

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

2006 VBA COUNCIL

Congratulations and good luck to the incoming councilors:

President: Jeannette Collins

Vice Presidents: Ken Lee
David Smith

Secretary: Meredith Woods

Treasurer: Mary Bertuna

Councilors: Kevin Chan
Kate Gullan
Jean Hall
Lyndy Hickman
Blaine Howe
Jane Leach
Kitty Muntz
Margaret Yuill



VBA NEWS

Cathie Lachman - Manager

- Welcome back all players! I hope your bridge has been successful and satisfying during December and January. The Pennant Teams and Ramsden Swiss Pairs events are about to commence. Both are really fun and exciting events. Have you entered?
- I would like to thank all of the volunteers and donations from members who contributed to the very successful Christmas parties in December. They were the most enjoyable ever and your generosity is appreciated. Thanks to Jane Leach for organising them.
- We are moving ahead in leaps and bounds with technology. As mentioned in the last newsletter we now have skype and quite a few players are calling me. It's free to download onto your computer and saves you money when you make skype to skype calls. Additionally we have purchased a new server which should be up and running in early February. Blaine Howe

has been the prime mover in making this happen. It will give us a level of comfort with storage of data as the old one was becoming unstable.

- Have you looked at the VBA website lately? Margaret Yuill and Blaine Howe have done a fantastic job. Of particular note is the calendar now on the front page which details all sessions during the month. It's also colour coded for easy recognition of gold, red and green pointed events.
- Have you paid your subscription? Fees are due and payable at the date of the Annual General Meeting. Don't let it lapse. Should your membership lapse there is an additional fee for ABF reactivation. Resubscribe today.
- I'm sorry to report that the Round Robin on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships has been moved to the Buckingham International Hotel, 1130 Nepean Hwy, Highett. This is a result of the conditions of our permit approved by VCAT.

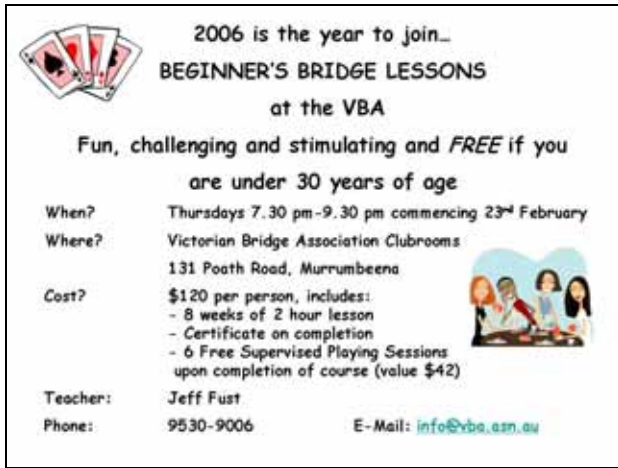
The residents and business owners in the surrounding streets are a much organised group and are resolved to block the expansion of our playing times and numbers. All members are reminded to observe parking restrictions and leave quietly following play.

- Finally I would like to welcome all of our new members (see page 8). The Council, Members and Staff wish you happy bridging at the VBA.

Cathie Lachman, Manager

The Council, Members and Staff of the Victorian Bridge Association regret the passing of Roger Penny on 13th January, 2006 and extend its condolences to Roger's family.

Roger worked tirelessly for the ABF and the Tasmanian Bridge Association for many years. He was a member of the Australian Bridge Federation Committee of Honour.



2006 is the year to join...
BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS
 at the VBA

Fun, challenging and stimulating and *FREE* if you are under 30 years of age

When? Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 23rd February
 Where? Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms
 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee

Cost? \$120 per person, includes:
 - 8 weeks of 2 hour lesson
 - Certificate on completion
 - 6 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$42)

Teacher: Jeff Fust
 Phone: 9530-9006 E-Mail: info@vba.asn.au

SETTING TRICK FOR STARTERS ...
Ian McCance

Every month for some time the *Bulletin* has published **The Setting Trick**, an ongoing series of defensive problems, two per Issue. These are based on my archives, a polite term for the tangle of hand-records that clutters my office. These I scan, select and write up likely situations then run them past the analytical eye of my co-editor.

The criterion for inclusion is that the correct defensive play can be found by concentrating on the essential task in defence, defeating the contract, that is, finding the critical 4th trick against 4♠, the 5th against 3NT. The approach is that of teams bridge. We could discuss the special requirements of duplicate pairs in another article.

Some of the problems are complicated, for example in a recent one the defence was required to break up a squeeze position. However the basic message is always the same. Try this deal. You are West, dealer is on your left, and everyone is vulnerable.

- ♠ AJ87
- ♥ AJ4
- ♦ 92
- ♣ K954

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What would you lead? Decide for yourself before reading on.

Leading from one of the suits headed with the AJ is not recommended. These are combinations where you would prefer the suit to be led by someone else, and maybe you can capture an opposing honour with your ace. That's why there is the saying: "aces are meant to beat kings".

Leading a trump is possible, but that seems to just be doing declarer's work for him.

A club is what's left. If partner has a useful card there, say the queen, maybe you can set up a club trick or two before declarer can establish tricks in a major.

You lead ♣4 and see the following dummy:

- Dealer: N ♠ 1096
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ96
 ♦ 87
 ♣ QJ32
- ♠ AJ87
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ 92
 ♣ K954

♣Q wins the trick; partner's card is ♣6, and declarer plays the ♣7.

What is the situation in clubs? Decide for yourself before reading on.

Declarer has the ace – partner would have played it if he had it! (Sorry to be insulting.)

The other two outstanding clubs are the 10 and 8. If partner has just one of these, you would expect that he would have started a high-low signal to show a doubleton. So it seems partner started with either ♣1086 or, just maybe, the singleton 6.

Declarer plays ♦7 to ♦K, then ♦Q. Partner wins ♦A and returns ♣10, won by declarer's ♣A. Next comes ♥5 from declarer.

How will you defend? Decide for yourself before reading on.

Dealer: N ♠ 1096
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ96
 ♦ 87
 ♣ QJ32

♠ AJ87 ♠ KQ2
 ♥ AJ4 ♥ 108732
 ♦ 92 ♦ A10
 ♣ K954 ♣ 1086

♠ 543
 ♥ 5
 ♦ KQJ6543
 ♣ A7

When declarer leads towards KQxx in dummy, and you have the ace in front of the dummy, it is often best to duck, to prevent the fast setup of two tricks. But have you been counting declarer's tricks? It looks as if declarer has 7 diamonds, so 6 diamond tricks. 6 diamonds plus 2 clubs = 8. If declarer has more than one heart he will make 9 tricks.

You must rise ♥A. You know partner has ♠K, because if declarer has it, he would have been far too strong to open 3♦, so you can afford to continue a low spade against the unlikely case that declarer has ♠Q and hasn't opened 1♦. You also know, from partner's signals in clubs, that there are no club tricks available for you. On this layout, you safely cash out your three spade tricks for one down ... just in time.

Points to remember:

- Avoid leading from an ace in an unbid suit against a suit contract. Aces are meant to beat kings.
- Watch for partner's count signals.
- Count declarer's tricks. If he's about to fulfil his contract, it's time to act!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:
 "If you're a good enough player, you can get away with making mistakes because nobody will believe it"

TWO PROBLEMS

These two problems are 20 years old. Maybe they have improved with age.

Dealer: S ♠ A842
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ8
 ♦ A9432
 ♣ K

♠ 76
 ♥ J109
 ♦ J1075
 ♣ A654

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

* 15-17 points

Partner leads ♣J, top of a sequence. Take it from there.

Dealer: S ♠ 106
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ
 ♦ KQ53
 ♣ J7652

♠ AQJ872
 ♥ 97
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ83

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

You declare 4♠, and the lead is ♦J, top of a sequence.

Plan the play. For answers, see Page 5.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last a lifetime, he can't afford to waste much of it on bridge partners.

- Alfred Sheinwold

The sum of all technical knowledge cannot make a bridge player

- Ely Culbertson

FOR CAPPELLETTI-ISTS ...
Ian McCance

Mel Colchamiro suggests a good adjunct to this system in the ACBL's *Bridge Bulletin*.

Cappelletti, along with DONT, Brozel and Meckwell uses a conventional call after the 1NT opening to show a one-suited hand. This is 2♣ in Cappelletti, double in some others. The consequence is that if the next hand interposes with a competitive bid, the overcalling side may be at a disadvantage because the long suit has not been specified.

Colchamiro suggests that the responding hand (the 2♣-ist's partner) can usefully use *double* to show a hand with adequate support for the (assumed) 6-card suit, whatever it is. His discussion relates to overcalls after a strong 1NT, but that doesn't affect the principle, except that overcalls of the weak 1NT might tend to be weaker.

The first hand he shows is:

♠ A83 ♥ K83 ♦ 8632 ♣ K97

and the sequence (1NT) 2♣ 2♥ (transfer) ? (Apparently in the US it is customary for transfers to be ON after the 2♣).

This hand is ideal for his "bid-your-suit" double, good high cards and support for anything. Double here does give up on showing hearts, but this should be of little concern because of the known fit in the long suit, and also because the custom in Victoria (I think) is that transfers are OFF and 2♥, for example, would be natural.

The weakest holding he allows for this *double* is:

♠ J4 ♥ 765 ♦ A863 ♣ K987

when responder has shown hearts. I wouldn't quarrel with this if the 1NT were weak, though partner might be adventuring with only 5 spades.

A good aspect of this *double* is that it is essentially a take-out double, so conceptually nothing new. Perhaps the loss of a penalty double could be significant if the opening 1NT is weak? What would double by the 2♣-ist mean: (1NT) 2♣ (2♠) P (P) X ?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

MIND SPORTS EXHIBITION
Cathie Lachman

Over the weekend of 3rd-4th December 2005, the VBA exhibited at the Mind Sports Expo held at the Bayview Convention Centre, Clayton. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase bridge especially as the place was "jumping with youth". Most of them were competing in a Chess Championship and had travelled from all states to participate.

I had the opportunity to meet with teachers from various schools who showed interest in having us come along and give bridge lessons to students. Also many young folk who were personally interested hovered around the table and we gave them the opportunity to sit at the table and feel the 13 cards in their hands. They loved it. One young fellow told me his Nana was teaching him, whilst another young chap was so keen he couldn't wait to finish his chess match to come back and sit at the table.

As you may be aware the VBA is offering free bridge lessons to players less than 30 years of age commencing on 23rd February (see ad on page 2), and this certainly was very appealing to the teachers, students and of course some parents, aunts and uncles were interested in coming along to learn too.

Very special thanks to the following VBA members who gave up their time to come along and help. Without volunteers, promotions of this nature would not be possible.

Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua, Mary Bertuna, David Sharman, Jill Magee, Terry Strong, Stan Klofa, Jeannette Collins, Meredith Woods, Kevin Chan, Hazel Schwerdt, Kitty Muntz, Ray Anderson, Arie Meydan, Bill and Diana Jacobs, Blaine Howe, Diana Smart, Ian McCance, Lyndy Hickman, Penny Corrigan, Rex Livingston, Jean Hall and Kate Gullan.

Question: What do you call an 8 card suit?

Answer: Trumps

Question: What is the difference between a serial killer and a bridge player?

Answer: You can reason with a serial killer.

VARIATIONS ON A THEME Bill Jacobs

The two hands below come from the 1985 Far East Championships, and were reported by the eagle-eyed Felicity Beale.

Dealer: S ♠ A842
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ8
 ♦ A9432
 ♣ K

♠ J953	♠ 76
♥ 432	♥ J109
♦ 86	♦ J1075
♣ J1093	♣ A654

♠ KQ10
 ♥ K765
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ Q872

West leads the club jack against 6NT.

As East, you can count the points. You and dummy have 23 points, declarer 15-17, and partner has, well, the club jack. The arithmetic tells you that partner can have only one other high card: the spade jack – and he better have it.

You can also count declarer's tricks: 3 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and a club. That's 11 ... so for the contract to depend on your defence, the layout has to be just like it is.

You must let the club king win. If you take the ace, your partner will be squeezed in the black suits when all the red tricks are taken: the tricks will fall into declarer's lap. If you duck the club king, declarer cannot set up a winning position.

Next problem:

♠ 106 ♥ KQ ♦ KQ53 ♣ J7652	♠ K54 ♥ J10864 ♦ A872 ♣ 9
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♠ 93 ♥ A532 ♦ J1094 ♣ K104	♠ AQJ872 ♥ 97 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ83
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In 1985, Felicity and I thought that declarer should find the spectacular play of a low diamond from dummy at trick 1, leaving West on lead. If East wins the first trick with the diamond ace, he will switch a club and scuttle the contract. But with West winning trick 1, declarer can build his heart entry to dummy and take a winning spade finesse for the contract.

In the cold light of 2006, I am not so sure about all of this. If you cover the diamond at trick 1, there is a chance that East will continue diamonds, giving you a second entry for extra black suit finesses. And it is no longer so obvious to me that the correct finesse to take is in spades ... you could finesse in clubs hoping that if it loses, the club jack will be an entry back to dummy for trump finesses.

And in 1985, we did point out that if South finds the brilliant duck at trick 1, then East can equally brilliantly play the ace anyway, to switch to clubs (figuring "if declarer wants to leave West on lead, I want to put myself on lead").

Nevertheless, if you did consider the ducking plays on either of these hands, please contact me – perhaps there is a partnership in our future!

THE THIRTEENTH TRICK

Dealer: S ♠ AQ7
 Vul: N/S ♥ AQ43
 ♦ KJ1052
 ♣ K

♠ KJ1098
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A94
 ♣ AQJ10

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	7♠	All pass	

The opening lead is ♠2, East following suit.

Take it from there. Solution on page 8.

LIFE IMITATES ART

In the December Bulletin (For Starters), we presented a hand where you were advised to raise 1NT to 3NT with a 4-3-3-3 shape including a 4-card major, in preference to searching out a major suit fit.

This was Board 7 from Round 7 in the recent World Championships in Estoril:

Dealer: S	♠ KQ9				
Vul: Both	♥ Q975				
	♦ J98				
	♣ J102				
♠ J72		♠ 10543			
♥ J82		♥ 104			
♦ K7542		♦ Q6			
♣ 94		♣ AK876			
	♠ A86				
	♥ AK63				
	♦ A103				
	♣ Q53				

4♥ in the 4-4 fit fails if the defence can find its club ruff. Meanwhile, 3NT avoids that risk, and others (in particular, it still has good chances if hearts are 4-1).

If South opens a strong 1NT, then the direct raise to 3NT gets our seal of approval for both Starters and World Champions. For Australia, Felicity Beale and Diana Smart bid it, in Acol:

1♥	-	2♥
2NT	-	3NT
Pass		

Having found their heart fit, they correctly un-found it. At the other table, their Portuguese counterparts bid to 4♥ by South, but the lead was a diamond – no swing.

Across the three fields, Open, Women and Seniors, the board was played 66 times, and on 19 occasions 4♥ was reached. Surprisingly but justly, on 18 of those, it was defeated, with many finding the club lead from West. Unfortunately for those 18 North-South pairs, the December 2005 VBA Newsletter was published a month *after* the World Championships, so they had not had the opportunity to read our advice!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Christmas Teams

- 1 I. McCance, B. Thompson, R. van Riel, D. Smart
- 2 Q. van Abbe, S. Collins, S. Mato, J. Bayliss
- 3 N. Ewart, B. Howe, C. Snashall, D. Smith, G. Kilvington

VBA Mixed Pairs

- 1 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 2 B. Rosenberg – B. Rosenberg
- 3 J. Collins – S. Klofa

VBA Unmixed Pairs

- 1 W. Mroz – J. Krysiak
- 2 Y. Millman, M. Tildesley
- 3 J. Savage, E. Windmiller

VBA Summer Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Glasson – M. Bracegirdle
- 2 R. Livingston – P. Hill
- 3 J. Magee – T. Strong

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, J. Collins, T. Chira, M. Woods
- 2 R. Livingston, P. Hill, Q. van Abbe, S. Collins
- 3 N. Watkinson, J. Hughes, R. Anderson, N. Cowen

National Womens Teams (Canberra)

Hearty congratulations to Jenny Thompson and Jeannette Collins, who were part of the winning team in Canberra (with Karen Creet, Sue Bird, Julia Hoffman and Nola Church).

They had to fight off stiff opposition from the runners up, who included Helen Snashall and Sally Murray-White.

Pickings from the National Open Teams were slimmer: well done to David Smith and David Thompson, who played on teams that qualified for the final stages.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

2005 BRIDGE AWARDS

Top Masterpoint Performers

The top 10 masterpoint earners last year were:

1.	George Gaspar	371.02
2.	Jeannette Collins	334.43
3.	Simon Hinge	260.93
4.	Charlie Snashall	255.73
5.	Charlie Schwabegger	246.37
6.	Blaine Howe	235.18
7.	Bob Gallus	233.03
8.	Stan Klofa	217.43
9.	Cathy Chua	206.49
10.	Cathie Lachman	202.92

(The moral of this list is quite clear: if you want to progress your mastership in bridge, then the best strategy is to be elected as President of the VBA.)

Victorian Improvers (Mike Merai Award)

This is judged by the improvement factor, defined as a ratio of MPs earned during the year to the total of player's MPs at the end of the year.

1.	Andrew Hegedus	VBA
2.	Justin Howard	Alphington
3.	Michiko Nakanishi	Kattery
4.	Shannon Irwin	Geelong
5.	Raji Muir	Alphington
6.	Margaret Yuill	VBA
7.	Barry Stokes	Barinsdale
8.	Judy Bone	Brown's School of Bridge
9.	Alex Czapnik	Waverley
10.	Alister Murray	Borin

VBA Club Championship

1	Jeannette Collins
2	Stan Klofa
3=	Traian Chira
3=	Dan Hohor
5	George Gaspar
6=	Steffie Gerdan
6=	John Selwyn

National McCutcheon Results

Victorians who were placed in the top ten places for each masterpoint category:

Overall:

7th George Gaspar (VBA)

Gold & Silver Grand Masters:

7th George Gaspar (VBA)

Grand Masters:

3rd Jeannette Collins (VBA)

Gold Life Masters:

10th Traian Chira (VBA)

Silver Life Masters:

4th Jill Magee (VBA)

Bronze Life Masters:

1st Margaret Yuill (VBA)

4th Kevin Chan (VBA)

*National Masters:

7th Jacqui Lund (Borin)

National Masters:

5th Justin Howard (Alphington)

Regional Masters

7th Ellen Ward (Peninsula)

**Local Masters

7th Andy Hegedus (VBA)

10th Shannon Irwin (Geelong)

*Local Masters:

5th Raji Muir (Alphington)

Club Masters:

9th Judy Bone (Brown's School of Bridge)

Graduate Masters:

4th Colin Manley (South Gippsland)

Nil Masters:

6th Michiko Nakanishi (Kattery)

9th Jacqueline Gilbert (Brown's School of Bridge)

10th Janice Peter (Brown's School of Bridge)

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Marion Burns Ola Cohen Pat Makinson
Club Master	Mary Bertuna Geoffrey Cohen Bernadette Polak Sheila Sojka Pam Smith Valerie Sterling
*Local Master	Denys Harraway Sylvia Heimer Andre Vary
**Local Master	Phillip Knightley
State Master	Dan Phelan
*State Master	Andrew Hegedus
*Regional Master	Charna Greene
National Master	John Hare Robert Rosenberg
*National Master	Serhat Ozenir
Silver Grand Master	Jeannette Collins

NEW FACES AND OLD

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new and re-activated members:

Anne Beaumont	Leon Bergman
John Bristow	Sandra Coomes
Sheleagh Davidson	Patricia Douglas
Frances Duckett	Mary Elson
Alexander Feigin	Pip Fitzpatrick
Heather Flanders	David Flynn
Esther Goldschlager	Leslie Goldschlager
Leigh Gold	Mark Grebler
Nancy Heffernan	Julie Hegarty
Patricia Henderson	Andor Herman
Jenny Homer	Patricia Jones
Barry Kempthorne	Agnes Kempthorne
Jeffrey Lacey	Dael Lewis
Ann Pauligk	Jill Percil
Jill Pike	Bernadette Polak
Christopher Salter	Adam Santilli
Geoffrey Schroder	Alina Skoutarides
Alison Talbot	Lorraine Couzin

THE THIRTEENTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

Dealer: S	♠ AQ7	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ43	
	♦ KJ1052	
	♣ K	
♠ 652		♠ 43
♥ 9862		♥ KJ105
♦ 87		♦ Q63
♣ 7653		♣ 9842
	♠ KJ1098	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A94	
	♣ AQJ10	

In 7♠, you have twelve top tricks, and a myriad of ways to play the red suits for a thirteenth.

The best way to combine the chances in hearts and diamonds, after drawing trumps, is probably to cash the diamond ace and king. If the queen drops, well and good; if it doesn't, then you fall back on the heart finesse for your contract. This seems to be a more likely combination line than trying to ruff out a short king of hearts, and if that fails, guessing the diamonds.

All this erudite discussion is irrelevant however, as the correct way to play the hand is via what is called a "dummy reversal" – a technique involving ruffing many cards with the long trumps, then drawing trumps with the short trump hand. Let's see how it works here.

Win the first trick, and play ♥A and ruff a heart. Play a second trump to dummy (if trumps are 4-1, draw the rest of the trumps and play the hand that is short in trumps to have the diamond queen). Ruff another heart, play to ♦K and ruff dummy's last heart. Now over to ♣K to draw the last trump: the South hand is out of trumps so discards its losing diamond. Diamond to the ace, and South is left with just winning clubs – voila.

Dummy reversals have a mystical quality that makes them quite difficult to spot. In this case your diamond loser magically disappears: it goes away on dummy's "long" trump.