helen	Silver Local
Patterson Lakes Bridge Club	Williams, Lorraine	Graduate
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Murphy, Clare	Bronze Local
Phillip Island Bridge Club	Murphy, Jim	Bronze Local
RACV Bridge Group	Backhouse, Jocelyn	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Heywood, Bruce	Local
RACV Bridge Group	Horne, Reg	Graduate
RACV Bridge Group	Linfoot, Jo	Life
RACV Bridge Group	McGuinness, Erin	Club
RACV Bridge Group	Newstead, Peter	Silver Local
RACV Bridge Group	Triffett, Renate	State
RACV Bridge Group	Uglow, Richard	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Campbell, Christine	Silver Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Hughes, Linda	Silver Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Lanyon, Chris	Local
Royal South Yarra Bridge Club	Robinson, Jill	State

Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Ryan, Robin	Bronze Regional
Rye-Dromana Bridge Club	Smith, Sue	Bronze State
Sale Bridge Club	Porter, Helen	Bronze State
Shepparton Bridge Club	Key, Roger	Silver Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Hall, Chris	Local
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Harvey, Ruth	Regional
South Gippsland Bridge Club	Shub, Matti	Silver Life
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Gould, Gary	Bronze Local
Theodor Herzl Social Club	Kestenberg, Jeff	Regional
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Banks, Tracey	Club
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Johnson, Rhona	Graduate
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Keyte, Neil	National
Torquay Bridge Club Inc.	Mahon, Isabel	Bronze Regional
Traralgon Bridge Club	Tylee, Don	Silver Life
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Cornelisz, Peter	Bronze Local
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Makarshina, Nina	Graduate
U3A Knox Bridge Club	Micsunescu, Natalia	Graduate
U3A Knox Bridge Club	West, Anne	Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Blusztein, Gary	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Bold, Keith	Silver Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	De Zoysa, Prithiraj	Life
Victorian Bridge Centre	Eggleshaw, Susan	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Hawkins, Annette	Bronze Local
Victorian Bridge Centre	Lawton, John	National
Victorian Bridge Centre	Richards, Carolyn	Graduate
Victorian Bridge Centre	Sacks, Mandy	Silver Local
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Fermo, Bev	Graduate
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Lazarou, Lef	Local
Wangaratta Bridge Club	McLaughlin, Chris	Regional
Wangaratta Bridge Club	McLaughlin, Yvonne	Regional
Wangaratta Bridge Club	Miller, Marilyn	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Campbell, Azra	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Collaris, Lana	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Cox, Ines	Graduate
Waverley Bridge Club	Daniel, Yvonne	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Hewson, Grant	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Hope, Carolyn	Bronze Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Kilham, Andrew	Local
Waverley Bridge Club	Rumega, Ela	Club
Waverley Bridge Club	Silman, Annette	Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Goodfellow, Beryl	Local
Whittlesea Bridge Club	Sheehan, Julie	National
Williamstown Bridge Club	Gibson, Ann	State
Williamstown Bridge Club	Strode, Nicola	Regional
Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Bevan, Kerryn	Bronze Local

Yarra Valley Bridge Club	Struck, Peter	Graduate
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Oberman, Joyce	Graduate
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Sandford, Margaret	Bronze Local
Yarrawonga Bridge Club	Williams, Les	Silver Local

Congratulations to all of the above.



FEEDBACK

Hi Chris

This hand came up at a recent Swiss Pairs event. You are vulnerable.

NORTH

♠KT743

♥KJT3

♦AK4

♣6

Partner, bless their heart, deals and opens 3♣. Should you pass or bid 3NT?

Answer:

This is a fairly common dilemma. What is partner likely to hold for a vulnerable preemptive bid?

The chance of partner holding a solid seven-card suit like ♣AKQXXXX is very low. Normally partner will hold something like AQJ10XX(X), AKJXXX(X) or KQJXXX(X) with a suit that isn't solid. If partner does not have a sure second entry, the first two examples require a successful finesse and a favourable division of the suit. The third example is basically hopeless with no outside entry.

Sometimes, the state of the match may be a consideration. However, the odds favour passing unless partner is known to be super conservative.

On this particular occasion, partner held

NORTH

♠6

♥5

♦Q953

♣AJT7432

Do you want to play 3NT on a small major card lead? It is certainly against the odds. West will need a doubleton ♣ honour (or ♣KQX) to give you any genuine chance.

Please submit your queries to the email address.

editor@bridgevictoria.au

WHAT NEXT IN DEFENCE – MAY SOLUTION

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
		2♣	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	3NT	ALL PASS

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

2♣ followed by 2NT shows 22-24 and 3♣ asked for major and 3NT showed no major

West leads the ♠5 (4th best). You play the ♠10 which loses to the ♠K in declarer's hand.

At trick two declarer plays the ♦K and partner discards the ♠J.

Answer

You win the ♦A. The discard of the ♠J shows no interest in a ♠ switch. In other words, declarer started with the following ♠AKQ. Given the strength of declarer's ♦s and the strength of dummy's ♥s, it looks like a ♣ shift is in order, but which ♣?

Because you need four ♣ tricks, you should shift to the ♣Q hoping partner has ♣AJ10x. If you shift to a low ♣, declarer with ♣Kxx can duck the trick around forcing partner to win and there go the four ♣ tricks (as you have no other entry). In desperate cash out situations when leading through declarer, small cards in dummy, the lead of a low card promises the king or ace.

NORTH

♠62
♥KQJ6
♦9642
♣853

WEST

♠J9854
♥T842
♦
♣AJT4

EAST

♠T73
♥975
♦A873
♣Q62

SOUTH(D)

♠AKQ
♥A3
♦KQJT5
♣K97

TEST YOUR DECLARER SKILLS – MAY SOLUTION

The following hand took place in a team's event

NORTH(D)

♠ A
♥ AK
♦ 5432
♣ QJT987

WEST

♠ 9876
♥ QT98
♦ K8
♣ 654

EAST

♠ T5432
♥ 765
♦ 976
♣ AK

SOUTH

♠ KQJ
♥ J432
♦ AQJT
♣ 32

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

West leads the ♠ 8 at trick one. You win the ♠ A perforce, East plays the ♠ 3.

What do you play at trick 2?

Answer

You lead the ♣ Q at trick two and set up the ♣ suit.

You have two entries to dummy to enjoy the four ♣ tricks (after the ♣ A and ♣ K are knocked out). Even if the defence switch to a ♥ at trick three, you can still lead another ♣ and have a high ♥ as an entry.

You will make three ♠ tricks, two ♥ tricks, one ♦ trick and four ♣ tricks.

However, if you lead a ♦ to finesse the ♦ Q at trick two, look what could happen on the layout shown.

West can win and switch to a ♥ and now you don't have a second entry to the ♣ suit.

You will make three ♠ tricks, two ♥ tricks, three ♦ tricks and no ♣ tricks on the layout.

So, make the contract a sure thing rather than risk going down in the pursuit of an overtrick

BRIDGE HAND OF THE MONTH – APRIL SOLUTION

Vulnerable vs vulnerable in a team's match

NORTH

♠ QT5
♥ QJ5
♦ QJ6
♣ J986

WEST(D)

♠ 632
♥ A98743
♦ 54
♣ K4

EAST

♠ J987
♥ T
♦ AT97
♣ AT32

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.

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?

You have three ♠ tricks, two ♥ tricks and two or three ♦ tricks.

Whatever happens, you are going to need at least one ♣ trick.

West would appear to have a six card ♥ suit to the ♥A and because of the vulnerability, they will probably have an entry somewhere in a minor suit.

An option is to win the ♥K in your hand and lead the ♦2 to the ♦Q. If East wins the ♦A, without another ♥ in their hand, they will probably return the ♦T which you run around to the ♦Q.

If the ♦Q holds the trick, now what do you do? For example, you might lead the ♦J (if East has ♦AT9x, they will win the ♦A and lead the ♦T and setup the fifth trick for the defence – one ♥, two ♦s and two ♣s).

Given all of the above in the ♦ suit, the key card to find in the contract is the ♣T. Since West has six ♥s to East's one, there is more chance that East will hold this card. Therefore, win the ♥J at trick one and lead the ♣6 and play the ♣5 from your hand if East plays a small ♣. You may go down immediately if West wins the ♣T and plays ♥A and another ♥ and still has an outside entry.

The better option is perhaps to combine your chances. Win the ♥K in your hand and lead the ♣7 and play the ♣J if West plays low (intending to play the ♣6 to the ♣5 later as above). If East wins, what are they going to play back? A ♦ suits you just fine and a ♠ does no harm. Moreover, with doubleton ♣K, West might play it to switch to a ♠ when you lead the ♣7.