

Vu-Bridge review

What is Vu-Bridge?

Vu-Bridge is a private enterprise owned by Didier Levy which has created a bridge teaching program endorsed by the EBU and a series of online magazine style newsletters for your enjoyment.

Vu-bridge products are available through subscription.

Link to Vu-Bridge home page <http://www.vubridge.fr/fr/UShome.php>

EBED (English Bridge Education and Development)

EBED made this announcement in October 2015:

“ An agreement has been reached between Vu-Bridge and EBED to offer access to V-Blue free to EBUTA teachers and at a discounted rate to EBU students.

Vu-Bridge is an internet-based software programme which allows bridge students to play set hands designed in such a way as to improve their bidding and play. It has been designed and is managed by Didier Lévy.

Vu-Bridge can be accessed on-line on computers, Android and iOS devices via a browser.

In collaboration with Paul Bowyer [with contributions from England's David Bird, America's Marti Ronemus and Australia's Andy Hung], Vu-Bridge has created three series of 24 lessons (each with 20 interactive deals and a quiz consisting of 10 bidding questions) known as V-Blue designed to help teach beginner level students of bridge. The bidding system employed is Bridge for All AcOL ([shortly to be updated with three weak twos], four card majors and a 12-14 weak no trump).

V-Blue provides material covering a three year curriculum corresponding to the three initial years of bridge learning for players who have already have a basic understanding of the game: i.e. the rules of contract bridge and the playing of Minibridge. Note that the Vu-Bridge Minibridge course of ten lessons is available free on the web at: www.vubridge.com/minibridge.

The totality of the V-Blue on-line system will consist of [1464] interactive set deals (of which 480 will become available during 2016) plus 720 bidding questions in the form of interactive quizzes.

[V-Blue Year 3 is still under development with two new lessons being added each month, albeit currently only in Standard American format. An ACOL version of Year 3 will be created as and when there is demand and sufficient uptake of Years 1 and 2].

EBUTA Teachers who sign up have full access to V-Blue to assist with their lesson preparation, including pbn files which are available to download from the Teachers' Zone. Hand narratives are available from the V-Blue site for all the hands.

Teachers might choose to use the system “live” in lessons to demonstrate bidding or play points, pre-prepare some of the hands for use (as with the existing exemplar hands from BfA or the handbanks), or identify topics that the students could play on V-Blue outside lesson contact time. ”

Text in [] is an updated version of the original announcement.

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The Authors

Philipp Alder

David Bird

Paul Bowyer

Eddie Kantar

Marti Ronemus

Frank Stewart

Bobby Wolff

+ more

The subscription packages

V-Blue: A teaching program in three parts; year 1, year 2 and year 3. Lessons (available free to EBUTA teachers) with a newsletter and 24 hands received by the subscriber every fortnight.

Sample hands and syllabus <http://vubridge.com/teachers/>
<http://vubridge.com/Newsletters/VBlueAd1SA.html>

V-Green: A fortnightly newsletter with 24 hands for both declarer and defence play.

Sample hands <http://www.vubridge.net/Newsletters/VGreenAd1.html>

Vu-Bridge Defender: A newsletter and 24 defence hands every month.

Sample hands <http://www.vubridge.fr/fr/USHome.php>

Vu-Bridge Quiz: Beginner / Expert – For bidding practise. 5 bidding challenges and one hand to play every three days (beginner/expert). Sample hands <http://www.vubridge.fr/FR/USQuizzes.php>

V-Green review

I subscribed to V-Green (cost £35.24, equates to 5.6p per hand) for the year and have received my first two V-Green issues. These were issues 87 and 88 so V-Green is presumably in its 4th year.

In Issue 88 Paul Bowyer describes V-Green as “the interactive e-magazine for thoughtful and intelligent bridge players”. That makes you feel good!

Issue 87 included an editorial by Didier Levy, a set of 6 hands from each of Frank Stewart, David Bird, Phillip Alder and Bobby Wolff and a quiz on opening leads from David Bird.

In each of the deals you are given a hand which you retain throughout the bidding and play. The 24 hands included 16 declarer and 8 defender plays.

Bidding

V-Green is a magazine rather than a teaching tool and to that end it tends to report on played hands or (in some cases) the authors’ own methods. The bidding is therefore not prescriptive and there is little consistency in the methods other than a focus on five-card majors, a strong NT and weak twos. The Bobby Wolff series did contain a two over one bid for a bit of variety. If you subscribe to V-Blue

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where the authors are trying to teach both bidding and play then you can choose between two norms, ACOL or Standard American and you will find the bidding is consistent with the style you choose. Both these systems include three weak twos rather than any strong twos.

The non-prescriptive approach in V-Green is refreshing as it more resembles the real game where you play against a variety of different systems.

Declarer play problems included

- ❖ Let defenders ruff in with winning trump
- ❖ Discovery play
- ❖ Counting the defenders hand
- ❖ Playing the longer of two suits first to see if Q falls
- ❖ Setting up a side suit
- ❖ Setting up a cross-ruff (how many rounds of trumps should you draw?)
- ❖ Setting up a discard
- ❖ Playing a high trump in hand to leave entry to dummy with low trump
- ❖ Leaving the safe hand on lead
- ❖ Discarding a loser on ruffing finesse

Defender problems included

- ❖ Suit preference when giving partner a ruff
- ❖ When partner leads an unbid suit against a suit contract assume he is not under-leading the ace
- ❖ Discard original 4th of suit lead by partner
- ❖ Hi Encouraging Low Discouraging discards
- ❖ Rule of 11
- ❖ Show remaining count when returning partner's suit
- ❖ Unblocking to protect partner's entry
- ❖ When you know you do not have the entries to establish your suit against NT switch to set up partner's suit.

The quiz

The quiz was set by David Bird and included 5 questions. Each time you are South leading towards a contract played by East. The deals are real tournament hands and on each occasion you are given a choice of 4 leads and you submit your choice and see if you selected the killer lead found by the experts at the table. For a bit of fun you are given 20% for each correct answer but David is ever so kind, he applauds your effort if you get 0%.

Issue 88

Issue 88 included an editorial from Paul Bowyer, sets of 6 hands from Bobby Wolff, Philipp Alder, and Frank Stewart and 5 from Eddie Kantar and a 5 question quiz from David bird. The 23 hands included 18 declarer and 5 defender plays. The quiz was in the same format as issue 87.

Graphics

Excellent, here are examples of what you can expect to see.

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V-Green playlist

Welcome Richard

This is your list of available V-Green issues:

Year 2016

Feb 01, 2016 - [Click to play issue 88](#)

Jan 15, 2016 - [Click to play issue 87](#)

[Collapse](#) ^

Issue 87 menu

V-Green
ISSUE 87 - JANUARY 15TH, 2016

Table of Content

Editorial - by Didier Levy	>
Daily Column - by Frank Stewart	>
Intermediate Cardplay - by David Bird	>
From the NY Times - by Philipp Alder	>
Aces on Play - by Bobby Wolff	>

[Read More](#) ^

Editorial - by Dider Levy

[Read More](#) v

New! Vu-Bridge Quiz

Five Opening Leads questions
from **David Bird**.

Opening Leads:
[Click here.](#)

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Articles menu

Deals from the Daily Column by Frank Stewart



Frank Stewart

These 6 deals are from the Daily Column.

Series #3112 - Deals from the Dail Column
by Frank Stewart :

1 Overberried.



2 Weak thinking.



3 Winning by a hair.



4 Hot water.



5 Forgive and forget.



6 Bidding in competition.



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Bidding box

Bidding Box

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	P	

Your bid please...

1♥ 1♠ 1NT

2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2♠ 2NT

3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3♠ 3NT

4♣ 4♦ 4♥ 4♠ 4NT

5♣ 5♦ 5♥ 5♠ 5NT

6♣ 6♦ 6♥ 6♠ 6NT

7♣ 7♦ 7♥ 7♠ 7NT

Pass X XX

Close Bidding Box

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Bidding Box ✖

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	P	1♠
P	1NT	P	2♣

Read comment then click 'OK'!

2♦

2♥

2♠

2NT

3♣

3♦

3♥

3♠

3NT

4♣

4♦

4♥

4♠

4NT

5♣

5♦

5♥

5♠

5NT

6♣

6♦

6♥

6♠

6NT

7♣

7♦

7♥

7♠

7NT

PassXXX

Close Bidding BoxOK

New Minor Forcing. It is the equivalent of a delayed Stayman, showing at least invitational values, and asks opener to introduce an unbid major or to show three-card support for responder.

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Bidding Box ✕

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	P	1♠
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♠*	P	

Read Alert then click 'Hide'!

<input type="button" value="3♣"/>	<input type="button" value="3♦"/>	<input type="button" value="3♥"/>	<input type="button" value="3♠"/>	<input type="button" value="3NT"/>
<input type="button" value="4♣"/>	<input type="button" value="4♦"/>	<input type="button" value="4♥"/>	<input type="button" value="4♠"/>	<input type="button" value="4NT"/>
<input type="button" value="5♣"/>	<input type="button" value="5♦"/>	<input type="button" value="5♥"/>	<input type="button" value="5♠"/>	<input type="button" value="5NT"/>
<input type="button" value="6♣"/>	<input type="button" value="6♦"/>	<input type="button" value="6♥"/>	<input type="button" value="6♠"/>	<input type="button" value="6NT"/>
<input type="button" value="7♣"/>	<input type="button" value="7♦"/>	<input type="button" value="7♥"/>	<input type="button" value="7♠"/>	<input type="button" value="7NT"/>

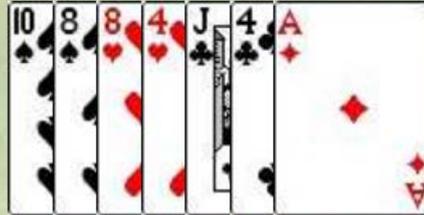
PassXXX

Three-card Spade support.

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Table (declarer play)

Frank Stewart for V Green
Board # 1
Dealer: South
Vulnerable: All
You are: South
Contract: 4 Spades
By South



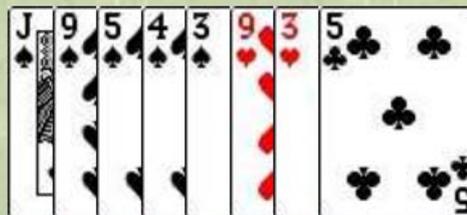
Dealer: South

Claim!

Auction **Results**

Tricks won: 4
Tricks lost: 1

Undo last trick

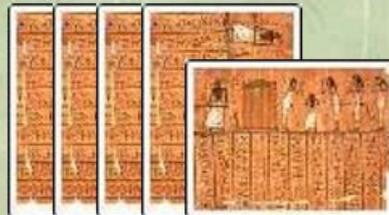


Replay

Show 4 Hands

Return

Auto Next trick



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Table (defender play)

Frank Stewart for V Green
Board # 2
Dealer: East
Vulnerable: NS
You are: East
Contract: 2 Spades
By South

Dealer: East

W

S

E

Claim!

Auction Results

Tricks won: 3

Tricks lost: 1

Undo last trick

Replay

Show 4 Hands

Return

Auto Next trick

Hand 1: J♠ 6♠, J♥, K♣, A♦ 9♦ 8♦ 3♦

Hand 2: A♠ 2♠, 10♥ 9♥ 8♥ 4♥, 10♦ 6♦ 2♦

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Quiz

LEAD PROBLEMS FROM TOURNAMENTS BY DAVID



Here is another set of lead problems from top tournaments. You can enjoy matching your choice of leads with those of the expert players at the table. Don't worry about the percentage score that you are awarded. Sometimes two leads are equally effective and only one can be given the 'correct' marking here.

As always, you will be South on all deals, leading towards a contract played by East.

Question 1

Your Hand

♠ A K 9 8 5

♥ J 2

♦ 10 8 4 2

♣ 10 3

Q: 1 - The deal comes from the final of the Australian National Open Teams. What would you lead against 4♥? (You are South, remember.)

South	West	North	East
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Your choice:

Spade Ace

Heart 2

Diamond 2

Club 10

Submit

Collapse ^

Verdict

Good fun, instructive, and looking forward to the next issue.