

2023 Summer Festival of Bridge



Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

Vale Dr lan McCance 1927—2023

Bulletin 3, Thursday 12 January



Results

Dr Ian McCance

A man of great integrity, whose intelligence and humour will be much missed

8 May, 1927 - 5 January, 2023

I had planned to feature Ian's extensive history as a bridge player in the 2023 Gold Coast Bulletin, as his win in the 1975 Gold Coast Pairs with Wally Scott made him the earliest living champion.

Now that baton passes to Paul Lavings, who in 1978 won the coveted Gold Coast Pairs with Don Evans.

Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

"Spanning a period of 65+ years at the top, Ian McCance represented his country at world level as well as winning many national tournaments. In collaboration with Robert Smart, he devised Specific Trump Cuebids, described in *The Bridge World* in 1981. For many years he wrote a weekly newspaper column in The Age.

From longtime partner and friend Di Smart: '

"Among his numerous talents, I particularly recollect his clever wit - which was always generous too. When playing with Bill Jacobs, he remarked as Bill singlehandedly bid to the six-level with a big



two-suiter - "looks like I caught him red handed!" We all enjoyed this immensely. He was a wonderful, top-level player and a very generous partner, sharing his wisdom and unfailingly understanding of his partner's sometimes dubious actions.

He'd say "oh, that's interesting" in a truthful way so that you felt supported, not criticised. Felicity (Beale) and I benefited greatly from his wisdom. As captain of a Victorian Women's Team he once said to us all - "remember, whatever happened at the other table happened with the best of intentions". It has always stayed with me."

Here's a "Letter to the Editor" snippet that Ian wrote for The Age:

MY VOTE for the most over-used adjective is "vibrant"

Ian McCance, Mount Waverley

And:

Labor: the party that threw out the baby to conserve the suds.

Ian McCance, Mount Waverley

Some of his many top results:

Victorian Mixed Pairs many times, with Felicity Beale from 1974 to Di Smart in 2008.

From 1933 both parents, Dorothy and Norman McCance spearheaded the Victorian Open Teams. Ian's sister Ailsa Tandy was also a force in women's bridge from the early 1960s.

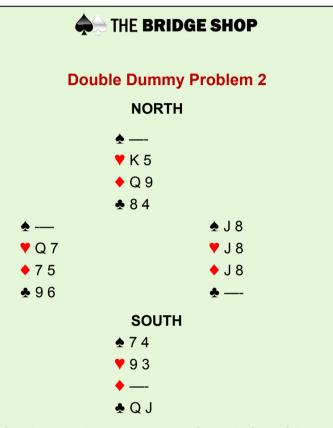
Mother Dorothy was multiple winner of the ANC Women's Teams as late as 1946, lan became a member of Open Teams, from 1956, in a team captained by the indomitable Victor Champion. 2011 was his 20th time, 17 of them had been as a player, three as npc.

So Ian had been a state representative in each of seven consecutive decades! In total, he had five wins and his team were runners-up four timesa wonderful record, only just surpassed by Victor Champion himself.

THE BRIDGE SHOP

Solution to double dummy problem 1

South cashes ♠A and ♠Q, discarding ♣Q from dummy. West can afford a club and a diamond, and East two clubs. Then ♠J. Now a diamond to dummy finishes off both defenders, who cannot quard both suits.



South to lead at notrumps - NS to win five of the remaining six tricks.

Solution in tomorrow's bulletin.

This problem is taken from A Compendium of **Double Dummy Problems** by Hugh Darwen, available from The Bridge Shop here.



Tim Bourke's daily Test Your Play problems Solutions overleaf



3. EVASION

North deals, all vulnerable

North

- **♦** 8
- ♥ K 5 2
- ♦ K983
- ♣ A Q 10 9 6

South

- **★** K Q 5 2
- **♥** A Q 4
- ♦ A 10 2
- ♣ J 7 5

West North East South
1NT
pass 3♠ Pass 3NT
all pass

Partner's leap to 3♠ promised a singleton or void in spades, three hearts and at least 4 diamonds and 4 clubs.

West leads a fourth highest ♠6. East covers dummy's ♠8 with ♠10. How do you propose to make nine tricks?

Honoured with naming of McCance Seniors Pairs at the VCC from 2006.

2nd in first Open Butler, 1967 with Fred Altman

Npc 1980 Open Team, npc Commonwealth Nations Open Bridge Team, 2006

npc 1978 Venice Cup Team

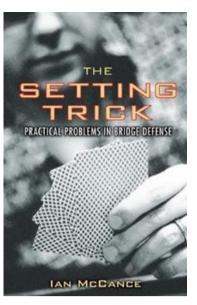
npc winning Victorian Youth Team at the ANC, 1984 (team was Jon Free, Simon Henbest, Bill Jacobs, W Kirby, Andrew Mill, Ian Thomson)

npc 1996 Victorian Seniors' Team

Life Member VBA 1985

The Setting Trick by Ian McCance

This is just one of the 100 problems from *The Setting Trick*, the first bridge book by one of the Goliaths of the Australian bridge scene, Dr Ian McCance. All are defensive problems and, as the title implies, you need to use the



available information to take the setting trick, be it the fourth trick against a major suit game, the second trick against a slam and so on.

East deals, NS vulnerable

- **★** 10 9 3 2
- ♥ Q J 9 2
- ♦ 9 4
 ♣ 7 5 4
 - A 6 4 W A 5 2 ♦ 10 2

♣ 9 8 6 3 2
You are East, defending 3NT after South opened
2NT (20-22) and then denied either a four- or fivecard major. Your partner leads ♠7, you win ♠A,
and declarer follows with ♠5. How do you plan to

The hands mostly come from actual play where Dr McCance was at the table, and the difficulty level ranges from not too tough to very hard.

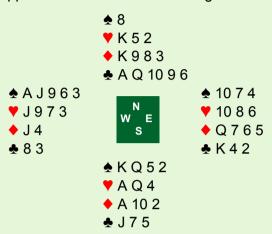
Have you thought about the hand above yet?
Good defensive technique is like detective work –
what do we know? West can't have ♠KQJ, so declarer has either two or three spades to an honour.
That means you can only score at most three
spade tricks. Looking at your hand and dummy's,
it's more likely declarer has long diamonds, so that
leaves clubs or hearts as a source of defensive
tricks – and dummy's hearts suggest a switch to
clubs is more urgent, and probably can't cost.

The full hand:

beat 3NT?

SOLUTION *to Tim Bourke's* Test Your Play **SOLUTION**

If spades are 4-4, nothing will prevent you making nine tricks. As West is likely to have led from spade length, the main threat to this contract is when ♣K is with East and West has five spades. Suppose the full deal is something like this:



The way to make 3NT here is to let ♠10 hold at trick one by playing low from hand. When East continues with the seven of spades you must play a low spade for the second time, discarding a low heart from table. West can do no better that play the jack and ace of spades next (as you have the three winners in hearts plus ♦10 and ♦9 the defenders cannot attack a red suit successfully).

After you gain the lead, you will lead ♣J and run it (unless it is covered). On this layout East will win ♣K. That will be the fourth defensive trick while you will have nine tricks: one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and four clubs.

♠ 10 9 3 2 QJ92 **9** 4 **↑** 7 5 4 ♠ KJ87 ♠ A 6 4 **9** 10 8 3 A 5 2 A 7 6 3 **♦** 10 2 **♣** K J 98632 **♠** Q 5 A K 4 ♦ KQJ85 **♣** A Q 10

"Play a high club, and partner should get the message that you worked out there was no rush to take your spade tricks immediately. Dr McCance doesn't rate, rank or sort the problems by difficulty (that would be giving away too much information, wouldn't it?), but he does address the critical issues on each hand that you as defender need to look out for and consider."

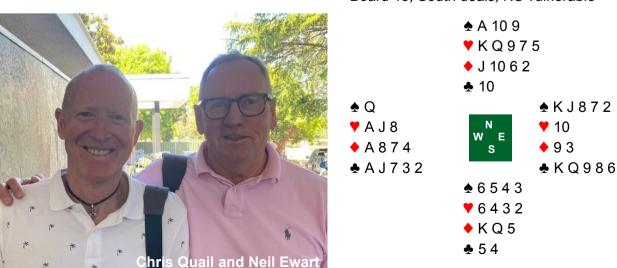
Ian was a pupil at Melbourne Grammar School, as was former VBA President and current President of Zone 7, Ben Thompson. In a speech where Ben lauded the contribution to bridge of former grammar pupils, Ian was included:

"I had the great pleasure to play with Dr McCance for many years, representing Victoria several times."

Great minds think alike

Seniors Teams Round 2,

Board 15, South deals, NS vulnerable



Neil Ewart related this deal, where his actions as defender from the North seat were exactly the same as Chris Quail, North at the next table.

The auction at the EWART table:

West	North	East	South
			pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	pass
2	pass	2♥	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	all pass

East bid the hand poorly –West's reverse showed five clubs and four diamonds, so the fourth suit (Blackout overtones?) 2♥ bid was ill-advised. All indications suggest 5♣ is likely to be the best game.

Back to the defence. From experience, I know Neil and Ian Robinson have sound defensive agreements. Neil led ♥Q against 3NT,, asking for reverse attitude.

lan duly played ♥6, and Neil switched to declarer's second suit, diamonds, giving the contract no chance.

Declarer, however, had lost his chance – he should win the first heart, playing Neil for ♠A. Forcing out ♠A after winning ♥A guarantees nine tricks.

At the next table, Chris Quail found the same defence against 3NT. At his table, West had opened 1NT, and ended in 3NT after a transfer sequence. Declarer at Chris' table did not have the benefit of seeing him show values, so his action in ducking \P Q was more understandable.

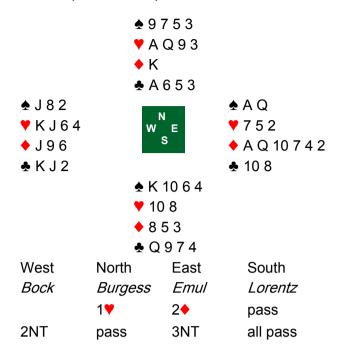
More excitement, please!

This was what I requested after sitting at Table 1 to kibitz Round 4 of the Seniors Teams. The day before, it was hard to keep my eyes open, the cards were so dull.

The first board to arrive was fascinating:



Board 9. North deals. EW vulnerable



EMUL played LORENTZ in this round, with Richard Douglas—Bob Sebesfi NS, and Paul Lavings—Robert Krochmalik EW for LORENTZ.

Stephen Burgess and Gabby Lorentz play a strong club system, which normally include five-card majors. Opening 1♦ with a singleton king, often the systemic answer in a big club system is never a comfortable fit with me, so I totally approve of the 1♥ bid.

With his soft values, Stephen Bock had a marginal 2NT bid over Emul's 2◆ bid, which succeeded due to a friendly lie of the cards. Stephen Burgess stayed away from the only winning lead, a club, opting instead for a spade.

Gabby Lorentz won ♠Q with the king and switched to ♥10, covered with Bock's ♥J and won by Burgess with the queen.

Burgess switched back to spades, and Bock, in with ♠A, and worried about entries, laid down ♠K, dropping the singleton king. Now ♣10, ducked to Burgess' ace meant nine tricks. Bock was the only declarer in 3NT, +600 and 10 IMPs.

At the other table, system requirements saw North declaring 1♦ with the singleton king – still, only 50s (-150.)

The main interest for me was the appearance of the intra-finesse. On a low club to the eight and nine, won by declarer with \clubsuit J, the defence is in

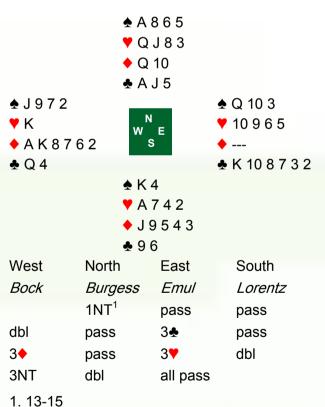
RonKlingerBridge.com Problem 2 What do you lead? East deals, EW vulnerable West North East South 1♣ 3NT dbl rdbl all pass

West to lead from:

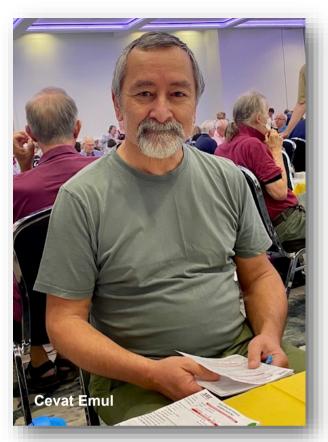
- **♦** 9 5
- ♥ A Q J 7 3 2
- 965
- **4** 4 3

control. When in with ♠K, South can continue ♣Q, pinning East's ♣10 (it makes no difference if ♣10 is played at trick one.

Board 13, North deals, all vulnerable



This deal was disastrous for EMUL. Bock decided to come in via a double, intending to bid 2♦ over Emul's 2♣ bid. Emul, however, with his six-card suit tried 3♣, and when that passed unscathed, Bock would have done well to leave bad enough alone. He converted to 3♦, however, and Emul tried 3♥. Now the doubling started, and EW ended



in a hopeless 3NTx, down three, -800. This did not go well with the 3♥ contract at the other table.

Despite *Deep Finesse* confirming nine tricks in hearts are possible NS, not having X-ray vision meant down three, -300 and 15 IMPs away.

Women's Teams, Round 5



This round saw TRAVIS take on the powerhouse McCALLUM squad, with Kate McCallum and Sally Brock EW against Barbara Travis and Candice Ginsberg, and Renee Cooper—Jovi Smederevac NS against Diana Smart—Elizabeth Havas.

Some background on McCALLUM:

RonKlingerBridge.com

What do you lead?

Solution to Problem 2

The deal comes from Stage 1 of the 2008 Australian Open Teams Selection.

West elected to start with ♥Q. This was not the winning decision, as the full deal reveals:

- **♦** J 4 3
- **7** 6 5
- **♦** 3 2
- ♣ KQ9852
- **♦**95
- ♥ A Q J 7 3 2
- **9** 9 6 5
- **♣** 4 3
- N W E S
- **♠** A K Q 7
- **7** 10 9 8 4
- **♦** Q
- ♣ J 10 7 6
- ♠ 10862
- **♥** K
- A K J 10 8 7 4
- ♣ A
- ♥Q, or any lower heart, gives declarer his ninth trick. 3NT redoubled making was +800 and 14 IMPs against the datum of EW 610. A minor suit lead should hold declarer to eight tricks. A spade or ♥A lead can give the defence nine tricks. Five down redoubled would be +2200 and +17 IMPs, just a swing of 31 IMPs on the choice of lead!

Sally Brock has been at the forefront of women's bridge in England since the mid-1970s.

She has partnered some of the icons of women's bridge – Nicola Smith, Sandra Landy, as well as our own Fiona Brown, with whom she won the silver medal at the Venice Cup in France, 2017 and the McConnell Cup, USA in 2018.

Jovi Smederevac is also world class. She has visited Australian shores before, playing the Gold Coast Congress in 2020.

Kate McCallum we all know, and we love her for making Australia her home, enriching our bridge scene and giving her time in support of improving women's bridge. She is a true champion of the game, and a pleasure to watch at the table.

The fourth member of the team, Renee Cooper is an incredibly talented young player, coming from a bridge-playing family. She has had a wealth of experience with a variety of partners in her short bridge career.

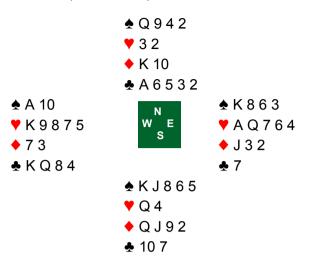






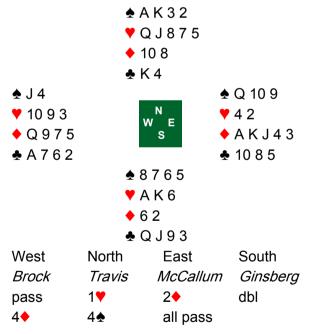
TRAVIS were doing OK until Boards 10 – 14 saw the IMPs flowing into the out column.

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable



Travis – Ginsberg, NS, did not take a bid, allowing Brock – McCallum a clear run at 4♥, which cannot be beaten. I suspect a five-card 2♠ caused the damage in the other room, with 4♠ undoubled two down and 9 IMPs to McCALLUM.

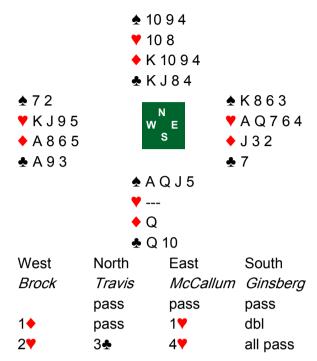
Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable



It is a sign of an effective partnership when you can push your opponents around a little. Here, McCallum's thin 2♦ bid caused problems for Ginsberg, who could double for takeout or make a limit raise in hearts. She chose to make the takeout double.

Brock forced Travis to make a decision with her 4♦ bid, and Travis chose 4♠, unfortunate in that there were four losers in spades but only three in hearts, with ♣10 coming down in three rounds and allowing the spade losers to disappear. -720 on the deal and 12 IMPs to McCALLUM.

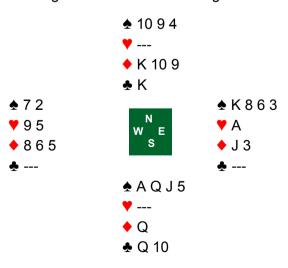
Board 13. North deals, all vulnerable



When Ginsberg failed to open in third seat, impetus got Brock – McCallum to the heart game.

On the face of it, it appears North cannot get in to push a spade through, but this does not matter, as there are only nine tricks—as long as ♠K does not win a trick.

McCallum won the club lead, and thought about the play. She started by eliminating clubs, using entries to dummy in trumps. When hearts were 2-2, she cashed •A and played a second diamond, ducking Travis' •9 in this ending:



At this stage declarer has won six tricks, so needs four more. There are two trump tricks in dummy, so giving a ruff and sluff will only give one more trick.

Ginsberg, endplayed with ◆Q, cashed ♠A and played ♠Q. That meant McCallum could win ♠K for nine tricks and ruff a diamond for the 10th trick.

"Never give a ruff and sluff", I remember a long ago partner yell at me. He was sometimes wrong!

Board 14 continued the negative trend, with Travis - Ginsberg bidding a good heart slam, one down when trumps didn't break, while at the other table, the NS pair stayed safely at the five-level, 11 IMPs away.

McCALLUM won Set 5 by 46 IMPs, and a small win in Round 6 saw TRAVIS in tatters, some 33 VPs behind the runaway leaders.

Going into the last day of the Swiss, the top three teams in each field are:

Seniors: Lorentz, 89.6 VPs, Buchen, 86.78 VPs and Watson, 80.99 VPs

Women: McCallum, 98.08 VPs, Packer, 77.03 VPs and Dawson. 76.00 VPs.

Online bridge discussion

The ABF has set up the Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of on-line bridge in Australia. It is acknowledged that both in-person and on-line bridge are important for the future of our game. The Committee is very interested in hearing from all stakeholders in our bridge community.

An online survey is being prepared which will be sent out shortly, but while we are together in Canberra, we are also organising a face-to-face discussion session on Tuesday January 17, in between sessions at the venue. If available, please come along to participate in this session.

The session will be held in the break room adjacent to reception in the Rex, commencing at 12.15pm.

Jenny Thompson, Online Bridge Committee

Interstate collaboration

Queensland women's pair Fay Stanton— Gabrielle Elich enlisted the assistance of the Partnership Desk to find a pair for the Women's Teams and were matched with ACT pair Tamara Cutcliffe—Gill Tidey.

Fay and Gabrielle are Sunshine Bridge Club members. Tamara and Gill have been enjoying the chance to play against strong opposition.





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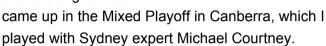
Paul 0408 888085 Helen 0418 144534 paul@bridgegear.com WEBSITES www.bridgegear.com OR giftware at 6nt.com.au

Would You Bid (or wouldn't you?)

by Joan Butts

From the ABF Mixed Team Playoff, December 2022

Many interesting and exciting hands



Try these deals yourself, and then read what happened in the playoff. Who knows, maybe you'll be part of the Mixed Team next year?

Example 1

Board 9, Set 1, North deals, EW vulnerable

- **♠** ----
- **7** 6 5 3
- ♦ A 9 6 5 4
- ♣ K8752

You're first to bid. Do you pass or does your system have a bid for this hand?

You are North at favourable vulnerability. If you pass, the bidding will start:

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♠	pass

2♠ ?

Your turn again...do you come into the auction now or stay out? After all you only have the minors, but you're at favourable vulnerability.

What happened:

	•
	♥ 6 5 3
	◆ A 9 6 5 4
	♣ K 8 7 5 2
♠ A 4 3	♠ Q J 10 9 5 2
♥ J 9 8 2	w E ♥AKQ74
♦ K Q 10	ws
4 10 6 4	——
	♠ K 8 7 6
	Y 10

→ J873→ AQ93

	West	North	East	South
	Ware	Edgtton	McManus	Ashton
9	pass	1♣	1NT	pass
d'	2 ♥ ¹	3♥	4♠	5♣
	pass	pass	dbl	pass
	5♠	all pass		
	1.0			-11

If you pass throughout, the bidding will go:

West	North	East	South
	pass	1 ♠	pass
2♠	pass	4♠	all pass

4♠ will make 10 tricks for +620, losing one spade, one diamond and one club.

The playoff results were:

- 5♠ (East) + 100 NS
- 5♣X (South) 100 NS
- 4♠ (East) 650 NS
- 5♠ (West) + 100 NS

All four tables passed at first, but two tables came in with 2NT (minors) at their next turn to bid. At both these tables South bid 5♣, once playing there doubled, and the other managing to goad their opponents into 5♠.

At the other tables, one pair reached 5♠ without interference, and the other table was left alone in 4♠.

My view:

I don't think it's a good idea to enter the auction at all, as there's a lack of suit quality in the North hand. But bidding seemed to work here...

But...how do you know how far EW are planning to go? Bidding to show the minors would seem to help the opponents know the layout of the NS hands.

What do you think?

Please send your opinion to me (Joan Butts) via the editor at sleksix@gmail.com



TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

23-26 March 2023

It will be four years since the last **Tasmanian Festival of Bridge** in Hobart and this year it will be held in a spacious, comfortable and well-equipped new venue, MyState Bank Arena, about 15 minutes from the Hobart CBD.

The Swiss Pair events are for players of all levels including Rookies (25 or less master-points on 30 September 2022)

For entries and more information go to myabf.com.au/events/view/424

Or contact

Hugh Grosvenor, Entries Co-ordinator hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com (m) 0447 044 141

or

Katherine Marsden, Event Organiser kmarsden26@gmail.com (M) 0418135618

Entry Fees

An early bird (EB) discount will apply for entries received by 28th February 2023. Entries close on Monday 20th March 2023

TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs \$220 per pair EB \$200

Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs: \$220 per pair EB \$200

Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs: \$220 per pair EB \$200

TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs: \$230 per pair EB \$210

TFoB Rookie Swiss Pairs: \$90 per pair EB \$80

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TASMANIAN FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



MyState Bank Arena, Glenorchy

Thu 23rd - Sun 26th March 2023

Thursday/Friday

TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs

Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs – PQP event
Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs

Saturday/Sunday

TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs - PQP event

Sunday

NEW

TFoB Rookie Swiss Pairs for players with < 25 MPs

Saturday Evening Dinner



Bookings by 20th March essential

Entries now open on myabf.com.au

or for entries and other enquiries contact

Entries Co-ordinator: hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com 0447 044 141

or Event Organiser

Katherine Marsden kmarsden26@gmail.com 0418 135 618







