

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2005

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

2006 COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2006 CNBC will be held in conjunction with the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, along similar lines to the inaugural competition held in 2002 in Manchester. There were 28 teams in Manchester.

This event will be held at the VBA premises in Murrumbeena. To date 15 countries have shown their wish to attend. Adding to this the eight states and territories in Australia, plus Australia itself, as well as one invited sponsor and two local sponsors, a total of about 30 entries is expected. This will be scheduled from Tuesday 7th March to Sunday 12th of March. The Commonwealth Games begin on Wednesday 15th March, and Monday 13th March is a public holiday in Victoria.

Positive replies:

To date the following countries have responded in the affirmative:

Antigua*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Bermuda*, Canada*, England*, Guernsey*, Malaysia*, Malta*, New Zealand, Pakistan*, Singapore*, Sri Lanka*, Uganda*, Wales* (* indicates presence in Manchester). This event is already shown on

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/events/zone7/cnbc/default.asp>

Play Schedule:

Qualifying matches to the semi-finals will be held from Tuesday morning to Friday afternoon without evening matches. The actual format will be decided on when the final numbers are known.

The semifinals will be held on Friday evening and Saturday morning. The finals will be held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. 48 board semifinals and 64 board finals are proposed. All the finals will be broadcast on the internet.

A maximum of 3 special sponsor teams will be allowed, one international and two Australian teams. The gold, silver and bronze medals may only be won by country or state representatives, and not the sponsor teams, though they may win the championship.

Paul Hackett has accepted the invitation to organize the overseas team. Barry Noble has generously offered to sponsor the event and will captain an Australian Sponsor Team.

In parallel, a Swiss Pairs of 60 tables will be run with the non-qualifying national teams expected to play plus all pairs wishing to encounter the national teams. If some of the non-qualifying teams are 6 person teams some consideration of asking only four to enter will be considered. This will depend on the number of local teams entering and the management of the numbers overall. About 80 individual pairs are expected to enter. This will not have a final but be a four or five session event, depending on numbers. The entry fees will be \$200 per person, and Gold Points will be awarded.

Social functions (hospitality) scheduled:.

- A Start Up Cocktail party on Monday 6th March
- A mid tournament Dinner on Thursday 9th March (to be confirmed)
- A Ceremonial Dinner on Sunday 12th March (The Barry Noble dinner)

The Hon. Mr. J. Thwaites (The Deputy Premier of Victoria) has accepted the role of Patron and will attend the Start Up Cocktail party.

Medallions:

Each entrant of the Championship will be given a medallion (50 - 60 mm) designed by Michael Meszaros, a world recognized sculptor. A mounted and laminated copy for the Gold, Silver and Bronze will be given to the winners, plus extra medallions to each prize winning team. A larger copy of the trophy will be given to the Championship winning team. This special work of art is with the support of the Pratt family and Visy Industries.

It all sounds rather exciting!

**Last call for entries into the Victor
Champion Cup, McCance Senior Teams,
VCC Womens Swiss Pairs and VCC
Restricted Swiss Pairs.**

**Contact Diana Jacobs on 0413 003 633
before it's too late!**

OVERCALLING QUIZ

Consider each of these problems at IMPs scoring:

1. ♠ A6 ♥ A10765 ♦ K5 ♣ A742

You are non-vul versus vul in 4th seat
Pass – Pass - 1♦ - ?

2. ♠ K8642 ♥ A10 ♦ A85 ♣ A75

You are vul versus non-vul in 2nd seat
1♥ - ?

3. ♠ KQ1072 ♥ Q93 ♦ 4 ♣ AKQ4

You are vul versus non-vul in 2nd seat
1♦ - ?

Simple enough. You can overcall in your major, or you can make a takeout double on each of these hands.

Which?

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: S ♠ K1076
Vul: Nil ♥ A4
♦ A9
♣ AQ952

♠ AQJ2
♥ KJ865
♦ 864
♣ K

West	North	East	South
			1♥*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

* Precision

This hand was dealt in the recent Victorian Master Teams event. Against 6♠, West leads ♠3, and the first trick is: ♠6, ♠8, ♠A. The scoring is IMPs, so no need to worry about an overtrick.

Actually, this is quite an interesting problem in 7♠, but as the title of this series is not "The Thirteenth Trick", we are only considering 6♠ here.

Do you have a plan? My plan is on page 5.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ AK62
Vul: N/S ♥ 75
♦ AQJ75
♣ Q7

♠ Q1075
♥ AKQ104
♦ -
♣ J943

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥ ¹	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner, well-trained, starts ♥6. How are you going to defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ Q109742
Vul: N/S ♥ K1054
♦ 84
♣ 6

♠ K86
♥ J82
♦ A653
♣ Q74

West	North	East	South
			1NT*
Pass	2♥**	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
	* 15-17		
	** transfer		

You start ♠6 to ♠10, ♠J, ♠A. A trump is returned and you take a third round, partner discarding ♣2. Now comes a diamond to partner's ♦2 (standard count) declarer's ♦J, which you duck. You take ♦K, on which partner throws ♦10. What next?

Solutions on page 5.

¹ Or maybe you prefer Double? See elsewhere in this bulletin.

DOUBLE OR OVERCALL
Bill Jacobs

In the Overcalling Quiz, were you a doubler or an overcaller, or did it vary with the hands?

What actually happened

These three problems all arose recently at the VBA. In each case, a strong player decided to double. Let's see how they fared.

1. Victorian Masters Teams, Session 1.

Dealer: W ♠ KJ972
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ43
 ♦ 763
 ♣ J

♠ 84	♠ Q1053
♥ K82	♥ 9
♦ 10984	♦ AQJ2
♣ Q853	♣ K1096

♠ A6
 ♥ A10765
 ♦ K5
 ♣ A742

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	D'ble
2♦	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dan Hohor held the South cards, and all worked out well in the end - 4♥ making.

2. Victorian Open Playoff, Stanza 2

Dealer: E ♠ 93
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q42
 ♦ QJ86
 ♣ Q983

♠ Q1075	♠ AJ
♥ 753	♥ KJ986
♦ K7432	♦ 10
♣ 4	♣ KJ1062

♠ K8642
 ♥ A10
 ♦ A85
 ♣ A75

West	North	East	South
		1♥	D'ble
2♥	D'ble	3♣	4♠
D'ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Andrew Mill held the South cards, and all worked out badly in the end - 4♠ doubled went down 1,400.

3. Victorian Open Playoff, Stanza 4

Dealer: E ♠ J965
 Vul: N/S ♥ 2
 ♦ J52
 ♣ 109853

♠ A83	♠ 4
♥ KJ876	♥ A1054
♦ A86	♦ KQ10973
♣ J6	♣ 72

♠ KQ1072
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AKQ4

West	North	East	South
		1♦	D'ble
1♥	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

* 3♣ showed a spade shortage

Cathy Chua held the South cards, and 4♥ was allowed to play, making easily, with North-South cold for 4♠.

Conclusion

Doubling with these hands is a bad idea.

Argument

In each example, the auction was at the 3-level by the time it returned to the takeout doubler. None of the auctions was particularly violent in nature – one can only conclude that a return to the doubler at the 3-level is quite a likely scenario.

This left South with a blind guess in all three cases. Dan Hohor was the only one to guess right, and this doesn't surprise me: he was my partner at the time, and do I like to choose partners who are lucky. And lucky he was, finding me with 4 card support rather than perhaps a small doubleton.

Andrew Mill can claim to have chosen his partner poorly: North's responsive double was dubious, and North-South appear to have had a misunderstanding over what suits a responsive double should show. But even

had he bid only 3♠, that would have been 1,100 instead of going plus against 3♥.

Cathy Chua could not blame her partner at all – South had nothing and bid accordingly.

Why were these auctions so unsatisfactory? Clearly it was because the 5-card major was left unshown until the auction was at a high level. Whilst it is quite a coincidence that these three hands occurred within a few days of each other, experience tells me that you should show the 5-card major while the showing is good – at the one-level.

Even if your hand is very strong. Up to about 17 points.

Because showing it later may not be easy. If you think that Cathy Chua, on hand 3, should have come in with 3♠ over 3♣, then maybe you are right, maybe you are wrong, but what if the auction had been up at the 4-level, as it might well have been? (For example, 2♥ fit showing by West, 4♥ by East.) Coming back into such an auction would be a pure shot in the dark.

Experience says: bid your 5-card major.

Counter Arguments

Allow me to invest a little time in trashing the contrary argument, that you should double with these hands.

“Overcalling on these hands means that you are overcalling on too wide a range of strength.”

Don't think you can cope with an overcall range of about 8 to 17 points? 10 point range too much? But you do it every day, if you play a natural system – opening at the one level with a 10 point range of about 11 to 20 points.

As long as partner can find something to bid with 8 or 9 points, you aren't going to miss many games.

“The double leaves open the chance of finding a fit in one of the two other suits”

This argument is a little harder to dismiss. If you look at hand 3 one might think that a

double showing three suits is more effective than an overcall showing one suit.

That's true as far as it goes, but there are two counter-counter arguments. The first is that the probabilities are that your fit is in your 5-card suit, not one of the other suits, and showing that suit is paramount. The second is that if you overcall, you may get a better opportunity to make a second bid showing the other two suits, compared to doubling now and trying to show the long suit later.

To see how this works, consider hand 3 again: ♠KQ1072 ♥Q93 ♦4 ♣AKQ4. Let's look at two possible auctions:

Auction 1:

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

Auction 2:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
		1♦	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

In auction 1, your only possible bid now, apart from pass, would be 3♠, which won't work at all well if partner has a very weak hand with hearts – he has to retreat to 4♥.

In auction 2, you can make a takeout double, which is your lowest possible re-entry and therefore gives partner the most options. He could even make a penalty pass with a suitable hand.

Whilst the auction doesn't have to pan out this way, in general, bidding your suit first and doubling later will work out better than doubling first and bidding your suit later.

Convinced? If so, great! If not, you could always write a rebuttal for next month's newsletter.

Justins Adjusted

In the last bulletin, Justin Stark was wrongly “credited” with having mis-claimed down one when he might have been down two. In fact the honour belonged to Justin Howard. Apologies for the mix-up.

TWELFTH TRICK – SOLUTION
Bill Jacobs

	♠ K1076	
	♥ A4	
	♦ A9	
	♣ AQ952	
♠ 9543		♠ 8
♥ Q3		♥ 10972
♦ KJ753		♦ Q102
♣ 84		♣ J10763
	♠ AQJ2	
	♥ KJ865	
	♦ 864	
	♣ K	

If you bid like me, you probably get into more bad contracts than good ones. In bad contracts, you need to ask yourself: "what layout will let me make this?", or as Mr Smug would say: "a few things have to be right".

In great contracts like this 6♠, the opposite question must be asked: "what could possibly go wrong?". In this case, what if trumps don't break or clubs don't break, or hearts are foul? Here's what I suggest:

Plan A: Ruff two clubs in your hand (for four spades, three clubs, two club ruffs, and three top red cards). So at trick 2, cash ♣K, then a spade to dummy's 10. If both follow, club ruff, heart ace, club ruff, diamond ace, draw the last trump. But when East discards on the second trump, you have to move on to:

Plan B: Set up the clubs. The best way to do this is to cash ♣AQ, discarding your two losing diamonds. If both follow, ruff a club, clear the last high trump from your hand, cross to a red ace and draw the last trump. But West ruffs the third club, and plays his last trump, so you have to move on to:

Plan C: Set up the hearts. You now have one trump left in each hand, so you have a choice: you can play three rounds and hope the queen comes down, or you can finesse East for the heart queen. Since you have no extra distributional information, the percentage play is hearts from the top.

You played it well. But steel yourself for a disappointing score-up: "+980" (proudly); "1 imp away"; "what?"; "declarer won the trump lead and played ace-king of hearts".

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: N	♠ AK62	
Vul: N/S	♥ 75	
	♦ AQJ75	
	♣ Q7	
♠ 983		♠ Q1075
♥ 62		♥ AKQ104
♦ 109842		♦ -
♣ A52		♣ J943
	♠ J4	
	♥ J983	
	♦ K73	
	♣ K1086	

You need 5 tricks. You must duck this first heart, and play partner to have a fairly fast entry. He/she will know to continue hearts.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ Q109742	
Vul: N/S	♥ K1054	
	♦ 84	
	♣ 6	
♠ K86		♠ J5
♥ J82		♥ AQ9
♦ A653		♦ 1072
♣ Q74		♣ J10982
	♠ A3	
	♥ 763	
	♦ KQJ9	
	♣ AK53	

You haven't seen much of declarer's points yet, but you have the hand-pattern, 2344. Think back about the diamonds. Partner's ♦10 must mean something, in particular that declarer has Q9 or Q7 in diamonds to come and maybe dummy's hearts can get away. It's time for a switch to hearts.

BRIDGE PASS

The VBA Council at its last meeting decided to discontinue the Bridge Pass. All current holders of Bridge Passes may enjoy the usage until the expiry date on their cards.

MAY I LEAVE THE TABLE? Michael Dilks

Ron and I sat down against two ladies who were dying for a smoke. They asked if we played very quickly whether they could take a break in the middle for a "quickie".

I said the only excuse for leaving the table was if they had diarrhoea.

Ron picks up ♠x ♥Axxxx ♦KTxx ♥Kx and opens 1♥ as South. The auction proceeds:

	Me		Ron
			1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	3♥
4♣	4♠!	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠!!!		

At this point, Ron says "After the auction finishes, I shall have to go to the toilet".

I held ♠AKxxxxx ♥x ♦QJxx ♦void and in the haze of the evening was under the delusion that I had made a transfer to Spades ...

RECENT RESULTS

ANC Representative Teams

Open

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

(defeated Ben Thompson – Ian McCance,
Andrew Mill – Justin Stark in Open Playoff)

Women

Shirley Collins – Meredith Woods
Helen Snashall – Sally Murray-White
Cathie Lachman – Cathy Mill

(defeated Vivian Goldberg – Steffi Gerdan,
Jeannette Collins – Jenny Thompson in
Womens Playoff)

Seniors

Miriam Tencer – Michael Chrapot
Charlie Snashall – Grant Kilvington
Stan Klofa – Victor Muntz

(defeated Sam Arber – Henri de Jong, Vivian
Goldberg – Boris Tencer in Seniors Playoff)

Youth

Justin Howard, Ivan Hu, Peter Hollands,
Angus Monroe, Ben Kingham

Autumn National Teams (Adelaide)

Congratulations to George Gaspar, a member of the winning team of G. Gaspar, R. Richman, P. Gill and M. Bloom.

Victorian Masters Teams

A Section

- 1 W. Jacobs, D. Hohor, M. Woods, T. Chira
- 2 J. Collins, S. Klofa, C. Rothfield, J. Rothfield
- 3 S. Arber, J. Alexander, G. Gaspar, H. De Jong

B Section

- 1 P. Corrigan, L. Hickman, G. Hill, M. Yuill
- 2 J. Lord, A. Hegedus, Y. Millman, M. Tildesley
- 3 J. Fine, L. Fine, M. Fogelgarn, J. Shapiro

Thwaites Mixed Pairs

Championship

- 1 E. Samuel – A. Samuel
- 2 M. Chrapot – M. Tencer
- 3 J. Magee – T. Strong

Plate

- 1 S. Collins – J. Selywn
- 2 D. Hohor – M. Woods
- 3 M. Rogers – I. Tyrmand

Consolation

- 1 L. Meyer – P. Moritz
- 2 H. Blakeman – E. Matheson
- 3 A. Paul – R. Livingston




INTERMEDIATE LESSONS

When? Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June – 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Where? VBA Clubrooms, 131 Pooth Road, Murrumbidgee

Cost? \$65 per person, includes:

- 4 weeks of 2 hour lessons
- 3 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion

Course Content

Week 1 – 4 Way Transfers with super accepts	Week 2 – Reverses
Week 3 – Key Card Blackwood	Week 4 – Doubles

Teacher: Serhat Ozenir

Phone: 9530-9006 **E-Mail:** info@vba.asn.au

HOW TO PLAY IMPS**Every Friday at the VBA 10am-12pm**

Improve your Skills for Teams, Swiss Pairs, Butler

- 18-20 Boards, followed by:
- Hand and bidding analysis
- Card Play
- Strategies
- Topics
- \$15.00 per session



Instructor - Serhat Ozenir

NEW VBA MEMBERS

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Jeremy Goldberg	George Lovrecz
Francis Rose	Sandra Rubinstein
Lindy Anderson	Ken Anderson
Frances Engelman	Susi Rabinowicz
Danny Rabinowicz	Paula Schroor
Dale Sheather	Larry Attwood
Guy Griffin	Gabi Fulop
Pam Fulop	Toni Landis
Julian Land	Pat Richards
Sheila Sojka	Phyllis Stringer

Royal Brighton Yacht Club**\$2,000 Social Bridge Festival**

Director: Martin Wilcox

- 2 Pairs E vents
- Team Games

\$500 In Cash Prizes Each Day!

Plus Prizes for Session Tops

Where: Brighton Yacht Club
(St. Kilda St. beside Brighton baths)

When: Pairs Games - June 14 & 28
Team Games - July 19 & 26

Registration Form...Call Joanne: **9686 6288**

No pro players.
Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
Good Bridge for Nice People



*NSW Bridge Association and
ABF present*

ANC 2005

(Gold Masterpoints & Australian Team Selection
Playoff Qualifying Point Events)

**Friday 23 July – Friday 5
August**

At

**NSW Bridge Association &
Sydney Masonic Centre**

23rd July to 28th July - Interstate Teams
(Warm Up Pairs Fri 22 July)

29th July - Interstate Pairs

**Sat 30th July to Fri 5th Aug - Butler
Pairs**

(Warm Up Pairs Fri 22 July)

Mon 1st Aug - Congress Teams
Tues 2nd Aug - Congress Pairs
Wed 3rd Aug - ANC Restricted Pairs
3rd - 5th Aug - ANC Swiss Pairs

LIMITED NIGHT PLAY

More details on our website
www.abf.com.au/events/anc

Enquiries to: Bruce Neill (02) 9924 7270
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