

# Victoria Bridge Club Inc



## Newsletter – October 2015

Marilyn Goddard

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### From the President

Contrary to rumours, I was not on holiday in London for five weeks but working very hard. While there I saw an article in the Daily Telegraph headed: "Athletics doping has nothing on bridge". The relevant parts are as follows:

Sports doping is usually associated with muscled athletes attempting to cheat their way into the record books. However, the latest World Anti-Doping Agency figures show that bridge can be just as afflicted by suspect drug tests.

In 2014, 3.6% of samples from bridge players at worldwide tournaments showed the presence of prohibited substances, An "adverse analytical finding" indicates the presence of a prohibited substance, although there could be a legitimate reason for that result, such as permitted medical use.

Anna Gudge, of the World Bridge Federation, said: "When I say I deal with the anti-doping stuff they all laugh". Dr Joap Stompborst, an expert on doping said: "Bridge is played in tournaments two or three weeks long. People tend to get tired so o stimulant can keep you awake during play'

You will be pleased to know that beta-blockers are no longer banned in bridge, despite their potential to improve concentration, because the age of players means many take drugs for hypertension and other conditions. Your committee does not yet see the need to introduce random testing at regular club events! John Hall and Lesley Rothwell can rest easy

On an entirely different note, it is pleasing to welcome back Mark Holden to the Club after his enforced absence following his accident.

A survey was recently conducted on Tuesday night to establish whether players wanted percentage information included on the bridge pad during the course of the evening. There were 48 people playing that night: 21 did not want the information included, 17 wanted the information included and 9 were neutral. My mathematics tells me that therefore one member did not bother to respond.

The committee will need to make a decision one way or the other and hopefully all members will accept whatever decision is made. Monday night will be surveyed in two weeks' time..

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### Holiday Handicap Pairs

The third and final session of the Holiday Handicap Pairs for 2015 will be held after Labour weekend on Tuesday night 27 October. The concept behind this event is for a senior and junior player to play together and to meet club members from different nights. Even if you have not played in the previous two sessions, you are encouraged to find a partner for next Tuesday preferably someone who plays on a different night from you. Drinks will be available at the conclusion of play.

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## Wellesley Mixed Teams

The Wellesley Mixed Teams is an event which involves members of all bridge standards and fosters club spirit. It is an opportunity for players to meet and play with or against others of differing levels. Win McLea has done a fantastic job in organising this year's competition. However, the task of organisation puts a heavy burden on one club member.

The committee proposes that a slightly different format take place next year. The teams will still comprise 2 senior and 2 junior players but a team captain will be nominated who will be responsible for ensuring that 4 team members are available for each session. If a team member is unavailable for a particular session, that team member will be responsible for finding a substitute of the same ranking and informing the team captain. A list of members who are willing to be substitutes, together with their ranking, will be made available

The final session for 2015 is on 29 October with 12 teams participating. It would be ideal to have 12 teams again next year. Please give thought as to whether you might take on the role of team captain or, if you are unable to commit to playing in all sessions, whether you would put your name forward for the substitutes list.

One club member will still be required to coordinate the event but will not have the heavy burden of ensuring that all teams have a full complement of players each month. Volunteers are sought for this role.

A cash bar will be open at the final session on 29 October.

## 2015 Interclub

Victoria is hosting the next session on 13 November 2015.

Help will be required to run the bar, tidy up the playing room at the end of play and prepare the room for Monday night's playing session.

## 2016 Programme Book

The programme book for 2016 is being finalised. We would like to include as many email addresses as possible: this eases communication especially when substitutes are required for any event. Wednesday night players are using email extensively to improve numbers which is very encouraging.

At the same time, members are requested to treat these addresses with discretion and not use them for a general mail out on non-bridge related matters.

## Ron Klinger Workshops

The Wellington Bridge Club invites all Bridge players to attend workshops by Ron Klinger at their clubrooms.

### First:

When: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Time: 3pm – 5.30/6pm finish

Topic: "Winning Tips on Declarer Play"

Cost: \$20:00 per session per player - pre-registration is essential

Dinner available \$15 direct to Mindy Wu (please indicate if you are having dinner)

### Second

When: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Time: 9.15am - 11.45ish finish

Topic: "15 Tips on No Trumps"

Cost: \$20:00 per session per player - pre-registration is essential

This session will proceed only if sufficient numbers register

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## Movement of Boards

The boards for each hand move in a clockwise direction around the room. It is the responsibility of the West player to hand the boards back to the previous table. However if there is a delay at West's table and the boards are not available, play can be held up at other tables.

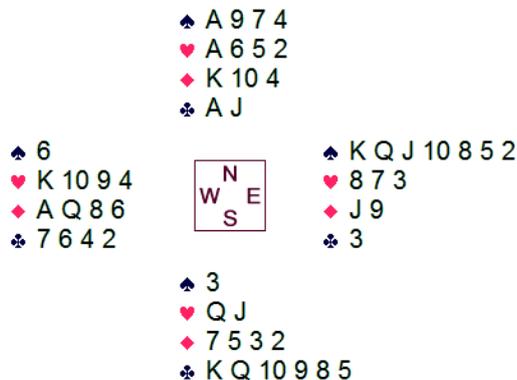
To ensure that a board is always readily available for play, when the hand is completed, the board should be placed on a small table at South's left-hand side so that it can easily be reached by the next table to play the board.

## A problem

Thanks to Ted's Bridge World for the following hand

### Down for the Count

by Géza Ottlik



South to make 5 ♣

Opening lead: ♠ 6

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This is yet another venture into the remarkable world of the knockout — wherein a defender is squeezed in three suits, including trumps.

Although west had six winning choices, his partner bid spades, so he leads one. Declarer wins the ace and promptly ruffs a spade with the king! West already is squeezed. A diamond discard would enable declarer to set up the game-going trick in diamonds, and letting go a heart would allow the establishment of dummy's fourth card in that suit. West is forced to "discard" a trump.

The ♥ Q is led and, if west plays low, follow with the jack. Topping the ♥ K with the ace, declarer ruffs a spade with the ♣ Q! West is no better off than before; he is compelled to discard another trump.

If declarer still has a heart, he cashes it, then leads a diamond. If west takes the ace to lead a trump, declarer wins in hand and plays a diamond to the ten, enabling him to ruff a diamond in dummy. So west ducks the diamond lead (not that it matters anyway). By now you know the drill: win the ♦ K and ruff a spade with the ten! his final blow knocks west down for the count.

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He still cannot afford a red discard, so he must let go of yet another club. Now trumps are drawn in one round, and declarer enjoys a diamond ruff at his leisure, having effectively executed a dummy-reversal with a **6-2** fit!

## Session Winners for September

Monday: Heretaunga Swiss Pairs – Anne Patterson & Ian Johns

Tuesday: Hutchison Pairs – Mary Jane Farrell & Joan McCarthy

Wednesday: Khandallah Pairs – Joan Foster & Jennifer Lankshear

Thursday: Ron Knight Individual – 1<sup>st</sup> Sally McLean; 2<sup>nd</sup> Val Cooper

## New Members

The following new members are warmly welcomed to the club - Odette Tait, Rose MacGregor, Dr Margaret Emerre, David King, Judith Nathan and Trish Wheeler. We look forward to meeting you on one of the playing nights or on Thursday afternoon.

## Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are held in the Victoria Bridge Club Clubrooms at 10am every Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome.

Contacts: Joan McCarthy or Gay Williamson

Cost: \$5.00 per session

## Hire of Clubrooms

Our clubrooms are available for hire for outside functions or other special occasions. If you wish to take advantage of this, please contact the club manager, Jan Hart.

## Coming Events

<b>Holiday Handicap Pairs (3)</b>	27 October 2015
<b>Wellesley Mixed Teams Round (6)</b>	29 October 2015
<b>Gladys Palmer Teams Round (9)</b>	5 November 2015
<b>Interclub Round (9) at Victoria &amp; Wellington Bridge Clubs</b>	13 November 2015

**Happy bridging everyone**

