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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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June 2025

From the President

Without doubt the recent highlight at the Geelong Bridge Club, (following the lowlight of the break in), was the celebration of the 95th birthdays of Bev Kroger and Tim Ratcliffe. What an inspiration they are to us all. Jennifer Lehmann has promised that she will make the same cake for me in twenty years' time.

One of the challenges for our club is to cater for the needs of all our members. It is difficult to meet the needs of those who see bridge as a social activity, those who are keen to learn a little more and those of us who are interested in different systems and conventions. I believe it is vital that, as well as these aims, that our elite players have the opportunity to play at a high level.

As part of our strategy for the future (being developed by Phil Dunlop-Moore and others), the committee would like to see our club recognised as a bridge club that can educate players - to learn how to play bridge and then follow up to improve our bridge.

What does our club offer? Thanks to Bernie O'Dea we are running a set of beginners' lessons with a pleasing attendance. We are also investigating with U3A to introduce people to the game. Bernie has also run two very successful post beginner classes on doubling and transfers. We hope to run more of these later in the year. The Tuesday novices have a lesson once a month as well.

The second Thursday of the month offers intermediate lessons before play. We are fortunate to have several of our top players offer their expertise and provide worthwhile resources for us. Buddy Day has just happened again - an opportunity to play with and learn or mentor another member and, hopefully enjoy it as well.

Congress is an important part of our program. There are Restricted pairs and Teams events for those under 100 MPs as well as the Open sections. Again, it is an opportunity to test your skills.

I mention again Margaret Glover's excellent displays and contributions to the website, and this newsletter.

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Presidents' Day 2025

On Wednesday 4 June I attended the second meeting of Bridge Victoria's Presidents' Day. There were approximately 25 Club people from around Victoria present. The afternoon was run by Jan van Riel who is the President of Bridge Victoria (BV). The first session was run by Colin Jasper, President of the Victorian Bridge Association (VBA).

The structure of bridge administration in Victoria is complicated. At present there is the VBA which is the overseeing company of BV and the Victorian Bridge Centre (VBC) - which is a club.

In the future there will be no VBA. The separation will take place when BV and VBC are operationally and financially stable. This can take place when Poath Road is sold (a long story), once legal, tax and asset issues are resolved and when there is agreement at a General Meeting of the VBA. Fortunately there are several legal, tax and other experts working voluntarily on managing this process.

Currently there is a BV Operating Committee, a VBC Operating Committee and a Communications Committee. There are working groups on sales (of Poath Road) and assets - how will they be split? Hopefully proceeds will be around \$3 million. There is also an initial draft of a BV constitution. Capitation fees go to BV.

Kym Fraser is launching Beginners' Education material. It is currently being formatted but there should be at least eight lessons available by the end of June. These lessons have been trialled in some clubs. Other committees are working on launching social media and guidelines for behaviour at clubs. Clubs and members are encouraged to keep looking at the BV website to see what is available.

Directing assistance was a point of much discussion. It is clear that BV got it wrong with the course in Bendigo. You Tube was highlighted as an excellent resource to look at individual rulings and how to apply them. The session run by Laurie Kelso is being broken up and will be posted on the BV website. People found this session helpful.

The culture committee is looking at ways to promote a friendly welcoming environment, how to handle minor behavioural issues, formal complaints and interpersonal issues. The value of a buddy system was pointed out and we should post the 'Please be Considerate' poster which is available from the ABF website. Warm greetings and social engagement are important and the Director has a key role in supporting this. What should be alerted? This seems to be an issue with beginners, also the role of the Director.

There is information on dealing with formal complaints on the website and there is a mediator available from BV. The issue of banned players being allowed to play was clarified. Each club acts independently on this so just because one club bans a player does not prevent that player from participating in other events.

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Looking at growth of bridge clubs - the numbers of bridge players is roughly the same as this time last year. Moonee Valley has a 15% turnover - people stop playing and others begin. Two thirds of clubs have grown membership.

The recent event at the Melbourne Cricket Club was the biggest club congress for many years. There is to be a trial of a Gold in the Goldfields towards the end of 2025 with the first gold point event to be held in November 2026.

We need to acknowledge the amount of volunteering that occurs in bridge clubs. Clubs need this to survive and thrive. Sponsorship is an area to look at. Also developing a skills register so that clubs know what members can do.

Phil Young can help people/clubs to set up myABF which is the way of the future. Some clubs such as Waverley and Moonee Valley do not accept cash anymore. MyABF can be used to track membership, do membership renewal and in the next 12 months will be able to handle masterpoints.

We were given an update on the financials and we were shown the budget which shows that the VBA is basically breaking even. It does cost to run events and there are travel costs for players representing Victoria.

Sponsorship - we were provided with pens from Victorian Hearing and they are keen to sponsor events. Daniel Schembri spoke about Fixed Income Solutions and Lachlan Kennedy spoke about Tony Ambrose Insurance Brokers. They were both enthusiastic about sponsoring. Many spoke glowingly about the Travel Insurance offered by the Tony Ambrose group.

We then broke into groups and GBC was rated as a large club with Waverley, RACV, Kooyong and Moonee Valley. Time was short but the use of MyABF was discussed as well as liaising with U3A.

The final comments were particularly relevant to GBC. BV has instituted a President's award. This award recognises contributions over an extended period to the development of bridge, at State or National level, contributions to the operation and management of bridge at a State or National level and contributions to raising awareness in general. This award will not necessarily be awarded every year. **GARY RIDGWAY** is awarded the President's Award for 2025 for outstanding contributions to bridge in Victoria. This award will be presented to Gary at our Congress.

Marion Scambler
President





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Club Results

Open Teams Final Wednesday 26 March

1st	M Stokie, R Gillard, K Bailey, G Bailey, P Jain
2nd	D Newland, J Stark, A Robbins, D Newlands, G Ridgway, S Lester
3rd	R Lawrie, T Johnston, T Seed, G Webb

Western Region Friendly Teams Sunday 13 April

1st	M Stokie, R Lawrie. B Fitzpatrick, V Sercombe
2nd	A Gunst, S Duff J Johnstone, R Macaulay
3rd	P Farney, G Dwyer P Li, T Ni

Helen Drinnan Teams Friday 9, 16, 23 May

1st (equ)	G Ridgway, A Robbins, D Newlands, J Stark
1st (equ)	R Gillard, P Jain, G Bailey, K Bailey
3rd	R Lawrie, T Johnston, V Sercombe, J Blyton

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs Thursday 29 May

1st	NS: D Casey, P Dunlop-Moore EW: L Kruger, M Kinahan
2nd	NS: K Thomas, A Blackburn EW: J McGonigal, M Gdack
3rd	NS: M Peck, J Cousins EW: J Fisher, A De Boos



Celebrating Bev and Tim's 95th

It's not often that we get to celebrate such a significant milestone, especially two of them at the same time. Ninety-five! Such an achievement! Congratulations Bev and Tim and a big thank you to **Jennifer Lehmann** for baking the cake.

Rank Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have received new Masterpoint rankings.

Club	John Pinto
	Phillip Bowden
	Libby Skene
Local	Ross Abraham
	Judy Ramage
	Denis McDonald
Bronze Local	Jane Skene
	Philip Dunlop-Moore
Silver Local	Michael Kinahan
	John Phillips
State	Linda Johnston
	Linda Lee
	Graham McAlpine
Bronze State	Val Sercombe
Bronze National	Barbara Bell
Bronze Life	Anne Gunst
Gold Grand	Arthur Robbins

HIGH SCORES

Mar	A Robbins, J Skeen	72.9
Apr	M Stokie, R Gillard	72.5
May	A Robbins, G Ridgway	74.7

NEW MEMBERS

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new and re-joining members.

Juliette Mendelovits

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

March	J Prowse
April	L Frankenburg
May	D Newlands

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sunday is
On 27 July at 4.00pm. Note there is no Pizza
Sunday in June because of the GBC
Congress weekend on 28-29 June.

Please come along and join in the fun, but
be sure to put your name on the list if you
wish to attend.

Open Teams, Helen Drinnan Teams and GNOT

GBC's two annual Gold Masterpoint events were completed recently, the Open Teams and the Helen Drinnan Teams.

As reported in the March Newsletter, the finalists for the Open Teams were:

Monday heat qualifiers

Newland team (D Newland, S Lester, D Newlands, A Robbins, J Stark, G Ridgway), and Lawrie team (R Lawrie, T Johnston, G Webb, T Seed).

Friday heat qualifiers

Bailey team (K Bailey, G Bailey, P Jain, R Gillard, M Stokie), and Prowse team (J Prowse, D Casey, P Dunlop-Moore, G Foard).

The semi-finals and finals were conducted as 32-board matches on 12 & 19 March. The Newland and Bailey teams won their semi-finals comfortably and played off for the Championship the following week. This was a much closer match, with the Bailey team prevailing by just 8 IMPs. The Lawrie team won the play-off for the minor placings. The final results were:

- 1st BAILEY
- 2nd NEWLAND
- 3rd LAWRIE
- 4th PROWSE



(P Jain missing from team photo)

Qualifying heats for the Helen Drinnan Teams were conducted over two Fridays in May and the top four teams proceeded to the finals. The finalists were:

Robbins team (A Robbins, G Ridgway, J Stark, D Newlands)

Frost team (T Frost, R Macaulay, A Feiner, M Glover, A Gunst)

Bailey team (K Bailey, G Bailey, P Jain, R Gillard)

Lawrie team (R Lawrie, T Johnston, V Sercombe, J Blyton)

The finals held on 23 May comprised semi-finals and final, both 14-board matches. The Robbins team defeated the Lawrie team comfortably in one semi-final but the other semi-final between the Bailey and Frost teams was extremely close with Bailey edging out their opponents by just 1 IMP. The final was even closer with the Robbins and Bailey teams tied in a draw after the 14 boards.

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Open Teams, Helen Drinnan Teams and GNOT *continued from previous page*

The final results were:

Equal 1 st	ROBBINS	Equal 1 st	BAILEY
3 rd	LAWRIE	4 th	FROST

Congratulations to all the finalists in both events.



(R Gillard & P Jain missing from photo)

These two events are used to determine GBC's teams for the Geelong Region GNOT Final to be held on 22 June. The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is a knock-out event conducted by the ABF in which 60 Regions across Australia hold Regional Finals with the winners proceeding to on-line semi-finals in September and then finals in Sydney in November. There are two Regions in our area, the Geelong Region (GBC, Ocean Grove and Torquay BCs) and the Western Victoria Region extending to the SA border.

The Geelong Region GNOT Final is contested by 12 teams: GBC 6, OGBC 4, TBC 2. The GBC cohort is the four finalists from the Open Teams and two from the Drinnan Teams. These are BAILEY, NEWLAND and PROWSE from the Open Teams together with LAWRIE and FROST from the Drinnan (passing over Robbins and Bailey already eligible via the Open Teams). LAWRIE have opted to proceed with their Drinnan team rather than their Open team composition. This has left one vacancy to be filled by the highest-ranked non-qualifier from the Open Teams, which was the Duff team (S Duff, G Temple, B Jones, P Jones). Good luck to all GBC representatives.

The Western Victoria GNOT Regional Final will be held on 13 July.

Mike Stokie

Australia-wide Novice Pairs

The Australia-wide Novice Pairs event was held at the club on Thursday 29 May. Twenty pairs entered, with David Casey and Philip Dunlop-Moore winning North South, whilst Leah Kruger and Michael Kinahan were the East West winners.

The club results were then collated with all the other participating club results around Australia. What an outcome for GBC! David and Philip finished 7th and Leah and Michael 15th across Australia. Also of note, Glenn Foard and David Melzer, playing at Ocean Grove BC, finished 5th Australia-wide and first in the <50MP section!



Overall GBC had ten pairs scoring over 50% nationally. Well done Novice players! This bodes well for the future of Bridge in Geelong.

Western Region Friendly Teams

The Western Region Friendly Teams event this year was held at the Geelong Bridge Club Sunday 13th April hosted by the Ocean Grove Bridge Club. We had 14 teams participate with people from Ballarat, Torquay, Warrnambool, Geelong and Ocean Grove.

The results were :

- 1st Mike Stokie, Richard Lawrie, Bridget Fitzpatrick, Valerie Sercombe (Geelong)
- 2nd Anne Gunst, Sue Duff, Robin Macaulay, Jenny Johnstone (Geelong)
- 3rd Patricia Farney, Geoff Dwyer, Ping Li, Tony Ni (Ballarat)

It was a very successful and enjoyable day. A big thank you to George Del Papa and his Committee for organising the day, particularly as it was held away from their home club. The morning and afternoon teas drinks and nibbles were up to their normal high standard.

The day would not have run smoothly had it not been for Mike Stokie and his professional skills.

The Victorian Women's and Senior's Team Selection Finals were held on the 26th and 27th April in Melbourne. Congratulations to Denny Newland and Stephen Lester who came 1st in the Seniors' and to Jane and Margaret Skeen who came 7th in the Women's. Jane and Marg won four games which is a great result playing in such a strong field - "you did us well".

We now look forward to our next Western Region event, the Friendly Pairs which are being held at Ballarat on Saturday 9 August - we hope you will all make a big effort to attend !!!

Jenny Johnstone (President WRBA)



Women's & Seniors' Playoff Fatigue Sets In

Denny Newland and I were recently delighted to win a place as one of the three pairs representing Victoria in the 2025 Seniors Interstate Championships, to be held in Brisbane in early July. This came about as a result of winning the Western Region Pairs Championship at GBC in February. We played nine rounds of Swiss Pairs in conjunction with the hopefuls in the Women's field. Towards the end of two days of play, the seat felt like a torture chamber and my brain felt fuzzy, and I felt every year of my age (and then some).

I regularly use a deal which illustrates the hold up play in intermediate lessons. The following deal is a textbook example

Board 10 (last match)

Dlr: East

Vul: All

<p>♠ AKT7 ♥ 853 ♦ A85 ♣ Q86</p> <p>♠ J62 ♥ AJ96? ♦ 742 ♣ KJ9</p> <p>♠ Q54 ♥ KQ7 ♦ QJT93 ♣ A2</p>	<p>♠ 983 ♥ T4? ♦ K6 ♣ T7543</p>
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West leads 6H to 3H and 10H against your 3NT contract. You survey your play for nine tricks. If KD is onside, you may be able to score five Diamonds, a Heart, a Club and three top Spades for 10 tricks. You will, however, have to take a finesse in Diamonds, through West around to East, the danger hand.

As the cards lie, East will win the KD and push a Heart through, allowing West to cash four more Heart tricks, if the split is 5-2, for one down. You now dimly remember a rule you learned about the hold up play: the Rule of 7. That means you count the number of cards you hold in both hands and subtract from 7. On this hand the answer is 1. So you duck 10H and play one of your honours on the next trick. Now whatever West does, he cannot get in to run his suit if the hearts are 5-2.

I was South and foolishly won the first Heart, which would have led to instant defeat. Unfortunately for EW, their EW cards were as below, and with West only holding four Hearts, I was safe for 9 tricks.

<p>♠ J62 ♥ AJ96 ♦ 742 ♣ KJ9</p>	<p>♠ 983 ♥ T42 ♦ K6 ♣ T7543</p>
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I was therefore not punished for my oversight, and Denny and I were triumphant in leading the Seniors' Selection event.

Stephen Lester

Bendigo Bridge Club Congress

Bendigo Bridge Club held its annual Congress over the weekend of 24-25 May. Eleven players from Geelong Bridge Club played over the weekend and acquitted themselves admirably.

In the Swiss Pairs on Saturday Arthur Robbins and Gary Ridgway won the event. But what about Val Sercombe and Brig Fitzpatrick? They placed third! Arthur and Gary repeated the story on Sunday in the Teams event with their team mates, Douglas Newlands and Justin Stark. Jenny Johnstone's team (with Anne Gunst, Judy Williams and Kath Graham) placed a very creditable sixth. What a great result and it bodes well for the Geelong Congress coming up on the last weekend in June. Get your entries in via MyABF!



Coming up

Buddy Day	Thursday 12 June
Intermediate Pairs	Mondays 16 & 23 June
Geelong GNOT Final	Sunday 22 June
GBC Congress	Saturday & Sunday 28-29 June
Western Victoria GNOT Pairs	Sunday 13 July
Men's & Women's Pairs	Thursdays 24 & 31 July
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 27 July
Western Region Friendly Pairs	Saturday 9 August (Ballarat)
Australia-wide Open Pairs	Monday 25 August
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 31 August

Slam Bidding in Hobart

Here is a hand from the Senior Swiss Pairs in Hobart. It has a valuable lesson in slam bidding.

Dlr: S
Vul: None

<p>♠ 1094</p> <p>♥ Q652</p> <p>♦ 9742</p> <p>♣ 53</p>	<p>♠ AKQJ853</p> <p>♥ K3</p> <p>♦ A106</p> <p>♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ 6</p> <p>♥ J974</p> <p>♦ 85</p> <p>♣ KQJ876</p>
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♠ 72

♥ A108

♦ KQJ3

♣ A1042

With silent opponents, you must be able to set spades as trumps in a game forcing (GF) auction. You might bid 1C-2S-2N-3S or you might do it via 1C-1S-1N-2D-2N-3S (2D was XYZ, it is artificial and GF). Plausibly both hands might cue bid 4C-4D-4H and then North pulls out RKC and South shows 2 keycards without the Queen of trumps. North can see that 12 tricks are likely via 6 spades, AKH, AD, AC and South still has values for his opening bid which are unaccounted for. North should bid 5NT which says “we have all the key cards and will make slam”, but also asks “do you have an undisclosed source of tricks?” South has an undisclosed source of tricks in the form of the KQJx of diamonds and should leap to 7S.

With only the KD, South should bid 6D. Without the KD or any other K, South should sign off in 6S. With the KC South should bid 6C and, over that North can bid 6D saying bid 7S with the KD. It's all quite neat and is a standard part of RKC (even if you never got that far into the book)! Surprisingly only four pairs bid the grand slam and seventeen stopped in the small slam. Four pairs only reached game!

Here is a slam from the Australian Swiss Pairs where declarer might (should?) have made it.

Dlr: S
Vul: EW

<p>♠ 96543</p> <p>♥ QJ106</p> <p>♦ A984</p> <p>♣ -</p>	<p>♠ AJ</p> <p>♥ 983</p> <p>♦ Q765</p> <p>♣ Q762</p>	<p>♠ KQ102</p> <p>♥ A7</p> <p>♦ K3</p> <p>♣ AK984</p>
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♠ 87

♥ K542

♦ J102

♣ J1053

EW had a good auction to 6S by East (1C-1D-1S-4S-4N-5C-6S) which is fortunate since a heart lead beats 6S by West. South led the JD and declarer relied on the heart finesse and went one off. There is a chance in clubs (4-4 or J109 trebleton) and declarer should try this first intending to discard 3 hearts.

So, win the KD, club ruff, spade and North rises and returns a heart. Put up the AH, draw trumps, AC, KC, club ruff. The clubs are coming down, so AD, diamond ruff, last club discarding the fourth heart and ruff the 7H for the 12th trick.

Douglas Newlands

Arthur's Gold Grand Master Award

1. **When and how were you introduced to Bridge?** *I started work at the Gordon Institute in 1970. A fellow lecturer, Nick Bullock, started to teach bridge at lunchtime, and most of the Maths faculty (inc Mike Stokie) attended. By about September, I had a game at the GBC (in the St Giles hall) with Nick. 1971, I roomed with Gary, and I found a book on Schenken on the bargain table at Griffiths, which became our bible (system, Big Club, a forerunner of Precision), for many years. Gary and I started to play regularly from the beginning of 1971.*
2. **What are your most memorable Bridge competition achievements?** *We represented Victoria in the Open Team on 3 occasions, and several times on the Seniors Team. Our team on the GNOT in 2004 (plus Doug and Denny) were runners up! On a pairs basis, Doug and I won the Australian Seniors Pairs Championship in 2017?)*
3. **What's your best hand ever?** *Every hand is special, but my special memory was in 1978 when Gary and I played in our first Victorian Open team, and faced the top Australian pair, Tim Seres and Roloef Smilde in the final. I opened 2C(12-16), Gary bid 2D (enquiry), I bid 3H (max, 6Cs, and H shortage!), Gary bid 6H!!! I nearly fell off my chair, but the contract made (Gary held AKQxxxx of Hearts). Tim congratulated us on our bidding!!*
4. **What's your worst hand ever?** *Too many to rate.*
5. **What well known players have you played against?** *Tim Seres and Ron Klinger, obviously, plus many of the top Australian players over the years.*
6. **How did you become involved in the administration of GBC?** *I think I was Vice President in 1977/8, then President in 1979. It just seemed to be normal to contribute. Gary was on the committee, but never wanted to be an office bearer. However he was the club teacher for about 15 years, and Chairman of the Match Committee for more the 20 years!*
7. **For how many years were you on the Committee? President?** *Certainly 22 years as President, and a few years before that on the Committee.*
8. **What was your greatest achievement as President?** *Overseeing the building and financing of our clubrooms, obviously. Many people contributed to our wonderful club, and I can give you more about this if you would like (before my memory goes!) (Editor: we will certainly take Arthur up on this for a later issue)*
9. **Tell us something about your various Bridge partners over the years.** *I have had only two long term partners over all of these years, Gary and Douglas, though I have had casual games with many people. Why? Because I have always strived to play at a high level, and to do this, you need to discuss many sequences with your partner. For example, playing in the State team with Gary, we expected our opponents would use counter methods against our Precision.*

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- Gary and I then developed Counter-Counter Methods!! You can't do this in a casual game. Doug and I have also put much time into system methods!*
10. **What are the most important characteristics of a good Bridge partnership?** *Trust your partner (especially to remember the system), and try not to make comments about bidding/play at the table, though this is not always possible.*
 11. **What are your favourite bidding conventions?** *I like any methods that add to your hand evaluation, and ability to compete. Tassie 2D (developed by Douglas Newlands, showing 5S/4+other) has worked well, Splinters are very important! Balancing, 2NT showing two places to play, is important in competing! XYZ Checkback is great.*
 12. **You are currently mentoring a number of less experienced players. What is your advice to them as they seek to improve their bidding/play?** *The first is easy! Learn to count, and play the cards. Bidding methods are a crutch, which anyone can do! Special Conventions are good for perhaps finding a slam, but learning to play the cards should be foremost!*

*Thanks for sharing this with us **Arthur Robbins**. As a club I think I can speak for all of the members to wish you hearty congratulations on a momentous achievement of Gold Grandmaster: 5,000 MPs.*

Why don't strong players want to play with me?

It's 11.30, and I am about to go to bed after drinking a bottle of red wine, and this thought pops into my head. Why do strong players not want to play with "lessers"? Why do they play amongst themselves? On reflection, it is not about bidding systems, after all, these are designed to reach the optimum contract, whether a simple method, or with lots of gadgets. No, its about carding, and the ability to defend to the maximum.

Have you ever won the opening trick with a singleton King? Would you like to be the partner of the person who led away from the Ace? There are many methods to show interest, or not, in a suit, but many people do not take the time to put these methods into practice. What does the lead of a low card show, of a high card? As you defend 50% of the time, co-operation between the two defenders is paramount. The "expert" is used to reading the cards, and to getting help from partner, but if partner cannot/will not help, you are heading for a poor score.

Yes, you are relatively new to the game, and yes it does take a while to absorb the possibilities of defence, but unless you take the time to discuss carding, your results will not improve, and yes, strong players will prefer to play with others who have good carding methods.

It's now 12.00, and I have floated these ideas. Until my next sleepless night, cheers.

Arthur Robbins

Playing with Douglas Newlands in the Australian Swiss Pairs Championship, I had a success and a failure holding two long suits with few HCP!

Round 7, Board 6

Sitting North, I hold:

♠ KJT963
♥ 864
♦ 653
♣ -

Partner opens 1D (5+ suit), RHO bids 2N (5H/5C), I pass (any bid here shows values), LHO bids 4C, around to me, and I bid 4S, all pass.

The hand (Board 6):

Dir: E ♠ KJT9643
Vul: EW ♥ 864
 ♦ 653
 ♣ -

♠ 85	♠ Q72
♥ KQ532	♥ 9
♦ Q	♦ AT94
♣ QT854	♣ KJ763

♠ A
♥ AJT7
♦ KJ872
♣ A92

I had little trouble making 10 tricks, after the 9H lead.

Round 9, Board 22

Again, sitting North, I held:

♠ 82
♥ 2
♦ 95
♣ KQ986532

Partner opens 1H, RHO bids 1S, I pass (? I could have bid 5C, but any other bid would show some values), LHO bids 2S and partner bids 3D. Last chance. Where are the Spades? If partner is 2551, 5C doesn't look like making, but 3D looks reasonable, so I passed. Partner did make 3D, BUT:

Dir: E ♠ 82
Vul: EW ♥ 2
 ♦ 95
 ♣ KQ986532

♠ KJ975	♠ AT643
♥ AK86	♥ J53
♦ J2	♦ T864

♠ Q
♥ QT974
♦ AKQ73
♣ A4

Yes, he held the great cards for North to make 5C. Bummer! Sometimes it doesn't help to think too much!

Arthur Robbins

A hand from the recent Women's and Seniors' playoffs for the right to represent Victoria in the July Australian National Championships, featured logical thought processes.

Board 16

Dlr: W

Vul: EW

	♠ QJ84	
	♥ AT	
	♦ QJ85	
	♣ AQ9	
♠ K97		♠ AT532
♥ 96		♥ 842
♦ T632		♦ -
♣ K854		♣ T7632
	♠ 6	
	♥ KQJ753	
	♦ AK974	
	♣ J	

At our table North opened a 14-16 Notrump, and, after a transfer to Hearts and a 3H bid from South, setting Hearts and asking for cue bids, North cue bid 4C, denying first round Spade control. South used keycard to find partner had two controls, before bidding 6H.

How do you defend 6H with these cards? The club lead chosen was not a success, with declarer winning with the AC, cashing QC, discarding a Spade from dummy, then drawing trumps followed by a claim for 12 tricks.

The thinking defender stays away from a Club lead, instead underleading the AS. When partner unexpectedly wins the first trick with the KS, it should only take an instant for West to switch to a Diamond. Luckily, the opponents have made it relatively easy for you to initiate this defence by showing a weakness in Spades.

Interestingly, no-one defeated 6H, but a few didn't bid slam so the swing was roughly 5 IMPS for bidding slam. Note that 6D is a much better slam and is unbeatable.

Stephen Lester

How often have you seen three singleton Kings in one deal? The odds are relatively small of such an occurrence, and the play showed up my luck! LHO opens 1D, partner bids 2C, RHO bids 2D, what should I bid with this?

♠ AJ86532

♥ 8654

♦ K

♣ K

A negative X, perhaps, but better, 2S. LHO bids 3D, partner 3S, so what the heck - 4S! LHO leads the AD and partner puts down:

♠ QT7

♥ QT3

♦ T

♣ AQ8752

Not great, but playable. Fortunately LHO shifts to a Club, not a Heart, so my singleton KC wins. Two singleton Kings! What now? Could there be another singleton? LHO had opened, so is more likely to hold KS, so I led the AS, and yes, down came the KS! Twelve tricks duly made!

The full hand:

Board 14

Dlr:E

Vul: Nil

♠ 94	♠ AJ86532	♠ K
♥ AJ97	♥ 8654	♥ K2
♦ 987653	♦ K	♦ AQJ942
♣ 43	♣ K	♣ JT96
	♠ QT7	
	♥ QT3	
	♦ T	
	♣ AQ8752	

NB: RHO did play the 8D, asking for a Heart switch, but LHO did not recognise it. Would you have?

Arthur Robbins

Glenn Foard sent me a hand after he played at Ocean Grove recently, which led me to this topic. The hand will be looked at later.

What do you do after partner pre-empts, when you hold a good hand? Have you discussed this with your partner? Is a new suit forcing? Or is it saying I don't like your suit, how about mine? (in other words non-forcing). How do you explain this hand, a bottom for Glenn and David Melzer!

NS Pair	EW pair	NSEW	NS MP	EW MP	Contr	By	Made	Lead
2	6	90	14.0	0.0	2	♦	E	8 ♣4
1	4	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
3	8	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
4	1	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
5	3	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
7	7	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
9	2	110	7.0	7.0	2	♣	W	8 ♣A
8	9	170	0.0	14.0	2	♣	W	10 ♣A

Hand record		Result stats
Board 21	♠J96	13
Dir: N	♥K964	
Vul: N-S	♦QJ972	
	♣A	
♠AQT43	♠72	
♥AT732	♥8	
♦K86	♦AKT865	
	♣T973	
11	♠K85	N:
13	7 ♥QJ5	S:
9	♦43	E: 3♣2♦1♥3♠1NT
	♣QJ542	W: 3♣2♦1♥3♠1NT

David (E) opened 2D and played there, making 8 tricks. But look at all of the other scores. 2S by West. Yes, it is possible East passed at all of the other tables, but it looks like a decent 2D opening to me (even 3D). If East passed, yes EW can get to 2S easily (1S-1N-2H-2S would be normal). So for those pairs where East opened 2D, West must have bid 2S (I don't like Diamonds, partner), and East passed. To me, 2S should be forcing for one round. For you?

Arthur Robbins

(OK, Arthur has asked the question. I remembered that Douglas Newlands gave a lesson on bidding after partner makes a pre-emptive bid sometime in 2024, so I asked him to answer Arthur's question. See his response on the following pages. Editor)

A note from the editor

As the editor, I would like to encourage you all to pass on anything you think will be of interest to the members regarding the Bridge Club. Thanks again to those who contributed information and interesting articles for this edition. Contact the committee or me at jlblyton@gmail.com .

Jennifer Blyton

Bidding After Partner's Weak Two Bid – now the lesson

Partner may have

- AKQxxx or
- HHxxxx with an honour in a side suit (not an ace) or
- HHxxxx (H means A or K or Q) and no side suit honour or
- Hxxxxx with an honour in a side suit

You can ask which of these partner has, using a convention like Ogust* where the responses might be

- 3C one honour, with side honour
- 3D two honours, no side honour
- 3H two honours, with a side honour
- 3S vacant
- 3N solid suit AKQxxx

Firstly, always decide what you would bid if partner has HHxxxx and no more than a Queen on the side. Your options are

- Ask about suit quality and a side card only if necessary
- Opening a weak 2 in 3rd seat is not so constrained because partner has already passed and there will not be game values even if you have too much in the side suits.
- Opening a weak 2 in 4th seat is not done because you can pass out the hand and they have missed their contract without you having to pre-empt them.
- A 4th seat 2 bid shows 11-14 and a good 6 card suit.

Example 1

Partner opens 2S, what do you bid with

♠ 2

♥ KQ1052

♦ A832

♣ 865

Answer: PASS is clear with no fit and 3 losers in clubs, the AH is a loser and there may be diamond losers.

Example 2

Partner opens 2S, what do you bid with

♠ K2

♥ A952

♦ A832

♣ A65

Answer: 3NT since we expect 6 spade tricks and three aces.
Bid 2NT if you want to be careful.

Continued next page

Example 3

Partner opens 2S, what do you bid with

♠ K932

♥ 2

♦ AKJ832

♣ 75

Answer: 4S is clear since there are 3 top losers in hearts and clubs. This bid should stop them finding their double fit in hearts and clubs. Bidding 2NT will just give them a chance to bid at the 3 level.

Example 4

Partner opens 2S, what do you bid with

♠ K932

♥ 2

♦ AKJ832

♣ A5

Answer: 6S looks likely since the diamonds will set up easily. Ask with 2NT and bid 6S if partner shows HHxxxx and bid 5S if partner shows one honour. This bid asks partner to go on to 6S with good intermediate trumps i.e. the Jack or 10.

Example 5

Partner opens 2S at **favourable vul**, what do you bid with

♠ K932

♥ 972

♦ J32

♣ 752

Answer: Bid 3S to be obstructive. There are likely to be 7 side suit losers for -500 versus their game (+620).

Example 6

Partner opens 2S at **favourable vul**, what do you bid with

♠ K932

♥ 2

♦ J87632

♣ 75

Answer: Bid 4S. It is likely to be 2 off but consider what they can make. They should be making 6H (maybe 7H) to give us -1430 (or -2210). Maybe 4S won't keep them out. What other options are there?

- Bid 5S immediately (-500) or even 6S (-800)
- bid 3H or 4H since 4H down 10 is only -500 and, if they double you can run to 4S! Most opponents cannot play in a suit if you bid it first!
- Bid 3NT (9 down is only -450) and run to 4S if they double!

You are allowed to have fun and to psyche as long as partner doesn't know about it.

Example 7

Partner opens 2S at **favourable vul**, what do you bid with

♠ 2

♥ AQJ10875

♦ AKJ9

♣ 7

Answer: Bidding 4H is clear.

Douglas Newlands



Geelong Bridge Club 2025 Congress

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 June 2025

**Venue: Highton Bowls Club - cnr Roslyn & North Valley Roads,
Highton Vic 3216**

Director: Martin Willcox

Recorder: Arthur Robbins

Registration and payment through [MyABF](#)

OR

Registration through bridgeunlimited.com with cash payment on the day

Entries close **Wednesday 5pm 25 June 2025**

Cost: \$60 per person each day

Program

Saturday: 10am start - Swiss Pairs Open and Restricted

Restricted: <100 Masterpoints as at 31 March 2025

Sunday: 10am start - Open and Restricted Teams

Restricted: <100 MPs per player as at 31 March 2025

Cash prizes

Morning tea, lunch and nibbles will be provided. Bar open at lunch and at the end of play. Please notify Convenor of any dietary requirements at least one week prior to play.

Convenor: Jennifer Blyton jblyton@gmail.com

Mobile: 0409 852 538

Highly artificial systems not permitted. System cards mandatory.