

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2004

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

ANC COUNTDOWN

There are less than 20 sleeps to the start of the 2004 ANC at the Dallas Brooks Hall. So time is running out to get your entries into the Congress or main ANC events.

The ANC website should have all the information you need about events, how to enter, details about transport and parking options, accommodation and the venue itself. Visit: <http://www.vba.asn.au/Anc2004/anc2004Main.html>, or follow the link from the VBA website.

If all else fails, you are welcome to call either:

Jeanette Collins 0411 189 198 or
Terri Kay 0400 679 090



VICTORIAN ANC REPRESENTATIVES

Good luck to all players representing the state at the upcoming ANC. In particular, our ANC Teams representatives:

Anyone:

Cathy Chua, Simon Hinge, Robert Fruewirth, Bill Jacobs, Chris Hughes, Adam Sarten

Fairer sex:

Cathie Lachman, Cathy Mill, Jenny Thompson, Jeanette Collins, Erica Linton, Margaret Yuill, npc: Blaine Howe

Experienced:

Bob Gallus, David Smith, Grant Kilvington, Charlie Snashall, John Stretton, Victor Muntz, npc: George Gaspar

Children:

Tom Rushford, Tom White, Ivan Hu, Nathan Howard, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, npc: Andrew Mill, substitutes: Angus Munro, Shani Davies



ANC VICTORY DINNER

August 7 at 7 pm
Dallas Brookes Hall

Cost: \$75

Includes:
Three course meal
Drinks
Dancing with live band



UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The Winter 2004 Inter-Club Teams Competition commenced on 8 June (Tuesday night) with 11 Teams competing over the next 10 weeks. Southern Golf Club, Metropolitan Golf Club, Royal South Yarra Tennis Club, Kingston Heath Golf Club, Australian Club and Huntingdale Golf Club are represented. We propose to hold a Summer Competition over 8-10 weeks to which these clubs and many others will be invited. If you would like to enter a team from your social/city/sporting club, please let me know.

We launched the first Sunday of Swiss Pairs on 27 June with a lot of fanfare. Those who attended, including a number of new faces, were rewarded with prizes and had a most enjoyable time. We will run the Swiss Pairs every Sunday and, in addition to the table and door prizes, there will be a Trophy for the best performance by an individual over the next 6 months. This is a real opportunity to show your support for the club and have a great day. So why not put the mower away, grab your friends and come down next

Sunday to join the action. The Bridge Players' Café will be open.

Our next Beginners Classes start on 8 July (Thursday 7:30 pm) and will run for 8 weeks – see advertisement on page 8. These classes will be conducted by Cathie Lachman who has most successfully lead the recent Tuesday morning and Thursday night lessons. We are happy to report that the majority of our beginners are moving into the supervised playing sessions. If you know of any friends or colleagues who are seeking lessons, please refer them to Cathie, Laurie or myself for follow up.

We are also about to begin Intermediate Lessons. Please watch the notice boards for details.

We are still pursuing any opportunities for sponsorship for the ANC and for the club generally. If you have any contacts or thoughts on sponsorship, please contact me.

The new credit card facility should be in place by the end of June. We will be accepting Visa, Mastercard and Bankcard. This facility will be trialled for the ANC and will be in general use for all members.

By the way, did you know that membership of an affiliated club involves paying your ABF levy? Our recent examination of our membership list revealed that there are some inactive ABF members. So whilst you have paid your VBA membership, you are not getting your masterpoints from the ABF. If you think you may be in this category, please contact Cathie on 9530 9006.

As always, I welcome your comments or suggestions on any matters to do with the club. Please feel free to drop in and see me at any time or contact me on 9530 9006 or by email at david@vba.asn.au.

Happy Bridging,
David Costelloe, **General Manager**



I favour light opening bids. When you're my age, you're never sure that the bidding is going to get back to you in time.
.... Oswald Jacoby at 77

SWISS PAIRS

Every Sunday At the VBA

Starting at 10 AM

Door & Table Prizes

Café Open

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ 764
Vul: E/W ♥ Q95
♦ J7
♣ J8762

♠ K53
♥ A73
♦ 106432
♣ 103

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

You lead ♦3 to ♦7, ♦8 and ♦A. Declarer cashes three top clubs (partner follows) and leads a low heart. Your play.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ Q74
Vul: Both ♥ KJ93
♦ 1087
♣ K94

♠ 32
♥ AQ65
♦ K943
♣ A87

West	North	East	South
D'ble	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	R'dble	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead ♣A, partner follows with ♣3, declarer ♣2. Dummy looks menacing. What next?

Solutions on page 7.

ADVENTURES AT THE 5 LEVEL
CHAPTER 5
Ian McCance

Sharpening up decisions

Adjustments to the Law of Total Tricks are listed by Cohen in *To Bid or not to Bid*.

The two important factors are those of *Purity* and *Double Fit*.

Purity means that minor honours should be concentrated in our own suits and not opponents'.

Cohen explains that *Double Fit* is really double-double fit. "Both sides have an 8+ card fit in two different suits". When this is the case, Cohen says add 1 to TT.

I found this constraining – it must be quite rare that a double-double (DD) fit can be diagnosed, and I wondered if we could get somewhere with a single double fit.

After all, if there is one double fit it must be likely that the other side has one too. This is particularly so at the 5-level we are investigating, since our fits are often of 10 cards. If we also have 8 cards in a second suit, opponents also have 18 cards in 2 suits, a double-double fit except when one fit is 11+.

Let's look at our uncertain cases to see if adjustments can be justified. The cases are those shaded in the Table from Chapter 4. In all these cases TT (our estimate of the total number of trumps) =19 and the advice from the LAW was close to uncertainty. In most cases it would have paid to proceed, so here we are looking at whether that can be diagnosed.

Case #9

♠ 10 ♥ Q93 ♦ AK10 ♣ KQJ1074

E/W are vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	4♠	?

What about 5♣? TT=18 or 19. The advice based on that should have been Nogo. The diamonds look like defence.

Dealer: N ♠ 97
 Vul: E/W ♥ A10654
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ 963

♠ Q52	♠ AKJ8643
♥ KJ7	♥ 82
♦ 8654	♦ 732
♣ A82	♣ 5

♠ 10
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ KQJ1074

Case #3

♠94 ♥AQ843 ♦A942 ♣87

North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	5♣	?

Should you bid 5♥? Our table (published earlier) says "Go on if expect to make". I think it's just too hard. With 2 aces whack 5♣ (despite the assumptions underlying the construction of the Table!)

Dir: N ♠ KJ86
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ92
 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ A10

♠ Q753	♠ A102
♥ 10765	♥ -
♦ J853	♦ 76
♣ J	♣ KQ965432

♠ 94
 ♥ AQ843
 ♦ A942
 ♣ 87

Case #12

♠ 107 ♥ 42 ♦ AKJ82 ♣ AKJ5

Both sides are vulnerable

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

Should you bid 5♦? Opponents have a double fit because they rate to have 8 spades (partner hasn't bid them) as well as lots of hearts. If partner does have another suit it's clubs, we are close to DD-fit.

ADJUST - go on.

Dealer: S ♠ J9
 Vul: Both ♥ A7
 ♦ Q10765
 ♣ 9872

♠ Q5432 ♠ AK86
 ♥ 865 ♥ KQJ1093
 ♦ 4 ♦ 93
 ♣ 10643 ♣ Q

♠ 107
 ♥ 42
 ♦ AKJ82
 ♣ AKJ5

Case #13

♠ A ♥ A10984 ♦ K952 ♣ K76

N/S are vulnerable.

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

Is there a case for 5♥?

For some reasons I think this very controllly ("pure"?) hand meets the criterion "Go on if you expect to make".

ADJUST – go on

Note that this hand is DD-fit. West concealed clubs, partner is loaded in diamonds. A good hand for the fit-showing jump.

Dealer: E ♠ 94
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQJ5
 ♦ QJ1083
 ♣ J5

♠ QJ10873 ♠ K652
 ♥ 3 ♥ 762
 ♦ 7 ♦ A64
 ♣ Q8432 ♣ A109

♠ A
 ♥ A10984
 ♦ K952
 ♣ K76

Case #11

♠ A9 ♥ K10654 ♦ 965 ♣ 1075

N/S are vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♥	4♠	?

What is your view about bidding 5♥?

Very hard. Nothing wasted! (Is this purity? After all if we have 10 trumps, which is probable [though in fact we don't], we don't need ♥QJ). Here there is DD-fit but we can't know that.

Dealer: S ♠ 3
 Vul: N/S ♥ AQ832
 ♦ AKQJ4
 ♣ J6

♠ 52 ♠ KQJ8764
 ♥ 97 ♥ J
 ♦ 10832 ♦ 7
 ♣ A9432 ♣ KQ8

♠ A9
 ♥ K10654
 ♦ 965
 ♣ 1075

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♥?

Although we have minor honours in one outside suit, we have a certain double fit. Is this reason enough?

Let's say yes, **ADJUST go on.**

Dealer: S ♠ KQ1043
 Vul: Nil ♥ -
 ♦ A65
 ♣ K10754

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

♠ AJ98
 ♥ 64
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ QJ92

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♥?

Tough call. I think maybe North should have bid 4♣(?) to tell us about double fit, but he didn't.

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

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

♠ KQ542
 ♥ A9754
 ♦ J
 ♣ A2

Case #18

♠ 10654 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ J5 ♣ KJ

North-South are vulnerable

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

Does South progress?

A double fit of sorts. Progression feels right.

ADJUST go on.

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

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

♠ 10654
 ♥ AKQ97
 ♦ J5
 ♣ KJ

Case #10

♠ Q105 ♥AJ1094 ♦ J5 ♣ K109

Both sides are vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	X	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

TT=19-20. What about 5♥?

With 11 trumps I'd probably go on, but the purity is wrong.

NEGATIVE ADJUST?

This is an L case (little difference between results), 5♥X costs 800 against about 680.

Dealer: W ♠ 6
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ8653
 ♦ 1096
 ♣ 752

♠ AJ743 ♠ K982
 ♥ 2 ♥ 7
 ♦ 74 ♦ AKQ832
 ♣ QJ864 ♣ A3

♠ Q105
 ♥ AJ1094
 ♦ J5
 ♣ K109

That concludes the chapters on the Law of Total Tricks. My conclusions from this examination are:-

(1) It was useful to demonstrate that whether TT is less than, equal to or greater than 19 is a valid basis for reaching decisions at the 5 level.

(2) I think that possession of a double fit, even if we can't diagnose a double-double fit, is a useful guide when TT is precisely 19. This is not being smarter than Cohen – you didn't need an adjustment to TT as much as 1 in the cases above.

The suggestion is that if your estimate of TT comes to 19, you can use the presence of a (one) double fit to guide your decision.



WIN THE VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

Bill Jacobs

Suppose you were playing in this year's Victor Champion Cup (if you weren't – shame on you): ten 16-board Swiss matches, winner takes all. How manyimps would you expect to chuck? How fewimps would you need to chuck to expect to win? I would say, if the four players can throw fewer than 80imps each, the team would be in good shape – sounds easy!

2004 saw an unusual blanket finish:

1	M. Ware, M. Newton, S. Smith, D. Moir	184
2=	B Neill, R. Klinger, Z. Nagy, D. Lilley	183
2=	A. Sarten, C. Hughes, L. Gold, J. Ebery	183
2=	R. Brightling, I. Thomson, D. Wawn, D. Hoffman	183
5=	M. Brifman, P. Gill, J. Pxzczola, R. Jedrychowski, T. Nunn, S. Hans	181
5=	B. Thompson, N. Rosendorff, S. Hinge, C. Chua	181

What a squeaker! Clearly there were players in five teams who could moan: "if it hadn't been for that one chuck".

Worse, errors that occur towards the end of the last round amplify the misery. Here are two that separately cost both the quasi-Victorian teams (Thompson and Sarten) the event. The first was the penultimate board, the latter the very last board of the event. You can try them yourself.

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ KJ865
 Vul: E/W ♥ K1093
 ♦ -
 ♣ K652

♠ 4
 ♥ AJ876
 ♦ 95
 ♣ J10983

West	North	East	South
1♦	D'ble	R'dble	3♥
4♦	4♥	D'ble	All pass

Since the opponents can probably make lots of diamonds, you appear to have won the

bidding battle. Now you have to win the war. West leads the diamond ace, and East presumably has most, if not all, of the outstanding hearts. Decide your line, then read on.

Here's what Nigel Rosendorff did. After ruffing the diamond, he cashed the heart king (West showing out), played a heart to his jack and ruffed his last diamond. Dummy being out of trumps, he was forced to lead clubs away from the king, losing two club tricks, a spade and to maintain control, two trump tricks, for two down and -300. East's hand: ♠ Q932 ♥ Q542 ♦ Q83 ♣ A4. The winning line is to use a trump entry to hand to run the club jack.

Since N/S at the other table took five heart tricks against 3NT, the difference between 4♥ doubled making and two down was 19imps or 6 VPs.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ AJ1085
 Vul: N/S ♥ K10
 ♦ QJ53
 ♣ 73

♠ K6
 ♥ AJ973
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K10842

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

* 2♣ showed at least a 3-card suit

The diamond ten is led, jack, king, four. A low diamond is returned, and you pitch a club, winning the queen in dummy as West follows. You play a club from dummy, East goes in with the ace, and West follows with the five (standard signals). East continues with another high diamond, and you decide to ruff with the nine, which holds as West discards the club six.

That leaves this position:

♠ AJ1085
♥ K10
♦ 5
♣ 3

♠ K6
♥ AJ73
♦ -
♣ K108

From the bidding and play to date, it appears that clubs are divided 3-3. There are several plays possible now – see if you can pick a winner. Decide your line, then read on.

What transpired in real life was rather sad for Adam Sarten. He picked the position well and found a line that would make at least 9 times out of 10 on the actual layout. But, on this final hand of 160, he ran into an opponent who was still very wide awake.

LHO (Paul Lavings) started life with: ♠ Q932 ♥ 8542 ♦ 106 ♣ 965, so this was the full set of hands in the position above:

	♠ AJ1085	
	♥ K10	
	♦ 5	
	♣ 3	
♠ Q932		♠ 74
♥ 8542		♥ Q6
♦ -		♦ 987
♣ 9		♣ QJ
	♠ K6	
	♥ AJ73	
	♦ -	
	♣ K108	

Adam played to the heart king, then heart 10, queen, ace. Now spade king, spade to the jack, club to the king, then heart jack and heart seven to endplay LHO to give dummy the last two tricks in spades.

But Lavings dumped the heart eight under the jack, and the five under the seven! This left Adam stuck in hand, and he had to concede the last two tricks to East with a club and a diamond.

If 4♥ had made, the Sarten team would have gained 12 imps, enough to win the VCC by a single victory point.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE SETTING TRICK - SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ 764
Vul: E/W ♥ Q95
♦ J7
♣ J8762

♠ K53	♠ AQ92
♥ A73	♥ J864
♦ 106432	♦ 98
♣ 103	♣ 954

♠ J108
♥ K102
♦ AKQ5
♣ AKQ

Just a matter of counting to 9. If declarer has ♥K ducking allows entry and nine tricks. Partner's ♦8 suggests he doesn't have a diamond picture, since there is no point finessing against the ♦J. Maybe we should pop the ♥A and start spades.

This series has made much of suit preference signals, not as commands for partner, more as gentle hints. Should East have played clubs in the sequence 495?

Problem 2

Dealer: N ♠ Q74
Vul: Both ♥ KJ93
♦ 1087
♣ K94

♠ 32	♠ J9
♥ AQ65	♥ 742
♦ K943	♦ QJ6
♣ A87	♣ QJ1053

♠ AK10865
♥ 108
♦ A52
♣ 62

After ♣A the only trick you can see is ♥A. In keeping with the theme of this series, you work out that 2 tricks have to come from somewhere, and it's not hard to guess whence. ♦3¹.

¹ Ian's theme of suit-preference hints can be extended to problem 2 as well. If the defenders realise that East must have a five card suit to bid 2♣ directly over the redouble, then there can be no point in continuing clubs: count and attitude become irrelevant, and suit-preference important. So the ♣3 would encourage diamonds. If East happened to hold ♠Ax ♥xx ♦Jxxx ♣J10xxx, he could perhaps signal ♣J, to direct a low heart switch – the only way to beat the contract! (BJ)

RECENT RESULTS

VBA Results

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 I. McCance, R. Van Riel, G. Kilvington,
F. Beale, D. Smart
- 2 J. Stretton, T. Bloom, K. Muntz, V. Muntz
- 3 N. Ewart, B. Howe, C. Snashall,
H. Snashall

VBA Open Pairs

Championship

- 1 S. Gerdan – J. Selwyn
- 2 A. Czapnik - R. Lel
- 3 R. Gallus – B. Howe

Plate

- 1 M. Granovsky – D. Selwyn
- 2 M. Fogelgarn – J. Shapiro
- 3 B. Dembo – C. Kruss

Consolation

- 1 K. Lee – G. Wikinski
- 2 J. Pettitt – D. White
- 3 A. Jez – M. Mroz

April Duplicate Champions

- Mon afternoon:* Donald Gradie, Madeiline Zafir
- Mon evening:* Aron and Sonia Grinberg
- Tue evening:* Traian Chira, Lillian Rose
- Thu afternoon:* Paulina Baker, Meredith Lambert
- Thu evening:* Doris Golding, Lea Woolf
- Sat afternoon:* John Bennett, Maurice Brumer

Affiliated Club Results

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Bridge Club

Jim Borin Memorial Trophy – Butler Pairs

- 1 Penny Purbrick – Antonia Murray
- 2 Leeron and Alfred Branicki



MAJOR SPONSOR TO THE VBA

Thinking of booking a holiday ????

Talk to the Travel Experts at
Toorak Travel

American Express
533a Toorak Road,
Toorak Vic 3142

Phone: 9826 1213

Fax: 9826 1392

Email: julie@tooraktravel.com.au

Office Hours: 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
(Mon-Fri)

Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon