

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2022

Editor: Dee Harley

VICTORIAN INTERNATIONALISTS 2022

The Australian International Trials were held in Canberra in April to select teams to represent Australia in the coming World Bridge Series to be held in Poland later this year.

Victoria is not represented in the Open team however Jenny Thompson and Eva Caplan qualified in first place for the Women, and Neil Ewart, Stephen Weisz and Robert Gallus all qualified for the Seniors. We will be following their progress closely!

Full results:

Open

1st Mike Doeke & William Jenner-O'Shea
2nd Sartaj Hans & Peter Gill
3rd Paul Dalley & Tony Nunn

Seniors

1st Richard Brightling & David Hoffman
2nd Neil Ewart & Ian Robinson
3rd Robert Gallus & Stephen Weisz

Women

1st Jenny Thompson & Eva Caplan
2nd Marie Leybourne & Viv Wood
3rd Therese Demarco & Lori Smith

VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION

Four teams qualified for the **Open** Team selection weekend:

1. Pennant Team:

James Coutts, Justin Mill, Robert Fruewirth, Simon Hinge and Stephen Lester

2. Butler Team:

Andrew Mill, Annette Maluish, Andrzej Krolikowski, Kim Frazer, Christopher Leach and Michael Sullivan

3. VQP1 Team:

Leo Saoud, Mohamed Ghatwari, John Yang, Stephen White, Victor Zhang and Gus Ghali

4. VQP2 Team:

Stan Klofa, George Lovrecz, Robert Gallus, Stephen Weisz, Sylvia Gluck and Ben Kingham

Semi-finals

The Pennant team beat the Butler team by 169 IMPs to 82 IMPs

VQP1 beat VQP2 by 162 IMPs to 135 IMPs

Final

In the final of the selection for the Open Team, the Pennant team beat the VQP team by 155 IMPs to 113 IMPs

The Open team will be joined by Ben Thompson so there will be a full team of six players.

The Seniors and the Women will be having final selection trials on the weekend of May 14-15.

A junior team is currently being gathered...I'm sure we will hear more about them next month.

HANDS SENT IN BY READERS

Ralph sent me this hand last month and we were asked how to defeat 4♥ (doubled!). The solution is to keep leading spades each time the defenders get in. Declarer will eventually be "tapped" (have his trumps shortened to an unacceptable level).

Dlr: East ♠ 8765

Vul: None ♥ Q8

♦ J10932

♣ K10

♠ K4

♥ AK1063

♦ 875

♣ 743

	N	♠ 103
W		♥ 94
	E	♦ AK4
S		♣ AJ8652
		♠ AQJ92
		♥ J752
		♦ Q6
		♣ Q9

Contract 4♥x Lead: ♠7

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
-	-	2♣ ¹	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	Dbl
All Pass			

2♣ - precision style

There are a number of lines that declarer can try:

Declarer must lose one spade and a club, so to make it, he must restrict his trump losers to one.

Playing top trumps sets up 2 trump tricks for South, so perhaps declarer plays a small heart towards the 9. North must win and declarer can now pick up the trumps by leading from dummy and finessing, but North counters this by playing a third round of spades (ruff/sluff). If declarer ruffs in dummy he can't pick up the trumps, and if he ruffs in hand he is down to the same number of trumps as South, and if he draws them – then when he loses his club trick the defenders can cash spades galore...

If instead declarer sets up clubs first, the defenders play spades (yes it's a ruff and sluff) but, as before, declarer cannot pick up the trump suit without being tapped. I think it is a very unusual situation, in that you give a ruff and sluff but that stops declarer from picking up the trumps or taps him to extinction.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Frankston Swiss Pairs

1. Maryanne Bird & Peter George
2. Bob House & Sally Foster
3. Maggie Callander & Penny Corrigan

Gardenvale Easter Swiss Pairs

1. Ismail Gulec & Serhat Ozenir
2. Colin Jasper & Alan Hardie
3. George Lovrecz & John Yang

Whittlesea Matchpoint Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. David Stubbings & Joy Stubbings
2. Debbie Goldsworthy & Geoff Bunyard
3. Julie Sheehan & Murray Pearce

Whittlesea Matchpoint Open Swiss Pairs

1. Stan Klofa & Dee Harley
2. Michael Francis & Kim Model
3. Ranjit Bhagwandas & David Methven

Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs

1. Stephen Sharp & Danny Sharp
2. Kim Frazer & Andrzej Krolkowski
3. Eva Samuel & Laura Ginnan

Bayside Swiss Pairs

1. David Samuels & Gulzar Bilal
2. Stephen Sharp & Danny Sharp
3. Ismail Gulac & Mary Allison

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

Gold Life	
Kathy Palmer	Waverley
Silver Life	
Dell Macneil	Waverley
Bronze Life	
Pam Jones	Geelong
Life	
Paul Kron	VBA
Robin Hecker	Traralgon
Simon Rose	VBA
Bronze National	
Michael Sullivan	VBA
National	
Jenni Turner	Knox
Hayley Mitchell	Royal South Yarra
Lyn Mayer	Moonee Valley
David Scott	Kattery
Bob House	RACV
Bronze State	
Fiona Trescowthick	Kooyong
Malcolm Baker	Echuca
Dorothy Bennett	Mornington
Sari Irlicht	Bridge Fanatics
Kylie Wagner	Benalla
Egbert Tzoe	Traralgon
State	
Colin Walker	MCC
Phil Douglas	Rye Dromana
Jayne Hanlon	Royal South Yarra
Sarah Acton	Kooyong
Judy Gold	Gardenvale
Faye Norton-Old	Kooyong
Barbara Carter	Kooyong
Joy Fielding	Rye Dromana
Bronze Regional	
Penny Cory	Whittlesea
Brian Terrill	Ocean Grove
Regional	
Marie Macdonald	RACV
Rune Drevesjo	Northern
Di Varvel	Ballarat

Stephen Todd	VBA
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Sue Heyes	Moonee Valley
Jan James	Northern

YOUTH TEAM HOPEFULS

Damon and his wee brother Heath ... potential youth players.



Thanks to Laura and Pete



COMING CONGRESSES

Sale Congress

Saturday 21st May - Swiss Pairs 11:30 am
 Sunday 22nd May - Swiss Teams 10:00 am

Venue: Laurels Greenwattle Racecourse Sale
 Contact: Rob Ziffer 0418 514 782
 Email: rziffer@bigpond.com

Bendigo Congress

Saturday 28th May - Swiss Pairs 10:30 am
 Sunday 29th May - Swiss Teams 10:00 am

Venue: All Seasons Resort Hotel
 171-183 McIvor Road, Bendigo 3550
 Contact: Paul O'Hare 5443 8166
 Email: director@bendigobridge@gmail.com

Conditions of Play (Bendigo Congress):
 This Congress will be conducted under current VBA Rules and Regulations.

System Cards Mandatory, highly complex systems not permitted.

Entries may be refused at the discretion of the club's Management Committee.

Mobile phones must be switched off before start of play.

Attendees must comply with current Victorian government Covid-safety regulations and must be double-vaccinated.

Proof of vaccination status must be provided on arrival.

EDITORIAL

Well finally we are starting to see face to face congresses again. I played in the Frankston congress (Pairs) and there were slightly fewer tables than normal, however the food was marvellous (as usual), and it was great to be back in the saddle again. Sadly the Congress Teams was called off because (I think) of lack of entries, however I'm hoping that next year the pairs and teams will be overflowing once again.

I also played in Whittlesea in a great new venue. It was a bit of a drive – not helped by the fog in the early morning causing me to drive much slower than usual...I can tell you it was worth it though, very friendly atmosphere great lunch and generous prizes.

I played in the Gardenvale Congress (at the VBA) and also the VBA Daytime Swiss so it is great to see things starting to happen again.

Covid has haunted us for long enough! I sincerely hope that we will be able to constrain it.

DECEPTIVE PLAY

Imagine you are a declarer in a 4♦ contract and your left hand opponent (LHO) leads the Knave of Clubs. Dummy holds ♣AQ752 and in your hand you hold ♣103.

How do you play? I know that's an unfair question because I haven't given you the rest of the hand, however let me guide your thoughts a little here.

It will be obvious to you that the lead is either a singleton or a doubleton and the opening leader is unlikely to hold the King (unlikely but not impossible).

However, what do you think your right hand opponent (RHO) thinks? He may hold something like K964 and will be likely to believe that his partner has lead from J10x or similar (in which case declarer may have a singleton).

Assuming that dummy has some entries, a reasonable line of play may be to set up the 5th Club in dummy, and to that end you should win the Ace lead a small Club from dummy at trick two. You should adopt the aura of a person intending to ruff this! (yes I'm joking), but in all probability your RHO will play a low club expecting you to ruff and partner to hold the 10 anyway.

It is a useful trick which I have used on a couple of occasions, once even when dummy held AQJxx and I held 9x after the 10 had been led by my LHO. These things are fun when they work!

PLAY PROBLEM #28 SOLUTION

Last month you were challenged to make 6♦ On the ♦Q lead...

Dlr: West

♠ A2

Vul: None

♥ KQJ5

♦ 65

♣ AQ543

♠ ?

♥ ?

♦ Q?

♣ ?

	N		♠ ?
W		E	♥ ?
			♦ ?
S			♣ ?

♠ KQJ1097

♥ 864

♦ AK

♣ 76

Contract 6♦ Lead: ♦Q

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦	

This hand is a matter of preserving entries back to your hand so you can lead hearts towards the ♥KQJx. You must win the diamond lead and lead a heart towards dummy. If West wins you can draw trumps and claim (assuming they can't find a ruff somewhere).

If East wins he cannot return a club without giving you the contract, so you will be able to draw trumps and play the top hearts, checking for a 3-3 break which will allow you to make, failing which, you can fall back on the club finesse. If the hearts don't break, you will need to ruff dummy's last heart to return to hand to take the club finesse.

If the heart is ducked you play ♠A and then draw all the trumps and lead another heart, if that wins you can return to your top diamond honour and lead a third round of hearts towards dummy. They can't duck this one without letting you home!

Whenever the ♥A is taken you have a line of play as described above. If West wins you are home and if East wins its hearts breaking 3-3 or a successful club finesse.

Notice that if you don't lead a heart at trick 2 but instead draw trumps then revert to hearts you should fail as the opponents will duck the first heart, you can return to your top diamond and lead hearts again – which again they duck, now you have no safe exit from the table!

PLAY PROBLEM #29

Dlr: South

♠ 76

Vul: Both

♥ Q92

♦ Q32

♣ K9876

♠ J?

♥ ?

♦ ?

♣ ?

	N		♠ ?
W		E	♥ ?
			♦ ?
S			♣ ?

♠ AKQ

♥ J653

♦ AKJ10

♣ Q10

Contract 3NT Lead: ♠J

Bidding:

	W	N	E	S
Pass	3NT	All Pass		2NT

This is a beauty! Send [me](#) your solution when you see it.

SUIT COMBINATION

Try this one:

You: KQ972 Partner: 106.

How does your play vary if you need:

- a) 3 tricks
- b) 4 tricks

Assume you have plenty of entries to both hands.

Decide how you would play before peeking at the [Solution](#) on [P6](#)

♣♣♣ KNAVE OF CLUBS ♣♣♣ TEAMS PLAY

This hand occurred in a teams match and it is hard to see the correct line. The opening lead was a small diamond, East followed and the king won. Can you guarantee this contract?

The first thought is to draw the second trump with the queen. If the trumps split evenly, you can play hearts and use the ♦A as a late entry when you have lost to the ♠K. Supposing the trumps are 3-1, you now have a problem with a heart ruff as well as losing to the ♥K. You should decide to take the ruffing finesse in hearts because you can effectively take it many times while you can only take the direct finesse once.

Thus, you play a heart to the ace and return the queen and everyone ducks. When you play the next heart, East ducks, and West ruffs. Now you still have a heart loser when you re-enter dummy with the last trump. This is all very unfortunate. Maybe playing hearts is not correct!

Dlr: North

♠ Q5

Vul: Both

♥ AJQ1093

♦ A74

♣ 97

♠ K764

 N ♠ AJ109832

♥ 84

 W ♥ K762

♦ 1053

 E ♦ 9

♣ Q1052

 S ♣ 3

 -

 5

 ♦ KQJ862

 ♣ AKJ864

Contract 6♦ Lead: ♦3

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
	1♥	1♠	2♦
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Perhaps, we should play clubs instead of

hearts. Again, try trumps to see if they are 2-2 and the first thought is to play ace and king of clubs and ruff one. Unfortunately, the clubs might be 4-1 and the king gets ruffed. That can be avoided by playing ♣A, ♥A and then leading a small club towards the king. Now, East ruffs thin air if he has the third trump. However, if the clubs are 4-1 the other way and West has the last trump, the ♣K will get ruffed and, since declarer can only ruff one club, there is still a club loser.

Can you handle both 4-1 club splits? Maybe! Play ♣A and duck a club. We can ruff the third round with the ♦A, return to hand, draw trumps and enjoy the clubs. Still there is a problem. If the person, who wins the second club, returns a trump, there is no club ruff!

Now we see the correct line is to not play a second trump. At trick 2 just play ♣A and duck a club. That was difficult! At pairs, you might be hypnotized by the prospect of 13 tricks but, at teams, ensuring 12 tricks is what matters!

SOLUTION TO SUIT COMBINATION

With KQ972 opposite 106

Needing 3 tricks: Lead the 10 and run it if not covered by the Knave (whence you play the Queen). This gives you a 93.19 chance of making. (the things to defeat this line are AJ8x or AJ98xx offside, OR a singleton Knave offside (as you would not be inclined to run the 6 on the second round!) OR a singleton Ace Onside)

Needing 4 tricks: This time lead the 6 first! You need to be much luckier! I was amazed to discover that you lead the 6 and when LHO plays low you play the 9! Hoping for LHO to hold the Knave. It seems bold to me but Suitplay puts the percentage of success at 27.45. That's one to remember!