

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2005

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

ANC QUIZ

1. ♠ J9 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ 872 ♣ 9643

RHO deals, vulnerable against not:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
Pass	1NT ^(b)	1♥ ^(a)	Pass
Pass ^(d)	Rd'ble ^(e)	D'ble	Pass ^(c)
		Pass	?

- (a) 4-card major Acol
 (b) About 11-15
 (c) After agonized thought
 (d) After agonized thought
 (e) Suggests a rescue

Back to you.

2. ♠ K10542 ♥ J3 ♦ 74 ♣ 10854

You deal, vulnerable against not:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
1♦	4♣	4♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Your lead.

3. ♠ - ♥ 108 ♦ KQ1087 ♣ AQJ753

Partner deals, nil vul:

Pard	You
1♥	2♣
3♥	?

4. ♠ 854 ♥ 876 ♦ 65432 ♣ 64 (true!)

You are dealer, nil vul. You decide to pass, LHO opens a weak NT, partner doubles, RHO redoubles. What's your poison?

5. ♠ QJ10987 ♥ KQJ93 ♦ 9 ♣ Q

Vulnerable against not, RHO deals and opens a weak 1NT. Playing your favourite methods, what do you do?

6. ♠ AKQJ986 ♥ - ♦ Q108754 ♣ -

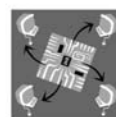
Both vulnerable, your LHO opens a Moscito 1♥, showing at least four **spades**, could have a longer minor. Partner passes, and RHO

relays with 1♠, showing at least game-invitation strength.

Department of weird problems. What's your plan? See "ANC Sydney" article for more ...

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THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: W ♠ J82
 Vul: all ♥ AJ9864
 ♦ Q98
 ♣ A
 ♠ AK1097
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A42
 ♣ KQ54

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against 6♠, the ♥5 is led. You win the ace, and see an obvious line of discarding dummy's diamonds on your clubs. So how are you going to put this plan into action? Just do it, right? Everyone follows with low cards as ♣A, ♦A, ♠K and ♣Q are cashed.

Now what? Solution on page 8.

SYDNEY ANC
Bill Jacobs

A fourth place finish is nothing to write home about (or write in the Bulletin about), so I wouldn't normally bother with a report of the Open Team, instead looking for an article about one of our more successful teams. Alas, none of our teams did particularly well this year.

Still, playing 336 boards is going to throw up some curiosities and here they are.

1. For Adam Sarten and I, a pickup partnership, this was the first board of the first match, against SA. It took at least an hour off my life expectancy.

Dealer: W	♠ J9		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ9		
	♦ 872		
	♣ 9843		
♠ AK64		♠ 10853	
♥ 8532		♥ 104	
♦ A9		♦ KJ103	
♣ KQJ		♣ 1072	
	♠ Q72		
	♥ A76		
	♦ Q654		
	♣ A85		
West	North	East	South
	Jacobs		Sarten
1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT
D'ble	Pass	Pass	R'dble
Pass	Pass?	Pass	

To say I didn't know what to do as North would be a massive understatement. Eventually, I passed Adam's redouble, even though it suggested a rescue, thinking that since East hadn't really wanted to play 1NT doubled, he might be even less enthusiastic about 1NT re-doubled. But East passed it out in tempo.

Somehow 1NTXX made (see elsewhere in this bulletin for the full story), so my judgment was proved to be excellent rather than foolish. Sometimes you just have to be a result merchant.

2. Round 3 against NSW:

Dealer: W	♠ QJ96		
Vul: E/W	♥ A74		
	♦ AQJ832		
	♣ -		
♠ K10542		♠ A8	
♥ J3		♥ 105	
♦ 74		♦ 10	
♣ 10854		♣ KQJ97632	
	♠ 73		
	♥ KQ9862		
	♦ K965		
	♣ A		

	West	North	East	South
	Hans	Chua	Nunn	Hinge
	Pass	1♦	4♣	4♥
	Pass	6♥	All pass	

Sartaj Hans led a spade – down one for 11 imps, since NSW stayed out of the slam at the other table. It's good leads like that that swing matches.

What do you think of Cathy's bash of 6♥? My view is that this style works best against weaker players, who are more likely just to lead partner's club suit. But against a current member of the Australian team, perhaps a 5♣ cue bid was called for, and N/S can scientifically stay at the 5-level.

I hope you led like an international, rather than like a "weaker player".

3. Round 4 against WA:

Dealer: W	♠ AJ865		
Vul: nil	♥ Q7		
	♦ J532		
	♣ 64		
♠ K32		♠ -	
♥ AK98543		♥ 106	
♦ 6		♦ KQ1087	
♣ K2		♣ AQJ753	
	♠ Q10974		
	♥ J2		
	♦ A94		
	♣ 1098		

	West	North	East	South
	Thompson		McCance	
	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
	3♥	Pass	6♥!	All Pass

Ian applied Acol philosophy here: bid what you think you can make. Well done.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
	Chua		Hinge
1♥	1♠	2♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Cathy didn't forget to overcall, and Simon bounced E/W right out of slam.

4. Round 6 against Tasmania:

Dealer: W ♠ AJ9
 Vul: nil ♥ 102
 ♦ KQJ109
 ♣ 852

♠ 854	♠ KQ10
♥ 876	♥ AQJ3
♦ 65432	♦ A8
♣ 64	♣ Q1093
	♠ 7632
	♥ K954
	♦ 7
	♣ AKJ7

West	North	East	South
	McCance		Thompson
Pass	1NT	D'ble	R'dble
2♦	Pass	Pass	D'ble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's hand is the weakest I have ever seen (is it called a "super-Yarborough"?). It played like it as well: in 2♦, declarer took the diamond ace and the heart ace but nothing else – look what happens to dummy when North draws trumps.

Double dummy, West's best decision was to play 1NT redoubled, making 3 according to Deep Finesse: -960 being much preferable to her actual -1400. The only justification I can think of for not bidding 2♦ is: you weren't dealt this hand in order to become declarer.

5. Round 7 against ACT:

With ♠ QJ10987 ♥ KQJ93 ♦ 9 ♣ Q, did you pull out your Cappeletti 2♦ or DONT 2♥ or Astro 2♣ or some other device?

No one could complain about that, but Khokan Bagchi chose a bid that we should all at least consider: 4♠! The full deal:

Dealer: E ♠ 62
 Vul: N/S ♥ A74
 ♦ 6532
 ♣ J1085

♠ 4	♠ AK53
♥ 62	♥ 1085
♦ AKQ74	♦ J108
♣ K9742	♣ A63
	♠ QJ10987
	♥ KQJ93
	♦ 9
	♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Jacobs	Lilley	Sarten	Bagchi
		1NT	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

5♣ slid two off when we could have taken 500 from 4♠ doubled. At the other table, E/W managed to stop in a making diamond partscore.

My 4NT was automatic, wasn't it? I assumed Bagchi was bidding the vulnerable 4♠ to make. Only a result merchant would complain about my bidding here!

6. Round 14 against Queensland:

Dealer: W ♠ 3
 Vul: Both ♥ Q982
 ♦ J63
 ♣ 109762

♠ 10754	♠ 2
♥ KJ64	♥ A10753
♦ -	♦ AK92
♣ AKJ54	♣ Q83
	♠ AKQJ986
	♥ -
	♦ Q108754
	♣ -

West	North	East	South
	Jacobs		Sarten
1♥ ^(a)	Pass	1♠ ^(b)	2♦
3♣ ^(c)	Pass	3NT	4♠
Pass	5♦	D'ble	All pass

- (a) Shows 4+ spades
- (b) Relay
- (c) 5+ clubs

I'm not sure how much experience anyone has had holding 7-6's when an opponent opens in your solid 7-card suit. This hand

should create a valuable data point, for future reference.

There was nothing wrong with 5♦, but when a trump revealed the 4-0 break, declarer had to play spades and allow East to take all four of his diamonds, in order to keep control.

At the other table, the Queensland N/S argued it up to 6♦ doubled, so we picked up 7 imps anyway.

If you'd declared 4♠, then you would have had a very annoying time. You expect to be able to draw trumps and setup diamonds for 11 tricks, but East's diamond nine costs you three tricks, incredibly. Play it out on a tapping defence, and you will see that 8 tricks is the limit. I can't recall a deal where a spot card had such a significant influence on the number of tricks taken.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ 32
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK8632
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ AQ8

♠ KJ75
 ♥ J109
 ♦ K1063
 ♣ 95

West	North	East	South
	1♣ ^(a)	1♦ ^(b)	1♥ ^(c)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	All pass	

- (a) strong, any shape
 (b) spades and another
 (c) 3 controls: A+K or three kings

Partner leads ♠Q, taken by South's ♠A. The auction has again transferred the contract to the short hand. You will see afterwards that this was a disadvantage to the declaring side – if partner had had the wit to pluck a diamond at trick 1 +100 would be secure. As it is, you now have a declarer who is probably the best player in the event.

Declarer plays ♥A then ♥K, partner discarding ♦5. Next comes the low spade – how are you going to defend this hand?

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ AK107
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQJ9764
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A

♠ 8
 ♥ 10852
 ♦ AJ986
 ♣ 543

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ ^(a)	Pass	1♥ ^(b)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ ^(c)
Pass	6♥	All pass	

- (a) strong, any shape
 (b) 3 controls: A+K or three kings
 (c) one ace

You cash ♦A, partner contributing ♦7 (natural count). How do you plan to defend?

Solutions on page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Team of Four Combo¹

- 1 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, G. Gaspar, S. Arber, H. de Jong
- 2 L. Szabo, D. Jacobs, G. Hill, M. Yuill
- 3 F. Beale, D. Smart, I. McCance, B. Thompson

Fred Hapgood Pairs

1. A. Branicki – A. Halmos
2. J. Gaspar – G. Gaspar
3. E. Matheson – B. Lindsay

Board-a-Match Teams

1. J. Leach, R. LeI, M. Dilks, R. Stewart
2. M. Ewart, B. Howe, J. Stark, D. Morgan
- =3. J. Magee, T. Strong, C. Lachman, K. Chan
- =3. D. Hohor, T. Chira, H. de Jong, S. Arber
- =3. I. McCance, D. Smart, R. van Riel, G. Kilvington, C. Snashall

¹ General consensus was that this new event, even with its mysterious format, was received very positively.

THE PARTNERSHIP BATTLEGROUND - I

Bill Jacobs

As a team sport, there is nothing quite like bridge. Compare it to other sports involving a team of two people, such as doubles tennis, synchronized diving, luge, ice skating, ballroom dancing ... these games all require close cooperation between the two players, but perhaps none at the multi-dimensional level of bridge.

The relationship pressures involving a team of two are much greater than those of larger teams, where there is "safety in numbers". If Ponting and Warne have a falling out over a bad decision of Ponting's, then Gilchrist can step in and smooth things over. But if you and your partner have a violent disagreement about a bidding disaster, who is there to mediate? Billian perhaps, but it's unsatisfactory.

This series of articles is all about achieving partnership harmony, and reaping the resulting benefits. Let's begin light-heartedly by examining one of those fundamental aspects of a bridge partnership, namely:

DECLARER PLAY

... and its close cousin, Dummy Play.

Of course, the one area where partnership **shouldn't** intrude is declarer play. One of you plays the hand, and the other is Le Mort, doing as instructed and taking no useful part in the proceedings.

But in real life ... well, please consider the following problem in Dummy Play, and then answer the multiple choice question that follows. Vul versus not at IMPs, you hold:

♠ K5 ♥ 762 ♦ 85 ♣ AQJ954

Dealer on your right passes, you pass, LHO opens a weak 2♠, partner overcalls 2NT, and you raise to 3NT. So you are the Dummy on this hand ... let's see how you play it.

The lead is a spade, partner plays low from your dummy, next hand the 9, and partner wins the ace. Actually, are you watching this?

Let's say you are. Partner now plays a club to your queen, and it holds. He thinks for a moment or two, and then plays the club ace – next hand discards a spade, and partner gives an irritated look, as he follows low. What are you thinking right now?

Partner shakes his head, and plays a heart to the 10, losing to the queen. The play continues to the bitter end, and the final result is down one. Here is the full deal:

♠ 74 ♥ KQ98 ♦ 642 ♣ K1082	♠ K5 ♥ 762 ♦ 85 ♣ AQJ954
♠ AQ8 ♥ AJ105 ♦ KQ73 ♣ 76	♠ J109632 ♥ 43 ♦ AJ109 ♣ 3

Now for the quiz question. Do you:

- A. Roll your eyes and glare at partner?
- B. Say to partner: "After the club finesse won, shouldn't you cross to the heart ace and repeat it? That way you take 9 easy tricks: 5 clubs, 3 spades and a heart."
- C. Mutter "bad luck" and get out your cards for the next board.
- D. Act as though you haven't followed the play (or do the same, because in fact you **haven't** followed the play).

Circle your choice, and then read on.

Here's my scoring. I give 0 partnership points to A, 1 point to B, 2 points to C and 10 points to D.

Action A more or less says to partner: "you are such an idiot that it's not even worth explaining to you the details of your blunders on this hand – you wouldn't understand".

Action B is better, because at least it opens up a dialogue, and you know what all the relationship counsellors say: "communicate, communicate, communicate". However, this particular communication only proves that

you are a bit of a goose yourself. Let's see why.

Once declarer has won the club finesse, you were thinking to yourself (as I would have as dummy, I freely admit): surely partner can cross to a red ace and repeat the finesse. But you are unlikely to have thought through the resulting play. After winning the club finesse, declarer crosses to the heart ace, takes another club finesse and clears the clubs. His LHO then exits with his second spade, declarer wins the king and runs clubs. Here is the 4 card ending, with declarer needing just one more trick.

♠	
♥ 76	
♦ 85	
♣	
♠	♠ J
♥ KQ9	♥ 4
♦ 6	♦ AJ
♣	♣
♠ ?	
♥ ?	
♦ ?	
♣	

Declarer's four cards are omitted, but you can see that he has been hopelessly squeezed ... he must keep three hearts to stop West's hearts, and in doing so, he cannot hold the necessary cards in spades and diamonds.

To make the hand, declarer had to play diamonds at trick 3 ... and no sane person would take that approach. As for his actual play of cashing the club ace, it had the value and simplicity of guaranteeing the contract should clubs divide 3-2.

Action C ("bad luck") seems empathetic enough, but it has its risks. In particular, if partner has actually blundered, then your comment might be misinterpreted as sarcasm.

Action D is the correct answer. There is nothing to be gained – nothing! – in any communication at this time over the declarer play. After the session, you can examine the hand records if you feel the need, and post-mortem the declarer play with partner. If nothing else, this would save you from the embarrassment of answer B.

And the same applies to you as declarer – there is no value in "I misplayed that" or "sorry pard" or "unlucky guess". It opens up an unnecessary dialogue, gives succour to the enemy, and distracts your and partner's concentration. Just get the cards out for the next board and move on.

So much for Dummy Play. A total lack of interest in the proceedings is your best partnership strategy.

What about Declarer Play as a partnership matter? I won't insult you with advice about not abusing partner about the bidding as you proceed to misplay the contract.

Better to focus on the flip-side – what about re-assuring partner about the contract so that he doesn't stress as dummy? But you want to keep it private and unseen by the defenders. Wally Scott used to have a good technique here. If he was declaring a scary contract - maybe he was doubled, or maybe his partner had bid a dodgy slam - and it was clear the contract was going to make, he would wink at dummy. Only once has this technique backfired that I know of – he gave the wink, and then discovered that trumps broke 5-0. With no way out, he had to say to dummy: "cancel that wink".

Another more kosher approach is the dummy peter. Suppose you are in a high contract after a tense auction. An ace is led, and dummy has some innocuous holding in that suit like J64. If the contract is good, then you peter with the 6 ... saying: "relax partner, this is probably making".

I could have done with a wink or an echo on the first hand from the ANC, as reported in the earlier article:

♠ J9	
♥ KQJ9	
♦ 872	
♣ 9843	
♠ AK64	♠ 10853
♥ 8532	♥ 104
♦ A9	♦ KJ103
♣ KQJ	♣ 1072
♠ Q72	
♥ A76	
♦ Q654	
♣ A85	

If you recall, my partner Adam Sarten was in 1NT redoubled, after I had made the very dubious decision not to rescue.

West led ♣K, winning. He then switched to ♠K, and then flailed around with a further switch to ace and another diamond. East put in the jack and Adam won the queen. As you can see, 7 tricks have been donated, 4 hearts and one of each other suit. Adam duly set up the spade trick by leading to ♠J, which held. Next he cashed the hearts.

As a nervous dummy, I was starting to feel a lot happier as Adam finished cashing the hearts. He was up to 6 tricks, but now he went into the tank! "Oh no!" thought I, "clearly he doesn't have ♣A, as he hasn't claimed – this looks bad."

Sure enough, Adam thought and thought and exited a diamond. East pounced on this, and cashed his diamonds. Fortunately, the ♣A was safely taken at trick 12 (apparently, East had discarded spades on hearts, so Adam's youthful search for an overtrick was completely safe), and I could finally relax.

Playing dummy peters, Adam could have signalled to me in hearts. Cash ♥A, and win the second heart with the *queen*, an unusual but effective signal.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ 32
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK8632
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ AQ8

♠ Q106 ♥ 7 ♦ 87542 ♣ J873	♠ KJ75 ♥ J109 ♦ K1063 ♣ 95
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♠ A984
 ♥ Q54
 ♦ J9
 ♣ K1042

It is critical that you don't win this trick – partner can't have 4 spades and the threat of a spade - diamond squeeze is a very real one. If you win, you probably exit a club. Declarer will win in dummy, play to ♥Q, ruff

a spade and return in clubs. When your meagre holding in clubs is revealed (you are known to have 2), declarer will finish the hearts, discarding a club and a diamond from his hand.

♠	
♥	
♦	AQ
♣	8
	♠ J
	♥
	♦ K10
	♣
♠	9
♥	
♦	J
♣	K

When he leads the club to ♣K you are a gone goose.

This is poultry of a different style. You must duck, and play partner for a funny lead from ♠Q10(x).

Partner has done well – a low spade lead to ♠K would be allowed to hold, after which the squeeze can be set up quite comfortably.

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ AK107
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQJ9764
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A

♠ 8 ♥ 10852 ♦ AJ986 ♣ 543	♠ QJ543 ♥ 3 ♦ K107 ♣ J972
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

♠ 962
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q543
 ♣ KQ1086

The risk is that dummy's spades can go away unless you can remove South's entry. Declarer has ♥A, but who has ♥3? You must play for ♥A to be singleton and lead one at once.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan: "If you average South's bidding on this hand (one too many) and on the previous hand (one too few), he comes out just right."

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Myer Janover Susis Rabinowicz Peter Yuill
Club Master	Steve Tiomkin
Local Master	Ann Bednarz
*Local Master	Dinny Downie
Regional Master	Dan Phelan
State Master	Christine Macquarie
*National Master	Henry Goldberg
Silver Life Master	Dale Sheather



The VBA warmly welcomes Charles & Betty Forbes, recently moved to Australia from NZ, and now VBA members. Welcome also to Margaret Galley.



TWELFTH TRICK – SOLUTION Bill Jacobs

Dealer: W	♠ J82	
Vul: all	♥ AJ9864	
	♦ Q98	
	♣ A	
♠ Q543		♠ 6
♥ 5		♥ KQ1032
♦ J10653		♦ K7
♣ 1062		♣ J9873
	♠ AK1097	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A42	
	♣ KQ54	

This slam was from the ANC round-robin. Declarer won the heart, played ♣A, ♦A and cashed two top clubs to discard dummy's diamonds.

Now you should be able to cross ruff ... you ruff a diamond low, and the moment of truth. When you play a heart off the dummy, it cannot cost to ruff with the spade *ace*, as trumps are solid. Then another diamond

ruffed (or club if you think that's less likely to be overruffed by RHO), and another heart ruffed with the *king*, and claim, ruffing your last minor suit loser with dummy's last trump.

In point of fact, the NSW Open Team declarer ruffed the second heart low, overruffed with the queen. A trump return left her a trick short.

How many imps did she lose for this misplay? She *gained* 3 imps. At the other table, West led ♦J, ♦Q, ♦K, ♦A. Now ♣A, ♥A, heart correctly ruffed low ... overruffed, followed by ♦10, diamond ruff, for two down.

Office Manager Required (Part Time) Waverley Bridge Club

A vacancy will arise January 2006 when the current Manager retires. This position encompasses both formal bookkeeping and secretarial functions, including taking minutes of meetings, maintenance of membership records as well as oversight of general running of the Club. This is a part time position, the telephone may ring at any time - the hours are not evenly spaced over the year. Computer skills are essential and knowledge of Bridge desirable.

Applications should be addressed to the President at Waverley Bridge Club Inc at P O Box 2017, Mt. Waverley, VIC 3149.

The VBA conducted a session of the 20th Australia Wide Novice Pairs on Tuesday July 26th and it attracted 12 tables. It was pleasing to see quite a few lesson graduates playing as well as some from the Supervised Play sessions. The event was a great opportunity for novice players to get the feel of a competition and to start stretching their wings. A souvenir booklet prepared by Paul Marston was provided at the end of play that analysed the hands, bidding and play.

Of particular note VBA place getters in the top 100 places in Australia were:

21 st	Mary Bertuna and Tim Blizard
25 th	Narelle Szuveges and Lorna Hopf
72 nd	Steve Tiomkin and Lyn Lutchner
93 rd	Mark Grebler and Alex Feigin

Congratulations to all and well done.