

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs



Winners of the 2006 ANC Women's Teams: (L-R) Diana Smart, Felicity Beale, Helen Snashall, Sally Murray-White, Kitty Muntz (seated), Jill Magee.

VICTORIANS ABROAD

Victorian football teams (Melbourne Storm excepted) may be in poor shape, but our bridge players performed with distinction in recent weeks, at all levels and in various locations.

The highlight result was our win in the ANC Women's event. The team, pictured above and captained by Martin Willcox, easily won the round-robin qualifying, took a 17 imp carryforward into the final against NSW, and won 5 out of 6 sets to win by a cosy 83imps. It all seemed so easy.

The team was spearheaded by seasoned internationals Beale and Smart, but one pair alone doesn't give you this outcome. The rise of Snashall – Murray-White and Magee – Muntz, plus a number of other recent standout performances means that Victorian Women's bridge is on the crest of a wave.

Indeed, hot off the press is the exciting news that the Australian Women's Team, comprising Margaret Bourke – Dagmar Neumann, Liz Havas – Candice Feitelson, and our own Cathy Mill - Cathie Lachman, has just won the Silver Medal at the Far East Championships in Shanghai.

The Victorian Open team (Chris Hughes – Adam Sarten, Jeff Fust – Wally Scott, Andrew Mill – Rob van Riel, npc Laurie Kelso) came so near and yet so far. They finished 250 imps clear of second in the qualifying, averaging +27 imps per match – an extraordinary performance.

Locked into the final with several rounds to go, the team even had the luxury of discussing whether to deliberately lose to a moderate ACT team, in order to prevent a strong NSW team making the final, a decision resolved in the negative.¹

The 25 imp carryover was not sufficient, as NSW swept past us to win by 85. Slams were a big problem, as we lost 7 slam swings whilst gaining only one, a problem from which there was no recovery.

As mentioned last month, there were two standout results in the Butler Trials, with Paula Schroor and Rena Kaplan winning the Women’s Butler, whilst Bob Gallus and Michael Dilks did likewise in the Seniors.

Our Seniors Team (Stan Klofa, Blaine Howe, Michael Chrapot, Miriam Tencer, George Gaspar, Henry De Jong, npc Boris Tencer) performed well, but not quite well enough, finishing third to narrowly miss out on the finals.

And the Youth (Nathan Howard, Ben Kingham, Martin Wardle, Jeremy Goldberg, Jeremy Rosen, Ivan Hu, npc Andrew Mill) finished 4th, only 10 imps from 3rd – a creditable and improving result.

Speaking of Youth ...

Bangkok

Perhaps the most significant bridge outcome in August occurred at the World Youth Championships held in Bangkok.

¹ This tactic is called “sportsmanlike dumping”, and is of course controversial. It has been done to death, so we won’t editorialize on it here. My only comment would be that if a team did choose to do it in the ANC, the best approach would be to simply forfeit the match, rather than play the match and attempt to throw imps, which strikes me as particularly undignified ... BJ

The World Youth Championships are played in two divisions: the Juniors for the Under 25s, and the Schools for the Under 20s.

The Juniors had a disappointing tournament, finishing 15th out of 18.

But the Schools team was outstanding, finishing equal 2nd out of 16 in the round-robin qualifying, before losing its semi-final to the powerful (and ultimately victorious) team from Israel.

This is a major result in a World Championship event, and half the Australian team was Victorian:

Justin Howard (son-of-Cathy), a 16 year-old secondary school student,

Peter Hollands, 18, studying 1st year Engineering at Monash University, and

Andy Hung, 19, studying 2nd year Aeronautical Engineering at Monash.

(The rest of the team was Adam and Nabil Edgtton from Sydney, and Michael De Livera from Canberra.)

Our hearty congratulations!



THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ AJ
 Dealer: S ♥ A652
 Vul: All ♦ J8632
 ♣ 52

♠ 42
 ♥ K9
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ AKJ1094

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♣	All pass	

The spade 6 is led to 6♣. Plan the play.

Solution on Page 8.

Congratulations to Alex, Eve and the Bridge Players' Café which recently was awarded a five star food safety rating by the Glen Eira City Council. The café on VBA premises is open during normal Club or State bridge sessions to the benefit of us all.

Our café serves a good range of delicious cakes and hot drinks and light lunches. Prior to your evening game, why not join your friends for a dinner plate from \$4.50 - \$10.00. Soups, pasta and meat dishes are winter favourites and in the summer months salads are also available. Occasionally a Hungarian speciality appears on the menu. See you soon at the Bridge Players' Café!



FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

The dog that barked in the night.

Inspector Gregory: "Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

Holmes: "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."

"The dog did nothing in the night time."

"That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes.

- From The Hound of the Baskervilles.

Of the many lines of reasoning in bridge, some of the most difficult to achieve relate to the dog that didn't bark in the night. The negative inference – the inference made when someone **doesn't** do something. There is no barking to alert you to the inference. If you can successfully make a negative inference, you are no longer a starter.

With that in mind, try the following three problems.

1.

- ♠ 1082
- ♥ AQ5
- ♦ 109743
- ♠ J9

You	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	

What do you lead to South's 5♣?

2.

- ♠ J9
 - ♥ J97
 - ♦ AQ1064
 - ♣ KJ5
- You
- ♠ A65
 - ♥ 4
 - ♦ KJ9872
 - ♣ A62

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads the club 10, declarer plays low from dummy, and follows low when you win the ace.

What do you play to trick 2?

3.

- ♠ QJ104
 - ♥ AQ102
 - ♦ AQ5
 - ♣ J6
- ♠ -
- ♥ 963
 - ♦ KJ10
 - ♣ AKQ10975

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	

A low trump is led to your 6♣. Plan the play.

Did you hear the silence of the dog on these problems? Let's see.

1.

	♠ KQ763		
	♥ 1084		
	♦ AQJ		
	♣ Q3		
♠ 1082		♠ A95	
♥ AQ5		♥ KJ976	
♦ 109743		♦ 852	
♠ J9		♣ 92	
	♠ J3		
	♥ 32		
	♦ K6		
	♣ AK108754		
You	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	

No one barked notrumps. North could have bid 3NT over 3♣. South, having heard his partner bid spades and diamonds, didn't bid 2NT over 2♦.

All that non-NT bidding suggests that hearts is a weakness for them, and, despite having the ♥AQ tenace, you should start with the heart ace, and try to cash out.

2.

	♠ J9		
	♥ J97		
	♦ AQ1064		
	♣ KJ5		
♠ 108742		♠ A65	
♥ 652		♥ 4	
♦ -		♦ KJ9872	
♠ 109743		♣ A62	
	♠ KQ3		
	♥ AKQ1083		
	♦ 53		
	♣ Q8		

Partner holds at most two diamonds, but has refused to lead one, instead choosing a wishy-washy club.

Your deduction? Partner must be void in diamonds not to lead one, and you should switch to a diamond (a high one, to show your side entry in spades) for partner to ruff.

As Holmes remarked on more than one occasion: "once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth".

It is impossible that partner wouldn't lead your suit if he had one!

3.

	♠ QJ104		
	♥ AQ102		
	♦ AQ5		
	♣ J6		
♠ K876		♠ A9532	
♥ 854		♥ KJ7	
♦ 9874		♦ 632	
♠ 82		♣ 43	
	♠ -		
	♥ 963		
	♦ KJ10		
	♣ AKQ10975		

There are two ways you can make 6♣: you can hope that LHO has one of the heart honours: finesse the heart 10, and if that loses to the jack, finesse the heart queen.

Or you can hope that RHO has one of the spade honours. Run the spade queen, and if that loses to West, later run the spade jack. A neat double-ruffing-finesse.

So it is a choice of two finesses or two ruffing finesses. All things being equal, these lines have exactly the same chance of success.

But all things *aren't* equal. The ruffing finesse line only fails if West has ♠AK and didn't lead one. The non-spade lead is the dog that didn't bark.

Points to remember ...

Watch out for these useful negative inferences:

- If they bid three suits, but not NT, they lack a stopper in the fourth suit.
- If partner doesn't lead your suit, he doesn't have any (this one's not 100% guaranteed by Lloyds of London).
- If opening leader doesn't lead from a sequence, then he hasn't got one.

WHEN 4NT IS A CUE-BID Ian McCance

Twenty-five years ago Robert Smart and I proposed that once a cue-bidding sequence had started, 4NT could usefully be employed as a cue-bid, showing ace or king in trumps.¹ The suggestion was linked to parity, 4NT showed specifically one key-card but not both.

To show both (or neither) 4NT is bypassed. At the next level 5NT, after either 4NT or bypass, shows the trump queen or extra length.

To illustrate the bypass and 5NT:

<p>♠ J107 ♥ AQ753 ♦ AQJ ♣ K6</p>	<p>♠ AK95432 ♥ KJ ♦ 3 ♣ AJ2</p>
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<p>1♥ 1NT a 3♥ c 4♦ d 5♥ f 6♣ h 7♠</p>	<p>1♠ 2♣ b 3♠ 5♣ e 5NT g 6♥ h</p>
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- a 15-18 HCP
- b enquiry
- c 17-18, 5 hearts
- d 3 spades, ♦A
- e the bypass – ♠AK, ♣A
- f ♥A
- g extra length
- h second control. East's 6♥ is logically ♥K - controls have been established, we are looking for source of tricks.

Over the years it is fair to say that trump cue-bids are far from universal. Felicity Beale-Diana Smart are practitioners, and have refined the first cue-bid to include 3NT when a suit has been firmly set, e.g., 1♠ – 3♠ – 3NT.

Last year's Bermuda Bowl was won by Italy, one of whose pairs are Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes.

I was intrigued to notice, not that they use trump cues (too much to expect), but that they harness 4NT to parity: see footnote (f) in this auction from the Bermuda Bowl.

Dealer: W	♠ A632	
Vul: Nil	♥ AKJ53	
	♦ KJ4	
	♣ 5	
♠ 1085		♠ 7
♥ 74		♥ Q1062
♦ Q1053		♦ 97
♣ KJ74		♣ A98632
	♠ KQJ94	
	♥ 98	
	♦ A862	
	♣ Q10	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠ a
Pass	3♠ b	Pass	3NT c
Pass	4♣ d	Pass	4♦ e
Pass	4♥ d	Pass	4NT f
Pass	6♠//		

- a game force
- b four-card support
- c minimum
- d control bid
- e diamond control, no club control
- f even number of keycards.

The Fantoni-Nunes system from the Bermuda Bowl archives lists RKCB and Turbo (without explanation). **Turbo** turns out to be it – using 4NT in cue-bidding. If you Google [turbo+bridge+convention](#), the first entry is a website with examples:

1♥	3♥ a
4♣ b	4♥ c
4NT d	etc

- a limit raise
- b control
- c no diamond control
- d TURBO = even key cards *and* diamond control

It looks like you have to be careful what you show by inference.

In this example, opener had:

♠ xx ♥ AKJxx ♦ A ♣ Axxxx

Go to it!

¹ Subsequently appearing as a lead article in the prestigious American Bridge World magazine ... BJ

NEGATIVE INFERENCES FOR ADVANCERS
Bill Jacobs

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| ♠ Q8762 | ♠ 1054 |
| ♥ K53 | ♥ AQ10876 |
| ♦ AJ1075 | ♦ K |
| ♣ - | ♣ 432 |
-
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ J93 | ♠ AK |
| ♥ J2 | ♥ 94 |
| ♦ 64 | ♦ Q9832 |
| ♠ KJ985 | ♣ AQ106 |

You	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

* fit-showing jump

West finds the heart jack lead to 5♦ - king, ace. How do you think the play should go? Decide for yourself before reading on.

Negative Inference

Suppose East does the simple thing ... continues with the queen and another top heart. Declarer ruffs this with the nine, and then when West fails to overruff, infers that West lacks the diamond king.

So diamond to the ace, and bingo.

Stop the Inference

So ... East, who with a bit of imagination can foresee all this, refuses to provide the inference. After two top hearts, he passively switches to a spade. Declarer, with no alarm bell ringing, takes the normal finesse in trumps (clearly the percentage play with three trumps outstanding), and goes down one.

Recover the Inference

But ... declarer wonders why East didn't continue with a third heart – how could he be sure that it wasn't cashing?

South can resurrect the inference by crossing to dummy with a club ruff and playing a third

heart himself! If *East* happens to ruff this with ♦K, then too bad ... the king was making anyway. But if East follows, and West discards when South ruffs high, then South knows that his only chance is to drop the singleton king off-side.

How should the play go?

An advanced East, playing against an advanced South, should realise that there is no way to stop South finding the inference. So probably the correct play is the simple one: return a third heart. If West should just happen to have a singleton ♦Q, then this is the only winning defence - and inferences be damned.



RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 I. McCance, B. Thompson, F. Beale, D. Smart, R. van Riel, G. Kilvington
- 2 S. Collins, M. Woods, T. Chira, D. Hohor
- 3 C. Chua, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, L. Gold

Team of Four Combo

- 1 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, B. Tencer, H. de Jong
- 2 L. Meyer, S. Arber, B. Kempthorne, A. Kempthorne, J. Dunstan
- 3 G. Gaspar, J. Gaspar, R. Thomson, J. Pettitt



Collective Nouns at Bridge

Bridge deserves its own set of collective nouns. Here are some suggestions:

- a **roundabout** of swings
- a **dunk** of slams
- a **commonwealth** of games
- an **exasperation** of preempts

Any more ideas?



Bridge for Life – Update

The campaign for the *Alzheimer’s Australia* fundraiser has received exceptional support from both metropolitan and regional clubs throughout the state.

It remains only for the members of the VBA to support our fundraiser night on **Thursday 14th September**.

Be there!

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ AJ
Dealer: S	♥ A652
Vul: All	♦ J8632
	♣ 52
♠ Q10763	♠ K985
♥ Q1097	♥ J84
♦ 97	♦ 1054
♣ 63	♣ Q87
	♠ 42
	♥ K9
	♦ AKQ
	♣ AKJ1094

There are two possible approaches.

You can take an immediate club finesse for your contract – we saw last month that finessing on the first round is better than finessing on the second round, because there are more combinations of Qxxx onside than Q singleton offside.

Or you can play two top clubs, then diamonds, hoping that if ♣Q is outstanding, then it will be in the hand with long diamonds. If so, you will be able to discard your spade loser on ♦J in time.

Comparing the two lines is difficult – perhaps some mathematically minded reader can help. Since I’m not sure which is best, I’ve laid the hand out so that *both* lines work – Mr Nice Guy.

You can consider to have solved the problem correctly if you saw both approaches.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ Q108
Vul: nil	♥ 2
	♦ K9876
	♣ AKQJ
♠ 65	♠ A97
♥ 98754	♥ AKQ63
♦ Q1052	♦ A
♣ 82	♣ 9764
	♠ KJ432
	♥ J10
	♦ J43
	♣ 1053

You don’t need to leave declarer to the test in diamonds. Declarer’s hand-shape is 52xx, so has 6 cards in minor suits. If you cash ♦A and exit a club he can’t reduce that hand-shape to hold only one diamond. So when he is forced to play ♦K you can trump it. +50 was little consolation when 4♥ made at the other table.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E	♠ 9854
Vul: both	♥ A85
	♦ K95
	♣ AQ6
♠ AKQJ	♠ 73
♥ J7	♥ 64
♦ 832	♦ AJ10764
♣ 9873	♣ K42
	♠ 1062
	♥ KQ10932
	♦ Q
	♣ J105

There must be a good chance that ♠Q will hold – partner might dredge up an overcall holding the 5 top spades. Planning is necessary for partner’s move at trick 4. If you ask for a diamond and partner leads ♦2 what would you do? ♦8? Don’t put yourself on the rack - best to ask for a club – ♣K with ♦A makes 5. When partner leads ♣3 you know ♦A will cash.

