

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2005

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Just an update on the permit situation for you. We have made approaches to Glen Eira City Council and they have been very helpful and co-operative. We are in the process of submitting a new application for a permit which allows us to operate on Friday and Saturday nights, and as well as this bring all table numbers up to 40 for each session.

It is important that we show ourselves to be good neighbours and I would ask that you observe the parking restrictions around the club. One thing that would help us to show that parking is not really a problem for the residents is for the spaces at the railway station to be used by those who are able to walk the two blocks to the club.

If there are no objections from the neighbours it is envisaged that our new permit should be in place in 4-5 months. At the moment we are anticipating that the cost will be within our budget.

We had a very successful duplicate session during Seniors Week, 36 tables. Special thanks to Margaret Yuill, Jane Leach, Cathie Lachman and David Costelloe who helped make this day so enjoyable. As a result of this day 11 new members joined the VBA.

As a special token for Seniors Week, our major sponsor, Toorak Travel headed by Julie Pomes, paid the fees for these new memberships. This was a wonderful gesture from Julie and our thanks go to her. Please remember Toorak Travel when next making your travel arrangements.

Jeannette Collins

## MULTI REVISION

You hold: ♠ KJ1043 ♥ - ♦ Q953 ♣ A654  
All vulnerable at imps, dealer on your right  
opens a Multi 2♦. What is your plan?

Full deal on page 6.

## VISIONS AFTER MIDNIGHT Blaine Howe

Online Bridge is a lot more than something to do when you can't sleep at night.

I played virtually no online bridge until early last year when I started to get my feet wet. I now believe that we should all try to embrace it as a virtual bridge club that every player in the world belongs to.

Even though I program computers for a living, I am still a dinosaur when it comes to using them (I know I am not alone here), and I believe we all need to make an effort to actively accept computers as an essential part of the bridge world and provide the best facilities we can for the new generation of people who have grown up with them and will find ways to enhance bridge that we haven't dreamed of yet.

Online Bridge is not meant as an ultimate replacement of the real thing – bridge is a social game above all and, anyway, when you beat someone you like to see the whites of their eyes...

If we want to provide structures which will use computers to their best advantage within the game we had better start now or bridge may increasingly be seen as a pastime for oldies.

I want to suggest some of the possibilities, get people providing some feedback and get the general bridge population to prod the current crop of administrators (including me) to bring the game into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and ultimately attract more young people into the game to ensure its long term future.

I believe the core concept for this in Australia, where the tyranny of distance rules, is to create an Internet Centre in every state headquarters. This would require nothing more than a room or an allocated area in which some furniture is provided for sitting and placing computers.

You would need 5 computers (5<sup>th</sup> is for redundancy plus an online monitor when all are operational) with 17 inch LCD monitors (the thin ones) plus an Internet router sitting on a Broadband connection. Even at current retail prices we are only talking \$5,000 for the computer hardware (I shopped around and checked).

It would be possible through sponsorship and providing strong teams for people to buy to play against to fund the exercise very quickly. This would especially be true if every state and the ABF were involved – national involvement is crucial for ultimate success of promotional activities.

Once the centres were in place a lot could then happen.

### **1. Online Training**

Training sessions for anyone who wanted to learn would be provided to get players to learn how to play online and get comfortable with the concept. Clubs (whether affiliated or not) should be able to book a session at a normal 4-person fee and get a bunch of people introduced at the same time.

People who are ill or aged and cannot get about as much as they would like would then be able to play online with their favourite partners to provide extra playing sessions.

The VBA could help create a virtual community that could be tapped into for people who wanted to play online but not with total strangers and at their own pace.

### **2. Interstate/International Competitions**

With the playing centres there could be new interstate competitions created, graded and open.

Interclub competitions could be played without geographical limits being considered. Essendon against Juneau, Waverley against Wigan.

In the future when the hardware gets faster and video compression technology gets smarter, we have a scenario where two clubs play a match and there is a spectator room where video footage of the spectators is sent real time to each location so that the

competing club members can talk to each other during play, foster cooperation over large distances and encourage people from other countries to come on bridge tours of Australia.

### **3. Representative Teams Practice**

Representative teams would book the virtual table and play sessions with their captain moderating against a pool of strong opponents who would be happy to provide an hour or two of playing time to support their teams. This would make it easy to provide solid practice sessions that would enhance the capability of our teams.

### **4. Youth Bridge**

Eventually youth bridge will need to seriously address the use of online bridge if we are ever to produce enough youth players to make the youth game viable.

Naturally one of the things that can be done by youth coordinators is to arrange online games where the players can play in a 2-hour window, say, without leaving home.

I am not saying that the current supporters of youth bridge who put the work in are blind to this, but that this is where sponsorship effort and player support could make a real difference to the numbers if followed up with state and national support.

### **5. Buying Opponents**

Professional stuff is a reality in bridge. With the online stuff, the VBA could broker games in each state.

The representative teams might be asked to provide a few sessions that could be sold to any team that wanted to bid to provide funds for maintaining the Internet centre or supporting tournaments.

Also, why not provide the ability for professional teams to sell online sessions to whoever wanted to pay, with the state host taking a house percentage for organising the game?

### **6. Virtual Sitout**

Swiss Pairs and VBA Duplicates have a problem with sitouts. The Internet centre would become a virtual table in any event.

If you could load up the boards for your event (if it cannot be done yet, how hard can it be?), then your standby pair is at home waiting to play if necessary. They are told when a sit-out situation exists and simply play during session time.

This means no more sitouts at the VBA ever. Surely someone could sell that as a concept? When the sitout pair moves to the virtual table, they have the option of playing for real or declining to have the hands count (if they don't know about playing online) and simply getting half an hour of practice.

Swiss Pairs could be run without a house pair and you just take entries without having to even up the field.

If you take this a step further, you could have two online pairs playing the event throughout if the physical field was even. This would be a very good way to get people actively playing online.

All of the above is a few suggestions which only scratch the virtual surface. I say build it and they will come...



### THE TWELFTH TRICK

♠ A86532  
♥ AQ9  
♦ 72  
♣ K6

♠ K97  
♥ KJ64  
♦ A6  
♣ AJ53

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the diamond king, and on the second round of trumps, discards a diamond.

How do you play to dispose of your diamond loser? Solution on page 8.

### SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

#### Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ KQ  
Vul: Both ♥ 743  
♦ AK964  
♣ AQ2

♠ 843  
♥ AJ652  
♦ Q8  
♣ 864

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner's ♠J is won in dummy and a low heart is led. An ever alert defender, you ask yourself "What is going on?". How will you defend?

#### Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ 5  
Vul: Both ♥ Q1087  
♦ Q763  
♣ Q942

♠ KJ3  
♥ K4  
♦ K1094  
♣ 8763

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

You lead ♠3 and the best partner can do is ♠8, which is won with ♠Q. Declarer leads a low heart. Can you find a way to come to 4 tricks? Solutions on page 8.

### 3 NEW SESSIONS AT THE VBA



Tuesday Mornings 10.30 a.m. - Best Value in Town

Duplicate Session followed by an expert guest post mortemist of pre-dealt hands with deep finesse analysis. \$5.00.

Director: Jeannette Collins

Tuesday Evening Supervised Play - 7.30 p.m.

Supervised Session conducted by Mary Elson. Now you have the choice of Tuesday or Thursday evening to enjoy a supervised game. \$7.00.

Friday Morning Duplicate - 11.30 - Commencing 1st April

Duplicate Session with pre-dealt hands conducted by Val Daly. \$7.00

Phone: 9530-9006

E-Mail: [info@vba.asn.au](mailto:info@vba.asn.au)

## HANGOVER Ian McCance

Dealer: W    ♠ AQ93  
 Vul: All    ♥ 10  
               ♦ KQ6  
               ♣ K9873

♠ K1084	♠ J75
♥ 7	♥ KJ62
♦ J1093	♦ A52
♣ 10654	♣ QJ2

♠ 62  
 ♥ AQ98543  
 ♦ 874  
 ♣ A

I played 4♥ after a routine auction and ♦J was led, covered and a diamond returned. How to play?

- 1) Finesse hearts at once. Well and good if ♥Q holds, but if it loses the defence cashes its diamond and puts me to the finesse in spades, since I can't arrange to unblock the clubs. ♥J would need to drop. Doesn't this line seems a bit like playing the hand without ♣K?
- 2) Cash ♣A and finesse ♠Q at trick 3. If this fails almost all is lost – would need ♥KJ alone under ♥AQ. Reject.
- 3) Cash ♣A, cross to ♠A, take one discard on ♣K and play to lose only one trump.

As the cards lay (diagram) #1 is right: when ♥Q holds, cash ♥A and find out that the spade finesse is needed – end of story.

But somehow the arguments under #1 and #2 convinced me to play #3.

With an angry roar (neatly typed) my partner exclaimed "You're fired" and ejected me from the table. What are the facts?

Line #1: Finessing ♥Q starts off at 50%. If it succeeds things are pretty rosy. If it fails, ♠Q needs to be right and ♥J has to fall. I make it another 13.6% for a total of 63.6%.

What about despised Line #2? The spade finesse is only 50%. Add to that about 3.4% for ♥KJ alone and underneath, total 53.4%, correctly rejected.

Line #3 depends solely on hearts playing for one loser – 14/20 cases when hearts are 3-2, (47.6%) and 3/10 cases when hearts are 4-1 (11.4%). Total 59%.

So I got it wrong by 4.6%.

I believe it was a hangover from par-point competitions, where the solutions frequently depended on avoiding (at all costs!) the position where declarer could be put to a premature guess, as explained under 1), above.

Nobody else, anywhere, suffers from par-point hangover.

The other alternative is that my analysis machine has rusted away ... ..or is an error rate such as this acceptable?

## 2005 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

This is your first (but not final!) reminder to play in Victoria's annual national event, being held at the Bayview On The Park hotel on Queens Road from June 9 to June 13.

This year sees two inaugural events added to the congress: the Victorian Womens Swiss Pairs and the Victorian Restricted Swiss Pairs, both run concurrently with the McCance Senior Teams on the Thursday and Friday, and playing the same boards.

In particular, we encourage all players of the female persuasion to enter the Womens Pairs, because if this event is successful, it will be given Playoff Qualifying Points and Gold Master Points in the future.

Entry forms are available from the VBA, or from the VBA website. You can pay your entry fee via cheque or direct deposit.

Further information can be obtained from Diana Jacobs on 0413 003 633. She is waiting to take your call!



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

"I don't know what North was thinking of doing but it is just as well he didn't."

"Declarer led the ace of trumps and it held. So now he must reconsider his options."

## AUSTRALIAN TEAM PLAYOFFS

### Bill Jacobs

Victorians were well represented in the 2005 Playoffs (vying for spots in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup in Portugal, and the Far East in South Korea). The format du jour was a variation on knockout.

First Victorian to exit was David Smith, whose team lost a 64 board match by an irritating 13 imps to the Marston team – the eventual playoff winners.

(David must have developed nerves of steel in recent times: first a 1-imp loss in a knockout match at the NOT, then this, and as for the Victorian Pennant ... he won a knockout match by 3 imps, had it changed to a tie on appeal, lost the four-board playoff by 2, then qualified back from the repechage by some fraction of a VP!)

Robert Fruewirth was the next to go, losing his semi-final by 31 imps, after being just 1 imp down with 16 boards to go. This hand didn't help:

Dealer: W     ♠ AJ862  
 Vul: All     ♥ Q9542  
               ♦ 102  
               ♣ 4

♠ 103	♠ 75
♥ KJ	♥ 763
♦ AKQJ843	♦ 1095
♣ 53	♣ QJ976

♠ KQ94  
 ♥ A108  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AK1082

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All pass	

Sitting North, Ishmael Del Monte's 2♦ Michaels was paper thin at this vulnerability. It led to the problem where Fruewirth as South would have liked to set spades below game, but couldn't think of a way to do so. Can you?

An accident ensued when Del Monte interpreted 5♠ as some sort of grand slam try for hearts. That was 13 imps away.

This deal was the final board of the Womens' semi-final, featuring the Bourke team (Margaret Bourke – Meredith Woods, Di Smart – Felicity Beale, Therese Tully – Sue Lusk). Both tables played 4♠ as South. When Felicity was declarer (having jumped to 4♠ over partner's Michaels cue-bid), West led a top diamond and switched to the heart king, going for a simple set if partner had ace-third in hearts: that was 12 tricks.

At the other table, West stayed off the hearts, and was rewarded by winning both the king and jack, when declarer took two finesses.

That was 2 imps to the Bourke team, which was handy, as this resulted in a tied match!

The regulations stipulated the gruesome 4-board playoff, and Meredith Woods won that for the Bourke team off her own bat. The first board:

Dealer: N     ♠ AJ6542  
 Vul: Nil     ♥ 542  
               ♦ K85  
               ♣ K

♠ Q8	♠ 1097
♥ J10	♥ KQ86
♦ AQ10	♦ 732
♣ A109542	♣ QJ3

♠ K3  
 ♥ A973  
 ♦ J964  
 ♣ 876

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	All pass	

Meredith was South and her re-opening double, whatever it meant, in a pressure situation was excellently judged. 2♠ made, whilst E/W made a club partscore at the other table.

Two further boards saw a 1 imp swings swapped, and Meredith steered her partnership to a cold 5♣ on the last hand, with her opponents languishing in a no-play 3NT at the other table.

In the Open final, the Neill team contained two Victorians: George Gaspar partnering Bobby Richman, and Simon Hinge playing

with South Australian Zoltan Nagy. They lost to the strong Marston outfit by just 14 imps, but in doing so earned themselves a trip to Seoul.

Meanwhile, the Bourke team powered their way to a 38 imp victory in the Womens, and have a chance now to play in the Venice Cup at Estoril (a seaside resort outside Lisbon).

George Gaspar made life very difficult for his opponents on this deal from the first set of the final:

Dealer: W     ♠ Q5  
 Vul: All     ♥ QJ72  
               ♦ KJ3  
               ♣ J642

♠ A9876	♠ 1032
♥ A653	♥ 1098
♦ 82	♦ A7654
♣ 107	♣ K5

♠ KJ4  
 ♥ K4  
 ♦ Q109  
 ♣ AQ983

As a passed hand, George (West) doubled South's 1♣ opening for takeout. South eventually declared 3NT. On a spade lead, East gave count, so declarer had an inkling that spades were 5-3. Can he be blamed for thinking that West must have some 5-4-3-1 shape for his takeout double? I don't think so. Declarer ran the club jack, covered by the king, and when he got back to dummy, finessed a club to George's 10. That made a difference of three tricks, and gave George's team 13 imps.

Two consecutive boards from the final set are worth reporting.

Dealer: N     ♠ KQ10  
 Vul: E/W     ♥ K87542  
               ♦ Q74  
               ♣ J

♠ 97642	♠ AJ
♥	♥ A9
♦ 83	♦ K62
♣ 987643	♣ AKQ1052

♠ 853  
 ♥ QJ1063  
 ♦ AJ1095  
 ♣ -

### Women

West	North	East	South
Beale		Smart	
	1♥	D'ble	4♥
4♠ (!)	Pass	4NT	5♣
Pass	5♥	D'ble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Felicity Beale had a genuine Yarborough as West, but that didn't stop her bidding a vulnerable 4♠ (as Yarboroughs go, this one is pretty darned good). Not surprisingly, Diana Smart tried for slam, but settled for a non-vulnerable penalty, after South's clever 5♣ suggested wild breaks.

The penalty turned out to be -650, which was also achieved at the other table.

### Open

West	North	East	South
	Nagy		Hinge
	1♥	3NT	4♣
Pass	4♥	D'ble	Red'ble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hinge and Nagy had to pick up imps in a hurry, and this was an excellent way to do it. +1080 scored up very nicely against the -420 at the other table.

For the record, I much prefer Smart's initial double to the 3NT bid at the other table. East is rather too strong for 3NT in my view, and a slam could be missed.

The very next board was one of those rare beasts which has interest in the bidding, opening lead, play and defence.

Dealer: E     ♠ AQ97  
 Vul: All     ♥ Q10  
               ♦ J76  
               ♣ 9732

♠ 85	♠ 62
♥ KJ73	♥ A986542
♦ AK42	♦ 108
♣ KQJ	♣ 108

♠ KJ1043  
 ♥  
 ♦ Q953  
 ♣ A654

**Women**

West	North	East	South
Beale		Smart	
		3♥ (!)	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
D'ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Smart's 3♥ opening is X-rated (not for children). South then had an interesting decision: whether to bid 3♠ or make a takeout double.

Against 4♠ doubled, Beale led the club king (do you agree?). Declarer won the ace, drew trumps and exited in clubs. Beale cashed her clubs, and exited a heart. Declarer ruffed that, crossed to the club 9 in dummy and led a diamond to the eight, queen and ace. Beale played another heart, declarer ruffed, and now led a second diamond ducking it to East's 10. That led to down two.

Declarer thought that East must be down to a singleton diamond honour, assuming that West would have led a top diamond had she held both honours.

At the other table, Sue Lusk got the play right on the same opening lead (as I hope you would too) – she eliminated the hearts whilst drawing trumps, and exited a club. Now the defence had to break diamonds for down 1, and 7 imps to the Bourke team.

**Open (Room 1)**

West	North	East	South
		2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South's passing is exactly what not to do against the multi. I will say no more. 4♥ made 10 tricks.

**Open (Room 2)**

West	North	East	South
	Nagy		Hinge
		Pass	1♠
D'ble	3♣	3♥	4♠
D'ble	Pass	Pass*	Pass

\* after an eternity

Simon Hinge was on the same side of the screen as East, who passed partner's double "in agony". He told me: "In the light of the previous board – plus 1080 to us in 4♥

redoubled – I should have redoubled again, and East would surely have bid 5♥".

One further twist in the play. West led a high diamond (which I think is the best lead – West can always switch to clubs on seeing dummy), and East signalled with an upside-down 8. West found this signal hard to read, and switched to a club, for down 1, and 9 imps to Simon's team.

**BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS****Winter Series**

When?	Thursday 7.30 pm-9.30 pm starting 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2005
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena
Cost?	\$115 per person, includes: - 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons - Certificate on completion - 6 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$42)

Teacher: Cathie Lachman  
Phone: 9530-9006 E-Mail: [info@vba.asn.au](mailto:info@vba.asn.au)  
*Tell your Friends and Family*

**NEW VBA MEMBERS FOR MARCH 2005**

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Tim Kilham	Mary Hussey
Helen Abeles	Vivian Ness
Anna Levin	Peta Murray
Nathan Luft	Judith Ben-Meir
Robert Turnbull	Boris Rozenblat
Sandra Dann	Brenda Gorman
Ivan Margitta	Patricia Carroll
Margaret Margitta	Pat Makinson
Patricia Lever	Constance Bruce
Myer Janover	Suzanne Larke
Ken Trolland	Stephen Crawford
John Watson	Helen Read
Osman Senhanli	Maureen Lyster
Cathy Chua	Bob Slutzkin



More Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

"I don't think anyone in this tournament can bid diamonds to show diamonds. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone and hearts are sinking fast."

## RECENT RESULTS

### Victorian Masters Pairs

#### Section A - Championship

- 1 B. Howe – J. Stark
- 2 R. Gallus – K. Chan
- 3 J. Collins – S. Klofa

#### Section A - Plate

- 1 C. Schwabegger – R. Rozen
- 2 A. Paul – B. Jaffrey
- 3 J. Alexander – S. Arber

#### Section B - Championship

- 1 J. Hare – R. Begg
- 2 J. Selwyn – M. Granovsky
- 3 C. Lanzer – S. Stock

#### Section B - Plate

- 1 B. Dembo – J. Hall
- 2 J. Shapiro – F. Shapiro
- 3 M. Tauman – E. van Eijk

## TWELFTH TRICK – SOLUTION Bill Jacobs

	♠ A86532	
	♥ AQ9	
	♦ 72	
	♣ K6	
♠ 4		♠ QJ10
♥ 8532		♥ 107
♦ KQ1093		♦ J854
♣ Q94		♣ 10872
	♠ K97	
	♥ KJ64	
	♦ A6	
	♣ AJ53	

West leads the diamond king, and on the second round of trumps, discards a diamond.

You could take the club finesse – that's about a 50% chance.

Or you could play on hearts and hope that East has at least three: the odds of that would be greater than 60%, even allowing for East's extra length in spades (which means he is a bit more likely to be short in hearts). You could perhaps cash the two top clubs first, in case East started with ♣Qx.

Another option is a combination line: king and ace of clubs, then ruff a club to see if the queen drops. If not, try the hearts.

The combination line is the best percentage play, but it is close. You can take full marks for this problem if you at least spotted the three possible lines.

## SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

### Problem 1:

Dealer: W	♠ KQ	
Vul: Both	♥ 743	
	♦ AK964	
	♣ AQ2	
♠ AJ1096		♠ 843
♥ Q8		♥ AJ652
♦ J1053		♦ Q8
♣ 107		♣ 864
	♠ 752	
	♥ K109	
	♦ 72	
	♣ KJ953	

This one's a bit easy, isn't it – as long as you asked that question. One suit declarer doesn't hold is hearts, so what is he doing? Answer, going after trick 9.

You must pop ♥A and return a spade.

### Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ 5	
Vul: Both	♥ Q1087	
	♦ Q763	
	♣ Q942	
♠ KJ3		♠ 1098642
♥ K4		♥ J52
♦ K1094		♦ AJ52
♣ 8763		♣ -
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ A963	
	♦ 8	
	♣ AKJ105	

Partner hasn't got much to be bidding with such a grotty suit. What can he have?

You've got it! A void in clubs. Play ♣3 for the ruff and partner will know to underlead his ♦A for a second ruff. Declarer goofed – but they sometimes do.