



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

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## Theme day at the Gold Coast





# APRIL 2023

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Front cover image: Gold Coast Congress Theme Day. See page 18 for captions.

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**IMPROVE  
YOUR  
DEFENCE**

with  
**Ron Klinger**

*Solution on page 20*

North dealer, both sides vulnerable

♠ K J 7 4  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ 10 5  
♣ A 10 6 3

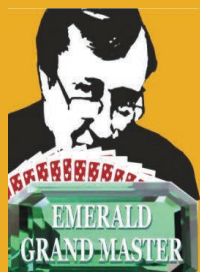
♠ A 10 9 8  
♥ J 10 6 2  
♦ Q 7 3  
♣ K 5



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. 10+ points, forcing, can have a four-card major.
2. Four spades.
3. Not forcing.

Lead: ♥6. On the attitude ♥6 lead (low-like, high-hate), dummy's king wins. Playing low-encouraging, East contributes the ♥9. Declarer continues with the ♣A: four - two - five, followed by the ♣3: jack - queen - king. What should West play at trick 4?



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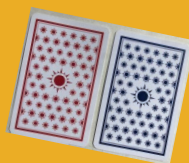
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**Novice Online Edition** \$25 per year for 6 issues



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

[president@abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)



In February and March, I had great pleasure in playing the Gold Coast Congress and the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge. Both events were run in a very professional manner and provided excellent facilities for the players. Well done to Tim Runting, Kim Ellaway, Katherine Marsden, and Hugh Grosvenor. The President of the World Bridge Federation, Jan Kamras, attended the Gold Coast to launch the 'dry-run' of the World Bridge Tour. Players can find all of the official information relating to the Tour, including results and current ranking at

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/2023-world-bridge-tour-events>

Congratulations to the Youth Teams who will represent Australian in the 18th World Team Youth Championships, to be held in Veldhoven, Netherlands from 31 July - 7 August 2023.

Under-26 team: David Gue - Joshua Tomlin, Sebastian Langdon MacMillan - Tomer Libman, Damon Flicker - Seb Wright, Mike Doecke npc.

Under-21 team: Jack Luke-Paredi - George Bartley, Lara Topper - Jacob Rose, Alex Goss - Bertie Morgan, Rebecca O'Reilly npc.

Congratulations also to the Australian teams who will represent Australia at the 53rd APBF Championships in Hong Kong and in the 46th World Bridge Team Championships to be held in Marrakech, Morocco in August 2023.

Seniors' team: David Beauchamp - Avinash Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings, Stephen Burgess - Gabi Lorentz, John McIlrath npc.

Note: Phil Gue and Stephen Burgess will replace Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess for the APBF in Hong Kong.

Women's team: Avril Zets - Helena Dawson, Kinga Moses - Nazife Bashar, Wei Zhang - Catherine Zhang, Peter Buchen npc.



**We are looking for your ideas to improve your bridge experience and enjoyment.**

**Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone or your favourite scanner app. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously, or you can also leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.**

Mixed team: Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper, Lauren Travis - Phil Markey, Sophie Ashton - David Wiltshire, Mike Doecke npc.

Open team: Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley, Tony Leibowitz - Paul Gosney, Robert Fruewirth - Jamie Thompson, David Fryda npc.

I look forward to assisting the players and captains in Marrakech in my role as Chef de Mission.

Andy Hung has retired from 'What should I bid?' The ABF thanks Andy for his many years of answering your questions and choosing a monthly winner.

Lauren Travis has taken over the role and will now answer your questions. Lauren is a current member of the Australian Mixed Team and has represented Australia in youth teams several times.

The ANC draws people of all ages together, provides opportunities for social interaction and creates a community spirit of belonging.

All of the information on the ANC Perth is on MyABF and you can now enter the Open, Women, Senior, Restricted, Mixed Butlers, and congress events at MyABF - Congress View. The Joan Prince Swan River Swiss Pairs will be held as a precursor to the event and entries are now open:

[myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/473](https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/473)

Please save the dates 8-20 July 2023.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to my home city.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Board, please email

[president@abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)

# What should I bid?

with Lauren Travis

*The best submission for February came from Peter Turnbull. Peter wins a voucher of \$30 funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at the Bridge Shop or Paul Lavings Bridgegear.*



My question comes in several parts:

1(a). When East overcalled 2♠, how should we bid the hand? We obviously belong in 4♥, but with such a dreadful hand, I chose to pass partner's 3♦ rebid. Should I have done so? What should I have bid, because I thought that 3♥ would show 5+ hearts?

1(b). If East hadn't overcalled 2♠, how should we bid the hand? Am I allowed to pass partner's 3♦ rebid after the 2♣ opener? What should I then bid, because I thought that 3♥ would show 5+ hearts?

2. One person suggested that, despite the 21 HCP (and two-loser hand), North should open 1♦, planning to rebid hearts (2♥ if I responded, 4♥ if an opponent intervened – apparently 4♥ would show the 5-6 game hand). What do you think about that?

S/Nil	♠ K Q		
	♥ A K Q 5 3		
	♦ A K 10 8 7 6		
	♣ —		
♠ 3		♠ A 10 8 6 5 4	
♥ 8 7 2		♥ 4	
♦ J 9 4		♦ Q 5	
♣ A K J 10 8 6		♣ Q 9 7 2	
	♠ J 9 7 2		
	♥ J 10 9 6		
	♦ 3 2		
	♣ 5 4 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♣	2♠	pass
pass	3♦	all pass	pass

Hi Peter,

Thanks for writing in for my first month of *What Should I Bid?*!

1(a). After a 2♣ opening and 2♠ overcall, North should make a forcing bid as they know they want to play game in one of their suits. A cuebid of 3♠ would definitely be game forcing here – then I suppose South might bid 3NT with ♠J9xx and North can now bid 4♦. There should be an inference that North's hand is not completely single-suited, as they could have bid 4♦ or 5♦ at their second turn (rather than cuebidding) if the diamonds were the sole feature they wanted to show. This is not a situation where I would assume partner was on the same page as me unless we had an agreement. As South, if you weren't sure exactly what your partner was up to, 5♦ would be a safe bet.

1(b). If North opened 2♣ and East hadn't overcalled 2♠, I agree that 2♣-2♦-3♦-3♥ would show 5+ hearts, so you're between a rock and a hard place. This depends on your approach to opening 2♣ – in my regular partnerships I generally play it as either 23+ balanced or game forcing with suits (without a solid HCP boundary, as I focus on the playing strength). If this was your style, then opener's 3♦ rebid would be forcing, South should probably bid 3NT, and North

can bid 4♥ which would show five hearts and six diamonds. If you just play 2♣ as 21+ or similar, then South has to weigh up the risk of missing game vs the risk of getting too high. If your partner is not someone who stretches the boundaries of 2♣ openings, then I would consider bidding 3NT, but I can't blame you for passing 3♦ either.

2. The North hand certainly has enough high-card and playing strength to open 2♣, but it can make two-suited hands tricky to bid out, as was the case here. The benefits of a 2♣ opening are that you get your points off your chest, and if it's an uncontested auction you can be fairly confident of getting to show both your suits (especially if you play that 2♣ is game forcing). On the other hand, 1♦ leaves you in a better position if the opponents interfere, and if partner responds then a simple 2♥ reverse means you've already shown both your suits at a much lower level than if you'd opened 2♣ – or maybe they'll even bid 1♥ or 2♦! There is a risk that 1♦ will get passed out – and you'd feel a bit silly in that case – but with such a distributional hand it's likely that someone else at the table will be bidding spades or clubs and keep the auction alive for you.

Hope that helps,

Lauren



# MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox  
marketing@abf.com.au



## MEDIA COVERAGE AT GOLD COAST CONGRESS

ABF Marketing had great success with attracting publicity for bridge at the Gold Coast Congress this year with a feature on the Seven Network Gold Coast TV News and radio interviews in Melbourne and Perth.

There were lessons for many bridge organisations around Australia on how to attract publicity to your congress or club. Yes, it is by far the biggest congress in Australia, and we had the new WBF President attending the congress, but the publicity principles and strategy are still the same. Actually the WBF President only received 11 seconds of the 1 min-40 second story on Seven News, which is a lesson in itself.



## LOCATION

As strange as this may sound, being in a regional market is actually an advantage for publicity. The city and the country have the same length of news programs, but the city stations and newspapers have many more people and organisations fighting to get on the news. In contrast, the regional stations want to be part of the local community and need local stories that are of interest to their market.



In this case the Media Release was aimed at the Gold Coast market, but it got picked up on radio in both Melbourne and Perth. All the interviews are available on BridgeTV.com.au and the Seven News video on the BridgeTV Australia Channel on YouTube.

This video on bridge at the GCC has now been viewed over 900 times.

Allison Stralow, the President of the ABF, was interviewed on 6PR Perth about the potential for Bridge to become like Cricket, Tennis, Darts and other sports with a World Bridge Tour.

Ben Thompson was recently elected first Vice President of the World Bridge Federation. He was interviewed by ABC Radio Melbourne about why bridge is such a great game and playing at the Gold Coast Congress.

## LEARN HOW TO WRITE A MEDIA RELEASE

The Media industry has a strict format for writing and distributing media releases. They can be expensive to distribute with a low success rate so you need to know the tricks of the trade.

I will be making a presentation on Zoom on Monday 10 April at 10am.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9571377721?pwd=bVNxdINDanZyOEZDNXc1UkN2bzhHZz09>

Come and join me by participating in this live interactive session which will be recorded and posted on BridgeTV.

## MARKETING CONGRESSES

Congresses are very important for bridge, not only for our champion players to star and as a way for our younger players to become future stars, but for club players to travel and improve their bridge. The growth of events for all levels over the last twenty years has given players from rookies to novice to intermediate the opportunity to compete against others with the same level of experience and to have the thrill of succeeding and winning titles. Further it introduces less experienced players to the social experience of the wider bridge community, to travel and make new friends.

Australia has many congresses to choose from and the organisation, directors, pre-dealt boards and scoring are literally world-leading.

The USA has tournaments for local, regional and national events with the three annual National American Bridge Championships (NABC) rotating around host cities. However USA congresses, as well as USA face to face bridge in clubs, have suffered badly from COVID with the last two major tournaments in Phoenix, Arizona and New Orleans being down by 37% to 47% compared to previous congresses in those cities.

### GOLD COAST CONGRESS

In Australia the SFOB was down by about 25% and the Gold Coast Congress, despite being 62% up on 2022, was down 28% on pre-COVID. There were some extenuating circumstances with the playing space being limited this year, and hence not as heavily marketed. The good news is that the GCC is believed to be taking extra space for 2024 so everyone will be very welcome again.

An interesting comparison is that the GCC had 6457 tables which is about the same size as the NABC events in Phoenix and New Orleans.



### TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE



The recently held TFOB in Hobart had an exciting new venue in an entertainment and sporting stadium, home court for the Tasmanian JackJumpers basketball team. It was about a 15 minutes drive from the centre of Hobart. The venue was excellent with large playing space, great breakout areas indoors and outdoors, good food selection, immaculate toilets, professional PA system and large scoring screens.

The first two days were a bit cold for some, but there was a mechanical breakdown in the air-conditioning that was fixed, and the second two days were fine.

The number of pairs entered, including an additional Rookie event with 28 pairs, was 304 total pairs which was identical to the previous record in 2019. A great achievement by the organisers.

## MARKETING LESSONS FOR CONGRESSES

The days of just putting out a flyer and some emails to past entrants is insufficient to regain the glory days. In a nervous market after COVID, a break in peoples playing habits, players getting older, competition from online and a highly competitive market for travel and Congresses, tournament organisers have to practice a HARD SELL.

Here are some Marketing suggestions from attending most of the major congresses around Australia and working with a number of the organisers, studying the USA and collaborating with the EBU:

**OBJECTIVE:** The number one objective of having an ABF licence to run a congress should be to give players the greatest social and bridge playing experience possible without having to run at a loss.

**LOCATION:** This is of paramount importance. We appreciate it is difficult to get venues at a reasonable cost that are big enough for a large congress. The GCC took the big risk of committing to an expensive location at Broadbeach and look at how successful it has been. Having the players accommodation, restau-

rants and playing co-located (USA in Hotels) or close by is the ideal for a great players' social experience, wanting to return and spreading word of mouth. The same importance for local players who are largely located in the higher socioeconomic suburbs and reluctant to drive to out of the way places.

**MOTIVATION:** Give the players a great reason to attend your congress rather than choose another congress. The advertisement or flyer should have on the front page the reasons to attend, not huge logos for the ABF or State Body, promotion of the Convener, Director or Scorer. These can all be in small type at the bottom of the page – people are not coming because of you or the officials. Formula 1, AFL, Cricket, Australian Tennis or Golf do not do it. Think like a consumer or customer.

**OTHER CONGRESSES:** Sell off other congresses. The GCC for example has 2000 players who are already committed to Bridge congresses, the perfect market. A major upcoming congress had no marketing at the Gold Coast! Not just leaflets that most don't read; have A3 Posters, a pull up banner, a trade stand, members acting as sales people in the breaks. Do a deal with the organiser to exchange two free entry places in each other's tournaments and have them announced on the PA.

**DAILY BULLETINS:** Place your advertisement in the Daily Bulletins of other congresses, and most will probably give you the space for free. Make them in different shapes and sizes so the editors can use them as fillers when they have spare space. The more colourful and exciting the ad is the more likely it will get run.

**ABF NEWSLETTER:** Contact Brad Coles, the editor of the ABF Newsletter and his Australian Bridge Magazine. Also, send it to ABF Marketing and if we have the opportunity it may be included in a Marketing Bulletin. Remember, not a multi-page flyer – we only want a single page or smaller that has good art work.

**STATE OR CLUB NEWSLETTERS:** Most states and large clubs have Monthly Newsletters so send them your ad.

**HOME PAGE:** Do not forget to get prominent space on your own Home Page. The local market is very important as the venues are largely fixed cost, so every extra player you get adds to the bottom line. In many states local players will make 50% of all entries.

**EMAIL:** Email is an essential tool of modern marketing. Go back over your files of email addresses from previous congresses plus members from your own state's database. Send out emails to them about your congress on regular occasions updating them with the latest news. Kim Ellaway at the GCC is brilliant at this and who can forget her "how many sleeps to go" to the GCC. Corny but great marketing. Also forward the email and flyer to all Club Secretaries and administrators for distribution to their members.

**VIDEO:** Video is now a major part of all communications and some would argue the most important.

BridgeTV recently made a promo with Barbara Travis for the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide which has had nearly 40 views by potential players and their teammates for the congress. In the video you can promote all the highlights of your congress plus local accommodation, restaurants, attractions and entertainment.

Good quality photos, particularly of winners, are very important to get front cover or good placement in the ABF Newsletters. The GCC have a great photographer, Anne Russell, who takes thousands of shots and makes an online album out of them. Further, the GCC make a video each year which shows the players, officials and the fun events to help promote the congress for the future.

Finally, television broadcast of bridge will be the future when vugraph is replaced with tablets at least for bidding and in conjunction with cards for the play. In the meantime, have you promoted that your final will be on vugraph and broadcast on BridgeTV to add prestige to the event?

61<sup>ST</sup> International  
2023 GOLD COAST  
BRIDGE CONGRESS  
BULLETIN 9  
Saturday 25 February  
Stephen Lester and Barry Rigal

YOUR DAILY  
BULLETIN  
Electronic only and  
a link sent daily

Final tables  
**6457**  
3993 in 2022

Open Teams Champions, Paul Dalley, Paul Gosney, Tony Leibowitz and Tony Nunn

I can't believe Dad opened that hand!

Y'all come back now!

In 2024 the Gold Coast Congress will be held from the 17th to 24th February,  
with the theme Sports

## CONCLUSION

ABF event congresses need to be showcased to attract as many players as possible to spread the word on what a great tournament it is to attend. You need to convert the swinging 'voter'. Tournament organisers and marketing people are welcome to contact Peter Cox at

[marketing@abf.com.au](mailto:marketing@abf.com.au)

or on 0413676326 for advice, or send us your draft flyers and advertisements for comments.



In addition to the Seven News Coverage of the GCC some other videos have been added to BridgeTV that you might find interesting including:

### **Winning the Soloway with Finn Kolesnik and Kevin Rosenberg**

The GCC was particularly pleased this year to have some of America's best young players including Finn Kolesnik and Adam Kaplan, Kevin Rosenberg and Amber Lin. Actually Finn and Adam won the main Pairs event. Finn and Kevin gave a wonderful and entertaining lesson about "Winning the Soloway" NABC event recently in Phoenix, Arizona. The special connection here is that Finn Kolesnik was playing with an Australian/New Zealander now living in the USA, Ishmael Delmonte, and Kevin was playing with Simon Cope from the UK.



### **Paul Marston says Minor Suits Matter**

Paul has made a video of the contents of his sold out lecture at the GCC and provided it to BridgeTV to post for everyone. At the Gold Coast Congress he said, "We sometimes turn a blind eye to minor suits, but there is a cost in this."

---

## Online Bridge Committee

### by Jenny Thompson

The Online Bridge Committee would like to thank everyone who completed the surveys, attended our live sessions and put their hands up to join our task force to prepare the draft strategic document on the future of online bridge for the ABF in time for their AGM in May.

Of the 2,491 responses to our player survey, 1770 of the respondents played online bridge in 2022 and 721 had not. We also had 155 responses to our club/association survey. 31 of these had run online sessions in 2022 and 124 had not.

While looking through past documents on online bridge we came across the Australian Bridge of April 2003. In this Suzanne Eiggins from Sydney wrote an article called *Bridge in the Cyber Century*:

[http://www.australianbridge.com/article\\_34-2\\_online.htm](http://www.australianbridge.com/article_34-2_online.htm)

Her opening line was 'Why Online Bridge May Save the Game'. Peter Gill also wrote an article in 2020, which can be found through this link:

<https://petergillsite.wordpress.com/2020/08/12/is-online-bridge-here-to-stay/>

There are many opinions in this space and we as a group are very hopeful by listening to all our stakeholders, we will be able present to the ABF a strategy which will help us preserve the wonderful game that we all love.

# MYABF UPDATE

## with Julian Foster

myABF Project Manager  
julian.foster@abf.com.au

### The latest release (congress improvements)

The newest release (early March 2023) has been addressing a few bugs and a series of requests in the congress area, both for players and tournament organisers. Some of the key new things are:

#### PLAYERS

- See whether a congress is face to face or online (and which platform).
- See directly on the program page whether events are open for entries.
- Enter someone else into a congress after doing your own entry.
- Clearer display of the entry screen so the Pay button is immediately evident on smaller screens (previously you had to scroll right to see it).
- Get a refund individually if you have to withdraw from a pair or team.

#### TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

- Quickly close off a congress and complete the financial reconciliation.
- Define a short name to create a more user-friendly web link to your congress page.

More details can be found in the myABF Resources pages on the main ABF website:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>

(Note there are now separate sub-pages here for Players, Clubs and Tournament Organisers).

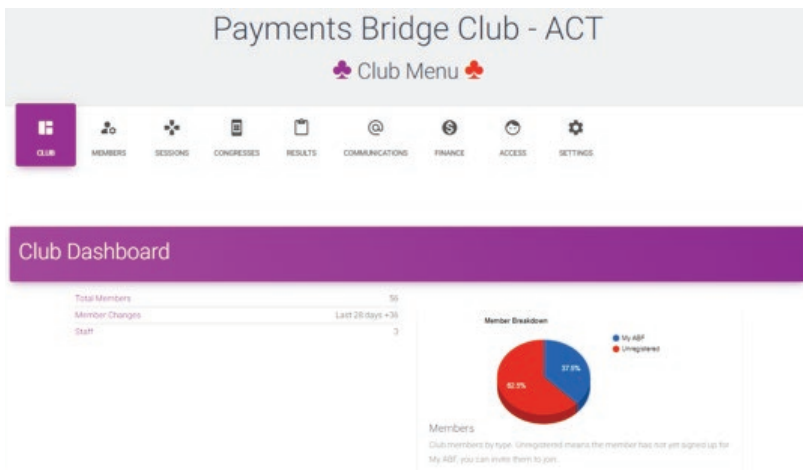
### The next release

The next release will address more congress matters as well as feedback from the clubs piloting club sessions (see below for more details).

### A look at the main club menu

All clubs already set up in myABF now have access to their main admin menu (pictured top right).

Every affiliated club in the country can use whatever parts of this they want, at no charge (the only cost arises when receiving payments that players have paid online where there is a withholding to cover the card transaction fees that the ABF bears at the time the payment is first made). If your club isn't set



up yet, it takes about 30 seconds! Raise a support ticket or email me directly. All I need is who you want your initial club administrator to be (usually the club secretary).

As can be seen from the menu items (pictured above) the following is now available:

- SETTINGS: Maintain basic information and build a short profile page.
- MEMBERS: Upload and manage a list of members.
- SESSIONS (Pilot scheme still underway – national rollout to follow shortly): Accept cashless payment from players for table money (and extra items if you want) via bridge credits.
- CONGRESSES: Set up new congresses and manage entries and payments for them.
- RESULTS: Upload duplicate pairs results so players can view them in myABF.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Communicate with members, or tagged groups of them, using customisable email templates.
- FINANCE: View and manage "bridge credits" balance with the ABF.
- ACCESS: Control who has administration access to these areas.

An introduction and a detailed guide are available on the myABF Resources Club page here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>

### Club sessions – cashless bridge

We have continued to work with the clubs piloting this area (enabling club sessions to be paid for with bridge credits). Pleasingly, the main thing we've been looking at is not the software itself (which has been working extremely smoothly) but more just the mechanics of how and when the ABF makes settlements back to the club; and how to help club treasurers reconcile the amounts received. The relatively manual processes we began with are of course being streamlined as usage grows across more clubs.

# 2023 Tasmanian Festival of Bridge



**Kim Frazer reports on the Tasmanian Festival, lighting up the MyState Bank Arena. The event was won by Guray Sunamak and Serhat Ozenir, pictured left**



The Tasmanian Festival of Bridge returned to Hobart this year with strong entries in all events. Held for the first time at the remodelled MyState Bank Arena, the spacious venue provided plenty of room for participants with on-site outlets offering food, and lovely reception area for the presentations after bridge, and beautiful sunny walks beside the river at lunchtime.

Tournament Organiser Katherine Marsden was delighted with entry numbers this year. With 148 pairs across the Seniors, Mixed and Restricted events on the first two days, numbers were almost back at pre-COVID levels which is terrific news for face-to-face bridge events. On the weekend 124 pairs contested the Australian Swiss Pairs which is now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year. Tasmania's newest event saw 28 pairs vying for the title in the one-day Rookie Swiss Pairs for players with less than 25 masterpoints, which was held on the final day.

If you were unlucky enough to be sitting EW on the first morning, you might have felt that the dealing machine didn't like you very much, with few points or games on offer. The vagaries of Swiss events often mean that if you don't get the cards, and you are playing against good pairs, it is difficult to make headway in the field. This board in Match 2 produced a variety of results.

Sitting West after pass by South, what do you open?

♠ A K 6 4    ♥ 10 9 8 6 5 3 2    ♦ —    ♣ A 2

I opted for 4♥, and was rewarded when North bid 5♣ instead of doubling to find their 4-4 major fit.

Board 23	♠ Q 9 3 2	
S/All	♥ K	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ K Q J 10 6 5	
♠ A K 6 4		♠ 5
♥ 10 9 8 6 5 3 2		♥ J 4
♦ —		♦ K J 8 7 5 4
♣ A 2		♣ 8 7 4 3
	♠ J 10 8 7	
	♥ A Q 7	
	♦ Q 10 9 6 3	
	♣ 9	

While 4♠ can be defeated on any lead except a heart by West, most pairs were successful in bringing 4♠ home. 5♣ was doomed and those pairs who found themselves playing there in the Seniors' field ended up going three or four off for one of the few plus scores EW was able to earn in the round.

First match up on Friday presented this interesting board:

Board 14	♠ J 9 8 4 3	
E/Nil	♥ K 10 6	
	♦ A K 8 4	
	♣ 8	
♠ —		♠ K Q 10
♥ A 7 5 4		♥ J
♦ 10 9 3 2		♦ Q 7 5
♣ A Q 9 5 4		♣ K J 10 7 6 3
	♠ A 7 6 5 2	
	♥ Q 9 8 3 2	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ 2	

At our table, this lively auction against Arul - White, the third-placed pair in the Seniors, ensued:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♣	1♠
dbl	4♠	pass	pass
5♣	pass	pass	5♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

The 5♠ doubled save gave them a 4-imp pickup, as 5♣ by East-West played by East requires a diamond lead to defeat the contract, which nobody holding the South cards managed to find.

I asked the runners-up in the Seniors field to give me a memorable hand, and Neil Ewart came up with this one where he described a "senior moment" which helped him and partner Ian Robinson to slam on this board with no bidding by East-West:

Board 22	♠ J 10 8 6 2		
E/EW	♥ A K Q 10 8		
	♦ J 5 4		
	♣ —		
♠ 9 5		♠ 4 3	
♥ J 7		♥ 6 4 3 2	
♦ K 9 7 3		♦ A Q 10 8 6	
♣ Q 10 6 5 2		♣ A 9	
	♠ A K Q 7		
	♥ 9 5		
	♦ 2		
	♣ K J 8 7 4 3		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♣
pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>
pass	2♦ <sup>3</sup>	pass	3♣ <sup>4</sup>
pass	3♠ <sup>5</sup>	pass	4♣ <sup>6</sup>
pass	4♥ <sup>7</sup>	pass	4♠
pass	4NT <sup>8</sup>	pass	5♠ <sup>9</sup>
pass	6♠	all pass	

1. Transfer to hearts.
2. Natural, unbalanced.
3. Artificial game force.
4. Showing 6-4 at least.
5. Setting spades.
6. Control bid.
7. Control bid denying diamond control.
8. RKCB.
9. Two with the queen.

Ewart's initial 1♦ bid was an error, as he ought to have transferred to spades first. However this actually helped the pair get to the making slam on the auction which ensued. In the Seniors' field only two pairs got to the making 6♠, while in the Mixed field five out of 18 pairs reached the slam.

In the final round in the Mixed / Seniors / Restricted Pairs, only a small number of pairs found their way to 6♣ on this board:

Board 25	♠ K J 5		
N/EW	♥ 7 6 3		
	♦ —		
	♣ A J 10 9 8 3 2		
♠ 9 6 2		♠ Q 7 4	
♥ 10 9 2		♥ A K Q J 8 5 4	
♦ 10 9 6 4 3		♦ J 5	
♣ 7 4		♣ K	
	♠ A 10 8 3		
	♥ —		
	♦ A K Q 8 7 2		
	♣ Q 6 5		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	3♣	4♥	5♣
all pass			

Opposite a non-vulnerable preempt by North, players holding South's cards mostly opted to simply bid game despite the heart void and the great diamond suit.

The winners of the mixed pairs were Lori Smith and Arjuna De Livera, who played consistently well in a strong field which featured most of the top mixed pairs in the country. Lori returned to playing bridge this year after taking a break from the game in the latter half of last year. Arjuna is well-known at the pointy end of the field in national events. Together they chalked up three big wins in the last four rounds to take home the trophy ahead of runners-up Tony Liebowitz - Anita Curtis with Axel Johannsson and top international Kate McCallum rounding out the places.

In the Seniors, locals Darryl Smith and David Brooks (pictured with ABE President Allison Stralow) staged a come from behind victory with a big win in the final round to take home the trophy ahead of last year's winners and pre-tournament favourites Neil Ewart and Ian Robinson, while Chelliah Arul and Steven White from Victoria finished in third position.



The Restricted event for players with less than 300 masterpoints was a closely contested affair. Despite this, the eventual winners Sonya and Shane Palfreyman led for almost the entire event to win by 3 VP ahead of Gwen Riordan and Liz Moss with Jay Novak and Peta Drake placing third.

With the best of autumn weather shining down on players during the lunchtime breaks and walks along the river front, the Australian Swiss Pairs saw eventual winners Serhat Ozenir from Victoria and former Turkish youth International Guray Sunamak of Tasmania take the lead at the end of day one and remain there for the rest of the event.

While consistent play and a bit of luck is important for success, at times it can be one or two boards that create momentum and confidence. This was true for Serhat and Guray who picked up 9 imps when they opted for 3NT in Match 6 on the following board when most of the field played in 4♠ going down:

Board 26			
E/All			
♠ 8 2			
♥ 8 6 3			
♦ A 6 4 2			
♣ J 10 9 3			
♠ 10 7 5		♠ A K Q 6 4 3	
♥ A Q 10 9		♥ 4 2	
♦ 10 8 7		♦ K Q	
♣ 8 5 2		♣ Q 7 4	
		♠ J 9	
		♥ K J 7 5	
		♦ J 9 5 3	
		♣ A K 6	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	pass	1♠	dbl
3NT <sup>2</sup>	all pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	pass
1. Balanced game try. 2. Balanced hand, offer to play.			

The pair immediately followed up with another 6 imps when they found their way to 3NT on the next board:

Board 27			
S/Nil			
♠ 9 4			
♥ 9 6 4 3			
♦ 10 6 4			
♣ Q 5 4 3			
♠ J 7 5		♠ A 3 2	
♥ Q 10 8		♥ A 5	
♦ A K 9		♦ Q 8 7 3 2	
♣ K J 10 9		♣ 8 7 6	
		♠ K Q 10 8 6	
		♥ K J 7 2	
		♦ J 5	
		♣ A 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1NT <sup>10-14</sup>	1♠
3NT	all pass		pass

Despite the initial pass, West now has no difficulty bidding 3NT after his partner's balancing notrump. The contract comes home courtesy of the spade combination. On the lead of the ♠Q, East won in hand and played a club to the king. He now played three rounds of diamonds then ending in hand and then played another club towards dummy which was won by South's ace who continued with the ♠K and a spade to the jack, however declarer could now claim nine tricks.

Then in Match 8, against Ron Klinger and Avi Kanetkar, Board 19 provided an interesting challenge for many players who went down in 4♥:

Board 19			
S/EW			
♠ 8 2			
♥ K 10 7 5 4 2			
♦ K 8 6			
♣ 9 4			
♠ A J 10 9 7 6		♠ Q 5 4	
♥ Q 8		♥ J 3	
♦ J 10 9		♦ Q 5 4 2	
♣ K J		♣ 10 8 7 5	
		♠ K 3	
		♥ A 9 6	
		♦ A 7 3	
		♣ A Q 6 3 2	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klinger	Sunamak	Kanetkar	Ozenir
1♠	dbl	2♠	1♣
pass	3♦ <sup>hearts</sup>	pass	2NT
pass	4♥	all pass	3♥

Ozenir made no mistake with the line of play. Klinger led the ♦J which declarer won with the king in dummy, and immediately took the club finesse to the ♣Q which lost to the ♣K. West continued ♦10 which was won in hand with the ♦A. Declarer now cashed the ♣A and proceeded with a low club towards dummy. West elected not to ruff and pitched a spade. Declarer won with a ruff in dummy and played a low heart to the ♥A and continued with another club. On the last club if West ruffs with the queen, declarer can pitch a losing diamond and now the contract comes home. When West declines to ruff, declarer wins in dummy and cashes the ♥K and plays a heart back to the nine. A losing spade or diamond now goes on the long club for ten tricks.

Once again Tasmania put on a great bridge festival which all who attended enjoyed. I encourage those who haven't tried the TFOB to give it a go in 2024.

# 2023 AUSTRALIAN SENIORS TEAM SELECTION

by Paul Lavings

The National Senior Teams in Canberra was the selection vehicle for the 2023 Australian Seniors Team. 22 teams entered the nine-round Swiss of 20-board matches starting Tuesday 10 January. The four leading contending teams proceeded to the 96-board (6x16) semi-finals. One non-contending team, Alan Watson - Peter Fordham, Bruce Neill - Rick Roeder finished second.

BUCHEN (Peter Buchen - George Smolanko, Andrew Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera, Terry Brown - Michael Courtney) finished first and, in the semi-final, chose to play HUTTON (Tony Hutton - Malcolm Carter, Michael Cullen - Bernard Waters), prevailing 190.1-131.

In the second semi-final LORENTZ (Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess, David Beauchamp - Avi Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings) defeated GUE (Phil Gue - George Kozakos, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Ron Cooper - Jonathan Free) 206.1-167.

On Board 8 in the first set of the final, a difficult decision proved costly to BUCHEN:

Board 8     ♠ 10 9 8 5 3 2  
W/Nil       ♥ 3  
              ♦ 10 5  
              ♣ K J 8 6

♠ K J	♠ —
♥ J 9 5 4	♥ K 10 8 7
♦ Q J 8	♦ A K 9 2
♣ A Q 3 2	♣ 10 9 7 5 4

♠ A Q 7 6 4
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ —

WEST Smolanko	NORTH Burgess	EAST Buchen	SOUTH Lorentz
1♣	1♠	dbl	4♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

4♠ doubled was an easy make for +590. At the other table:

WEST Lavings	NORTH Braithwaite	EAST Krochmalik	SOUTH De Livera
1♣	pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♠
2♥	4♠	5♣	all pass

1. 4+ hearts.



*The 2023 Australian Senior Team: Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Gabi Lorentz, David Beauchamp, Avi Kanetkar, Stephen Burgess*

Who should double 5♣? North has no points, and South has no clubs.

That was 10 imps to LORENTZ with 5♣ failing by three tricks for -150.

Board 30 from the second set demonstrated that it is not always a good idea to put opponents to the sword, especially in a Seniors event:

Board 30     ♠ J 8  
E/Nil       ♥ Q J 7 3 2  
              ♦ K  
              ♣ A J 8 3 2

♠ 5 3	♠ Q 7 2
♥ 10 8	♥ 5 4
♦ A Q 7 6 5 2	♦ J 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 10 5 4	♣ K 7

♠ A K 10 9 6 4
♥ A K 9 6
♦ —
♣ Q 9 6

WEST Kanetkar	NORTH Buchen	EAST Beauchamp	SOUTH Smolanko
3♦	3♥	pass	1♠
all pass		5♦	6♥

Smolanko had an easy 6♥ bid, but in the other room:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Courtney	Lavings	Brown	Krochmalik
		pass	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	4♦
pass	4♥	all pass	

Lavings had the vital club control but didn't like his hand. Nevertheless with club control he should bid 5♣ (and will next time). 11 imps to BUCHEN.

Luck was running with LORENTZ. On Board 47 Lorentz - Burgess missed their 5-3 spade fit and played 3♦ for +110. In the other room:

Board 47	♠ K Q 7 5 2
S/NS	♥ J 7 3 2
	♦ J 3
	♣ K Q

♠ —	♠ A 10 8 4 3
♥ K Q 10 8	♥ A 6 5
♦ 10 8 6 4	♦ 5
♣ A J 7 5 3	♣ 8 6 4 2
	♠ J 9 6
	♥ 9 4
	♦ A K Q 9 7 2
	♣ 10 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kanetkar	Braithwaite	Beauchamp	De Livera
			1♦
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	4♠	dbl	all pass

4♠ doubled failed by three tricks for -800, 14 imps to LORENTZ.

At the halfway point LORENTZ led by 10 imps and picked up 19 imps on Set 4. This deal from that set showed Kanetkar at his best:

Board 64	♠ 10 9 8 4
W/EW	♥ 9 8 3
	♦ J 9 3 2
	♣ 8 4

♠ A Q J 7 5 3	♠ 2
♥ A 10	♥ 7 6 2
♦ —	♦ Q 10 8 7 6 4
♣ A K Q 10 6	♣ J 7 3
	♠ K 6
	♥ K Q J 5 4
	♦ A K 5
	♣ 9 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kanetkar	Braithwaite	Beauchamp	De Livera
2♣	pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	pass	3♦	pass
4♣	pass	5♣	pass
6♣	all pass		

How should Avi play 6♣ on a heart lead? He unerringly crossed to ♣J and played a spade to his queen and ruffed a spade. Making 12 tricks. Playing ♠A-Q is not a good plan since you will still fail on a 4-2 spade break even if your LHO has ♠K.

At the other table East bid 4♠ over 4♣ and there the matter rested for 12 imps to LORENTZ.

Going into the last set of 16 boards LORENTZ led by 12 imps. On the fifth hand of the set you are vul vs not, your partner passes in first seat and your RHO opens 2♥ and you hold:

♠ Q	♥ A 8 7 5 3	♦ A Q J	♣ A K Q 4
-----	-------------	---------	-----------

Krochmalik for LORENTZ bid 3NT and found partner with:

♠ K 9 8	♥ 9 2	♦ 7 6 4	♣ J 10 5 3 2
---------	-------	---------	--------------

and on the ♠6 lead made 3NT without raising a sweat. At the other table South passed over 2♥ and collected a paltry 50 for 11 imps to LORENTZ.

LORENTZ won the set 49-23 to win 205-167.1. Their main mission will be the Bermuda Bowl in Marrakesh, Morocco in August. Also, they will be going to the Far East Championships in Hong Kong in early June, with Phil Gue replacing Gabi Lorentz. Captain for both events is John McIlrath.



*Playoff finalists Peter Buchen, George Smolanko, Terry Brown, Michael Courtney (Andrew Braithwaite and Arjuna De Livera absent)*



# A GAME AT THE CLUB

**Barbara Travis**

[www.bridgeatbeaumont.com](http://www.bridgeatbeaumont.com)

Playing Teams, where the safety of the contract is paramount (rather than overtricks), a couple of 'text book' safety plays came up. Here's the first:

♠ Q 9 7 6 5

♠ A 10 4 3 2

You need to play this suit for only one loser. There is no problem if the suit breaks 2-1, so the issue is to allow for a 3-0 break (in either hand, if possible).

Let me show you the situation with the lead in either hand.

Firstly – the lead is in West's hand. Lead the ♠5. If North plays a small spade, then they are the only player who can hold three spades. Simply cover whatever spade they play and, if they have K-J-8, you have ensured only one loser. If North shows out, you win the ♠A, then lead back towards your queen, since South holds K-J-8.

Secondly – the lead is in East's hand. Do not lead the ♠A. If you do that and North has K-J-8, you have two losers. So, once again, you lead a small spade and cover whatever South plays. You catch South's K-J-8 if they have all three spades. On the other hand, if South shows out, you play the queen, North winning their king. However, now you can finesse North's remaining J-8 on the next round of trumps.

The second one involves a very common holding:

♦ K J 8 7

♦ A 9 6 3

Once again, you need to ensure three tricks (not four). That means you should allow for 4-1 breaks, rather than the 3-2 break.

The textbook play is to cash the king first (or the honour in the hand that has the jack). You then lead towards the ace, covering whatever card North plays; after all, if North follows to a second round, they are the only hand which can have four cards in the suit. On the other hand, if North shows out, you win the ace and lead back towards the jack – ensuring three tricks.

I found this hand interesting:

♠ Q ♥ K J 6 5 2 ♦ A K 10 6 4 ♣ A 7

All vulnerable, partner opens with a weak 2♠. You have a good hand. What should you do?

One thing that you must consider is your ability to re-enter partner's hand. Given the vulnerability, their spade suit should be decent. I think the correct action is to head to 4♠ (or otherwise, pass).

Our opponent tried 3NT, which was disastrous when partner held:

♠ A K 9 7 4 3 ♥ 10 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ J 6 5

No entry; no surprise. Three off, with 4♠ making (spades 3-3).

I think most bridge players have 'pet' situations. One of mine is when, defending, you make all your trumps separately.

♠ 9 2

♥ 9 8 5

♦ A 9 7 6 2

♣ 10 6 3

♠ J 6 4 3

♥ J 6 4 3

♦ 10

♣ A J 7 2

♠ A 7

♥ A Q

♦ J 8 5 4 3

♣ K Q 9 8

♠ K Q 10 8 5

♥ K 10 7 2

♦ K Q

♣ 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1NT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
pass	2♥	all pass	

1. Diamonds or majors.

I should have realised to lead a diamond, given that North's bid suggested he liked diamonds!

However, I led the ♣K, then a club to partner's ace. Partner returned the ♦10, won in dummy.

Declarer led the ♠K, won with the ace, and I continued with a second diamond, ruffed by partner. He led a club, ruffed in dummy, and declarer led the ♠Q, then ruffed a spade, which I over-trumped with the ♥Q. Another diamond saw declarer throw a spade from dummy, partner trumping again.

A spade was trumped by me, and another diamond promoted partner's ♥J, which I thought was J-x-x (though it was always a trick, given he still held J-x). Only five trump tricks – but a lot of fun.

For those who are not convinced of the value of splinter bids, check out this hand:

♠ J 5 4 2	♠ A K 10 9 8 7
♥ A K 9 8 7 3	♥ 4 2
♦ 5	♦ K J 4 2
♣ A 6	♣ 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	pass	4♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass
4NT <sup>2</sup>	pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>	pass
6♠	all pass		

1. Splinter.
2. Guaranteeing control of both red suits (or you continue with cue bids).
3. Two key cards + ♠Q (permitted with the extra length).

West has 12 HCP and East 11 HCP (but effectively 7 HCP), and slam is easy.

One final offering:

♠ 4 3	♠ Q 9 5
♥ K 9 8 2	♥ J
♦ K 10 4 2	♦ A Q 5 3
♣ A 10 9	♣ Q 8 7 6 4
♠ A K J 7 6	♠ 10 8 2
♥ 7 6 5 4	♥ A Q 10 3
♦ 9	♦ J 8 7 6
♣ K J 3	♣ 5 2

West played in 4♠. Several declarers drew trumps, leaving them with four heart losers. This is a typical hand where you need to establish your side suit (clubs) before touching trumps. That will ensure you retain control of the heart suit, and you make 10 or 11 tricks.

Keep an eye on those times when you either need to use dummy's trumps or you must work on your outside suit first.

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# RECOVERY PLAN

by Dennis Zines

My overbidding forced me into a recovery situation that was somewhat lucky but deserved its success. I held as South (neither side vulnerable):

♠ 9 3    ♥ K Q 7 6 5    ♦ 10    ♣ A J 9 7 5

WEST                  NORTH                  EAST                  SOUTH

pass                  3♥                  1NT                  2♥<sup>1</sup>

all pass                  4♥

1. 5+ hearts and a 4+ minor.

East had shown 15-17 HCP and I accepted partner's invitation based on shape, strength and a dash of optimism. Playing fourth best, West led ♠4 and this is what we see when dummy goes down:

♠ J 6 2  
♥ J 10 4  
♦ A Q 9 2  
♣ K 8 6

♠ 9 3  
♥ K Q 7 6 5  
♦ 10  
♣ A J 9 7 5

East plays the ♠K, ♠A and third spade which you ruff with the ♥5. You next play a heart to the ♥J, followed by the ♥10, West following with ♥2 and discarding the ♦3. This leaves East with the ♥A9 and creates a problem. While you know the club finesse will work, you cannot draw trumps without getting forced by a fourth spade promoting four tricks for the opposition.

However, you now know a lot about East's hand. He has four spades, four hearts and must have the ♦K and the ♣Q for the 1NT opening. A ray of hope arises if East is 4-4-2-3 in shape.

Accordingly, you play for this possibility by leading the ♣6 to the ♣J followed by the ♦A and a diamond

ruff, which sees the fall of the ♦K. You now play the ♣A followed by the ♣K, ending in dummy as East follows.

This is the end position:

♠ —	♠ 10
♥ 4	♥ A 9
♦ Q 9	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —
♠ Q	♠ —
♥ —	♥ K
♦ J 8	♦ —
♣ —	♣ 9 7

The coup de grace follows with the lead of the now high ♦Q, ensuring two more tricks leaving you with the required ten tricks. If East discards, South pitches a club, and the fourth diamond promotes another trick. If East ruffs low, South over ruffs and leads a high club. If East ruffs high, then he is endplayed to give the last two tricks. A very pretty ending.

The full deal:

♠ J 6 2	♠ A K 10 5
♥ J 10 4	♥ A 9 8 3
♦ A Q 9 2	♦ K 4
♣ K 8 6	♣ Q 10 3
♠ Q 8 7 4	♠ 9 3
♥ 2	♥ K Q 7 6 5
♦ J 8 7 6 5 3	♦ 10
♣ 4 2	♣ A J 9 7 5

**Gold Coast theme photos from front cover, clockwise from top left:** 1st place, Hat Tricks: Tim Rigter, Charlotte Glass, Tyrel Glass, Rochelle von Heuven; 3rd place: Wayne Burrows; 2nd place, Mad Hatters Tea Party: Magdeline Wong, Ilo Hellaby, Sue Kennard, Jo Neary; Thinking Caps: Peter Wilson, Juliet Britten-Jones, Ruth Hemmerling, Kate Hartley; Bayside Queens of Hearts: Mary Lou Dwyer, Margaret Costello, Heather Lindsay, Disa Hallett; Colourful Characters: Max & Diane Holewa, Kay Webber, Denise O'Regan.



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# A new chapter for Victorian bridge in 2023

There are changes afoot in the management of bridge in Victoria.

Over the last few years the VBA Council has pursued a strategy to create a secure financial future, encourage better representation for Victorian bridge clubs, and to provide a better environment for our club members. We are now at the stage where we can implement an organisational model to support these objectives.

**The VBA Council**, the Board of the Victorian Bridge Association Limited (VBA), will continue to provide oversight, governance, and direction. A Shared Services function will provide accounting and IT services to both the state and club activities. Bridge Victoria and the VBC have been established as operating entities of the VBA.

## MAJOR CHANGES

- Merging of the VBA and Dendy Park Bridge Club to form the Victorian Bridge Centre (VBC).
- Sale of Poath Rd. This was significant for Victorian bridge as the sale of Poath Road has enabled planning for a Future Fund.
- Restructuring of the VBA Organisation such that there is separation of State and Club activities and accounting.
- Setting up of the Bridge Victoria Operations Committee (BVOC) to manage state activities.
- Setting up of the Victorian Bridge Centre Operations Committee (VBC OC) to manage club affairs.

**State operations** will be managed by **Bridge Victoria**. We are establishing an Operations Committee representing clubs across Victoria (BVOC) and will be appointing a State Manager. They will be determining and directing initiatives to grow and improve bridge across the state.

**The Victorian Bridge Centre (VBC)** will be managed by its own Operations Committee. The relocation to Dendy Park, and the merging of two bridge clubs, has created an environment which is lower cost, with excellent parking and better facilities for players. The club will be self-administered and self-funding.

These are momentous changes for bridge in Victoria and just the start of more to come as Bridge Victoria and the VBC get active. We look forward to our new chapter.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*This year marked the 20th anniversary of the extraordinary bushfires in Canberra. I was there as convenor of the National Youth Week, and it was an experience I will never forget (even though it wasn't to be my last experience of a devastating Canberra bushfire). This January, one of the players at the Summer Festival wrote to share her memories of the event.*

### CANBERRA BUSHFIRES

I vividly remember driving to the Summer Festival 20 years ago, from Bathurst to Canberra, in a ute with no air conditioning. The conditions were unbelievable. You could not tolerate having the windows closed – nor the windows open.

The closer we got to Canberra the worse it got.

We arrived at our accommodation in Kingston and went to have a meal. It was surreal. Despite all the

evidence – no cafes (the staff were all at home trying to protect their own patch), burnt eucalyptus leaves littering the streets, etc – we really could not comprehend the situation.

My bridge partner was delivering furniture to friends. He also ended up moving furniture for mutual friends due to the crisis.

Their neighbour died in this catastrophe.

The SFOB managed to carry on.

Besides the loss of life, my other distressing memory is of listening to the radio and hearing the attempts to save all manner of animals.

*Rosemary Hummelshoj, Bathurst*

# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem from page 2*



## SERVICE DISCONTINUED

North dealer, both sides vulnerable

♠ K J 7 4  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ 10 5  
♣ A 10 6 3

♠ A 10 9 8  
♥ J 10 6 2  
♦ Q 7 3  
♣ K 5



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. 10+ points, forcing, can have a four-card major.
2. Four spades.
3. Not forcing.

Lead: ♥6.

On the attitude ♥6 lead (low-like, high-hate), dummy's king wins. Playing low-encouraging, East contributes the ♥9. Declarer continues with the ♣A: four - two - five, followed by the ♣3: jack - queen - king. What should West play at Trick 4?

From a Butler Trials:

N/All

♠ K J 7 4  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ 10 5  
♣ A 10 6 3

♠ A 10 9 8  
♥ J 10 6 2  
♦ Q 7 3  
♣ K 5

♠ 6 5 3 2  
♥ 9 5  
♦ A J 8 6 4  
♣ J 4

♠ Q  
♥ A 8 7 3  
♦ K 9 2  
♣ Q 9 8 7 2

South is in 3NT on the ♥6 lead, taken by the king, East discouraging with the ♥9. Declarer plays the ♣A and another club, jack, queen, king. How should West continue?

From Trick 1 declarer clearly has the ♥A and so you cannot hope to have enough tricks to beat 3NT from the hearts or the spades. Therefore you have to try a diamond. West can play the ♦Q, ducked to the king, or a low diamond to East's ♦J. If declarer ducks the first diamond, the defence ducks a diamond at Trick 2. Either way declarer can take no more than eight tricks before the defenders collect the rest. If West continues hearts at Trick 4, declarer comes to nine or ten tricks. Datum: NS 140.

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# The Aces on Bridge

by Bobby Wolff



*This is the fourth in a series of deals featuring Margaret Bourke. These articles are taken from Bobby Wolff's daily bridge column, The Aces on Bridge, which appears in various publications across the USA. The Aces On Bridge was started by Ira Corn, founder of The Aces, the first professional bridge team. Wolff, one of the original Aces, took over the column in 1982. In it he reveals the secrets of a championship bridge player to both tournament and at-home players.*

Margi Bourke was at the helm in today's tight 3NT:

N/NS	♠ Q 7		
	♥ J 2		
	♦ 5 4 2		
	♣ A K Q 10 8 3		
♠ A J 10 8		♠ 9 6 5 2	
♥ 9 8 4 3		♥ K Q 10 5	
♦ A 10 3		♦ Q J 8	
♣ 5 2		♣ 6 4	
	♠ K 4 3		
	♥ A 7 6		
	♦ K 9 7 6		
	♣ J 9 7		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♦
pass	2♣	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠J.

Even though the North hand provided six likely tricks, 3NT was still a slight stretch. There again Bourke might have bid 3NT at her second turn.

A heart lead would have worked well, but West chose

the ♠J, Bourke correctly calling for the queen from dummy. When that held, she ran off all of dummy's club winners, pitching two diamonds and a heart. If the ♦A was onside, she could play up to it later.

East let go two spades, then one of each red suit. West threw away three hearts and an encouraging diamond spot. That persuaded Bourke that the ♦A was offside. West would have overcalled 1♠ with ace-jack-ten-fifth and the ♦A, so it looked like West began with 4-4-3-2 or 4-3-4-2 shape.

Bourke cashed the ♥A, extracting West's exit card, then threw them in with the ♠K. After cashing their spades, West had to lead around to the ♦K in the ending. So Bourke eventually scored the ♦K for her contract.

The defenders could have found one of multiple resources, even after missing the killing lead. West could have kept a second heart, or East could have retained a small spade to go with the nine. If so, West could have led over to East with the third spade for a diamond shift through the king.

But whatever the case, Bourke read the cards very well even to give herself a chance.

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# WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

## with William Jenner-O'Shea

### DECLARER PLAY TECHNIQUE: COUNTING LOSERS

Here is an interesting play hand that cropped up in an online Declarer Play Workshop this month.

♠ 7 6 4 3  
♥ K Q J 5 3  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ 5

♠ A K Q 9 8  
♥ T 7  
♦ 8 7 5  
♣ A K Q

You end up playing in 4♠ after you open 1♠ and partner jumps to 4♣ as a splinter bid (four trumps, 0-1 clubs, game points). You have a lot of “wasted” points in clubs, so you sign off in 4♠.

If you count your winners and losers to assist you in planning the play, you will come to the following outcome: you have likely five spade winners, plus likely four heart winners and the four top winners in the minors. You also have potentially two diamond losers and the ♥A. It looks like you have sufficient winners, and not too many losers, so it looks like your contract will make. It is time to be greedy!

The two diamond losers in your hand can be discarded on the long heart suit in dummy (after the ♥A has been lost) and you won't lose any diamond tricks and perhaps make 12 tricks.

How you play this hand depends on the opening lead, and the nature of your diamond losers. The ♦A is protecting you from losing the diamonds immediately. The diamond losers are not immediate losers.

If the opponents lead a club or a spade at trick one, then you can get the lead, draw the trumps, and then play the hearts (losing the ace). The opponents might try to lead back a diamond, but you still have the ace so you can win, and then use the hearts in dummy to make 12 tricks.

If the opponents choose to lead a diamond instead, then you must approach this hand differently.

If you draw trumps and then lose the ♥A, the opponents will play back diamonds and take their two diamond tricks.

Although you will make your game, you will likely get a poor score compared to some others playing the same cards as you.



On a diamond lead, the diamond losers become “immediate” or “exposed” losers, and must be dealt with immediately to have a chance of not losing them. There is a roundabout solution to avoiding losing the diamonds, which is to play three rounds of clubs and discard the diamonds from dummy. Note that you still have two diamond losers in your hand, but the opponents can't take them immediately. Now draw trumps, and then establish the hearts. The hearts in dummy can eventually discard the diamond losers from your hand. You can still make 12 tricks.

Note that discarding the diamonds in dummy didn't solve the diamond loser problem completely, but it bought you time to establish the hearts.

Note that if dummy only had three trumps (perhaps with an extra heart), then you would need to try yet another approach. Drawing three rounds of trumps would leave dummy without any, and you would be exposed to losing the diamonds later in the play even after discarding them on the clubs. On a diamond lead, exposing your diamond losers, you would need to play three rounds of clubs, pitching dummy's diamonds, and then attempt to ruff the diamonds in dummy before losing the lead.

*As well as face-to-face Workshops, Will runs several online workshops each month available to all ABF members. To find them, log in to MyABF and click Congresses – you can filter by event type and click “Lessons”.*

*You can email [lessons@abf.com.au](mailto:lessons@abf.com.au) for more information.*

The ABF Foundation was established in 2020 with the primary objective of creating a 'bridge future fund'. The Foundation objectives will support any projects that are outside the proper domain of the ABF. Since its formation, the Foundation's efforts have largely been around raising funds to enable it to establish a financial position which can support projects aimed at bridge development.

The Foundation believes the resurgence of youth bridge is important for the longevity and future of the game we all love. Consequently, this year we supported a pilot project aimed at fostering the rejuvenation of bridge in an Australian university. Universities have historically been an excellent source of new players but had been somewhat neglected more recently. Our trial concept had limited success, however we identified many of the requirements necessary to make such a venture successful, and we plan to pursue this project further in 2024.

One of the Foundation's fund-raising activities is its annual Pro-Am Tourney. Now in its second year, our 2023 event which is run on Real Bridge raised over \$10,000 in support of the Foundation's objectives. We are grateful to the expert and professional play-

ers who donated their time, and to the players who bid for them in our online auction.

In our January tournament the winners were:

NS: Kitty Muntz and Jamie Thompson

EW: Tony Nunn and Philip Hassall

while in our March tournament the winners were

NS: Tony Nunn and Philip Hassall

EW: Liam Milne and Gary Barwick.

Special thanks to Matthew McManus, our Pro-Am Tourney Director, and Pauline Gumby our website admin for their ongoing support.

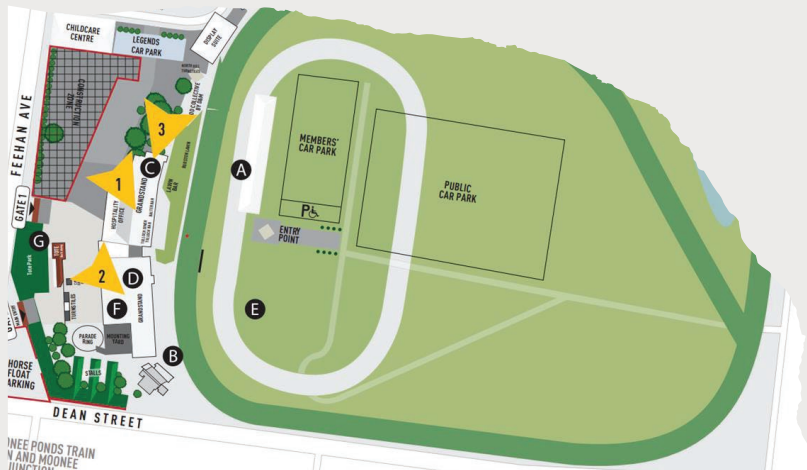
To enable support of more projects like the project to rejuvenate bridge in universities, the ABF Foundation would be very grateful to receive your donation, your gift on behalf of a bridge playing friend, a regular contribution or a memorial condolence contribution. To find out how you can help, contact us at

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