

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2004

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

FROM THE COUNCIL

Parking and our commitments

The new year has well and truly started. With the Summer bridge congresses over, we should now get back to our routine.

This means enjoying our bridge, but our commitment to the parking restrictions is not diminished. Parking in Lydson and Stewart streets is not allowed. It is clear that almost all of us are observing this but a few forgetful or cantankerous individuals have tried to test the waters. We have had a number of complaints and this has gone to the Glen Eira City Council. This does enormous harm to us if we need support in the future. The car numbers in breach are:

ERB 321	RPM 049
QWX 990	ULU 474
QKC 600	RNZ 477

These owners are now put on notice that future infractions will force us to take action.

We also need to recognize that the usual laws as per signs are valid, and hence parking tickets may be issued. To add to this, the Video shop is angry, as its sign unambiguously states that it is private property for customers and cars may be towed away. This has already been acted upon. In all cases, car owners are responsible for their actions and the VBA will not protect them. In fact, they risk disciplinary action by the club. Those who flout the parking regulations are not being community minded when here is plenty of legal and acceptable parking available. The council therefore asks you all to be compliant and thoughtful.

Use our car park and be patient if you finish first and have to wait a few minutes. Or use the other plentiful legal areas including the railway car park. It is not far away and back in Prahran we all walked a lot further - the walk will also be healthy and therapeutic!



ANC 2004 - Melbourne

Sporting tournaments, whatever their size, stand or fall on the efforts of volunteers. The 2000 Sydney Olympics was widely credited as an outstanding success due to, in no small measure, plenty of voluntary labour.

The 2004 ANC in Melbourne, of only marginally less significance than the Olympic Games, will be no different. It's a dreadful cliché, but "many hands make light work". If you would like to play a small part in making the ANC an outstanding success, then please get in touch with Jeannette Collins, the convenor or send email to anc@vba.asn.au.

The ANC, consisting of the Australia Butler Trials, Interstate Championships and associated congress events, runs from July 23rd to August 7th.

As well as volunteering to help out, you can contribute to the success of the ANC by playing in some of the many events available. The VBA website, at <http://www.vba.asn.au/>, will have on-going updates on the ANC.



Air Conditioning Woes

Apart from "I have been holding yarboroughs all night", and "The deals are stacked!", the most common complaint from players is that the air conditioning is not working satisfactorily. The VBA Council is working to rectify the problem. We have engaged a specialist air conditioning consultant who has appraised the entire system, all rooms, offices etc and has presented us with a report. The next steps are, of course, costing and we are in the process of getting quotes for his remedy.

So in the near future we should have ideal, comfortably air conditioned clubrooms.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ J72
 Vul: N/S ♥ 6
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ AJ8764

♠ 84
 ♥ AK
 ♦ AK9654
 ♣ KQ5

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

You lead ♦A, which brings ♦2 from declarer, a singleton. You switch to a trump, won by South who leads a heart. You win perforce and partner displays ♥J, not necessarily count. What now?

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ 7542
 Vul: Nil ♥ 5
 ♦ K1086
 ♣ KQ52

♠ A63
 ♥ KQ87643
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

If partner holds ♥A for his/her raise, you can play for the club ruff. So you lead ♣4, which goes to ♣J and ♣A. Declarer plays ♠K. How do you defend?

Solutions on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

It isn't the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones Alan Sontag

JAPANESE QUESTIONS

For the answers, see "Japanese Story".

- How many people in Japan are over 100 years old?
- On an uncontested auction, you reach 5♣ by West with:

♠ Q1094 ♠ J83
 ♥ AQ92 ♥
 ♦ A4 ♦ KQ106
 ♣ 1062 ♣ KQ8754

North, a kindly soul, favours you with the heart jack lead, and you take two hearts, pitching spades from dummy. You then play a club to the king, and everyone follows low – the ace and jack are outstanding. What next? (Decide before reading on.)

The correct play now is to lead dummy's last spade, a scissors coup, to kill the communications for an untimely defensive diamond ruff later in the play. South wins the king, and plays a third heart which you ruff in dummy. That leaves:

♠ Q109 ♠
 ♥ 9 ♥
 ♦ A4 ♦ KQ106
 ♣ 106 ♣ Q875

Plan the rest of the play.

- In this problem, you are hungry for IMPs:

Dealer W ♠ 64
 Vul N/S ♥ AK10873
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 10873

♠ J10953
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A532
 ♣ A42

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

You lead the spade jack, and it holds the trick. A second spade goes to the queen and declarer's ace. The AK of hearts is

cashied, declarer following with low hearts as you pitch a spade. Now declarer leads a diamond, four, queen, ace. You exit a third spade, dummy ruffs, partner and declarer follow. Next comes a small club, five, jack and your ace. That leaves:

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      ♠
      ♥ 1087
      ♦
      ♣ 1087

♠ 9
♥
♦ 532
♣ 42
    
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You have taken a spade and two minor aces, and can expect partner to have two top hearts. You need one further trick.

4. ♠ KQ754 ♥ J1054 ♦ AKJ ♣ 4

You are West as dealer, nil vulnerable at IMPs:

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West      North      East      South
  1♠      Pass       2♠       Pass
Pass*     Dble      Redble    3♣
  ?
    
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* Do you agree with the pass?

What is your choice over 3♣?

5. The Yokohama Ferris wheel, pictured below, has a 100 metre diameter, and travels continuously at a third of a metre per second along its perimeter. How long does it take a sweaty-palmed tourist to go round?



6. ♠ K10 ♥ 962 ♦ J9 ♣ K109642

You are West non vul versus vul at matchpoints. Dealer is on your left.

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West      North      East      South
          Pass       1♦       1♥
Pass*     2♥       Pass      Pass
  ?
    
```

* Do you agree with the pass?

What is your choice over 2♥?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

ADVENTURES AT THE 5 LEVEL CHAPTER 4 Ian McCance

This chapter has more of the case histories commenced in Chapter 2 and continued in Chapter 3. The problem for the reader is whether or not to proceed to the 5 level in the auction given. It is suggested that your decision will be assisted by referring TT, your estimate of the total number of trumps between the two sides, to the Summary Table that appeared in our Issues in October and December. Here it is again:

TT	5C/D over 4H/S	5H/S over 5C/D
17	Don't even think about it. Every outcome loses.	
18	Think about it for about one millisecond. You go positive only if you make the (doubled) contract. Even then you do about as well by doubling opponents instead.	
19	A proposition if NV vs V, fair* both NV. Otherwise go to 5 level only if expect to make.	Only if expect to make.
20	Go (don't get rash V vs NV)	Not nearly as clear, take it easy. A hole in the middle when tricks split 10-10. Many gains small. Need to be close to making.
21	Go	Every outcome gains! But then the Law not so good a predictor above TT=20.

* cost not great

Case #15

♠ AJ98 ♥ 64 ♦ Q72 ♣ QJ92

Neither side is vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	2♥*	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	?

*Spades + minor

What do you do over 5♥?

To remind you of the calculation for TT, it is
 $TT = 13 + [\text{difference in length of trumps in our hand}] + [\text{same for partner's hand}]$.
 Here, $TT = 13 + 2 + 4$ (assuming partner 51(52)) = 19.

Case #16

♠ 2 ♥ AK10765 ♦ A1087 ♣ 96

East-West are vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

Is 5♥ a good idea?

Case #17

♠ KQ542 ♥ A9754 ♦ J ♣ A2

Neither side is vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
		1♣	2♥*
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	?

*Roman - both majors

Should South go on to 5♥?

Case #18

♠ 10654 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ J5 ♣ KJ

North-South are vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♦	2♠	5♦	?

Does South progress?

Case #19

♠ QJ4 ♥ QJ962 ♦ AK94 ♣ Q

Neither side is vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♣	4♥	5♣	?

What about 5♥?

Analyses

In these analyses, TT is the player's estimate of the total number of trumps, TT' is the actual total number of trumps and TX is the total number of tricks available, which is estimated by TT.

Case #15

$TT=13+2+(4)=19$. Progression *fair* at this vul. There is an element of double fit, since we hold a queen in partner's minor.

Dealer: S ♠ KQ1043

Vul: Nil ♥ -

♦ A65
 ♣ K10754

♠ 76 ♠ 52
 ♥ QJ9532 ♥ AK1087
 ♦ K93 ♦ J1084
 ♣ A8 ♣ 63

♠ AJ98
 ♥ 64
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ QJ92

$TT'=20$, $TX=21$. TT has under-estimated. 5♠ succeeds, so progression gains 350. Notice that double, +300, regains most of the board.

Case #16

$TT=13+5+(1)=19$. The vulnerability is favourable, so go on.

Dealer: S ♠ 73

Vul: E/W ♥ Q84

♦ J43
 ♣ A8543

♠ AKJ865 ♠ Q1094
 ♥ J9 ♥ 32
 ♦ K65 ♦ Q92
 ♣ KJ ♣ Q1072

♠ 2
 ♥ AK10765
 ♦ A1087
 ♣ 96

$TT'=19$, $TX=19$. However the split is 10 tricks for us, 9 for them. This is the "hole in the middle". 5♥ costs 200, except in real life when West bid 5♠!

Case #17

South sees $TT=13+3+(3)=19$. Prospects for progression *fair*.

Dealer: W ♠ 9863
 Vul: Nil ♥ J1086
 ♦ Q853
 ♣ 5

♠ J107 ♠ A
 ♥ 32 ♥ KQ
 ♦ K942 ♦ A1076
 ♣ 10843 ♣ KQJ976

♠ KQ542
 ♥ A9754
 ♦ J
 ♣ A2

TT'=19, TX=21. We have double fits again, inflating TX. So progression gains 300.

Case #18

South sees TT=13+2+(4)=19. Five over 5, so go on only if expect to make. We must be fairly close?

Dealer: E ♠ AQJ93
 Vul: N/S ♥ 642
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q982

♠ K82 ♠ 7
 ♥ 3 ♥ J1085
 ♦ AQ1032 ♦ K9874
 ♣ A1075 ♣ 643

♠ 10654
 ♥ AKQ97
 ♦ J5
 ♣ KJ

TT'=19 and TX=20. We have 11 tricks, so progression gains 350 (if we were going to hit 5♦). Admittedly we need a finesse, but ♠ K is where it should be.

Case #19

TT=13+4+(2)=19. Five over 5 only if expect to make. In no way can we expect to make. ♦AK will be helpful in defence.

Dealer: E ♠ AK8
 Vul: Nil ♥ 7543
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ J106

♠ 1072 ♠ 9653
 ♥ AK8 ♥ 10
 ♦ 87 ♦ 10532
 ♣ A8532 ♣ K974

♠ QJ4
 ♥ QJ962
 ♦ AK94
 ♣ Q

5♣ is a bloodbath: progression costs 900. (I remind you that these are genuine auctions. Your bidding has to cope with the bizarre.)

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

JAPANESE STORY
Bill Jacobs

The Victorian team of Cathy Chua, Simon Hinge, Rob Fruewirth and Bill Jacobs were invited to play in the 9th NEC Cup in Yokohama, courtesy of our win in the 2003 ANC. The NEC Cup attracts a strong international and local field, and our 20th place out of 52, whilst a bit disappointing, was probably according to expectations.

Experiencing Japan is to experience culture shock – it is all so different to Oz. Apparently there is no Japanese word for “litter”, or “late” for that matter. But there must be several for “fish” and “tofu”. Reading Japanese menus translated into English is sobering: should I order the “womb of pigs”, or perhaps “sliced raw guts”? Best to point at the pictures, and pray. But it’s hard to be critical of Japanese diet: there are a staggering 16,000 centenarians in Japan.

Japanese society is highly homogeneous – the antithesis of multiculturalism. We spent a day touring central Tokyo, and I was able to count the number of non-oriental people we saw on the thumbs of one hand.

Some things however are above nationalism. The third Lord of the Rings movie opened that week in Japan, and the queues outside the cinema were as long as they were on Boxing Day here.

Speaking of bridge, Japanese bidding is pretty homogeneous as well: 5 card majors, forcing NT, 2-over-1 game force was everywhere. There was variety in defensive signalling though.

The first problem hand was from a match against England:

♠ Q1094 ♠ J83
 ♥ AQ92 ♥
 ♦ A4 ♦ KQ106
 ♣ 1062 ♣ KQ8754

I played 5♣ on a heart lead up to the ace-queen. After taking spade pitches and leading a club to the king, holding, I correctly exited a spade to kill the defensive communications.

After ruffing the heart exit, I was preening my feathers as I played the ace and king of diamonds preparing to ruff the third round and play a club up. But when the second diamond was led, John Armstrong on my left followed with the *jack!* Now I was stuck in dummy with all good diamonds, and needing to draw trumps.

What to do? Should I ruff a good diamond anyway, hoping that Armstrong's jack was a falsecard? Or play a low club from the deck, hoping they were 2-2 all along? Fortunately, I guessed right, ruffing a third diamond, as all followed - Armstrong had started with:

♠ 762 ♥ J1085 ♦ J53 ♣ AJ9

Playing a second trump from dummy would have been fatal. It was not until a day later that the correct play was pointed out to me: declarer should cash the diamond king and then the ace. If the jack drops, then declarer is in hand to play a trump; if it doesn't, there is a safe spade ruff back to dummy to take the diamond ruff.

The following defensive problem looks difficult but is in fact rather easy, if you are thinking the right thoughts. Sadly, this time the right thoughts weren't being thought.

Dealer: W ♠ 64
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK10873
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 10873

♠ J10953	♠ KQ2
♥ 6	♥ QJ95
♦ A532	♦ J84
♣ A42	♣ Q96

♠ A87
 ♥ 42
 ♦ KQ1097
 ♣ KJ5

The play went spade lead ducked, spade won, two rounds of trumps, and a diamond to the queen and ace. Now another spade ruffed in dummy and a club to the jack and ace. West is looking for the setting trick, assuming partner has the two top trumps.

The correct play is simple – return a club. If partner has the king, then fine; if he has the queen without the nine, then not fine, but there is no defence anyway. But if, as is likely, he has Q9x in clubs, then you must play one right now to establish the trick. Suppose you play a fourth spade instead. Dummy ruffs, and East has the Hobson's choice of unguarding one of the minors, or overruffing and being endplayed in both minors. A club return takes him off that endplay.

The next disaster was from the match against the Japanese Open Team:

Dealer: W ♠ 10
 Vul: Nil ♥ AK92
 ♦ 10652
 ♣ J952

♠ KQ754	♠ 632
♥ J1054	♥ Q87
♦ AKJ	♦ 843
♣ 4	♣ AK108

♠ AJ98
 ♥ 63
 ♦ Q97
 ♣ Q762

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	3♣
3♥	Pass	3♠	All pass

Having failed to make a game try over 2♠, I took the opportunity to change my mind, when partner showed a maximum with his redouble.

As it turned out, I should have left the mind-changing to the fairer sex, as partner would have hammered 3♣ for 300, whilst I was left to go down 50 in 3♠.

Balancing auctions like these need quite a lot of study. The normal approach is to play penalty doubles, but if you do so, a hand with shortage has to be sensitive to giving partner the opportunity to double. I am now convinced that it was technically right to pass 3♣. And partner's filthy looks had nothing to do with that particular change of mind.

Here is another big loss for our team from the final Swiss match, which we needed to win big:

JANUARY/FEBRUARY RESULTS

Ramsden Handicap Pairs

- 1 D. Hohor, T. Chira
- 2 B. Gesundheit, D. Kahan
- 3 J. Eddie, F. Kovacs

Ailsa Tandy Eclectic Pairs

- 1 D. Hohor, T. Chira
- 2 J. Hare, R. Begg
- 3 B. Barned, H. Lyngsjø

January Duplicate Champions

There is a new competition running each month for duplicate players. For each of the six sessions during the week, a player's best three scores are summed to create a winner.

Mon afternoon: Rae and John Harband
Mon evening: Alan Gory, Doug Mitchell
Tue evening: Nathan Kohn, Anita Jawary
Thu afternoon: Helen Eisenberger
Thu evening: Ruth Leighton, Don Marejn
Sat afternoon: Rae and John Harband

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE SETTING TRICK - SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: W ♠ J72
 Vul: N/S ♥ 6
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ AJ8764

♠ 84	♠ 963	
♥ AK	♥ J109843	
♦ AK9654	♦ J107	
♣ KQ5	♣ 3	
	♠ AKQ105	
	♥ Q752	
	♦ 2	
	♣ 1092	

After ♦A, declarer wins the trump switch and leads a heart, on which partner plays an informative ♥J. If you lead a second trump, South will win and trump a heart, ruff himself back to hand in diamonds, draw a third round of spades and tackle the clubs. Whatever you do you can't prevent dummy's clubs being established for discards.

If you have the distribution right, though, 5413, partner has only one club. You switch now to ♣K, which declarer must win or the club ruff sinks him. Now after a spade is won in South, a heart ruffed and a third spade is played to South, you can duck the next club. Declarer's losing heart is your setting trick.

Problem 2

Dealer: W ♠ 7542
 Vul: Nil ♥ 5
 ♦ K1086
 ♣ KQ52

♠ A63	♠ 9	
♥ KQ87643	♥ J92	
♦ Q7	♦ A9543	
♣ 4	♣ J983	
	♠ KQJ108	
	♥ A10	
	♦ J2	
	♣ A1076	

There is no hurry – you can afford to duck one round of trumps to see if partner has something to say. Partner does – on the second round of spades you get a good-news signal in *diamonds* – go for it with ♦7 to avoid confusion.

Of course declarer is on the diamond guess if you don't find the ruff, but most of my opponents have good noses.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Café Corner

Do you know, we serve dinner
 every Monday and
 Wednesday from 6pm with
 reasonable prices.
 Take Away Service Available

Home made
 cakes our specialty