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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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From the President: Seeing the Table from the Other Side

Every argument at the bridge table starts from the same premise: I was right, and something else went wrong. The bid was reasonable given what I held; the defence was logical given what I could see; the comment across the table was fair given what had just happened. The trouble is that four people can hold four separate versions of "reasonable" during the same board, and none of them is lying.

Bridge is built on this problem before it is built on anything else. A card is not a fact; it is a signal, and your partner has to reconstruct your hand from thirteen cards and a handful of calls, none of which describe your hand directly. Good partnerships are not the ones where both players think alike. They are the ones where each player has learned to ask, before drawing a conclusion, what the play looks like from across the table rather than what it means from their own side of it. That habit, practised for years over thirteen cards, is exactly the habit that keeps a club functioning once you stand up from the table.

We are a club of very different standards, and that is a strength rather than a problem to manage. A newer player and a state-grade player watching the same defence will each construct a different story about what happened and why, and both stories will feel complete from where they are sitting. The newer player may read a slow tempo as hesitation and a hesitation as an accusation; the experienced player may read a question as a challenge to their judgement rather than as someone trying to learn. Neither reading is wrong given the information available to that particular player; both are incomplete, because neither player has access to the other's hand, experience, or intent. That gap, not any failure of character, is where most friction in a club and at the table actually starts.

The instinct when something goes wrong is to explain your own reasoning more forcefully, on the assumption that clarity will fix the disagreement. It rarely does, because the other person is not confused about your reasoning; they have their own reasoning, built from what they could see, and it is every bit as internally consistent as yours. What actually resolves the situation is the same discipline good declarers use against a hand they cannot fully see: work backward from the other person's action to the story that would make that action sensible, then check your own assumptions against it before saying anything. It costs a few seconds of restraint and saves a great deal of the slower damage that accumulates when people stop wanting to partner each other.

Continued next page

None of this asks anyone to lower their standards or pretend that all card play is equally sound; a misplay is still a misplay, and coaching still matters at every level we play at. It asks something more specific: separate the technical correction from the assumption about intent. You can tell a partner their signal was ambiguous without deciding, in the same breath, what that ambiguity says about their attention, their commitment, or their respect for the game. The first is bridge. The second is usually guesswork dressed up as feedback.

A club runs on the same currency as a partnership, which is the willingness to keep sitting down opposite someone even after a board goes badly. That willingness erodes quickly wherever people feel judged rather than partnered, and it strengthens wherever people feel that their side of the table has actually been considered before the verdict is delivered. Our job this year, at every table and every standard, is to make that consideration the default rather than the exception. It will not remove the disagreements; it will change what they cost us and it matters, just as much for partnerships as it does for our opponents; they are really our friends and club members whom we rely on to grow, foster and nurture our club.

Justin Stark

President



Beginners Update

The Monday morning social bridge is extremely popular with players who have recently finished lessons, along with people from various other venues. I believe it is why we have had such strong retention after lessons.

Having been approached by several members asking for some post beginner lessons, I thought while Monday mornings were in recess for the recent school holidays, would be a good time slot.

These lessons were aimed at those who have recently completed lessons or those who are looking at brushing up on some of the everyday conventions. I find most newer players are terrified of no-trumps so that seemed like a good place to start. Jennifer L kindly made up a flier, and we advertised that on Monday 29 June there would be a lesson titled 'My partner has opened 1NT. What do I do?'. Not sure what to expect, we were happy to see approximately 30 people registered on the website calendar. We ended up with 42 attendees. We got great feedback and the lesson seemed to go smoothly.

Week 2 was on basic slam bidding. Having asked in week 1 how many were considering attending and only having 2 say they couldn't, we were better prepared in week 2. We worked on using a forcing bid to allow partner to give more information about their hand. We practised Blackwood and Gerber over No Trump bids. Once again, very well attended with 54 people participating.

Special thanks to Mark, Jenny J, Anthea, Dot P, Jennifer L and of course, Terry. Without their support it would be impossible to run these lessons.

Bernadette O'Dea



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Club Results

Intermediate Pairs Mondays 15, 22 June

1st	J Prowse, R Abraham
2nd	M Ilic, G Burke
3rd	D Melzer, G Foard

Men's Pairs Thursdays 23, 30 July

1st	G Bailey, P Jain
2nd	R Gillard, M Stokie
3rd	S Lester, D Newlands

Women's Pairs Thursdays 23, 30 July

1st	S Duff, G Wilson
2nd	L Frankenburg, D Peacock
3rd	S Bennett, J Ramage

WR Novice Pairs Torquay Saturday 8 August

1st	K Finkelde, M Kinahan
2nd	G Foard, P Dunlop-Moore
3rd	J Bell, J Setterfield

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sundays are on
25 October and 29 November 4.00pm
Please come along and join in the fun, but be
sure to put your name on the list if you wish
to attend.

(Note: No Pizza Sunday in September
because of the McManamny Teams on
Sunday 27 September).

Rank Promotions

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

Graduate	Pauline Rankin Anthea Abraham Peter McCarthy Keld Hansen Anthea Duthie Angela Hede
Club	Megan Schwab Margaret Thomas Margaret Grigg
Local	Allan De Boos Michael Gdak Lesley Martin Barbara Wilson-Browne
Bronze Local	Sue Bennet Judy Ramage
Silver Local	Jennifer Lehmann Ross Abraham
State	David Melzer Ros Thornton
Gold Life	Terry Johnston

HIGH SCORES

Jun	D Newlands, A Robbins	68.98%
Jul	R Gillard, M Stokie	71.53%
Aug	J Stark, D Newlands	72.92%

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Jun	J Prowse
Jul	D Newlands
Aug	T Passlow

NEW MEMBERS

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

Louise Baylis	Heather Mackenzie
Annette C Fry	Anne MacBean
Christine Gibbs	Carol Ann Reid
Dees Govender	Peter Revie
Gabor Kovacs	David Schroeder

The next beginners lessons are starting in March 2027.

Members are encouraged to take a flyer to give to their friends.

Intermediate Pairs (<500MPs)

The Intermediate Pairs were held on Mondays 15 and 22 June. This competition is open to all players with less than 500 masterpoints. **John Prowse and Ross Abraham** had an emphatic win with 125.8 MPs, but second (**Mary Ilic & Genevieve Burke** 109.13) and third place getters (**David Melzer & Glenn Foard** 108.60) were very close.



Where's John Prowse in this photo of the winners? Well, obviously in a warmer climate than ours just now. That's OK, John, Ross will hold the (cold) fort while you sun yourself up north. Editor

Men's and Women's Pairs 2026

The Men's and Women's Pairs was conducted on successive Thursdays 23 & 30 July 2026. Once again, the Thursday schedule attracted strong fields with 8½ tables in the Women's and 5½ tables in the Men's.

The Women's was run as a seeded Mitchell in Week 1 followed by an Interwoven Howell in Week 2, so that each pair played against all other pairs over the two weeks. The Men's was run as a 6-table reduced Howell with 10 rounds each week - each pair played most other pairs twice over the two weeks, but two pairs were met just once.

The results were:

Women's Pairs	Men's Pairs
1 st Sue Duff, Gabby Wilson	1 st Piyush Jain, Gavin Bailey
2 nd Lynn Frankenburg, Dot Peacock	2 nd Roger Gillard, Mike Stokie
3 rd Sue Bennett, Judy Ramage	3 rd Stephen Lester, Douglas Newlands

Congratulations to all place-getters.



Mike Stokie

Western Region Novice Pairs Torquay

The Novice Pairs event was hosted by the Torquay Bridge Club on Saturday 8 August. This was a very successful day with representation from Torquay, Ocean Grove and Geelong Bridge Clubs. It was great to see a full room of 14 tables on the day. There were two categories for the competition - pairs with under 50 Masterpoints and pairs with under 100 Masterpoints. Congratulations to the following winners and place getters in both sections.

Under 100 MP:

1st Place: Keith Finkelde and Michael Kinahan (Ocean Grove): 5-0-1; VPs 86.50

2nd Place: Glenn Foard and Philip Dunlop-Moore (Geelong): 6-0-0; VPs 84.00

3rd Place: Judith Bell and Jean Setterfield (Torquay): 4-0-2; VPs 76.88

Under 50 MP:

1st Place: Cheryl Brook and Christopher Lewis (Torquay): 4-0-2; VPs 67.90

2nd Place: Michael Gdak and Jennifer Lehmann (Geelong): 4-0-2; VPs 67.25

3rd Place: Anna Miller and Eric Miller (Torquay): 3-0-3; VPs 62.77

Special thanks to Geoff Warren and the Torquay Bridge Club for their organisation and putting on the day and Mike Stokie for running the event. This is an important event, for those newer to the game, to be supported in a competitive but friendly environment. This was the first full day event for some of the people competing on the day.

Other WRBA events

Next for the WRBA is the Friendly Pairs event to be held at Ballarat on the 14th November. Save the date and keep an eye out for information on how to enter closer to the date.

Good luck to both WRBA teams that will be competing in this year's Country Teams Championship on 6 September at the VBA.



Brigid Fitzpatrick

President WRBA

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs 2026

The two annual Australia-wide competitions GBC participates in are the Novice Pairs (25-31 May) held at GBC on Thursday 28 May, and the Open Pairs, to be held at GBC on Monday 31 August.

With a score of 63.7%, **Rhonda Gude** and **Linda Johnston** were the Club winners of the 2026 Australia-Wide Novice Pairs, placing them 38th Australia-wide.

Congratulations to you both!



Director **John Prowse** was so pleased with this result that he was inspired to pen a limerick, which he read out when announcing Rhonda and Linda's great result.

There was a young lady named Rhonda
Thought that winning at bridge was beyond 'er
But with Linda she soared
No longer bored
Of the game she's grown fonder and fonder



World Cup Soccer was on in June and July and **Linda Johnston** was keen to show her support for our Australian team. Go Australia!

GBC is not all about Bridge as this page shows. There are poets, soccer lovers, and those who enjoy a cheeky beverage while they play on Wednesday evenings. Cheers Marion!



Advanced Declarer Play: Part 1

You are South and have to play the following hand. The auction is unimportant but to keep you happy:

1C was 11+hcp, 1+club

2D was 5+C and GF values

2S showed 4 cards in an 11-14 hand.

Dealer: E ♠ AK96
 Vul NS ♥ 8652
 ♦ -
 ♣ KQ1084

 ♠ 7432
 ♥ A4
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ AJ72

West	North	East	South
		P	1C
P	2D	P	2S
P	4S	AP	

West leads the 3H to East's jack. Have a think about how you will play this before reading on. You get no benefit if you don't think about it so stop now and do so! Long pause, I hope but it might be a short one.

The simplest line is to win the AH and draw two rounds of trumps leaving only the QS outstanding. It is normally best not to play the third round and to let them win it when they will. This keeps you ahead in the tempo of developing suits. So now, you simply play clubs and let the person with the last trump ruff in when they may. The defenders can only get their ruff and a heart trick (it's obvious and this is an advanced piece)!

Gathering eleven tricks looks like the best result that you can get and should be a good match point score most of the time. It's just most of the time since it requires trumps to be 3-2 which occurs 2/3 (68%) of the time. It's a perfectly good line for matchpoints!

Members who are looking for a better game or to improve their game or to travel to different venues need to look at the hand differently though. At events outside the club, pairs events are imp pairs and teams events are also scored usingimps. In these events, that overtrick is almost worthless but making a game which fails elsewhere is extremely valuable. Good technique requires surrendering the overtrick to ensure that the contract succeeds when trumps go 4-1. Your task before Part 2, is to understand what goes wrong with this line when trumps go 4-1.

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David Melzer recently won twice at two different Melbourne congresses - nice work David!

Playing at the Moonee Valley Congress with me, he managed a comfortable win in the Novice Pairs (<100 MPs) on 29 May and then the following week on 3 June he backed up at the Victorian Festival of Bridge with long-term partner, Juliette Mendelovits, and again finished on top in the novice pairs event (<100 MPs) with an excellent score of 61.9%. David and Juliette, who is also a member at GBC, are pictured below. Congratulations to them both.

I should also note that Phil Dunlop-Moore and I finished second in the event after one team was ruled ineligible. Phil thought a win was possible if not for the inept play of his partner! So, GBC went one, two.

As novices, it is always exciting when you bid and make slam. Here is one board from the Moonee Valley event. How would you bid it? David and I were sitting E/W.

Board 20	♠ J743
Dlr: W	♥ T762
Vul: All	♦ J75
	♣ T8
♠ K5	♠ AQ92
♥ 8543	♥ AKQJ9
♦ 932	♦ KQT8
♣ A643	♣ -
	♠ T86
	♥ -
	♦ A64
	♣ KQJ9752



How about P (P) 1H (3C) 3H (P) 4N (P) 5C (P) 6H AP? Gutsy, but with 21 HCPs, a void and four of five keycards, I think East is justified and duly rewarded for bidding 6H. West assisted by not sitting on his hands with a nine-card fit. And yes, 2C was a possible opening bid, but Arthur Robbins has reminded us regularly that the 2C opening is overused and can make bidding slam more difficult. Who are we to disagree with a Gold Grand Master?

What about the play? Only one other pair bid to 6H, going down one, but David brought it home on the KC lead (discarding a diamond) finessing in diamonds (losing to the DA) and ruffing a losing spade. An excellent make against a 4/0 heart break. As I said, nice work David!

Glenn Foard

Who Owns the Spades? They Do!

One of the hardest auctions to compete against is when the opponents bid 1S-2S. It usually makes, and you get an average or below average result. It is desirable to try to get them to the 3 level (but not force them to game!), to give yourselves a chance of a better score.

(1S)-P-(2S)-?

At this stage it may be the last opportunity to compete from this seat, and of course the auction has not finished, as opener may bid again. Apart from a natural bid, there are two main ways of competing:

- Double. This is the normal take out of Spades, able to support any of the unbid suits. How strong? Good shape, and some defensive values, perhaps something like xx, AJxx, KQx, Kxxx. How should partner respond? Partner is likely to have a maximum of 9HCP, so there is no need for Lebensohl. The simplest option is just bid, if opener passes. (It is possible to improve on this, but perhaps not yet!)
- 2NT. This is not the normal NT overcall. Opening side has a total of 18+, so not much left for partner if you have 15-18HCP. Instead this is used to show TWO PLACES to PLAY. Something like xx, AQxx, xx, KQJxx.

(1S)-P-(2S)-P-(P)-?

This is the Balancing position, and while the opponents might have a combined 24 HCP, you know your partner has some values, and you may take a chance, especially if non-vul. Again two methods:

- Double. While this might get down to 8 HCP with shape, generally there will be some defensive values (as partner might convert to a penalty X): x, Axxx, KQxx, xxxx would be OK (ie like a take out double in 2nd seat, but weaker). The singleton Spade is not so good, as partner may have four Spades, and hence a 4333 shape! Partner should not bid 2N to play, even with a nice 12HCP count!
- 2NT. As above, this says two places to play. For example xxx, xx, AQxx, KJxx (here partner has only two Spades, so a good chance of a fit in the minors)

Yes it's living on the edge a bit, but -50 or -100 gives a better score than -110 for 2S making 8, and the opponents might compete to 3S. A possible downside is both opponents upgrading their hands and bidding 4S, making!

Arthur Robbins

Advanced Declarer Play: Part 2 *continued from page 8*

Hopefully, you have made a decent attempt at seeing what goes wrong on a 4-1 trump break so here is a possible layout.

	♠ AK96	
	♥ 8652	
	♦ -	
	♣ KQ1084	
♠ Q1085		♠ J
♥ Q1063		♥ KJ9
♦ K843		♦ AJ10765
♣ 6		♣ 953
	♠ 7432	
	♥ A4	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ AJ72	

You will be able to follow the play using pencil to indicate played cards if it helps.

The heart lead as before can be won, possibly, but the 3H lead makes the suit look safe so one might reasonably duck the first one and win the second one to restrict defensive communication but it's not a biggie here.

Firstly, declarer plays off the Ace and King of trumps and finds the 4-1 break while East discards an irrelevant diamond. Now declarer starts running the clubs and West ruffs in on the second one. That, in itself, is not the issue but what West does next is the problem.

West draws the third round of trumps! West then exits with some small red card and suddenly declarer notices that they have the Ace and King of trumps and will make the last two trumps separately, the Ace of hearts and four club tricks (one got ruffed remember)!

That adds up to only nine tricks and the contract is going down! What a rotter that defender was drawing the third round of trumps. Anything else leaves us a way home.

That's not good, we really do want to make the contract on 3-2 breaks (68%) and 4-1 breaks (28%) which adds up to a tidy 96% and we certainly don't care about that damned overtrick which seems to be leading us astray!

Your task, before reading Part 3, is to find the correct line of play in an imp/teams competition.

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2026 Geelong Congress

The 2026 Geelong Bridge Club Congress was held over the weekend of 27-28 June. This year we tried a new venue, the Italian Club at Newcomb, which was well-received by players. The venue offered plenty of space and ample parking, making it a comfortable and convenient location for everyone.

On Saturday 44 pairs competed in the Swiss Pairs.

The placegetters in the Open Pairs were:

1st: Matthew Sieredzinski & John Yang

2nd: Kim Frazer & Jeff Fust

3rd: Justin Stark and Stephen Lester



In the Restricted Pairs the placegetters were:

1st: Tina Tregaskis & Penny Robertson

2nd: Wendy Dennis & Catherine Bowman

3rd: Sue Strong & David Strong



Left: Club President, Justin Stark and 2026 Congress Convenor, Val Sercombe.

On the Sunday twenty-six teams competed (the Restricted Teams competition was merged into the Open field). The placegetters in the Open Teams were:

1st: Victor Zhang, Gus Ghali, Chen Ding & Philip Chang

2nd: Neil Ewart, David Beckett, Simon Henbest & Kevin Chan

3rd: Herman Louie, Christine Louie, Tim Legge & Alex Jones.

The best placed Restricted team was:

1st: Linda Lee, Jane Skeen, Glenn Foard & Michael Gdak

The success of the Congress was made possible through the hard work, dedication and positive attitude of so many people, (*especially **Val Sercombe**, this year's Congress convenor - Editor*). To everyone who gave their time, energy and support, thank you. Your participation and commitment is what makes our Congress such a success every year. It is sincerely appreciated.

Val Sercombe



The MANTRA is "Change of Suit is Forcing". So how do you know when to stop?

The most used stopping point is NT, especially 1NT.

When the auction goes 1C-1H-1S-?

You hold xxx, AJxx,xx, Kxxx. Don't be scared of your doubleton Diamond! Just bid 1NT to show your 6-9 balanced hand, and a desire to stop.

Also when the auction goes 1C-1S-?

Holding xx,Axx,KQJx,QJxx, don't bid 2D, bid 1NT to show your balanced 12-14.

When the auction goes 1D-2NT (unless 2NT is a conventional bid), is stoppable!

The other possible stopping point is when a suit is repeated or supported. You don't have to stop, but might try for game or slam, but it is possible to stop. (NF=non-forcing, you do not need to bid again).

For example:

- 1C-1S-2S-? Responder does not have to bid again, but might!
- 1C-1H-1S-2S (NF)
- 1C-1H-1NT-2H (NF)
- 1C-1H-1N-3H is highly invitational, but no, you don't need to bid again
- 1C-1H-2C yes it tells a story, but is NF.
- 1C-1H-1S-2D yes, you must bid again!

Arthur Robbins

Victor Champion Cup - A Question

Dlr: South
Vul: All

♠ J1053
♥ AQJ9
♦ AQ32
♣ A



[declarer]

♠ A42
♥ 10543
♦ 1074
♣ KQ7

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1C	P	1NT
P	3NT	AP	

This is a hand from the recent Victor Champion Cup (VCC) in Melbourne in June. The auction is completely natural and partner leads the 7S. The defensive prospects seem poor since you know both red suit finesses are onside if declarer doesn't hold those kings. It seems clear to play the AS at trick one and declarer drops the 6S. **What card are you going to play at trick 2?**

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Advanced Declarer Play: Part 3 *continued from page 11*

Hopefully, you have worked out how to stop that rotten defender playing the third round of trumps! If you have managed to work out the correct line to deal with the 4-1 split, that is excellent.

Just be sure to assure yourself that your line still works on the 3-2 trump split too.

♠ AK96	
♥ 8652	
♦ -	
♣ KQ1084	
♠ Q1085	♠ J
♥ Q1063	♥ KJ9
♦ K843	♦ AJ10765
♣ 6	♣ 953
♠ 7432	
♥ A4	
♦ Q92	
♣ AJ72	

As usual, the heart lead comes and you might duck the first one but it's not crucial (just looks a bit more polished). The key is to play only one round of trumps before embarking on the clubs.

Now, when the defender ruffs in they are only playing the second round of trumps and you can win that with the king and go back to running the clubs. Certainly the defender will ruff again but the defenders only get two trumps and one heart!

Magic? No! Just advanced declarer play!

P.S. change the trump holdings to 3-2 or 2-3 and assure yourself this still gets 10 tricks. Remember making the contract 96% of the time is much more important than any overtrick in imps/teams.

Douglas Newlands

Do you Play Multi Twos?

Another 4 am thought. You front up to play with a new partner.

The first question is “Do you play Multi-2D?”. Not wishing to show my ignorance, I said “that’s where 2D shows either a weak 2H or a weak 2S, or a 20-22NT hand”.

“Yes”, my new partner said. “Good”, I said, “All I have to do is bid 2H, and you will tell me all!”

“Um”, my new partner said, “I am afraid there is more to it than that”.

“Bummer”, I exclaimed. “Tell me more”. So, what do you know? Is it too difficult for you?

Partner opens 2D. You hold a good hand, eg Axx, KQx, KQxxx, Jx. How to proceed?

Answer: 2NT. Then:

3C= Good weak 2 in Hs, perhaps: xx, AJTxxx, xx, Axx

3D= Good weak 2 in Ss, perhaps: KQxxxx, x, Axx, xxx

3H= Poor weak 2 in Hs, perhaps: xxx, ATxxxx, xx, Kx

3S= Poor weak 2 in Ss, perhaps: KJxxxx, xx, xx, Axx

3N= 20-22 HCP, balanced. Now look at slam

Partner opens 2D. You are not strong and do not have anything specific to show, so one of the following actions is normal:

- 2H= Pass/Correct. Most NF hands, even a void in Hs. If Opener bids 2N, use methods after a 1N opening, eg Stayman, transfers (or use Puppet Stayman ask)
- 2S=NF, but has a good raise of Hs, but I expect a weak 2S hand. eg x, KQxx, Qxx, AJxxx
- 3H= some values, and support for both Hs and Ss, Pre-emptive. Eg Kxx, QJx, Kx, JTxxx. P/C, but NF
- 4H= similar to 3H, but more distributional. Care needs to be taken, as partner might have 20-22

What about the other 2 level openings? Normally

- 2H=5H/4+minor (or 4+ other)
- 2S=5S/4+other (or 4+ minor)
- 2N=5+C/5+D (minors!), and how to proceed after that!

So, do you want to play Multi-2D? Are you willing to absorb all of the new methods, and the inferences that go with them? On the other hand!!

Your Opponents play the Multi, and open 2D. Do you have a system for coping with that? Multi 2D has been around for many years now, and a number of defences have been devised after its earlier success. Here is one, based on VTP (also called PTP, or XXX; Values-Take Out-Penalty). NB Care needs to be taken with overcalls, as you might be bidding the Opener’s suit.

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Senior Female Players at the Club—Part 2

Here we go with the second tranche of the senior female players at the Club. Thank you for all your positive feedback on the first tranche in the June newsletter. I hope you enjoy these as well. Editor

Kathryn Graham

How long have you been playing? I've been playing for approximately 40 years.

When and where did you learn, and who was your teacher? I was taught by Shirley Collins at Brighton and Paula Schroor McKinnon.

Have you ever been on a GBC committee or been a teacher, mentor, etc? I've served on the GBC Committee.

What system do you play now? Why? I play Standard American.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? I won Women's Pairs with Shannon Irwin in 2010 and the Intermediate Teams in 2018.

Who do you play with now? Which are your favourite conventions? My current partners are Judy Williams Jenny Johnstone and Barb Evans.

What are your interests outside bridge? I enjoy travel, bushwalking and kayaking as well.

What would your advice be to less experienced female players to improve their bridge? Just remember everyone, it's only a game.

Any last comments/advice? I've had some good exotic playing overseas as well.



Vi Temple

How long have you been playing and where did you learn? I started playing in 1994, so 32 years. I wish I had started earlier. My teacher was Gary Ridgway.

Who do you play with now? I play with my husband, Geoff now, but my first bridge partner was Joan Shaw and I used to play with Paul Colla, as well.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? Yes. I won Women's Pairs in 2021 and with Geoff, I won the Mixed Pairs in 2022 and also the Intermediate Teams in 2022.

What are your interests outside of Bridge? I like bowls and we used to like going on Bridge holidays, which we did with the Clarkes (Mick and Denise) and the Bakkers (Ari and Ria).



Senior Female Players - Part 2 *continued from previous page*

Anne Gunst

How long have you been playing? 36 years (1990). I was seven to eight months pregnant with my first child when I had my first lessons.

When and where did you learn, and who was your teacher? My first lessons were with Doug Harding at the Australian Club in Melbourne. He taught a strange system which he described as a mixture of Goren and Acol. Two years later I had intermediate lessons with Jim Boren and adopted the Standard American, five card major system. After that I did lessons/workshops with Ron Klinger, Gary Brown, Andrew Mill, John Newman and many others. For many years after learning Bridge, I played occasional social Bridge as I was too scared to go to a real Bridge club.



Have you ever been on a GBC committee or been a teacher, mentor, etc? I have not been on the GBC committee. I was on the OGBC committee many years ago and assisted with beginner bridge lessons there at that time. More recently (3? years ago) I taught beginner lessons at the Point Lonsdale SLSC.

What system do you play now? Why? The basic system I play is Standard American (SA). With Alison Feiner and Dot Read I play SA with Two over One. I haven't tried Precision or other systems. I prefer the five card major system over the four card system I learnt in the early days.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? Yes. The Women's Pairs in 2014, the Intermediate Pairs in 2015 and 2025, the Mixed Pairs in 2022 and the Intermediate Teams in 2025. I've also had considerable Honour Board success at the Ocean Grove BC.

Who do you play with now? Which are your favourite conventions? I play with Alison Feiner on Fridays and Chris Dodgshun on Mondays. I also play occasionally with Dot Read, Jenny Johnstone and others.

My favourite conventions are Multi-twos and Bergen Raises. But also RKCB, NMF (new minor forcing) and many others.

What are your interests outside bridge? Early morning swims, walking, cycling, options trading and travel. I particularly like expedition cruises which have taken me to many remote parts of the world.

What would your advice be to less experienced female players to improve their bridge? Refer to bridge books, particularly after playing when you are not sure how you should have bid or how you should have played. This will help reinforce the best bidding and play.

Any last comments/advice? Just enjoy the game.

Senior Female Players - Part 2 *continued from previous page*

Jenny Johnstone

How long have you been playing Bridge? 55 years

When and where did you learn to play? Kew Bridge Club, Melbourne in 1971.

Have you ever been on the Committee or have you been teacher or mentor to less experienced players? I firstly went on the general Committee when Arthur Robbins was President in 1998. I've been on the General Committee three times, Vice President and President from 2017-2019. I'm still on the General Committee - I guess you could say I'm a sucker for punishment !



I help at social bridge on Monday mornings and direct once a month with Valerie Sercombe on a Thursday.

I was President of the Western Region Bridge Association for six years but resigned this year.

What system do you play now? Why? When I first started playing bridge I played Acol but now play Standard American because I prefer to open with a five card major.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? ?

- Improver Pairs with Judy Fielding - 1998
- Mixed Pairs with Roger Gillard - 2004
- Women's Pairs with Robyn Macaulay - 2016
- Women's Pairs with Robyn Macaulay - 2018

Who do you play with now and which are your favourite conventions? I'm lucky to be able to play with six different people during the course of a month: Dot Peacock, Dot Read, Judy Williams, Kathryn Graham, Valerie Sercombe and Robyn Macaulay. Fortunately we now all play basically the same system which helps!!

I like playing Multi Twos as I think this makes it harder for the opposition to get into the bidding and also Extended Stayman.

What are your interests outside Bridge? I belong to a craft group, working at the MS op shop, spending time with my four grandchildren, walking my dog Polly and travelling.

What would your advice be to less experienced female players to improve their Bridge? The more you play the more you learn and improve - bridge is like a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces eventually fit into place.

Pam Jones

How long have you been playing? I started playing social bridge about 55 years ago using a Goren cheat sheet.

When and where did you learn, and who was your teacher? I first had lessons with Gary Ridgway at this club less than 30 years ago.

Have you ever been on a GBC committee or been a teacher, mentor, etc? With Bill I help run Pizza Bridge when Dot and Geoff are unavailable.



I sometimes mentor Aileen Ingles.

What system do you play now? Why? Five card major Standard American. We haven't seen the need to change our system.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? Yes -

- Improvers Pairs 2000
- Mixed Pairs 2005
- Heweston Trophy 2008
- Intermediate Pairs 2009

Who do you play with now? Which are your favourite conventions? I still play with my husband, Bill.

Favourite conventions: Our version of Jacoby, cue bidding.

What are your interests outside bridge? Line dancing, walking, table tennis, Uniting Church activities, attending social events at my retirement village.

What would your advice be to less experienced female players to improve their bridge? Gary Ridgway told me when I first learnt from him to play against more experienced players and to learn from them - that is what they need to do.

Any last comments/advice? ENJOY playing- that is the most important thing.

Do you Play Multi Twos? Continued from page 16

After 2D X=16+ Usually the only other strong bid is 2N (16-19) showing stoppers in both majors. System on! After 2D-X-2H, X on either side is Take Out.

If partner bids 2N, it is Lebensohl, other bids are 8+, forcing.

After 2D-P-2H- requirements are lessened, but X=Take Out of Hearts.

After 2D-P-2H-P-P-X Take Out of Hearts, but could be (10,11) 12+, as this is balancing seat!

After 2D-P-2H-P-2S, X =Take Out of Spades.

As you can see, some understanding is necessary to successfully compete.

Arthur Robbins

Bernadette O'Dea

How long have you been playing? I started playing sometime in 2011, so approximately 15 years.

When and where did you learn, and who was your teacher? I learnt through a U3A program, run at Clifton Springs community centre. The teacher was Mark Cline. He taught ACOL, which, I believe, is a system commonly played in the UK and NZ. Mark is an ex-Brit.



Have you ever been on a GBC committee or been a teacher, mentor, etc? I have not been on a GBC committee yet. However, I held the positions of President, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Masterpoint Secretary at Ocean Grove Bridge Club over various years. I really enjoyed having a say in the running of the Club and believe you get as much as you give in serving on committees.

I am currently teaching at GBC and have been doing so since 2023. I also ran a course at Torquay bridge club a few years ago.

What system do you play now? Why? I play Standard American now. The main reason I changed from ACOL was in my early days of playing most of the partners I played with had been playing Standard American for years, so it was easier for me to adapt to their system.

Have you had any Honour Board successes? I have not had any honour board success at GBC. However, I have won both Pairs and Teams events at Ocean Grove BC. I also won the 'Rosebowl' event at Ocean Grove, which is playing with different partners on a nominated day each month for 6 months and averaging the best scores.

Who do you play with now? Which are your favourite conventions?

I mainly play with my hubby, Berns. I also play with Terry Passlow, who is my right-hand man when it comes to bridge lessons. Berns and I have simplified our system in the last year or so, pretty much playing the basic system that I teach.

What are your interests outside bridge? We have two adorable grandchildren. Zoe, our oldest started school this year and we have five month old Jude. I love spending as much time as possible with them.

I am also an avid Cats supporter, going to all home games and the occasional Melbourne game as well.

What would your advice be to less experienced female players to improve their bridge?

I tell all our students that the only way to really learn bridge is to play as much as possible. We can give them the basics, but they need to play to put all we teach into practice. The Club provides excellent resources. I love the 'replay and analyze' feature on the website and encourage people to go back and replay a few boards each time, particularly those boards that you did badly on.

Any last comments/advice? If you travel, check out local bridge clubs. Berns and I have made some great friends and met some interesting people through bridge.

Vale

Gary Ridgway

06/11/1939 - 19/06/2026



His story is linked to mine, though he was the greater man. I'm sorry, but I cannot write this without including our numerous successes.

Nick Bullock (later Beaumont) taught Gary, me and others Bridge at lunchtimes in 1970 at the Gordon Institute of Technology, Geelong. In 1971, Gary and I shared an office which enabled us to talk about bridge, and it was the year we started playing together at the Geelong Bridge Club. During this year, I found a book by Howard Schenken, called the Big Club, which we adopted as our basic method, and it served us well, until we converted to Precision (though we adopted several of our methods successfully into Precision - see the "Bridge Bum" by Alan Sonntag, as he "adopted" our methods! Joking, but our system was identical, and persisted).

Gary's story is surely about Bridge. He went to the first NOT (now the Summer Festival of Bridge) in Sydney (1973?) with 3 ladies from GBC, Jean Heweston, Joan Wilson and Elsa Kuylaars and lost 101-3 against the Australian Open Team (Seres, Smilde, etc) in the first round. He subsequently played in 40 years straight in this event (oh, his long suffering wife, Lorraine!!), and a few after that.

He played in the Vic Open team 3 times, starting 1978, and after retirement played successfully with Victor Muntz and David Happell in the Vic Seniors Team with considerable success.

At National Congresses, he won the GNOT Pairs 3 times, and was successful in the Australian Seniors Swiss Pairs in Tasmania, and the Seniors Teams at the Gold Coast Congress.

In local Congresses, he was hugely successful, winning multiple times in Pairs and/or Teams at Yarra Valley, Bendigo, Sale, Warrnambool, Geelong, Moonee Valley, Ballarat, Albury, etc.

Outside of playing, Gary made significant contributions to Bridge in Victoria.

In 1974 or thereabouts, Gary and Jim Borin put pressure on the VBA to separate their club accounts from those of the affiliated clubs, which was resisted by the VBA, but led to the formation of the FABCV (affiliated clubs, interested in better structuring bridge in Victoria) Gary was always trying to push for better representation of country clubs in Victoria, which led to the current inclusive structures:

- Country Teams Championship - two teams from each of the three regions play off, and the winner goes into the Semi-Final of the State Teams Championship (formerly the Pennant). Geelong has subsequently won this event!
- Selection of Victorian Senior's and Women's Teams - the top pair in each category from Regional playoffs goes directly into the final selection phase!

Continued next page

Vale Gary Ridgway *continued from previous page*

Gary, along with others, was fundamental in achieving these successful selection processes (worth noting, is the many country players that have played for Vic via this process, as before it was dominated by VBA members!)

Western Region - when John Brockwell started the GNOT in 2001, he approached Gary (they were friends) about getting a team from Western Victoria, and this led to Gary forming the Western Region Bridge Association, of which he was President (and organizer) until 2019. Now teams from Geelong and Western Victoria regions compete in this event.

GBC Member - Gary never wanted to be a committee member, though he was Vice-President 2008-2010, but he was the Match and Tournament Chairman for over 20 years. After Eddie Karen's role as our first teacher, Gary taught for the next 15 years. He also took classes in Warrnambool, Terang, Colac, Camperdown, Inverloch, Sale, Barwon Heads, Ballarat and Ballater in Scotland.

On the Honour Boards in the Club, one can see the extent of his skills.

- Open Pairs: First win in 1973, last in 2025, with the same partner! In between 22 other wins with various partners
- Mens Pairs: won 23 times
- Open Teams: won 29 times
- Mixed Pairs: won 3 times
- Western Region pairs: won 7 times

Gary was inducted as a Life Member of GBC in 2009

A wonderful career, and a servant of the game. He will be sadly missed by all, and especially by me, his friend and bridge partner for 55 years.

Commiserations to his wife, Lorraine, daughters Melissa, Robyn and Linda, and to his three grandchildren, Meg, Lucas and Lily.

Arthur Robbins



Vale

Harry Payne 11/08/1929 - 04/08/2026

Husband to Bev for seventy years, father to Rod and Derek, grandfather to Andrew, Rowan, Max and Lilli. After a long and well lived life, Harry passed away in Geelong on Tuesday 4 August. Bev and Harry were regular Thursday players for some years. The Geelong Bridge Club extends its condolences to Bev, her family and friends.

Dlr: South
Vul: All

♠ J1053
♥ AQJ9
♦ AQ32
♣ A

♠ K987
♥ K2
♦ 986
♣ J982

♠ A42
♥ T543
♦ T74
♣ KQ7

♠ Q6
♥ 876
♦ KJ6
♣ 106543

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1C	P	1NT
P	3NT	AP	

The correct way to approach defensive problems is to keep a count of declarer's tricks and of the defence's tricks. Declarer has three heart tricks since he has the king or the finesse is inside and we guard the fourth round with the 10H. Declarer probably has four diamond tricks since they are breaking 3-3 (it's one of the advantages of being a defender: you know which suits break and which finesses work!). Declarer has one club trick and, if we play spades now, declarer will have a spade trick as the ninth trick.

Clearly we have to play clubs and we also have to unblock them so a small club is no good.

If you managed to lead the KC at trick 2, you too would beat 3NT and gain 10 imps for your team when they failed to find the defence in the other room.

Douglas Newlands

Coming Up

Open Pairs C Qualifying	Fridays 11, 25 September
Open Pairs A Qualifying	Mondays 14, 21 September
Open Pairs B Qualifying	Thursdays 17, 24 September
McManamny Teams, Waverley	Sunday 27 September
Open Pairs Finals	Wednesdays 30 September, 7 October
Annual General Meeting	Thursday 15 October 12.00pm
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 25 October
Seniors Festival Teams	Tuesday 27 October
Intermediate Teams	Mondays 9, 16 November
WR Friendly Pairs, Ballarat	Saturday 14 November
Restricted Pairs	Thursdays 26 November, 3 December
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 29 November
Individual Championship	Monday 7, 14 December
Christmas Party	Wednesday 16 December 6.00pm

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 jlbylton@gmail.com.

Jennifer Blyton