

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2004

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Thank you to all the Members who participated in the recent **Membership Survey**. We received responses from some 166 members, a very good response rate by any standard.

The major findings are that members are mostly very positive about the way the club and sessions are being run at the moment. Some would prefer changes in the start and finishing times and some would prefer that there is no break in play. However, they represent only a small minority. The vast majority are happy with the current format. There was a preference for more activity at the club but preferred times and days were not uniformly concentrated. However, amongst night players, there did appear to be a reasonable concentration of demand for more Tuesday night activity. Amongst day time players, there was a reasonable demand expressed for new sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday. There was some support for a Sunday event, albeit on a half-day basis. In response to the question about what could be done to improve the VBA, the overwhelming response was for a more friendly and courteous playing environment.

My observation over the past 6 months is that the VBA is becoming a more friendly and convivial environment and certainly the Council is pursuing this **cultural change** with vigour, ensuring that rude and inconsiderate behaviour is given zero tolerance.

We have responded to the member wishes for more sessions. A new **Tuesday** night game of **Graded Eclectic Pairs** will be commencing on 9 November, sponsored by Poath Road Automotive. An advertisement appears in this Newsletter and I ask that members give this exciting new 5-week event their full support. **New daytime sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday** are being trialled at the moment. Tuesday is discounted and Wednesday has an added bonus of a free half-hour clinic. I encourage

all members who can play during the day to give these sessions their full support.

There are a number of other individual suggestions that were put forward in the survey and all of these are being considered.

You have probably noticed that we are getting the support of a number of **sponsors**. Please support these sponsors, where possible, as we operate on a win/win basis and obviously the more support they get the more we get and you, the members, will benefit.

Just a reminder about the **VBA Mixed Pairs**, commencing on Monday 22 November, sponsored by VIP Home Services and the **VBA Summer Congress** on the weekend of 11 and 12 December. Your Convenor is Cathie Lachman. Refer to advertisements in this newsletter.

For any members seeking a partner, wishing to form a team or wanting to communicate similar matters, we now have a free service on our website at www.vba.asn.au in the **"Wanted Known"** column. Please avail this service-it is **FREE**-by emailing your entry to info@vba.asn.au. Certain guidelines do apply.

Finally, please make a note in your diary that the **VBA AGM** will be held on Monday night 6 December at 6.30 pm. We would like to see as many members as possible attend and show your interest in the future well being of your club and participate in a free friendly game of bridge thereafter.

Happy Bridging,

David Costelloe
General Manager



Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. You can drop it in at the club, or email either editor at:

Bill.jacobs@oz.quest.com
Ianmcc@melbpc.org.au

INTERVIEW WITH LILLI AND RAY ALLGOOD

Lilli and Ray Allgood are long standing members and indeed icons of the VBA.

They hold a special place in the bridge memory of the younger editor. As a year 12 student in 1972, a school friend and fellow bridge novice organized for a group of four of us to visit to the VBA one afternoon after school.

We entered the VBA to be greeted by Ern Palfreyman (then vice-president of the club), Lilli and Ray Allgood, and one other member. We played a dozen or so hands against the VBA members, and of course got thoroughly trounced, not that it mattered.

We then had afternoon tea, and talked about bridge in general. Lilli and Ray in particular offered their enthusiastic perspective of the challenges of bridge, and this helped to inspire at least one of the boys to pursue the game in more earnest fashion.



Tell us a bit about your Bridge history.

Lilli migrated to Australia from South Africa, where she had been taught bridge when 15 years old – the old Culbertson system. (That should age her!) She didn't start playing in Melbourne until meeting the late Edgar Szobolotzky at the St Kilda chess club. She was keenly interested in chess at the time, but no bridge. It was Edgar who suggested she try bridge again. So in about 1961 she went with him to the club, then located in the Melbourne CBD.

Ray migrated from Germany and had never played any cards, but was a chess wizard (in fact we met through chess). When we got married in 1967, Ray decided he didn't want to be a bridge widower and thought he had better learn! Being an A-grade chess player, he took to the game like a duck to water, and never looked back!

In 1970, we attended a major chess tournament in Adelaide which was attended by international grand masters. While there, we found that we were playing bridge all day,

and not the chess we were supposed to play (the chess grand masters were generally also very good bridge players). From that day on, neither of us has ever played another game of chess!

What do you do when you're not playing bridge?

When Lilli retired (for the second time!) recently, she is now able to indulge her first love (No – not bridge!): music. To keep up any standard, one has to practise daily. She has a piano partner who unfortunately refuses to learn bridge (we are still working on him), and we spend many happy hours playing four-handed piano. That, together with swimming, cooking, and teaching bridge as well keeps her well occupied, with the rest of the time playing at the VBA gives her a busy and satisfying life.

Ray has been seeking spiritual development for many years, even before marriage, and does a great deal of meditation. As far as he is able, he still does regular yoga exercises. As well he spends a great deal of time doing gardening, and any casual repairs required on the house. He is very talented mechanically and manually and can build or repair anything!

What interesting changes have you seen in tournament bridge over the years?

The most obvious change (very much for the better!) is the great improvement in venues over time, and the present premises are a great success. The other change over time is the continuing development of the game. Since the late 1960s, many improvements in all systems is evident. Just to name a few: negative doubles, replacement of Stayman with extended Stayman, multi-twos, Lebensohl, Roman Key card ace ask, support doubles, and a whole host of other developments which make the game more interesting and more challenging.

Unfortunately we are not getting enough young players entering the fascinating world of bridge. We look to the youngsters to further experiment with new methods of communication and development of bridge.



ASK BILLIAN

In this segment, readers are invited to pose questions of any nature to co-editors Bill Jacobs and Ian McCance.

PLAYING FOR A TOP

From BB:

I had to play 4♥ on the following deal from the second night of the Open Pairs:

Dealer: W	♠ K5				
Vul: Both	♥ A96				
	♦ KQ954				
	♣ K72				
♠ AJ862		♠ 974			
♥ Q75		♥ 4			
♦ J		♦ 8762			
♣ A954		♣ QJ1063			
	♠ Q103				
	♥ KJ10832				
	♦ A103				
	♣ 8				

West	North	East	South
1♠	D'ble	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the spade ace and switched to the diamond jack. I decided to play West for Qxx in hearts, and successfully finessed him for that card. Obviously this worked well, but was it the right way to play the hand?

Bill:

I don't know what's right. It's hard to delve into the mind of LHO. Technically, the defence should have cashed the club ace, because now if I can pick up the hearts, I make six, with the club being discarded on the long diamonds.

A point in favour the finesse is: the defence has only 15 points, so there are strong a-priori odds in favour of the opening bidder having any particular two of them.

It takes courage to take an "anti-field" play like the trump finesse. Sure enough, on examining the scores, 21 out of 27 declarers took only 10 tricks; 6 declarers made either 11 or 12 tricks. So one further suggestion - what are your goals? If you are going well and looking likely to qualify, then maybe stay

with the field and bang out ace-king of hearts. But in the final, where your aim is to come first, go with your instincts and damn the torpedoes!

One final word of warning - you need an understanding partner who won't roll the eyes if you lose to RHO's Qx in hearts. And if partner is a violent type, I definitely recommend cashing the top hearts!

Ian:

I played this 4♥ late in the evening when my brain was malfunctioning¹. I got ♦J led, and went with the drop. I found this a very weak play in retrospect, because ♦J must be a shortage and so opener has length of some sort in hearts.

I agree with the argument about match-points – playing for the drop is accepting an average, and indeed we scored 21 out of 52 for 620.

NEW DUPLICATE DAY SESSIONS AT THE VBA

1. "DISCOUNT TUESDAY"

- ♣ Tuesday 11.30am to 3.00pm
- ♦ ONLY \$5.00 (Members)
- ♥ Partner not necessary.

2. "SUPER WEDNESDAY"

- ♣ Wednesday 11.00am to 3.00pm
- ♦ FREE ½ hour Clinic at 11.00am
- ♥ ONLY \$7.00 (Members)
- ♠ Partner not necessary.

Director: Val Daly

FREE UNTIL 10 NOV.

¹ For a perspective on this, see Charlie Snashall's article on page 8.

HIGH LEVEL PREEMPTS & INFORMATION
Ian McCance

This began when (twice) I opened a “heavy” 5♣/♦, hoping to avoid interference, and attracted the opposite, since the opposition was able to, and did, double for take-out, giving my side a bad result. The second time I was kindly informed “Nobody doubles 5-level openings for penalties these days”. As a result I have developed a morbid interest in other peoples’ methods against high-level pre-empts.

I have reached the conclusion that the information made available at the highest levels of competition about partnership agreements for dealing with high-level pre-empts falls far short of sufficient.

For example, the relevant part of the **WBF** system card looks like this:

Under
 DEFENSIVE AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING
 appears the heading:
VS PREEMPTS (Doubles, Cue bids, Jumps, NT bids)

Followed by a space of 2 or more lines.

Perusal of the 98 system cards provided for the 2004 European Championships at Malmo, specifically for methods against preempts of 4 or higher led to the following:

METHOD AGAINST 4-LEVEL PREEMPTS	
Take-out double through 3♠#	5*
through 4♦	2
through 4♥	6
through 4♠	5*
Take-out double, upper limit unstated	38**
Methods “Natural” or “Standard”	5
Optional double	5*
Entries absent or obscure	31**
“Suction”!	1

this is not illogical because of the negative inference, but presumably add these 5 to “absent or obscure”.

* case where a note was included that 4NT shows 2 suits

There were no references to actions against 5-level openings.

Thus if you were contemplating opening at the 4 or 5 level you would not be in a position to evaluate the likely consequences from perusal of a system card in more than 70% of cases.

In Australia we use the ABF’s system card. This is poorly laid out – **Over weak twos** and **Over weak threes** are on the face of the card (RHS), **Take-out of 4 level pre-empts** is inside the card (RHS) and contestants are not required to state their agreement over 5-level preempts.

At the 2004 ANC The following information was provided on the ABF cards.

TAKE-OUT OF 4-LEVEL PREEMPTS	
No information	2
Doubles are optional (min), penalty (maj)	1
Double = values	1
TOD through 4H, then 4NT	10
TOD through 4H, T/O of 4S not stated	3
TOD through 4H, X of 4S = values	1
TOD through 4S	6

This is a heap better than Malmo but surely we could:

- (1) put all this in the same place
- (2) include the 5-level and
- (3) insist that all categories require an entry?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

TEST YOUR PLAY

♠ Q74
 ♥ J62
 ♦ AQ973
 ♣ 72

♠ AJ
 ♥ A1054
 ♦ J1082
 ♣ AQ3

South declares 3NT (after 1NT – 3NT) and the lead is the club 6 – East puts in the 9 and you win the queen.

How do you play? Solution on page 6.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dealer: W ♠ KJ
 Vul: nil ♥ K542
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQJ876

♠ A83
 ♥ Q96
 ♦ Q10875
 ♣ 105

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead ♦7 and partner wins ♦A. Perhaps with a view to weakening trumps he/she returns a diamond, and declarer turns out to have ♦K. The next card is a trump, you play low and ♠J holds, then you take ♠K. Partner has contributed ♠5 and ♠10.

What now?

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ KQJ107
 Vul: N.S ♥ AK4
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ Q8

♠ A953
 ♥ J72
 ♦ 107
 ♣ KJ104

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

Partner leads ♦4, won by dummy's ♦Q, declarer playing the ♦2. Declarer starts on spades, partner's first spade suggests a doubleton. You let ♠K hold, then ♠Q? ♠J??

How are you going to defend?

Solutions on Page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS**Ern Palfreyman Teams**Final

- 1 D. Smart, F. Beale, G. Kilvington, R. Van Riel
- 2 B. Howe, H. Lyngsjo, T. Chira, D. Hohor

Plate

- 1 C. Snashall, N. Borin, S. Gerdan, J. Selwyn
- 2 S. Klofa, V. Muntz, J. Collins, R. Anderson
- 3 S. Tishler, A. Sarten, D. Selwyn, M. Granovsky

Consolation

- 1 B. Dembo, J. Hall, D. Flynn, J. Percil
- 2 A. Mellings, M. Spurrier, P. Beilby, J. Beilby
- 3 P. Corrigan, L. Hickman, M. Yuill, G. Hill

Melbourne GNOT Final

- 1 B. Barned, J. Stark, R. Lel, A. Czapnik
- 2 G. Kilvington, D. Smith, F. Beale, I. McCance, R. Van Riel, C. Snashall
- 3 Q. Van Abbe, M. Hickey, R. Livingston, P. Hill

September Duplicate Champions

Mon afternoon: John & Rae Harband

Mon evening: Lillian Pearce (=2 Malka Micmacher & Mary New)

Tue evening: Traian Chira & Lilian Rose

Thu afternoon: Lilli Allgood & Peter Havlicek

Thu evening: Lilli & Ray Allgood

Sat afternoon: John Bennett & Maurice Brumer

70% Solutions

14-Oct	Harry & Pam Brown	70.8%
21-Oct	Doug Mitchell & Alan Gory	75.3%
28-Oct	Anna Levin & Helen Abeles	72.2%

Doug and Alan's score sets a high-water mark that will take some catching!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

"BOOK" REVIEW
2005 DAILY BRIDGE CALENDAR

OK, it's not really a book, but the Daily Bridge Calendar, now into its 12th year, is a great "read". It consists of 365 problems, a mixture of bidding, play and defence, presented by some of the world's top authors, including Australia's Ron Klinger.

The problems range from intermediate level to advanced, so there would be few members of the VBA who would not enjoy and benefit from the hands presented.

How did you go with the play problem presented on page 4, which is from the 2004 calendar? This one rates as one of the trickier hands presented – the author in this case is American Frank Stewart.

The full deal is:

<p>♠ Q74 ♥ J62 ♦ AQ973 ♣ 72</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ Q87 ♦ 64 ♣ KJ864</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ A1054 ♦ J1082 ♣ AQ3</p>	<p>♠ 108532 ♥ K93 ♦ K5 ♣ 1095</p>
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If the diamond finesse wins, there will be no problems, but if it fails, you have only 8 top tricks and need to develop your ninth trick in spades.

The first hurdle is to realise that West's clubs present the main danger to 3NT. So you want to knock out West's possible entry first, and then later finesse the diamonds into East, who should have no more clubs to play.

So at trick two, you play ace then jack of spades – right? But now West might deviously return a third spade – then East wins the diamond king and cashes two spades!

The solution is not easy to spot – at trick two, you must lead the spade jack! This has the effect of developing the second spade

trick whilst not giving up control of the spade suit.

The 2005 Daily Bridge Calendar retails for \$27.50 (or \$41.25 for two) plus \$5.00 postage, which is fantastic value for 365 problems. You can order it from The Bridge Shop:

Phone: 02 9967 0644
Fax: 02 9967 0444
Internet: bridge@bridgeshop.com.au
Email: www.bridgeshop.com.au



NEW
TUESDAY NIGHT ACTION

VBA GRADED ECLECTIC PAIRS
(Sponsored by Poath Road
Automotive)

- ♣ Commencing Tuesday Evening 9 November, for 5 weeks
- ♦ Prizes allocated within 2 separate masterpoint fields
- ♥ Overall performance based upon each pair's best three scores

Prizes of a Vehicle Safety Inspection and Report, including a Car Wash to each winning player in the 2 fields, donated by

Poath Road Automotive
151 Poath Road Murrumbena.
Phone: 9569 0022

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ KJ
 Vul: nil ♥ K542
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQJ876

♠ A83	♠ 105
♥ Q96	♥ AJ103
♦ Q10875	♦ AJ432
♣ 105	♣ 93

♠ Q97642
 ♥ 87
 ♦ K5
 ♣ A42

♦A and ♠A - that's 2 tricks. Declarer can't hold both missing Aces. If partner has ♣A that's all we are going to get – so play partner for the ♥A and switch ♥6 hoping that partner has ♥J as well or that declarer misguesses. ♥6 is low enough for partner to play you for ♥Q.

Comment: Partner should double 2♣.

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ KQJ107
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK4
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ Q8

♠ 82	♠ A953
♥ 865	♥ J72
♦ K654	♦ 107
♣ A972	♣ KJ104

♠ 64
 ♥ Q1093
 ♦ A832
 ♣ 653

Partner can't hold much, and it will need to be in the right places. The sensible defence is to hold off spades and try to find out where to go. This line will lose if partner started with ♦AKxxx and declarer has ♥Qxxxx (with two spades in the bank, declarer will switch back to hearts for 9 tricks), but there are more distributions that are flatter and where you need guidance. Partner will throw a diamond on the third spade and you will know to switch to clubs.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

VBA MIXED PAIRS
 UPGRADED TO VIP STATUS

This year the Winners and
2nd place getters of the

VBA Mixed Pairs

Monday 22nd November to
Monday 13th December will receive:

**1st Prize: Cut & Polish for your vehicle
(Value \$120)**

**2nd Prize: Hand Polish for your vehicle
(Value \$60)**

PLAY AND WIN

Sponsored by:
VIP Home Services
 0414-769-509

Victorian Bridge Association Ltd
 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee, 3163
 Tel: 9530 5006 Fax: 9530 9212
 e-m: info@vba.asn.au

HOW TO GUESS A QUEEN (3)

P. Hal Sims had the reputation of never misguessing a two-way finesse for a queen. One day a rival player decided on revenge, and stacked a deal where Sims would have a guess for the queen of clubs, but this time, *both* defenders would be armed with a club queen.

This was one finesse that was going to fail!

Sure enough, Sims declared the contract and got to the position where he had to find the queen. He sniffed the air, studied the opponents' vibes, and barked: "OK, what joker put an extra queen of clubs into the deck?"

(Do you believe this story? Nor do we.)

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

CONCENTRATION Charlie Snashall

Cathy Chua found a nice defence on the last round of the 2nd week of the Open Pairs. I thought it was a good example of two points of principle:

Dealer: N	♠ Q8754
Vul: E/W	♥ A5
	♦ KJ432
	♣ 3
♠ 1096	♠ KJ2
♥ KJ98	♥ Q32
♦ A87	♦ Q9
♣ 942	♣ J10865
	♠ A3
	♥ 10764
	♦ 1065
	♣ AKQ7

Grant Kilvington and I had badly overbid to 3NT by me (South) and Cathy (West) led a heart. I won the ace immediately and led a small diamond off dummy. Simon naturally played low and I played the ten. As I had opened 1NT and failed to support Grant's spades it was clear that we had overbid. Nevertheless if Cathy thoughtlessly wins her ♦A, I will make nine tricks (maybe even 10 on a squeeze if she doesn't cash the hearts). So Cathy carefully ducked diamonds twice, won the third round and shifted to the spade 10. That finished me off and I ended up two down².

First Point. She and Simon were having a good night and she kept her eye on the ball right to the end. I don't know about you but I've had many a good pairs session soured by not taking care right through to the end.

Second Point. Sometimes when it is clear that the opponents have overbid it is important to stay focussed and not assume that a good score is about to automatically fall into your lap.

² Two down? You were lucky, Charlie! Bob Gallus and I also reached the dreadful 3NT by South, and Carole Rothfield led a diabolical low diamond. Jessel won the queen, shifted to a heart, and now Carole made the same diamond holdup play as Cathy. I was held to three clubs, a diamond, heart and spade for three down. This turned out to be extremely costly! (BJ)

Odds on a Yarborough

Quick, what do you think are the odds of being dealt a 0-point hand, no aces, kings, queens or jacks (not strictly a Yarborough, which should have no tens)? Answer at bottom of column.

Victorian Bridge Association

presents the

VBA Summer Congress

to be held

**Saturday 11th December and
Sunday 12th December**

at the

VBA Premises
131 Poath Rd
Murrumbena

**Tournament Director
Mr Martin Willcox**

A Red Master Point Event

**Convenor
Cathie Lachman**

Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006

Answer:

Most people: 1 chance in 275

{Insert your name here}: 1 chance in 15