

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2005

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

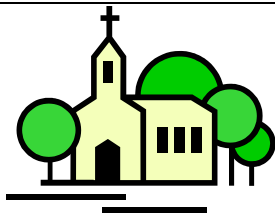
GOING FOR THE GOLD

After a chorus of protests, the ABF Tournament Committee decided at its last meeting to award Playoff Qualifying Points and Gold master points to the inaugural VCC Womens Swiss Pairs. The winners will receive 24 playoff points each, down to 4th place with 6 playoff points each.

That completes the trifecta of Playoff Points and Gold master points for the three main events at Victoria's Nationals: McCance Seniors Teams, Womens Swiss Pairs and Victor Champion Cup, making the congress the equal of most events on the ABF calendar.

In addition, a new Restricted Pairs event has been scheduled running concurrently with the Seniors and Womens events.

We're sorry, but there's simply no excuse for not being at Bayview on the Park from June 9th to 13th.



Need accommodation in Adelaide for the ANOT?

Toorak Travel, one the VBA's major sponsors has made a block booking at the Saville Park Suites, on Hindley Street, Adelaide (same street as the venue). These 4 star apartments have full kitchen and laundry facilities as well as a restaurant and bar. Secure your reservation now
Give Julie a call to get a good rate.

Tel: 9826 1213

E-M: julie@tooraktravel.com.au



MORE ADVENTURES AT THE 5 LEVEL (1)

Ian McCance

The previous series on the Law of Total Tricks (LTT) discussed its use as a guide to decisions about progression at the 5-level. Applying the LTT is very much an individual guide, partner is not being consulted.

This new series on adventuring to the 5-level is a discussion of an agreement between partners, the non-double (ND). The ND is a reversal of the meanings of double and pass (or bid) *for the player in the second seat* in a competitive auction at high level. The objective is to sharpen up these decisions through enhancing communication between partners.

An essential ingredient is to have a foolproof definition of the situations in which it applies.

Application #1:

The ND defined as *a second opinion from a hand that has already pre-empted*.

You hold: ♠ QJ8532 ♥ - ♦ 86 ♣ Q9543. You are non-vul against vul, and dealer. You decide that opening 2♠ is pusillanimous and try 3♠. Next hand passes and partner bids 4♠. RHO now enters with 5♥.

What now?

Well you could have opened 3♠ on a variety of hands. What characterises this one is a total absence of defensive tricks and some extra playing strength from the 5-card side suit. There is a wide spectrum of hands for partner here, from almost nothing to very strong indeed.

It is not sensible to launch into 5♠. RHO has taken a guess at the 5-level – do they always get it right? Pre-empt-and-bid-again is bad bridge for all the reasons they threw at you for years until you gave it up. But with ND you are well situated.

Double says, quite simply, I want to go on. Partner can join you in taking advantage of

the vulnerability and bid 5♠, or take advantage of the vulnerability in a different way by passing.

The partnership in which I played the ND dissolved, and I have never revived the understanding. Mainly, I think for reasons of definition, though as I have set it out above it seems quite clear.

Extension of definition of the region including ND.

ND from a hand that has pre-empted could apply to situations such as: 1♥ (P) 3♥* (3♠) 4♥ (4♠) X, where 3♥ is preemptive (after game has been reached).

The case for ND here is weaker, since sometimes 3♥* might have something like AK somewhere and doubling for penalty is a sensible option.

Application #2:

ND in competitive situations where Pass would be forcing.

The scope for application here is much wider, but the situation is clouded because I believe most partnerships do not have precise agreement about what is or is not forcing. Much more of this shortly, but first to illustrate the application as played by Cohen and Berkowitz, where the definition is pinpoint.

#2a: when and only when the partnership has bid a major suit game, and it is overcalled

Statement of the Cohen – Berkowitz agreement after 1♥ – 4♥ or 1♠ – 4♠ is followed by an overcall.

Pass=pass, nothing special

5M=5M, nothing special (rare)

Double= "I want to go on to 5M, but just in case your raise has a hand that wants to defend, you can pass – otherwise please go to 5M."

Example:

Berkowitz (North) holds:

♠ 1065 ♥ A87542 ♦ 4 ♣ AK7 and deals, nil vul.

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	4♥
4♠	Dble*	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1♥ is limited (strong club system) and the jump to 4♥ is pre-emptive. (If you don't believe the second bit see the diagram).

	♠ 1065	
	♥ A87542	
	♦ 4	
	♣ AK7	
♠ AKQ42		♠ J973
♥ 6		♥ Q103
♦ KQ752		♦ A3
♣ 65		♣ J1092
	♠ 8	
	♥ KJ9	
	♦ 109863	
	♣ Q843	

5♥ undoubled, minus 100, was worth 8 IMPs against 420.

Now to the ND in the wide world of (high-level, =game +) competitive bidding where the application requires (only) that the sequence is forcing.

Are you and your partner in complete agreement about what sequences are forcing at the game level?

From notes supplied to me by Ben Thompson:

IF WE ESTABLISH A GAME FORCE, OR BID A GAME WITH A CLEAR EXPECTATION OF MAKING IT, WE CANNOT EVER PASS THEM OUT UNDOUBLED.

That seems straightforward enough, with the reservation that expectations may be clearer to North than to South.

The next article illustrates the use of the ND by Meckstroth and Rodwell. Two of the auctions start with a strong 1♣ opening, and I won't give them here as most of us play a natural system.

Here is the third:

North-South vul			
West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♣	2♦	4♦	4♠
5♦	Pass#		

#forcing?

Is 5♦ forcing? I think there was "clear expectation" that 4♠ was a make.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ QJ542
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ9
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ K96

♠ 97
 ♥ AK1052
 ♦ J103
 ♣ Q52

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* flat raise to game

You start ♥A and partner plays ♥3 (natural count) or ♥8 (reverse). How are you going to defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ A4
 Vul: Nil ♥ A1042
 ♦ 4
 ♣ Q96542

♠ Q1072
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ AQ10832
 ♣ 10

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

You lead ♣10, which goes to ♣2, ♣8 (natural signals) and ♣A. Declarer next plays ♥K, then ♥J to the ♥A, and discards ♣3 on ♥10, as you trump it. What next?

Solution on page 8.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: N ♠ 3
 Vul: nil ♥ Q1062
 ♦ AQ86
 ♣ A632

♠ KQJ10965
 ♥ A5
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KQ5

West	North	East	South
	1♣	D'ble	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the club jack, which you win with the king. East takes your spade king with the ace and returns a spade, on which West throws a club. You draw the rest of the trumps and play the club queen, but East discards on this trick.

Where is the twelfth trick to come from? Solution on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

A new supervised session for improvers has started at the VBA, held every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. The session is being run by Mary Elson, a teacher and supervisor with more than 15 years experience.

Each session will begin with a 20 minute clinic and included in the play session that follows the clinic will be a number of hands designed to illustrate the topic under discussion – so you won't have to wait 6 months any more for the problem to arise! Mary will be happy to receive suggestions for topics to include in future clinics.

If you know anyone who would like to improve their bidding and play, why not mention the supervised sessions to them. Participants don't have to bring a partner, just turn up and enjoy. The session promises to be popular and Mary will provide a fun and informative time for all.

VBA AND THE INTERNET

Blaine Howe

We are in the process of creating an internet training room which will also be used by members for online playing bridge when it is not booked for lessons (see last newsletter).

We are also going to provide public PCs within the VBA which will have bridge software of various forms installed for the entertainment and instruction of members and guests.

To get the first installations underway we are depending on the donation of PCs which are still operational but getting too old to perform well. These will be ideal for running standalone bridge programs or internet bridge software which require very little computer firepower.

I have donated one of these myself.

Typically it will be a Windows 98 PC which has the capability to connect to the internet. There will be people who upgrade in the near future and I hope that those who do not need their old machines can donate them to the VBA.

If we end up with more than we need for the VBA, we hope to assist other clubs to create a similar online environment with the help of the VBA.

Finally, once the internet room is operational, we can challenge the other states to create one of their own and see if they are good enough to beat Victoria online...

KATTERY

CONGRESS

Swiss Teams

Sunday 29th May

at the Kattery clubrooms, 20 Sinclair Ave.,
Glen Iris. Melways 59 H6 **Phone 9824 - 7884**

1st session 10:00 am - 1:00 pm followed by a delicious lunch. The 2nd session starts 2:00 pm & finishes approx 5:00 pm.

2005 PENNANT DIARY

Bill Jacobs

My team (Bill Jacobs – Robert Fruewirth, Cathy Chua – Simon Hinge, Chris Hughes – Adam Sarten) successfully defended our title from 2004. As #1 seeds, this was not an upset, but there were several unusual aspects to this year's event. Let's see how it unfolded.

16th February. This was the last night of the 6 round Swiss, the top 8 teams continuing to the knockout phase, with the remaining teams going into the repechage. We won the Swiss handily, giving us several choices of opponents in the knockout phase, and allowed us to steer clear of the 2nd seeded Smith team (David Smith – Rob van Riel, Grant Kilvington – Charlie Snashall, Bob Gallus – David Beckett), who had somehow qualified in 8th place on a countback from another team on the same VP score. A harbinger of things to come.

23rd February. The knockout round of 8 went to form, but I was asked to chair the first of two marathon Appeals Committee sessions.

Put yourself in Justin Stark's shoes, with:

♠ J87 ♥ A9 ♦ J109864 ♣ A9

With no one vulnerable, the auction proceeds:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
		Pass	Pass
1♠	D'ble	3♦	?

You consult the opponents' system card and see that 3♦ is a fit-showing jump. That looks suspicious, but what do you do about it?

You cannot bid diamonds now, for partner will interpret that as a cue-bid. So it would seem the only choices are Pass and Double (penalty-oriented). Whichever you choose, the auction continues:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
		Pass	Pass
1♠	D'ble	3♦	Pass/D'ble
3♠	Pass	Pass	?

Now what?

What actually happened is that Justin got a different (incorrect) explanation – that 3♦ was a splinter. Over *that* convention, he bid a natural 4♦, but his partner Andrew Mill had received the correct explanation (3♦ as a fit-showing jump) on the other side of the screen. Andrew interpreted 4♦ as a cue-bid, and in the ensuing misunderstanding, they fetched up in a ridiculous 6♥ contract. RHO did in fact have the splinter hand, and 5♦ was on for Stark and Mill.

Confused? So were we on the Appeals Committee. But by 1 am, we had sorted it out, deciding that if both Mill and Stark had received the correct system explanation to which they were entitled, they would have been able to find their way to 5♦.

I only relay this incident to gain sympathy. Over the years, I have sat on maybe 100 appeals committees, and can reliably inform you that I haven't yet made a correct decision, *in the opinion of someone* (the losing side). Appeals Committees are like that, and this one was no exception.

16th March. In the round of 4, my team squeaked out a 5 imp victory against Klofa (Stan Klofa – Meredith Woods, Jeannette Collins – Jenny Thompson) after being down by 15 with 14 boards to play.

In that last set, Fruewirth and I bid a revolting 6♠, and Jenny Thompson was on lead with:

♠ 76 ♥ A8763 ♦ Q105 ♣ K94

RHO had a strong hand in spades, LHO had shown some clubs, including the ace. Only one of the thirteen cards gives away the contract, and Jenny duly found it: the heart ace. Unlucky! Dummy had KQ10x, declarer a singleton, so this lead delivered **three** tricks in hearts, where if the ace is withheld, even when led by declarer, there is only one heart trick available.

That lead swung 25 imps, 5 times the actual margin, so Klofa could count itself very unlucky. But their misfortune was not over.

Still, our result was a runaway victory compared to the other match, between Smith and Mill (Andrew Mill – Justin Stark, Martin Willcox – Kevin Chan). With 14 boards to play, Smith held a commanding 38 imp lead.

Seemed adequate, but Mill stormed back to recover 34 of those imps in the last set – just 4 imps short.

But wait! This time there were *two* appeals to be heard from this match, and back I went, together with Blaine Howe and Dan Hohor, into the committee room late one night.

The first appeal involved a claim. Justin Stark claimed down one, whereas in fact he looked to be down two. Simple enough, but the opponents accepted the claim! A day later, they realised their mistake, and called Laurie Kelso. As it turns out, Stark could achieve one down by playing an unusual squeeze, which just happens to fall into his lap when he starts ruffing his losers. But should he be allowed to do that after claiming?

Our answer was Yes. Because the correction period for scores had expired, Stark's claim was allowed to stand as long as "normal play" would result in the claim being correct. We decided that the squeeze, unusual though it was, was within the realm of "normal play".

The second appeal was a Bathroom Incident. Bob Gallus went to the mens room and overheard some unwise conversation about a hand he had yet to play. He called the director, who correctly didn't allow Bob to play the hand, but instead (and incorrectly as it turned out) ruled an artificial score at the table, to be IMPed against the actual score already achieved from the other table.

The committee, after long perusal of the Laws, and assisted by Laurie's research and dialogue with several world authorities on the Laws, ruled that the board be thrown out. Phew! We could go home.

The outcome of our deliberations was a tied match and 4-board playoff. And Mill completed a most unusual comeback by winning it 12-10, the 12 imps coming when they doubled 6♣ for 800 on the final board.

23rd March. This was the final night for the Swiss Repechage, with the two leading teams making their way back into the semi-finals. The placegetters at the end were:

1. Smith (149.3 VPs)
2. Fust (148.5 VPs)
3. Klofa (148.3 VPs)
4. daylight

That was heartbreaking for Klofa, who played Smith in the final round and beat them 17-13. But they needed to win 18-12, and one more imp would have done it – darned VP scale!

Meanwhile Mill cleaned up my team in the “choice of opponents” match (winner gets to choose semi-final opponent) on the back of several well-time psyches by Andrew Mill. That man should come with a government health warning, really.

I just loved the gambit of Andrew Mill at the end of the night, when he exercised his choice of semi-final opponent. In ringing tones for all to hear, he asked Laurie whether he was allowed to choose the Jacobs team as opponents. He wasn't, which no doubt he knew already, but it was a superb piece of gamesmanship, which would make Stephen Potter proud.

2nd April. In one semi-final, Mill defeated the Fust team (Jeff Fust, Wally Scott, Hakan Lyngsjö, David Morgan, David Newlands) by 46 imps. The other semi final, between the originally #1 and #2 seeded teams, was tighter. After Smith won the first quarter by 13, Jacobs won both the second and third sets by 13, resulting in a lead of 13. It looked certain that we would either win by 26 imps or the match would be a draw, but no – the fates threw in a variation, and the 4th quarter was an exact tie, leaving us victors by 13 imps.

The most dramatic hand from this match was from the third quarter. Simon Hinge picked up:

♠ 82 ♥ AKQ8643 ♦ 74 ♣ 97

He was vulnerable versus non-vulnerable. RHO dealt and passed, and he opened 4♥!! This was not even close to conforming to the rule of 2-and-3: with just 7 tricks and bad shape, he could easily go for 800 against non-vulnerable opponents. What's more, in 2nd seat, is there not a possibility that partner has a good hand and will bid too much?

It didn't work out like that at all. Simon's madcap 4♥ left next hand, Grant Kilvington, with few options except to call for Panadeine Forte:

♠ AK965 ♥ void ♦ AK108653 ♣ K

Grant made a takeout double, which looks strange, but he had a reasonable plan in mind. He could raise diamonds or spades to slam, but if partner bids 5♣, then 5♦ by him would describe the hand quite well.

Unfortunately, his nice scientific plan exploded on the launchpad. Charlie Snashall passed 4♥ doubled, as who would not, with:

♠ 73 ♥ J1095 ♦ J92 ♣ J865

That was down just 200, as Hinge bought a surprisingly useful dummy (two club tricks and a diamond ruff).

At the other table, Smith opened an immaculate 3♥, but this gave me room to make a Michaels cue-bid of 4♥, and then blast to the lucky 6♦ over partner's 5♣, when I inferred that partner would be short in spades. That was 12 imps to Jacobs.

Since then, I have puzzled over how such an awful bid as 4♥ could work out so well. I even submitted the hand to rec.games.bridge (see March edition of this bulletin), and the consensus was 3♥ with a few bidding 2♥ or 1♥. No-one even considered 4♥, and when I suggested it as an option, it was scorned.

But consider this: Simon's hand had strong hearts, so it was quite unlikely that 4♥ would be penalized. He knew that the opponents play takeout doubles, so assuming one is made, it seems unlikely that a hand missing ♥AKQ will want to make a penalty pass. As for partner carrying you too high, well, he will have to worry about a small doubleton on the side – it's just a coincidence that this hand has three of them. If partner bids a slam, it should have a chance. So, maybe with a hint of resulting, I would describe Simon's 4♥ as a fine tactical bid. And who am I to criticize a current Australian Open Team member?

3rd April. The final between Jacobs and Mill was anti-climactic – Jacobs raced out to a 45 imp lead after 16 boards, inflated to 85 after 48 boards, at which point Mill conceded.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Pennant

- 1 W. Jacobs, R. Fruewirth, C. Chua,
S. Hinge, C. Hughes, A. Sarten
- 2 A. Mill, J. Stark, M. Willcox, K. Chan
- 3= D. Smith, R. van Riel, G. Kilvington,
C. Snashall, R. Gallus, D. Beckett
- 3= J. Fust, W. Scott, H. Lyngsjø, D. Morgan,
D. Newlands

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Chua – S. Hinge
- 2 I. McCance – B. Thompson
- 3 R. Gallus – R. van Riel

Anzac Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 B. Tencer – E. Kaplan
- 2 M. Tencer – V. Goldberg
- 3 P. Schroor – D. Sheather

Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Muntz, J. Leach, T. Chira, R. Drew
- 2 J. Howard, P. Holland, A. Hung, I. Hu
- 3 S. Tishler, E. Linton, J. Pettitt, J. Pettitt



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members who have been recently promoted to a higher grade of Master:

Graduate Master	Judith Ben-Meir
Club Master	Patricia Snowden
Regional Master	Andrew Hegedus
*Regional Master	Hazel Schwedt
State Master	Alkmini Segal
National Master	Robyn O'Dell Bill Pattison
*National Master	Rosemary Begg
Life Master	Nathan Potaznik
Silver Life Master	Kevin Chan
Gold Life Master	Jean Hall Jill Magee Ignacy Tyrmand

“BRIDGE FOR BRAIN RESEARCH”

**HOSTED BY THE VBA ON
TUESDAY NIGHT 10 MAY
2005 AT 7:30 PM**

- ♣ Entry Fee of \$5. All proceeds go to Medical Research.
- ♦ Pairs Event with approved RED Masterpoints
- ♥ Great Prizes for Individuals and the Club

The event is organised by the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (Sydney) in partnership with the ABF and all State Bridge Associations and will be conducted throughout Australia.

The aim of this project is to raise awareness of the game of bridge, the benefits that playing can have on maintaining a healthy mind and the work of the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute.

Refer to the Notice Board for Details of Prizes



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

“Now that he’s at the six level, he knows no more than he did before, but now there’s less space for making errors.”

“The difference between a brave bid and a foolhardy bid is largely a matter of result.¹”

“That’s unfair. North-South were just having a good time and suddenly East-West turned nasty and doubled.”

¹ For example, opening 4♥ red against white in second seat on ♠ xx ♥ AKQxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx

