

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2004

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

FROM THE COUNCIL

Update from the General Manager

There has certainly been a lot of activity at the VBA over the past month.

We are working towards having a number of new sessions and events commencing in the next 6 to 8 weeks. One of these will be an Inter-Club Winter Pennant, scheduled for Tuesday nights over a 10-week period. Other ambitions include a Seniors Day on Tuesday and a Member-bring-visitor night. Building on our current attendances is paramount, and I would welcome any thoughts and input you may have to bring new activity into the club.

New beginner's lessons (see right), commencing on 11 May, will allow participants the opportunity to attend either a Tuesday morning or Thursday night class or a mix of both. Advertisements for the new lessons are appearing in the local newspapers and on our notice boards. Please refer this to any of your friends or family who are seeking lessons.

A meeting with representatives of the Affiliated Clubs was held at the VBA clubrooms on Friday 23 April to discuss and initiate a forum for the clubs to voice any grievances. A full report on the meeting can be found on Page 8 of this bulletin.

On a cautionary note, we have been alerted to a recent incident where a member was assaulted on the way home alone after playing at night. Whilst we believe this was an isolated act, we do caution all members to be mindful of personal safety at all times and, if you have to walk some distance at night, do so in numbers, if at all possible.

The issue of parking must also be raised as we have had further correspondence and visits from irate residents, who have been the victims of inconsiderate behaviour. All members are reminded that the Club has a very strict parking policy because of constraints placed upon our permit to operate. We ask that every member fully acquaint him/herself with details of areas that are out of bounds. The VBA Council is determined to minimise disruption to local residents. Those found guilty of deliberate or repeat parking offences can expect a warning, suspension or fine.

I look forward to meeting more of the members and encourage you to meet with me at any time or contact me during the day on 9530 9006 or by email at david@vba.asn.au.

Kind regards,
David Costelloe

INVITATION

The Victorian Bridge Academy

Cordially invites you (and a friend or partner, if you like)
to **Learn to Play Bridge**

WHEN: Tuesday 11.00am to 1.15pm (commencing 11 May 2004)
OR
Thursday 7.00pm to 9.15pm (commencing 13 May 2004)
(or mix & match if you like)

WHERE: Victorian Bridge Association (VBA) Clubrooms,
131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena

COST: \$95 per person, includes:
♦ 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons ♦ Certificate on completion
♥ Booklet of Notes ♦ Plus 4 free Supervised Playing sessions

RSVP: Phone: 9530 9006 Fax: 9530 9212 Email: info@vba.asn.au

SPECIAL OFFER:
First 30 people to register will receive
a FREE Copy of Paul Marston's book
"Introduction to Bridge"

•VBA Memberships available • Duplicate Bridge 5 Days a Week
• Visitors Welcome

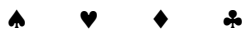
2004 McCance Trophy and VCC

Were you born on or before 9th June 1949?

If the answer to this question is Yes, then put down the newsletter, pick up the phone and ring Jenny Thompson on 0407 343 350 to reserve your entry for the 2004 McCance Trophy, one of the premier Seniors events on the ABF calendar. You can sort out your Victor Champion Cup team later.

If the answer to this question is No, then put down the newsletter, pick up the phone and ring Jenny Thompson on 0407 343 350 to reserve your entry for the 2004 Victor Champion Cup, one of the premier Open events on the ABF calendar.

McCance Trophy: Thu-Fri, 10-11 June
 Victor Champion Cup: Sat-Mon, 12-14 June
 Venue : Eden on the Park, 6 Queens Road



The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia is holding its NCJW Dimona 16th Annual Duplicate Competition at the VBA on May 23rd, beginning at 2 pm. Entries should be sent to Rysia Rozen 9592 8068 or Alice Tiomkin 9654 7289

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ KJ84
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ5
 ♦ K96
 ♣ K98

♠ Q973
 ♥ 64
 ♦ J832
 ♣ A75

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥//

You lead ♦2 to partner's ♦A, declarer playing ♦Q. Partner return a diamond, which declarer ruffs and runs ♥J to partner's king. Partner opens up clubs, playing ♣3 to your ♣A. What next?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 4
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q10852
 ♦ A85
 ♣ KJ72

♠ A
 ♥ K974
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AQ8643

West	North	East	South
		3♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	5♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Cashing ♠A is successful, partner contributing ♠6. You try ♣A and that wins, partner playing ♣9 and declarer ♣10. Where is the setting trick? Your play.

Solutions on page 5.



ADVENTURES AT THE 5 LEVEL
CHAPTER 4
Ian McCance

This chapter shows the last of the series of Case Histories commenced in October. The objective in the Cases has been to use TT, our estimate of the number of Total Trumps, to decide whether or not to bid on at the five-level.

I remind you that there are two estimations:
 1. We use TT to estimate total trumps (TT')
 2. TT' estimates TX, the total number of tricks available to the two sides.

The arithmetic of TX was showing in a maxi-table¹ in October, which has a summary table that has been repeated since.

From the arithmetic we found Rules of Action for the five-level: **TX=19 is the critical number.**

With TT < 19, do not proceed.

With TT = 20, bid 5 over 4 (usually), bid 5 over 5 only where you expect to make.

With TT = 19, progress only if you expect to make OR the vulnerability is favourable.

¹ Where the maxi table referred to TT – this should be TX

Case #20

♠ A109832 ♥ K1097 ♦ K107 ♣ -
North-South are vulnerable,

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♣	3♣*	5♣	?

*Good raise to 3♠

Progression looks attractive with a void?

Case #21

♠ 832 ♥ 42 ♦ A42 ♣ 106432

Both sides are vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	4♠	4NT*	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	?

*take-out, may include hearts

You don't have much. What is the case for 5♠?

Case #22

♠ 987 ♥ 10543 ♦ AQ96 ♣ 106

East-West are vulnerable.

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

5♥, anyone?

Case #23

♠ 6 ♥ 1076543 ♦ K3 ♣ 8542

Neither side is vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♦	X	5♦	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	?

Do we dredge up 5♥?

Case #24

♠ A107 ♥ 10976543 ♦ Q108 ♣ -

Neither side is vulnerable.

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

*fit-showing

A seven card suit raised, even if a grotty one!
Worth one more?

Analyses

Case #20

We can see $TT=13+6+(1)=20$. Partner owes us a spade. The result is hard to evaluate.

Dealer: S ♠ KQ4
Vul: N/S ♥ A6
♦ J9432
♣ 962

♠ J765 ♠ -
♥ Q2 ♥ J8543
♦ 5 ♦ AQ86
♣ AQ10543 ♣ KJ87

♠ A109832
♥ K1097
♦ K107
♣ -

TT' is 19. As for TX, if ♠K is led 5♣ looks to make. 5♠ can perhaps be held together for one down, more likely 2 down. That makes TX 20-21. Progression may be worth 200! Could cost 100.

Case #21

$TT=13+1+(6)=20$. The Table says we have a green light.

Dealer: N ♠ KQJ10965
Vul: Both ♥ J
♦ KQ98
♣ 5

♠ 74 ♠ A
♥ KQ873 ♥ A10965
♦ 10653 ♦ J7
♣ A7 ♣ KQJ98

♠ 832
♥ 42
♦ A42
♣ 106432

$TT'=20$, $TX=21$. The green light was right. Progression gains 450.

Case #22

$TT=13+1+6=20$. Green light.

Dealer: E ♠ 6
Vul: E/W ♥ AKQ982
♦ KJ52
♣ K7

♠ AQ105 ♠ KJ432
♥ 7 ♥ J6
♦ 84 ♦ 1073
♣ J9543 ♣ AQ8

♠ 987
♥ 10543
♦ AQ96
♣ 106

TT'=19, TX=20. 4♠ is a bit lucky to make, good luck if our team-mates play there. Progression gains 550.

Case #23

TT=13+4+3=20. To progress 5 over 5 *need to be close to making*. You must be joking! Pass.

Dealer: W ♠ AKQ9
 Vul: Nil ♥ KQJ
 ♦ 62 ♣ AQ106

♠ J74 ♠ 108532
 ♥ 92 ♥ A8
 ♦ AQJ1086 ♦ 975
 ♣ J9 ♣ K73

♠ 6
 ♥ 1076543
 ♦ K3
 ♣ 8542

TT'=18 and TX=17. Progression costs 800.

Case #24

TT=13+7+(0)=20. Progression indicated *if expect to make*. Can't be sure of that but there is clear evidence of double fits. Go.

Dealer: N ♠ KQ932
 Vul: Nil ♥ KQJ
 ♦ 62 ♣ 842

♠ J86 ♠ 54
 ♥ 8 ♥ A2
 ♦ AJ9 ♦ K7543
 ♣ KQ10976 ♣ AJ53

♠ A107
 ♥ 10976543
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ -

TT'=20, TX=21, with the diamond finesse favourable for East-West. Progression gains 300.

Conclusions from the Case Histories

The values of TT (estimated total trumps), TT' (actual total trumps) and TX (total tricks) for the 24 Case Histories are shown in this table:

Case	TT	TT'	TX	Advice	Result
1	17	17	17	N	✓
5	17+	18	17	N	✓
2	18	17	16	N	✓
6	18	18	18	N	✓
7	18	19	18	N	✓
8	18+	17	16	N	✓
9	18+	19	17+	?	N✓
3	19	18	19	?	L
19	19	18	17	N	✓
4	19	19	19-	G	✓
12	19	19	20	?	G✓
13	19	19	20	?	✓
14	19	19	19	N	✓
16	19	19	19	G	X
17	19	19	21	?	G✓
18	19	19	20	?	G✓
11	19	20	21	?	G✓
15	19	20	21	?	✓
10	19+	20	19	?	L
23	20	18	17	N	✓
22	20	19	20	G	✓
20	20	19	20+	G	✓
21	20	20	21	G	✓
24	20	20	21	G	✓

N = Nogo, G = Go, ? = decision unclear
 L = Go or Nogo makes little difference

In the 24 illustrative Cases TT as calculated by the author correctly estimated TT' to within ½ 14 times. This may not seem good enough, because a difference of one can entirely alter a decision.

However despite differences between the 3 Ts the Table shows that, taken overall, the process can be considered successful. At the top of the Table, decisions against progression were universally correct, and at the bottom decisions to proceed were also correct.

What stands out is the uncertainty when TT=19, as shown by the shaded areas of the Table. It is particularly interesting that apart from the first and the last of these, TX exceeds TT and TT' and the correct advice would be to proceed.

To see if decisions here can be sharpened up. I consulted the adjustments for TT suggested by Cohen in *To Bid or not to Bid*. The results will be presented in the next Chapter.



THE SETTING TRICK - SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: N	♠ KJ84	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ5	
	♦ K96	
	♣ K98	
♠ Q973		♠ 105
♥ 64		♥ K2
♦ J832		♦ A10754
♣ A75		♣ Q643
	♠ A62	
	♥ J109873	
	♦ Q	
	♣ J102	

The play in 4♥ has gone ♦2 to partner's ♦A and declarer's ♦Q, diamond ruffed in South, heart finesse losing: next a club to your ♣A.

Now you have 3 tricks and where is the fourth? Declarer's shape is probably 3613. If he has a losing club it will go away on ♦K and he will take the spade finesse. Does he have other options? Maybe there's a club finesse as well...If so, his logical line will be to discard a spade on ♦K and try to ruff down ♠Q: failing that, the club finesse.

Don't push too hard or declarer may decide you are sending him down a losing path and fall back on the spade finesse. Just get out a diamond and let him optimise.

Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ 4	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10852	
	♦ A85	
	♣ KJ72	
♠ A		♠ QJ976532
♥ K974		♥ 6
♦ K7		♦ 62
♣ AQ8643		♣ 95
	♠ K108	
	♥ AJ3	
	♦ QJ10943	
	♣ 10	

I don't think partner has a singleton club – do you? That ♠6 should have been deliberately chosen, and if so it conveys the message of “no message”. So it looks as if

declarer will get one discard on ♣K. You just have to hope that's not enough, that he has 3 hearts. You can't exit in clubs, that's a “free finesse”. Lead a low diamond away from his soon-to-be-late majesty and clutch on to ♥K.



VICTORIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFF

Bill Jacobs

It may not have quite rivalled the recent Bermuda Bowl final between Italy and USA, but this year's playoff did have some things in common with that match: the result was close, and it was broadcast in its entirety over the Internet via BridgeBase vu-graph (www.bridgebase.com).

This innovation was the work of VBA Councillor Dave Thompson, who did a sterling job of setting up and operating the vu-graph show. This made the match available to a world-wide audience, with several hundred people logged on and watching at any one time. A by-product is that the complete bidding and play records from the Open Room are available for analysts to peruse – it is believed that several of the participants have requested that these records be destroyed, in accordance with the Obscenity Act.



Vu-graph operator Dave Thompson, Chris Hughes and Grant Kilvington's head.

In the end, the Pennant team (Simon Hinge – Cathy Chua, Robert Fruewirth – Bill Jacobs, Chris Hughes – Adam Sarten) edged out the Butler team (Grant Kilvington – Charlie Snashall, Bob Gallus – Justin Stark, Felicity

Beale – Diana Smart) by a narrow 16imps over 96 boards.

Now for some hands, and we start with the destruction of a powerful 19-count:

Dealer: W ♠ 4
 Vul: Nil ♥ Q95
 ♦ J9862
 ♣ 9762

♠ A832	♠ 75
♥ J4	♥ 2
♦ 10743	♦ AKQ5
♣ 843	♣ AKQJ105

♠ KQJ1096
 ♥ AK108763
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Fruewirth	Stark	Jacobs	Gallus
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	D'ble	All pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Smart	Hughes	Beale	Sarten
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	5♠
D'ble	6♥	D'ble	All pass

Notwithstanding the wild distribution, this hand is a study in competitive strategy, and much can be learned. Surprisingly, some key decisions belonged to North and West.

If we accept the 2♣ and 2♥ bids, then the first decision was North's – whether to raise. Stark chose the raise – a very good bid – and this changed the nature of the auction. I passed 3♥, thinking that maybe partner could bid 3NT (never have I misjudged the nature of a hand so badly!), and Gallus bid what he knew he could make.

Fruewirth's pass over 6♥ was interesting – this bid clearly invited me to bid rather than double, and how right he was. If I had taken his advice, we would have found the good sacrifice, but my ingrained knowledge of Gallus's style, which is bounce, bounce, bounce, told me that he was trying to goad me into a phantom sacrifice, and I would not be goaded. At least, that is what I told my analyst at my next appointment.

In the Closed Room, the lack of a heart raise resulted in a more descriptive auction. When Sarten bid 5♠, the other side of screen was in shock: Diana Smart wrote "Beam me up Scotty" on the explanation pad, to which Chris Hughes wrote "Beam us both up".

If Smart had passed 5♠, I think Beale might have refrained from doubling 6♥ and instead bid on, as South's massive two-suiter has been revealed. However the double of 5♠ fatally led her astray.

You are dealer, vulnerable against not, with:
 ♠ 10853 ♥ A109854 ♦ 2 ♣ A8
 What if anything do you bid?

Fruewirth chose 1♥, which seems sacrilegious, but he recognised the power of the two aces, 6 card heart suit and good heart spots. This made it easy to reach slam opposite:
 ♠ AKQJ6 ♥ K2 ♦ A86 ♣ Q95

At the other table, the heart hand passed in first seat, and slam was now rather more difficult, and was in fact missed.

Here is another interesting competitive bidding problem:

Dealer: N ♠ 764
 Vul: All ♥ 9
 ♦ AQJ9875
 ♣ Q8

♠ AKJ8	♠ 10532
♥ KJ10852	♥ A764
♦ 102	♦ -
♣ 10	♣ J7654

♠ Q9
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ K643
 ♣ AK932

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Kilvington	Sarten	Snashall	Hughes
	3♦	Pass	4♦
D'ble	Pass	4♥	All pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Hinge	Gallus	Chua	Stark
	2♦	Pass	2NT
D'ble	3♦	4♦	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, Chris Hughes had to decide how to react to his partner's preempt. I realise that I am not the official mouthpiece of the Law of Total Tricks in this publication, but can't resist. South can figure an 11 card diamond fit and at least a 9 card major suit fit for the opponents. With at least 20 total trumps, it pays to progress to the five level – consult with Ian's "Rules of Action" elsewhere in this edition! Chris perhaps figured it differently, hoping to take two clubs and a ruff maybe, plus a diamond or some outside trick – a "hole in the middle".

It's uncanny how effective the Law is.

Gallus's idiosyncratic weak two in the Closed Room gave Hinge – Chua much more room which they were unable to utilize. You may have strong feelings about where they went wrong, but as usual, these matters are easier on paper than in the heat of the battle.

The fourth set was a nightmare for the Pennant team, 44 imps to 1 for Butler. At my table, Pennant declared 13 of the 16 hands – mainly in the wrong contract. Fortunately I can invoke author's privilege and ignore all my baddies, giving you this example instead:

Dealer: S	♠ J982		
Vul: All	♥ J10764		
	♦ A97		
	♣ 4		
♠ K10764		♠ 5	
♥ Q95		♥ 832	
♦ Q106		♦ 543	
♣ 92		♣ AK10873	
	♠ AQ3		
	♥ AK		
	♦ KJ82		
	♣ QJ65		

Fruewirth declared 3NT as South, after North had shown both his majors. Oozing honesty and integrity from every pore, Smart led the diamond ten!

The next two tricks were rather sad. On winning the diamond jack, declarer played ace of spades, then a spade to the jack. After a muttered "c'est la vie", he went three down (West winning the diamond queen in the process). At the other table, North's spade suit was unbid, so Simon Hinge led a

low spade. He was then careful not to give declarer a spade entry to dummy, so the hearts could not come in, and the contract failed by two tricks for just 3 imps to Butler.

Fruewirth's play in the spade suit looks silly, but there was some basis to it. South was trying for nine tricks via four diamonds, three spades and two hearts. Since he was never going to take a blind hook for the spade 10, his play protected against Kx with West. Perhaps with the apparent short suit lead, the possibility of spades 5-1 should have been given greater consideration.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY RESULTS

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Chua, S. Hinge (on countback)
- 2 P. Kucfir, R. Lel
- 3 R. Gallus, J. Stark

VBA Anzac Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Collins, S. Klofa
- 2 G. Gaspar, B. Tencer
- 3 A. Halmos, M. Weinberg

Swiss Teams

- 1 B. Howe, R. Gallus, V. Muntz, S. Klofa
- 2 J. Hood, I. Tyrmand, A. Meydan, N. Potaznik
- 3 G. Gaspar, B. Tencer, S. Collins, M. Woods

Best Restricted Team

J. Herman, B. Trzaskowski, A. Talbot, S. Narita

March Duplicate Champions

Mon afternoon: Susan Harraway
Mon evening: Wing Law
Tue evening: Lilli and Ray Allgood
Thu afternoon: George Gaspar & Peter Rado
Thu evening: Katherine Hyndes & Maggie Minnis
Sat afternoon: Cathy Lachman



REPORT OF INTERCLUB TEAMS EVENT & MEETING ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2004

Ten teams from the Affiliated Clubs and two teams from the VBA competed for the inaugural Inter-Club Teams Event on Friday 23 April at the VBA clubrooms.

A very pleasant game and lunch was enjoyed by all players. Congratulations go to the winners, Essendon Bridge Club, to Dromana Bridge Club who finished second and to Kooyong Lawn Tennis Bridge Club who finished in third position.

During lunch there was a presentation chaired by the VBA Vice-President, Ian Webb, together with the VBA General Manager David Costelloe to discuss a mechanism whereby the VBA could tap into the collective thoughts of the Affiliated Clubs to enhance their participation in the future of bridge in Victoria. Representatives of 18 Affiliated Clubs attended the presentation.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting appoint a Task Force made up of representatives of Affiliated Clubs and representatives of the VBA to address the issues of concern and put them forward in the form of proposals to the VBA Council. The Chairman assured the meeting that the collective recommendations of the Task Force would be addressed seriously and with an open mind by the VBA.

The representatives of the Affiliated Clubs then debated the proposal and reached consensus that a Task Force be established along the following lines:

- The Task Force would consist of volunteer representatives and would be free to put forward any proposals which it saw fit.
- It would remain in place specifically until the end of the year, during which time it would need to complete its deliberations and prepare a report for consideration by the Affiliated Clubs.
- It is envisaged that the Task Force would convene twice before submitting its report in final form – once to identify issues and suggestions and once more to consider feedback from clubs on the basis of a draft report.

- The VBA would ensure that all Affiliated Clubs were briefed on the process and able to contribute. The consultative process would include visits to clubs by VBA representatives, newsletters and letters.
- The report and any recommendations for change would be considered by the AGM of the VBA in November.
- Pending the completion of the report and its outcome, three representatives from the Task Force would be welcomed as observers on the Council of the VBA.
- The first meeting of the Task Force will be held in the next few weeks.

Those nominated for the Task Force are John Ashkar (Essendon), Michael Petrie (Waverley), Judy Banks (Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville), Chris Raisin (Eastern Contract), Henk Vanderven (Berwick), Richard Iser (Bendigo), Martin Willcox (FABCV), Iris Carling (Waverley), Nicholas Beaumont (Waverley), Quentin Van Abbe (Yarra Valley), Leeron Branicki (Kooyong Lawn Tennis). Ian Webb, Dianne Smart, Andrew Halmos, George Gaspar and David Thompson will be representing the VBA.



A man has a severe heart attack and is rushed to the hospital emergency room. The admitting nurse says, "I'm sorry, you'll have to wait in line." "But I might be dying!" says the man. "Sorry, a doctor will see you when one is available."

Then an ambulance races up with its siren blaring, and a woman is carried in on a stretcher. A paramedic explains, "She was in a terrible accident and has just stopped breathing." "I'm sorry," says the nurse, "she'll have to wait in line."

Next a guy walks in without assistance, whispers something to the nurse, and is taken immediately to the examination room, surrounded by anxious doctors. "What's this?" says the first man. "How come he goes right in?" "Oh," explains the nurse, "he's a bridge player and his partner has just passed him in a cue-bid."