

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2019

Editor: Dee Harley

BULLETIN 2019

You may notice that there has been a change of editor. There are some changes in style and content. Please let me know if you wish to contribute or provide feedback. I am happy to be contacted by email on dee_harley@hotmail.com.

Look out for these new regular features:

- **Minis** in Minis I present you with a miniature double dummy problem with just 5 cards left in each hand. It sounds like a very easy thing to do, to determine the line of play to succeed. We shall see.
- **A Cow Flew By** I intend to bring you a selection of some of my more appalling mistakes in a new section called "A cow flew by". Bridge is all about mistakes. Everybody makes them, but the top players a) make fewer than good players and b) spend less time worrying about them at the table. Each mistake becomes "Instant History" and they get on to play the next hand without a clouded mind. Very difficult to achieve. I credit the title of this section to chapter 13 in Hugh Kelsey's book "Improve your bridge". The hands however are all my own work.
- **Knave of Clubs** A mystery author has graciously agreed to provide us with a regular bridge hand with commentary.
- **Secret Shopper** Anna and I intend to visit as many bridge clubs in Victoria as we can, and to write a resume of our visits. We hope to publish one such article each month, so please do invite us to come and play at your club on a regular club night.
- **Suit Combination**. There are many. Each month we select a choice from the Bridge Encyclopedia for you.

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

The WBF Laws Committee has advised that the official Commentary to the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge has now been published and is available on the WBF Website for download at <http://www.worldbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2017LawsCommentary.pdf>

NATIONAL EVENTS

The **Grand National Open Teams final** was held as usual in Tweed Heads at the end of November. A most confusing venue as the town lies on the border of Queensland and New South Wales, so the time zone appears to vary depending which side of the street you are on. Sydney dominated the event with 6 teams reaching the quarter Finals. Canberra and Adelaide made up the other two quarter final teams. The final was a close affair shown on BBO, and Sydney 2 (Bruce Neill, Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Johnno Newman and Nye Griffiths) came out victorious by 36 imps over Canberra 2 (Stephen Fischer, Jodi Tutty, Arjuna De Livera and George Kozakos). Victoria was represented by three Melbourne teams and some country Victoria teams, I believe none of whom would admit to performing magnificently.

In the playoff for the **Australian Women's teams**, in Sydney in December Laura Ginnan and Di Smart reached the semi-finals.

The **Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge** was held in January. Simon Hinge and Stephen Lester continued their good run being part of the winning Seniors team. Neil Ewart and David Beckett were runners up in the Swiss Pairs. In the National Open Teams, the Ewart team (Neil Ewart, David Beckett, Simon Henbest, and Dee Harley) reached the quarter finals, as did David Morgan, and Chris Hughes, playing for different teams.

COLCHAMIRO'S RULE OF NINE

How often you looked at partner's takeout double and wondered whether or not to pass it. If you think it is a close decision, then there is no harm in applying Colchamiro's rule of nine to help you decide when to pass and when to not pass.

The rule applies either when:

- a) the opponents have opened the bidding and your partner has made a takeout double
- b) your partner has opened the bidding and your opponent has made a bid, of which your partner has found a takeout double

To apply the rule, you need to add three numbers together...the level of the contract, the number of cards in their trump suit that you hold, and the number of trump honours (10, J, Q, K, A) that you hold. If the total of these numbers is nine or more then you may pass, otherwise it is suggested that you bid something. The more above 9 your total, the better your chances of scoring a big juicy penalty.

Like all guides it will not be right every time. As an example, you hold

♠Jx ♥KQ87 ♦J2 ♣98764.

W	Partner	E	S
	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	?

Note that I haven't shown the vulnerability, that's up to you to conjure with What would you do at the table?? (choose all the vulnerabilities you like)

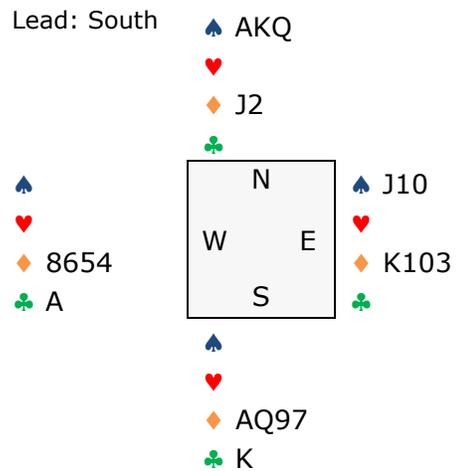
Now let's apply Colchamiro's "rule". You add 2 (level 2♥) + 2(♥ Honours) + 4 (♥ cards) and get 8. 8 is less than 9, so Passing is not recommended by the rule. The rule suggests you should bid on (2♠ or 3♣ maybe) Of course the rule cannot always be right, since it would give the same 8 whether your hand was

♠AK ♥AK98 ♦AKx ♣Jxxx Or

♠xx ♥J10xx ♦xxx ♣xxxx

Like everything else in bridge this 'guide' must be used along with a dose of caution and a tincture of common sense.

MINI #1



South is on lead in a no-trump contract. How does South make 4 of the 5 last tricks against best defence? With only 5 cards in each hand this must be easy. (Check you got the full [solution](#) on P6)

**THE SOAPBOX
BEN THOMPSON**

Welcome to the first VBA Bulletin of the year, and welcome to our brand-new editor, Dee Harley!

There will be many other new things in 2019 of course. New movies, new artists. New phones, new cars. New governments, new policies. Hopefully not new taxes!

New hands, new systems, new partners. One of the big reasons I've been playing bridge for over 30 years is because there's always something new. Over the last few years, I've played with many new and different partners, and some very new and different systems.

Even old problems, old positions and old themes become new again when you face them with a different partner or with different method. I love the way our beautiful game is always changing even when it's familiar.

In the year ahead, I hope you enjoy the new as much as I do, and that all of our new things are good things.

The Committee of the Waverley Bridge Club has asked that the following statement be sent to VBA members:

"I am pleased to confirm that the claim commenced by Mary Elson against the Club in the Fair Work Commission alleging unfair dismissal has been settled on confidential terms.

I am able to also confirm that Mary's honesty and integrity was not in question during her employment with the Club and upon termination of her employment with the club."

Rob Quirk
President

Since Mary has resigned from her position as head teacher at WBC and she can concentrate on the VBA, her education sessions are growing in support and we hope that you will join her on Tuesdays. She will also be running a Beginners' course starting in February.

Tuesday Education Sessions

There is a two-hour lesson starting at 10.00 followed by a supervised duplicate from 12.30 till 3.00 pm.

February lesson topics are:

February 5: Learning to love playing No Trump contracts

February 12: Making the most out of your strong hands

February 19: Practising Takeout Doubles

February 26: Weak Two bids – Getting in your opponent's way!

You can come for the day and the charge will be \$15, or you can come for one of the two sessions and the cost will be \$10. The cafeteria will be open so that you can get a bit of lunch.

Beginners' Lessons

Thursday 7th February, starting at 7:30pm
Come by yourself, or with a partner.

\$120 for 7 week course, which includes all course materials and 2 weeks of supervised play at the end of the course

If interested, please ring Andrew, 9530 9006

EDITORIAL DEE HARLEY

I was delighted to hear that Jamie Thompson managed to end up playing in a team with Kit Woolsey. Jamie was playing with his regular partner Matt Smith, and along with Kit Woolsey and Bart Bramley they won the John Sutherland Knockout Teams (a non-National event at the Hawaii NABC Fall Nationals).

Kit is an acknowledged world expert and writes a weekly column in the [bridgewinners](http://bridgewinners.com) website. The articles from Kit make for great reading, and I am sure that Kit was honoured and delighted to team up with Jamie. This article from the Australian Bridge magazine has the details.

http://australianbridge.com/links/2018-12-10_news_jamie.htm

A magnificent performance Jamie. Well done.

Jamie is one of the many youngsters I have come across since we arrived in Melbourne (from Scotland), who are a credit to themselves, their Country and the game of bridge. The number of charming, eloquent and very capable young bridge players is quite stunning to me.

How do we propose to continue this trend? Bridge should be encouraged amongst children of all ages. Send your children and grandchildren to Mary's beginner lessons.

How important is it to be polite at the table? I think it is always essential for your partner's welfare for you to keep a calm and pleasant manner regardless of the circumstances. You will all have encountered a display of rudeness from some players. Snarling at partner will not gain you respect from anyone and will only destroy your partner's bridge ability. You play as well as you feel I reckon, and if your partner feels good then it is always better. Apart from anything else, shouting something like "I had a void in clubs, why couldn't you give me a ruff", or "6NT is stiff why didn't you bid it?" is likely to reach the ears of people at other tables who listen out for such snippets.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Dendy Park Summer Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Gallus – S. Weisz
- 2 M. Callander – P Corrigan
- 3 J. Tunks – G. Hill

Yarra Valley Mini Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 P. Moritz – L. Meyer
- 2 P. Karol – T. Fielding
- 3 C. Parkin - A. Race

Gardenvale Summer Congress

Boxing Day Swiss Pairs

- 1 B. A'Beckett– S. Ozenir
- 2 H. Snashall – R. Berlinski
- 3 T. Kaye – R. Greenfield

Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Mill – K. Anderson
- 2 T. Ranasinghe – G. Lovrecz
- 3 E. Linton – T. Cowie

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Henbest, J. Rennie, P. Bolling, T. Johannsen
- 2 S. Weisz, H. Snashall, R. Berlinski, C. Lachman
- 3 L. Gold, J. Codognotto, R. Kingham, A. Rose

IMP Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Ebery – K. Frazer
- 2 C. Hughes – P. Grodski
- 3 E. Linton – E. Matheson

Eclectic Matchpoint Pairs

- 1 C. Hinde – T. Crawford
- 2 M. Bird – C. Jasper
- 3 F. Vearing – D. Sampson

Rothfield Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Adams – D Middleton
- 2 P. Corrigan – M. Callander
- 3 K. Frazer – C. Leach

Rothfield IMP Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Mill – A. Maluish
- 2 T. Ranasinghe – G. Lovrecz
- 3 H. Snashall – R. Berlinski

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Yarra Valley Congress

Saturday 2nd February, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 3rd February, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Bayswater Senior Citizens Hall
 Bayswater Road and Mountain
 Highway, Bayswater

Contact: Clare Stratton, 0438547647

Enter: The pairs is already full.

[Enter the teams here](#)

Victorian Open Team Qualifying

Wednesday 13th February

Venue VBA

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

John Doyle	Kings and Queens
Narelle Jackson	Kings and Queens

*State

Pam Chambers	Moonee Valley
Lorraine Dullard	Bendigo
Heather Watt	Traralgon

National

Les Ajzner	VBA
Daniel Taggart	Northern

*National

Cox, Patricia	RACV Bridge Group
Poulton, Derek	Shepparton

Gold Life

Michael Stokie	Geelong
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♣♣♣ **KNAVE OF CLUBS** ♣♣♣
ON A BIG DEAL MAKE A BIG DEAL OF PLANNING

It is good advice for declarer to make a plan since there is nothing worse than losing the hand due to poor play at trick one or two. In today's hand, the auction was simple after North showed a club control and spade support with his cue bid of four clubs. South enquired about key cards and found his partner held the three missing aces and the king of diamonds and then ventured the grand slam.

Dir: North ♠ A764
 Vul: E/W ♥ AJ532
 ♦ KJ4
 ♣ A

♠ J985	N	♠ J985
♥ 104	W E	♥ Q876
♦ 9832	S	♦ 1076
♣ KQJ9643		♣ 75

♠ KQ1032
 ♥ K9
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ 1082

Lead: K♣

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Pass	1♠
3♣	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Unfortunately, South was not as accurate in the play as he was in the bidding. He took West's lead of the king of clubs with dummy's bare ace and laid down the ace of trumps. After West discarded, his next hope was that the queen of hearts would fall in three rounds. When this failed to occur, he ruffed a club and cashed his diamond winners, ending in hand. When he ruffed his last club, East overruffed to defeat the contract.

Declarer claimed he had been unlucky, but dummy was unconvinced. The contract, he said, is trivial if trumps are 2-2 since you can draw trumps and ruff two of South's clubs. If trumps are 3-1 and hearts are not 5-1, it is

also simple since you can draw trumps and then ruff two of dummy's hearts setting up the fifth one. Therefore, you must plan, at trick 1, for a possible 4-0 trump break and should lead a low trump from dummy. If, as happens, West discards on the queen of trumps, you can cash the king and ace of hearts and ruff a heart. When West shows out you can surmise that his original distribution was 0=2=4=7. Consequently, you can safely ruff a club, ruff a second heart and cash three rounds of diamonds ending in hand. When you ruff your remaining club with dummy's carefully preserved ace of trumps, East helplessly under-ruffs as everyone is reduced to two cards with a marked spade finesse to be taken.

FUN WITH PETE

Young Aussie star Peter Hollands has an incredible amount of bridge information available online. Peter bares his soul to the world and explains how to approach the bidding and play of a hand with myriads of You-Tube uploads. I can't tell you how good they are. You just need an iPad (or phone or PC) with internet capability, and search for Pete Hollands. Or click on this link to get you started.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOaZnFbFH1OlbhVm25z4rLQ>

If you are really lucky you may catch a glimpse of Damon now and again.

SUIT COMBINATION

From the bridge encyclopedia: In this suit you need two tricks. How should you play it?

You have ample entries to each hand.

You: AJxx Dummy: 10x

[Solution](#) on P6.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Dir: East ♠ K532

Vul: all ♥ A6

♦ AQJ43

♣ K8

N
S

♠ QJ986

♥ KQ

♦ K

♣ A7632

Lead: 5♦

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All pass	

Against 6♠, the lead is ♦5 which runs around to your ♦K. Plan the play.

Solution

♠ K532

♥ A6

♦ AQJ43

♣ K8

♠ 107

♥ J8543

♦ 5

♣ QJ1094

N
W E
S

♠ A4

♥ 10972

♦ 1098762

♣ 5

♠ QJ986

♥ KQ

♦ K

♣ A7632

There's not much to worry about here. If spades happen to divide 4-0, you can pick up the trumps by playing an honour from the

QJ986 suit first. Then you will be able to finesse against whoever has ♠A10xx.

So why did 5 of the 6 declarers who got this lead in last year's VBA Christmas Teams go down?

The only actual danger to the contract is a diamond ruff, West having led a singleton. You should take the precaution of playing a heart to dummy's ♥A and playing a trump off the table towards your hand. Then if East does have the ♠A and takes it, you can safely ruff the diamond return with the ♠Q, and draw the remaining two trumps with the ♠J and ♠K.

The 5 losing declarers simply played the ♠Q from hand at trick 2. When East returned a diamond, they could hardly ruff with the ♠J, which would lose the contract if West followed and spades were 3-1. So West's ♠10 scored the setting trick.

Solution to Suit Combination (page 5)

Lead low to the 10; if it loses play the Ace and lead low from the knave. (essentially playing for Hxx or Hx sitting over the AJxx).

Solution to Mini #1(page 2)

Lead the Q♦. If East takes the King, then you can win the return and the J♦ will provide an entry to the North hand spade winners and the rest of the tricks. So East must allow the Q♦ to win. Now you cash the A♦ and East must follow suit a second time Leaving one diamond in his hand. If his remaining diamond is the 10 or the King, then you can throw him in with the ♦, and East must now lead Spades to dummy for the rest of the tricks. If instead, East retains the 3♦, then you exit with the K♣ and it is West who is now endplayed in the diamond suit for the last two tricks.

**A COW FLEW BY
Dee Harley**

This hand is taken from a BBO practice session. Have a good look at the bidding and then decide how you would play this hand on the lead of the 3♥.

Dir: East
Vul: N/S

♠ KJ52
♥ A92
♦ 9
♣ AKJ72

♠	N	♠
♥	W	♥
♦	E	♦
♣	S	♣

♠ Q83
♥ J105
♦ AJ4
♣ Q954

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	3NT	Pass	1NT
		All pass	

Lead: 3♥

Trick one – before playing to the first trick is where you spend your time thinking (or in my case admiring the belted Galloways up above you)

What do you play from dummy?

Let's count the tricks. 5 clubs, 1 diamond and 1 heart, so we only need two more tricks. They could potentially come from spades, hearts, or diamonds. It looks like a fourth highest (or possibly, third highest from an honour), so you can duck the first heart and you will have a great chance of an extra heart trick. Is this a good plan? NO! the danger here is that East can win the first Heart and switch to diamonds and your nice contract will be mouldy beefsteak. Instead you must win the first Heart with the ace and play on spades, establishing the two extra tricks before the rot gets at them. Two things to note: Firstly, the contract can always be defeated if they lead a diamond initially since

you will lose four diamonds and a Spade. Secondly, given the heart lead that you got is from a 3 or 4 card suit, then they cannot possibly cash enough hearts to defeat you if you win the first trick with the ♥A and immediately knock out the ♠A.

CHARITY BIKER

Phillip Island Bridge Club held a raffle as part of their Christmas Party to raise fund for the Prostrate Cancer Federation of Australia's "Long Ride" 2019. The entire proceeds of \$260 was presented to Annalisa Elliot who will be travelling as pillion passenger with husband, Mark, from Melbourne to Darwin in May 2019 as part of the fund-raising effort. All riders are expected to raise in excess of \$1,000 towards finding a cure for prostate cancer which kills more men than women who die from breast cancer each year.



Annalisa is pictured receiving the proceeds of the raffle from Phillip Island Bridge Club president, Paul Waylen.

Heard in the club: "Yesterday I threw a stiff granny on the floor". I wonder what non-bridge players would think!

THE SECRET SHOPPER

We drove through the teaming rain, down the winding hills, over the plains and via the Eastlink to the little enclave of Boxhill where on a Friday evening runs the bi-weekly session of the Eastern Contract Bridge Centre.

Feeling guilty that we were only arriving at 7.20 for a 7.30 start we rushed in and met Chris, the man at the helm. He had laid out 4 tables, but we were the first to arrive – our haste totally unwarranted as it was not until 7.28 that the 8 regulars sauntered in. The ECBC is a charming and rather unique little club. The first club in Victoria to use Bridgemates, the only club that includes robot generated play of the hands to raise the comparison level and the only club that gives its members in their analysis sheets the bidding and leads across all the tables.

Chris folded away the surplus table and off we went. First up we met Jennifer and Stephen – a very competent pair who showed us the ropes on how to complete the bidding slips and directed us to the tea and coffee making area... They had learned bridge under Jim Borin's tutelage and had learned his lessons rather too well for our liking!

Five boards later and many matchpoints poorer we moved onto the next table where we met David and Jenny, a local couple who had learned at Cathy Mill's Club. Their children had been at school with Justin Mill and were very proud to have been amongst the first people ever to have had a lesson from him as a youngster.

Round 3 was very curious as we played against the Main Man and Iffie. As the reader will have noted, the 8 regulars and the two interlopers made up 2 and a half tables so to avoid a lengthy sit out Chris enlists the help of Iffie. Iffie is the invisible man and Chris bids both hands in a curious process that doesn't get included in the final tally but did give us an opportunity to go down in a slam that didn't end up costing! At the last 2 tables we met Carl and Julie and Shann and Nicky and we were invited to join them at the local RSL to go over the hands at the end of the evening.

Play completed we all helped pack away the tables and chairs, return coffee cups and ready the room for its daytime manifestation of a children's play centre. We then trailed

each other to the RSL. A bottle of wine was purchased although we sat chastely with cups of tea as the members brought out cakes and biscuits, cheese and crackers, chocolates and nuts to share. The hand records were pulled out by us but that was as far as the discussion on the hands went. Instead this charming little group, shared news and stories.



The friendliness and camaraderie of this club was delightful, and I can't praise enough how well Chris runs his sessions. If anyone lives in the area, you couldn't ask for a better Friday night out than to go and give this lovely little club a go.

Website: <http://www.ecbc.net.au/>

If you would like your club featured in the next Secret Shopper contact Dee and we will come and visit.

AUSTRALIAN MIXED PLAYOFF

Victorians were involved in each of the four teams which reached the final stages of the Mixed Team playoff. The quarter-finalists were:

Gold: Leigh Gold, Kitty Muntz, Jamie Ebery and Kim Frazer

Tutty: Jodi Tutty, David Beauchamp, Renee Cooper and Ben Thompson

Grosvenor: Hugh Grosvenor, Ann Paton, Viv Wood and Simon Hinge

Darling: Marina Darling, Justin Mill, Annette Maluish and Andrew Mill.

Gold and Tutty won their quarter final matches and the Tutty team were triumphant over Gold in the final.