

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

## WHO WERE THEY? THE HISTORY PROJECT Ian McCance

New members of the VBA or visitors could be excused for thinking that competition bridge in Victoria began in 1970. That's because 1970 is the first date on the various Honour Boards that carry the names of the winners of major events and of Interstate representatives.

However, the first (open) Interstate Teams was held in 1933, and organised bridge was set up in the later 1930s under the aegis of Stanley N. Lythgo. A plaque with this information was on the wall at Macquarie St, but it has not reappeared after the latest move.

I am not sure when the Honour Boards appeared at Macquarie St, but it is a tribute to the organisation at that time that efforts were made to consolidate what information was available.

The sad truth is that the organisation, the VBA and before it the VBU, has been astonishingly careless with its history, and many records of who won what, or represented Victoria, and when, are lost, presumably for ever. It would have been so easy to keep track, if anyone had thought to do so.

Perhaps as one of the few whose names would have appeared on the non-existent pre-'70 Honour Boards I am about the only current player who cares?

However another aspect of our bridge history that does pay tribute to the contributions of past players and administrators is the presence in the Calendar of *named* events. With the passage of time, the names persist but memory of the individuals concerned, and of their contributions, fades.

At the suggestion of a reader the Bulletin will attempt to reverse this by giving brief notes on each *name* as their event approaches.

The longest standing event on the VBA calendar is the Ramsden Handicap Pairs. This is now held in February, so is past us for 2006, but will serve as an example. What do we know of *Ramsden*?

I can remember that he played several (?) Victorian Mixed Pairs with my mother in the 1940s. I am not even sure of his first name (Alec?). He had a brother called Norman. I don't think he was a top player, more an enthusiastic supporter of the VBU in many ways including financially.

How's that for a horrible start?

The paucity of this information emphasises the point. If you have, or know of, a cache of old Newsletters from the VBU/VBA (or the ESU) please preserve them, and send us a photocopy before they fall apart!

Any way you can help with the History Project will be much appreciated. Get in touch with:

Ian McCance (curator)

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## Would you like to represent the VBA at the forthcoming FABCV Croft Teams?

If you are interested in forming a team to represent the VBA at the Croft Teams to be held on Saturday July 8, 2006 please contact Cathie Lachman. You can enjoy a fun day subsidized by your Club. Any member of the VBA is eligible to nominate if you meet the following criteria.

Teams must display a balance of experience. For each Grand Master in a team there must be a player below State Master. For each Life Master in a team there must be a player below National Master.

Session times are 10 a.m. – 1 p.m and 2.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m. Soup and sandwiches will be provided.

### Ray Allgood: 1932 – 2006

Ray was born in Germany. He was a victim of the Nazis who starved and overworked him and mistreated him from the time he was 6 years old. By the end of the war when he was 14 he looked like an 8 year old.

Having endured such a terrible childhood he had every excuse to become a delinquent, but instead he became a philosopher asking why he had to suffer so much. He took up yoga and in about 1954 discovering his life long guru Ramana Maharishi. From this guru he learned about self enquiry "who am I?" where does the I thought originate. In all the time I have known Ray, he spent a great deal of time meditating. I'm sure this will have helped him to gain strength to carry on life in spite of his terrible illness.

I first met Ray in 1964 at the Piccadilly Café in St Kilda where chess players used to meet. Incidentally Ray wasn't a great chess player. We grew to know and love each other when Ray, without even knowing me, came to care for me when I was immobilized with a very bad back. We married in 1967 on a mid-summer's day.

As a person he was above all a CARER, caring not only for me but all people he met. Ray was both kind and generous with his time and his ability. His most outstanding gift was that he was a mechanical genius – there was nothing he could not do with his hands. Be it in his trade as an electrician, or plumbing, or carpentry, you name it he could do it, very often improvising with any materials on hand. His other ability was as a masseur which he had studied in Germany as a young man. He gave generously of this gift to everyone who had any need.

I believe it is not only I who will miss him terribly but everybody who ever came in contact with him.

Lilli Allgood

#### FOR STARTERS ... Bill Jacobs

##### *From the Bridge Encyclopedia ...*

**TRANSFER BIDS.** Bids aimed principally at making a strong hand declarer. It is often advantageous for the lead to come up to the stronger hand, so it remains concealed.

Transfer bids were first used in the United States by David Carter and subsequently developed by Oswald Jacoby. These bids were independently devised by Olle Willner in Stockholm, who discussed the use of transfers in a series of articles in *Bridge Tidningen* in 1953-54.

50 years later, let's discuss them again. A transfer bid is a bid in a suit *one under* the one you are showing. Partner is then expected to bid the next step (which is the suit shown), and the auction can proceed, or not proceed, from there.

The most common application of transfers is after you have opened 1NT (although the

concept can be applied in many ways – see elsewhere in this bulletin for an example). Here is a simple scheme of transfers after you have opened 1NT.

- 2♣ Stayman
- 2♦ Transfer to hearts (shows hearts)
- 2♥ Transfer to spades (shows spades)
- 2♠ Transfer to clubs (shows clubs)
- 2NT Transfer to diamonds (shows diamonds)

The 1NT opener is then expected to bid the suit shown. Note that when you transfer, you are showing *at least a 5 card suit*.

Transfers can be made on hands of any strength. With a weak hand, responder will pass when opener makes the transfer. With a better hand, responder will bid on. You can see the huge benefit in this: the transfer mechanism gives responder two bites of the cherry – he can show his suit, and guarantee himself a further chance to bid again.

In any scheme of transfers, there is a price to pay. In this case, you no longer have the ability to sign off in 2♦. This is a small inconvenience.

You might also be wondering: "this takes away my natural 2NT bid – how do I invite partner to bid 3NT with a maximum?" The answer to this one is to go through Stayman: bid 2♣ and over any response by partner, bid 2NT. This auction means: "I am inviting you to bid 3NT, but I don't necessarily have a four-card major, even though I used Stayman."

Once you have made your transfer, and partner has accepted it, you now have an opportunity to make a further natural bid. The principles are:

<i>New suit</i>	natural and forcing, showing at least four cards in that suit
<i>"Rebid" suit</i>	invitational, showing at least six cards
<i>NT</i>	Natural and non-forcing (but transferring to a major and rebidding 2NT is invitational)

Here are some hands to practise with. Assume your partner opens 1NT, 15-17 points. Plan your auction.

1. ♠ AKJ76 ♥ 42 ♦ K54 ♣ 1072
2. ♠ 76 ♥ QJ964 ♦ 6542 ♣ Q2
3. ♠ 2 ♥ AQ76 ♦ KJ10842 ♣ J3
4. ♠ 109 ♥ A65 ♦ 873 ♣ Q10985
5. ♠ QJ9872 ♥ 7 ♦ K42 ♣ J104
6. ♠ 9 ♥ AK764 ♦ Q8 ♣ KJ972
7. ♠ KQ762 ♥ QJ7 ♦ 42 ♣ J87

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1. ♠ AKJ76 ♥ 42 ♦ K54 ♣ 1072

With a combined 26-28 points, this belongs in 3NT or 4♠, depending on partner's degree of fit for spades. The way to give him a choice is to transfer to 2♠ (via 2♥) and then rebid 3NT.

2. ♠ 76 ♥ QJ964 ♦ 6542 ♣ Q2

If you weren't playing transfers, you would just sign off in 2♥ right? Playing transfers, you sign off by bidding 2♦, transfer, and then passing 2♥. Partner plays it, which may be

advantageous with the lead coming up to his hand.

3. ♠ 2 ♥ AQ76 ♦ KJ10842 ♣ J3

Transfer to diamonds (via 2NT), and then bid 3♥. This shows a primary suit of diamonds, plus at least 4 hearts, and is game-forcing – a good description of your hand.

4. ♠ 109 ♥ A65 ♦ 873 ♣ Q10985

A trick question. You should pass 1NT. Don't plan to sign off in 3 of a minor unless you have a 6 card suit.

5. ♠ QJ9872 ♥ 7 ♦ K42 ♣ J104

This is just worth making an invitational bid in spades. Transfer to 2♠ via 2♥, and follow up with 3♠, giving partner the option to bid the fourth spade.

6. ♠ 9 ♥ AK764 ♦ Q8 ♣ KJ972

This is a tempting and complicated hand: you could belong in hearts, clubs or notrumps, and at the game or slam level. Consult partner by transferring to 2♥ via 2♦, and following up with a natural and forcing 3♣ bid.

7. ♠ KQ762 ♥ QJ7 ♦ 42 ♣ J87

Invite game whilst showing your 5 card spade suit: transfer to 2♠ via 2♥, and rebid 2NT. Partner can select the final contract: either 3♠, 4♠, 2NT or 3NT.

Next month, we will continue the theme, looking at other auctions after 1NT.

**Spring Series 2006**  
**BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS**  
at the VBA

**FREE if you are under 30 years of age**

<b>When?</b>	Thursdays 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Where?</b>	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena
<b>Cost?</b>	\$120 per person, includes: - 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons - Certificate on completion - 6 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$42)
<b>Registration?</b>	Only by deposit of \$50 - MasterCard and Visa accepted
<b>Teacher:</b>	Jeff Fust
<b>Phone:</b>	9530-9006
	E-Mail: <a href="mailto:clachman@vba.asn.au">clachman@vba.asn.au</a>



**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: W ♠ KJ4  
 Vul: All ♥ KJ96  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ KQJ4

♠ -  
 ♥ AQ73  
 ♦ AQ109754  
 ♣ 86

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

You lead ♣8 and lo and behold partner wins ♣J with ♣A. He switches to ♦J, which you prudently overtake, and cash ♦A, partner discarding a club. What next?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: W ♠ K4  
 Vul: All ♥ J8743  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ Q863

♠ 9  
 ♥ Q652  
 ♦ A97642  
 ♣ J10

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead ♠9 through that surprising ♠K and partner clears spades, ♠Q, ♠A, ♠2. Declarer wins ♠J and advances ♦3. How are you going to defend?

Solutions on page 7.

Many members will remember Peter Marley, Chief Tournament Director of the VBA for many years. Recently arising from deliberations of the ABF National Tournament Directors Accreditation Committee, followed by endorsement by the ABF Management Committee, Peter Marley has been appointed National Director Level 1.

Congratulations Peter!

**THE PARTNERSHIP BATTLEGROUND – 4  
 Bill Jacobs**

**SURVIVING THE POST-MORTEM**

One of the delights of bridge is that it cannot be perfected. All partnerships, without exception, suffer foolish results, and the capacity of the two players to accept this, "and move on" is a key determinant to the long-term success of a partnership.

Here are three exhibits from my case files.

Case 1

Matchpoints ♠ Q94  
 Dealer: N ♥ AK  
 Vul: E/W ♦ QJ1053  
 ♣ A42

♠ A5		♠ K87632
♥ QJ1074		♥ 952
♦ 872		♦ A94
♣ K98		♣ 6
	♠ J10	
	♥ 863	
	♦ K6	
	♣ QJ10753	

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

West led ♥Q. Declarer won and led a diamond to East's ace, declarer unblocking the king. East switched to a trump. Declarer drew trumps and took the rest, +170 for a top.

What should happen next

E/W should get on with the next board.

What actually happened

East bawled West out for not leading a spade, the suit East had bid. West countered that he thought East's spades must be weak, because he hadn't overcalled directly over 1♦.

My analysis

West's lead was reasonable. East's trump shift was not – he should have played a



## THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs            ♠ A5  
 Dealer: W     ♥ 874  
 Vul: All        ♦ K763  
                  ♣ AQ94

♠ K8732  
 ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ K10876

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\* 12-14

Using your newly-found transfer skills, you conduct a controlled auction to 6♣. West leads ♣2, ♣4, ♣J, ♣K.

Take it from there. Solution on page 8.

## WHAT IS GOING ON (CONTINUED) Ian McCance

My previous articles (VBA Bull Oct 05, Apr 06) presented 3 case histories from my own performance in which the errors were clearly gross. These led me to ask "How can a gross error result from a loss of concentration?"

*Concentration* is focussing the mind upon the relevant subject and excluding others.

In the bridge context concentration is directed towards choosing the appropriate call or play. The sequence is:-

1. assimilation
2. processing via:
  - a) recognition, probably by means of templates built by experience
  - b) seeking a solution

Internal factors affecting concentration are: – *anxiety*, mistakes, fatigue, negative thoughts. We all know we should strive to put aside thoughts of past mistakes. Here they can be ruled out – if I had made any I wasn't aware of them. Fatigue, too, I rule out, though tiredness is no stranger to the elderly.

"Negative thoughts" I take to mean a feeling that failure is likely or inevitable – I regard these as part of anxiety, which I identify as the major culprit.

Anxiety traits are part of our personalities, so that some are more prone to anxiety than others. I have no difficulty identifying with the individual who was described by a dramatic critic as "playing the King (Lear?) in momentary apprehension that someone else was about to play the Ace".

Nevertheless the stress that the tournament situation produces leads to an increased level of *arousal*, being hyped-up, that in some may be beneficial but also produces anxiety.

I propose that gross errors are driven by anxiety: anxiety makes it harder to concentrate, increases difficulty in reaching a decision at point 2b above, and more anxiety. This vicious circle culminates in *confusion*.

It is in a state of confusion that a player can make a gross error.

At least "I was confused" is a more likely explanation than "I wasn't concentrating" - in a major championship – come on!!

Since this is, after all, a bridge Bulletin, I include a hand from the Autumn Nationals.

Dealer: S	♠ K72
Vul: E/W	♥ -
	♦ QJ9864
	♣ J632
♠ AJ963	♠ 108
♥ 1096	♥ J87543
♦ 10	♦ K3
♣ AQ87	♣ K95
	♠ Q54
	♥ AKQ2
	♦ A752
	♣ 104

South opened 1♦ and was raised immediately to 5♦. He ruffed the ♥10 lead in dummy, finessed and drew trumps then discarded clubs on the hearts, down 1.

This declarer made a gross error. Maybe an error at #1, above, assimilation?

Having formulated a diagnosis, what about a cure? or preventative? I don't have any suggestions – yet. A continuation of this article is not on the books – but I'm thinking about it.

### RECENT RESULTS

#### Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 E. Kaplan – G. Gaspar
- 2 P. Hill – R. Livingston
- 3= A. Kempthorne – B. Kempthorne
- 3= S. Klofa – V. Muntz

#### Victorian Masters Teams

##### "A" Final

- 1 S. Klofa, C. Snashall, C. Schwabegger, B. Tencer
- 2 G. Gaspar, H. de Jong, M. Tencer, M. Chrapot

##### "A" Plate

- 1 A. Samuel, E. Samuel, A. Halmos, M. Weinberg
- 2 A. Branicki, G. Pick, L. Branicki, J. Fust

##### "B" Final

- 1 J. Goldberg, B. Kingham, N. Howard, I. Hu
- 2 J. Hall, B. Dembo, J. Percil, D. Flynn

##### "B" Plate

- 1 G. Hill, M. Yuill, L. Hickman, P. Corrigan
- 2 G. Carter, D. Carter, J. Lord. A. Hegedus

#### Autumn Day Pairs

- 1 S. Pick – G. Pick
- 2 L. Branicki – G. Gaspar
- 3 A. Mellings – M. Spurrier

### IMPORTANT NOTICE CANCELLED!

The ABTA Seminar for Bridge Teachers scheduled for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June has been cancelled due to lack of enrolments.

The ABTA website will be soon be operational – further information regarding Bridge Teaching can be found there. A link from the ABF website will be in place soon.

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

#### Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ KJ4  
Vul: Both ♥ KJ96  
♦ 62  
♣ KQJ4

♠ -	♠ 932
♥ AQ73	♥ 852
♦ AQ109754	♦ J
♣ 86	♣ A109732
	♠ AQ108765
	♥ 104
	♦ K83
	♣ 5

You have 3 tricks in, and there seems an obvious fourth. But instead of simply laying down ♥A, what about continuing diamonds? Partner has all the outstanding trumps: what must he hold for a third round of diamonds to be of value? As against that, can a third diamond cost?

My word it can – declarer has 7 trumps, partner's 9xx are useless and when the Welsh East continued diamonds in the Camrose Trophy of 2006, dummy trumped high and West had to follow clubs as both declarer's hearts went away.

#### Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ K4  
Vul: both ♥ J8743  
♦ J8  
♣ Q863

♠ 9	♠ AQ107632
♥ Q652	♥ 109
♦ A97642	♦ 105
♣ J10	♣ K7
	♠ J85
	♥ AK
	♦ KQ3
	♣ A9542

Has partner asked for a club, with his ♠2? Surely he is unlikely to hold ♣A, though third hand openings can range widely.

I think he wants you to *protect* his clubs. You must pop ♦A and exit a red card. If not, declarer, who has also noticed partner's signal, might just be inspired to win ♦J and pass a club to you – a most unusual avoidance play.

