

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2006

Editors: Ian McCance & Bill Jacobs

VIVE LE MATCHPOINTS

This bulletin is published as the Victorian Open Pairs is underway. This is the only decent (i.e. 6 session) matchpoint event left on the calendar, a matter of some concern.

Over recent years, matchpoint events have been subject to a hostile takeover by Swiss Pairs, scored asimps against a datum score. 10 years ago, if you played a Congress weekend, you would start with a 2-session matchpoint pairs on Saturday, followed by a 2-session Swiss teams on Sunday. It worked for me, with a nice combination of matchpoints andimps strategy.

Nowadays, it'simps,imps and more blastedimps. It's a trend for the worse in my view, as the tournament bridge population misses out on a beautiful form of bridge, where overtricks are critical, andnotrumps scores 10 points more.

Matchpoints is the pairs mechanism that is least prone to issues of luck. We've all played those imp-pairs rounds where we have been destroyed by the outrageous averages. "They bid two thin vulnerable games, and we lost 9imps on each – what could we do?" That sort of thing doesn't happen at matchpoints. The thin vulnerable games might give you 25% scores, but you can recoup that on other boards where you get a partscore or overtrick decision right.

Matchpoints: Bring Them Back! ... BJ

VBA NEWS Cathie Lachman

1. Board Dealing Machine

Our new board dealing machine has arrived. It's being commissioned and hopefully it won't be long until the cross over to the new machine takes places. The board dealers need familiarization and cards need to be sorted.

2. Entering Events Electronically

There are many ways to enter State and Club events. One of the most popular methods is electronic registration via the VBA website (www.vba.asn.au – Event Entries). If you enter an event using this facility ensure you have your ABF number/s handy and remember to hit the "Submit" button upon completion of the form. Successful entries will always be acknowledged with an e-mail. If in doubt please call me.

3. Library Donations

Many thanks to Robert Ellery, David Morgan, Henry Sawicki, Rachel Frenkel and Frankston Bridge Club for the generous donations to the Library. Have you visited the library lately?

4. Donation

Thank you to the estate of the late W.D. Herr for the donation of two wooden card boxes and cards. They are on display in the library.

5. Alzheimer's Fundraising

Thanks to all clubs both affiliated and non-affiliated who participated in this very successful fundraising activity. It certainly shows the generosity of players and the interest we have in supporting this charity. Of particular note is the hard work and dedication and time freely given by Councillors, Lyndy Hickman and Blaine Howe for the production and distribution of hand records and predealt boards and distribution of both. The photocopier was running full-time and trips to the post office were endless. A report on the amount of money raised will be given in the next bulletin.

6. Victorian Seniors Festival

The VBA is holding a duplicate bridge day including lunch on Friday 6th October commencing at 11.00 a.m. Cost \$4.00. Registration is essential. Come along and celebrate Seniors Week at the VBA.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Leading to Notrumps

Many years ago, when Jim and Norma Borin were at the ESU (English Speaking Union) in Toorak Road, they would run Supervised Duplicate sessions. These were ordinary duplicates for players just out of their classes. They were “supervised” in that one or two experienced players would roam the room, giving quiet advice when requested.

I spent some time acting as the “mentor” and it did seem to be a very effective teaching mechanism.

One incident sticks in my mind. A gentleman called me over and, with a big grin, showed me his hand:

- ♠ xxx
- ♥ Axxxx
- ♦ Axx
- ♣ xx

I looked at the bidding pad and saw that his opponents had bid to 6NT passed out, and he was on lead!

“I really should have doubled, shouldn’t I?” he said. I shrugged my shoulders and said “oh well – it doesn’t really matter”.

He led his 4th best heart! Declarer won this trick, and reeled off 11 more of them in spades and clubs.

As the supervisor, I wasn’t quite sure what to say after the play had been completed ... perhaps words were not necessary.



Where did that gentleman go wrong? Taking up bridge in the first place? Probably not: he had just been taught a rule – “fourth highest of your longest and strongest” – and applied it without further thought.

Playing by rules is a good way to get started at bridge. And leading low from your longest and strongest against notrump is a mighty fine rule.

Try the following lead problems to NT.

- ♠ 652
- ♥ 103
- ♦ 765
- ♣ KQ873

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Your lead?



Here is the full layout:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ A73 ♥ KJ87 ♦ 983 ♣ 1065 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ J94 ♥ Q954 ♦ AQ102 ♣ A4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ KQ108 ♥ A62 ♦ KJ4 ♣ J92 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 652 ♥ 103 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ873 |

The lead of your fourth best club will beat the contract unless declarer peeks. Declarer will put in the 9 (hoping that North has one of the king or queen, rather than specifically the 10), and now your club suit is established.

Defending against suits is about quickly cashing tricks, so ♣K is the normal lead.

Defending against NT is about slowly establishing a suit, so a low club is the normal lead.



Next one.

	♠ Q9		
	♥ 732		
	♦ K54		
	♣ AK962		
LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Similar auction. Your lead?

Here is the full layout:

	♠ 108654	
	♥ 864	
	♦ A76	
	♣ 73	
♠ A732		♠ KJ
♥ AQJ9		♥ K105
♦ J109		♦ Q832
♣ 54		♣ QJ108
	♠ Q9	
	♥ 732	
	♦ K54	
	♣ AK962	

Once again, the lead of a low club beats the contract, as long as your partner is wide awake and wins the first diamond trick to play a second club.

Look what happens if you start with a top club. Even if you continue with a low club, partner will not have any more clubs when in with the diamond ace.

It's a bit uncomfortable to lead a club into declarer's opening 1♣ bid – but 1♣ openings do not always have a genuine suit, so leading your long suit here still rates to be your best chance.

In both the above examples, you didn't know in advance why (or whether) leading low from your longest and strongest suit would work ... it's just that over the entire history of the game, it's been proven to be the best general approach.

Last one – a bit different.

♠ 52
♥ AKQ752
♦ 873
♣ 53

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			2♥*
D'ble**	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

* weak two opening
 ** takeout

Your lead?

Here is the full layout:

	♠ 108763	
	♥ 96	
	♦ K9	
	♣ QJ104	
♠ AQJ9		♠ K4
♥ 3		♥ J1084
♦ AQJ104		♦ 652
♣ K82		♣ A976
	♠ 52	
	♥ AKQ752	
	♦ 873	
	♣ 53	

Not too many people would lead a fourth best heart here, but it is the correct lead, and beats 3NT. Sooner or later, your partner will come in with the diamond king, and a second heart play will scuttle the contract.

If you think about it, the actual heart position (LHO with a singleton, RHO with four to the jack and therefore partner with a low doubleton) is easily the most likely layout. And if so, a low heart lead stands out.

Points to remember ...

Leading fourth best to notrump is not always successful but it rates to work best, because:

- it doesn't help declarer play the suit
- it maintains a link with partner

You can do a lot worse in this life than simply blindly lead low from your longest and strongest suit against notrumps.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ A1063
 Vul: N/S ♥ 9
 ♦ AKJ76
 ♣ QJ5

♠ K875
 ♥ KQJ87
 ♦ 83
 ♣ 62

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

You start ♥K and are pleased to see dummy's ♥9. Partner, playing standard count (alternatively, with no reason to encourage) plays ♥2, declarer ♥4. You continue ♥J, on which dummy's ♦6 is discarded, partner ♥6 and declarer ♥3.

What next?

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ 63
 Vul: nil ♥ A10
 ♦ KQ10943
 ♣ A82

♠ K75
 ♥ Q972
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 1063

West	North	East	South
			1NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

* 12-14 HCP

Partner begins ♠Q, which holds as you play ♠5, declarer ♠2. Partner's next card is ♠4 and your ♠K holds (declarer ♠8). How will you continue?

Solutions on page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan: "Some people bid three notrump over their partner's three-level suit bids on the theory that it's more dignified to go down in game"

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ 42
 Dealer: N ♥ K9
 Vul: All ♦ AKQ
 ♣ AKJ1094

♠ AJ
 ♥ A652
 ♦ J8632
 ♣ 52


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

After three months of trying, you finally get to the correct contract of 6♦ on this layout.

The inevitable spade is led to the queen and ace. When you play a diamond, LHO shows out! That's what you get for good bidding.


What now? Solution on Page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣



Directors' Course

Saturday 2nd December 2006



Conducted by Dr. Laurie Kelso
 Victorian Chief Tournament Director
 At the Victorian Bridge Association
 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

10.00 am to 5.30 p.m.
COST : \$70.00

Affiliated Clubs are invited to send one ABF registered member at no cost

All enquiries and registrations to Cathie
 (T) 03-9530-9006, (F) 03-9530-9212
 or e-mail clachman@vba.asn.au

The Bridge Players' Café will be open for lunch,
 coffee & cakes

BOOK REVIEW
I LOVE THIS GAME ... BY SABINE AUKEN

This is a delightful book. Germany's top woman player sets the scene: the last segment of 16 boards in the final of the Venice Cup, 2001, with Germany 47 IMPs down against France. The reader follows board by board: each has its own chapter, in which Auken discourses on topics raised by the deal.

The early discussions of the mini (10-12 HCP) notrump and trick opening 2-bids make clear her insistence on making life difficult for opponents.

Never mind that 11 of the boards were essentially flat, there's always a talking point, illustrated by examples, mostly involving the author. Of particular interest is the discussion of the relative merits of count and attitude in Chapter 6: this goes on to consider the question of when, if ever, to give false signals.

Leads were important in this match. Here Germany picked up 12 IMPs:

Dealer: E Vul: N/S ♠ KQ93 ♥ A32 ♦ 864 ♣ 752	♠ J1087 ♥ J5 ♦ K72 ♣ A863	♠ 642 ♥ Q1064 ♦ QJ53 ♣ 94
	♠ A5 ♥ K987 ♦ A109 ♣ KQJ10	

West Pass Pass	North 1♠ 3NT#	East Pass Pass All Pass	South 1♣* 1NT^
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* 16+ HCP; ^ relay: # 8-10 HCP, 4 spades

This auction left Auken declarer. Her hand-shape was unrevealed, and it seemed to West that she quite likely held a long suit and was relying on North for stoppers in spades. She started ♠3 and ♠7 held. Auken led ♥J at trick two to develop the necessary trick in hearts, confident (from East's ♠2) that the

defence could establish only 2 tricks in spades, +600.

At the other table:

West Pass Pass	North 2♣* 3NT	East Pass Pass All pass	South 1NT 2♥
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*Stayman

Pony Nehmert went with her better minor, ♦6 to ♦9, ♦J and ♦K. Declarer crossed in clubs to lead ♥J (♥Q, ♥K, ♥A). Nehmert continued a diamond (her partner had followed ♣9 to say "I like diamonds") ducked to ♦Q. This was an error – she had the same inference available to Auken, that the defence could establish only two tricks in the suit led (the ♦6 lead could not be a true 4th best). Andrea Rauscheid switched to a spade and that was –100.

Deal #16 was another lead problem, that could have reversed the result of the final.

You hold:

♠ 642 ♥ 9543 ♦ 1087 ♣ 632

It's your lead to (essentially) 1NT – 3NT. The author and her French counterpart both led a heart, 600, and no swing. A spade beats it.

So Germany won by 2 IMPs.

... I. McC

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master Club Master Local Master Local Master* Regional Master State Master *National Master	Saul Vardi Esther Goldberg Patricia Grieves Pamela Craig Beverley Bram Peter Yuill Bert Van Eijk Joe Eisenberger Matylda Nadler John Yang Susan Lines
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THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ 42	
Dealer: N	♥ K9	
Vul: All	♦ AKQ	
	♣ AKJ1094	
♠ K8763		♠ Q1095
♥ J9743		♥ Q10
♦ -		♦ 109743
♣ Q87		♣ 63
	♠ AJ	
	♥ A652	
	♦ J8632	
	♣ 52	

You cannot afford to have to ruff a club – you will eventually run out of trumps. For a full analysis, refer to page 9.

So go all out in the clubs ... heart to the ace, then club finesse, and clubs from the top, and see how you go.

Traps to avoid:

- you must hold the heart king in dummy – in some scenarios, that will be your final entry to enjoy clubs
- when in your hand with an overruff, return to dummy with a trump
- if East ruffs a club with the nine or ten, then discard a loser; if East ruffs a club low, then overruff

SHANGHAIED –
AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER
Cathie Lachman

During August I had the honour and pleasure of representing Australia at the 44th PABF Championships held in Shanghai. After a 13 hour flight, an interesting cab ride and a stop at the wrong hotel I finally arrived at the right hotel and was greeted by a concerned Cathy Mill sitting in the lobby.

Taxi rides in Shanghai are a nail biting experience. Whilst there is no road rage, "anything goes". The funniest experience was a day when Cathy and I were returning from The Bund on the expressway when the taxi driver, simply pulled over, got out of the cab, and relieved himself on the road side – "I hope he's turned the meter off" was Cathy's reaction!

After a couple of days of rest (aka shopping!) Cathy and I warmed up in the Pairs - we didn't star. The Opening Ceremony was upon us. The organization of both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies was outstanding – simply beautiful. The table decorations, service and warmth of the Chinese was sheer indulgence although I didn't indulge myself on duck's tongue, eel or jellyfish.

The weather was extremely hot and humid and when it rained it poured and it became hotter as the steam rose from the bitumen. I did lots of walking and my "berkies" were well worn by the time I returned. One of the most delightful experiences I discovered was Chinese massage at the Blindman Massage Centre. The government has set up massage centres throughout Shanghai for visually impaired residents. They are accommodated in adjoining apartment blocks and derive their income from working as masseurs. The first day Cathy and I went along, I was greeted by an albino Chinese. I gasped, I have never seen an albino but his massage was exquisite. He quickly learned the phrase "tomorrow" as Cathy and I became regulars. On my last visit he said "tomorrow" but alas I had to say "no". He and I were both disappointed.

Shanghai is full of history, markets, seedy backstreets, wealth, poverty, bicycles, mopeds, taxis and bargains. "Hey sister", "lady lady", "special Chinese price" are shouted along all of the market streets. Most traders are aggressive and urge you into their stores.

Cathy and I became proficient Metro users. Public transport is very cheap and very crowded. Armed with a metro map we were able to find our way around. The trains are colour coded with matching interiors. The underground network is amazing, tunnel after tunnel to walk through as you make your way to a connecting platform. One day Cathy and I remained underground all day as we discovered a subterranean market. European travellers are rare and obvious and, whilst air conditioned, the trains are hot. There is constant babble. I discovered the best place to stand was in the middle of the carriages on the metal plates – there was a constant flow of air which made the travel tolerable – these spots were never taken.

The bridge organization was a credit to the officials and sitting at a table displaying the Australian flag was simply awesome. Being Shanghaied was a wonderful experience, my team mates, captain and especially Cathy and of course the result meant it will remain precious for a long time.

Here is a hand I enjoyed bidding and which Cathy played in about 30 seconds after dummy hit. It was from Round 1 against Japan.

Dealer: E ♠ AK
 Vul: All ♥ A108
 ♦ 106
 ♣ Q109432

♠ J1086432 ♥ 953 ♦ 752 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ AJ7642 ♦ KQJ8 ♣ J65
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♠ Q975
 ♥ K
 ♦ A943
 ♣ AK87

West	North C. Mill	East	South C. Lachman
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT**	Pass	6♥#
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

* splinter
 ** we have all key cards – interested in grand slam
 # ♥K and something else

Cathy and I were the only pair in the ladies division who bid 7♣ for 2140. In the closed room the contract was 4♠ for +200 and 20 imps to Australia. The datum was NS 1300.

NEW FACES

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Bianca Chambers	Graham Lasky
Michele Lasky	Myra Mortenson-Williams
Ken Pearson	Reginald Rich
Susan Small	John Spender
Anne Taylor	

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
 Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ A1063
 Vul: N/S ♥ 9
 ♦ AKJ76
 ♣ QJ5

♠ K875 ♥ KQJ87 ♦ 83 ♣ 62	♠ QJ9 ♥ 652 ♦ Q92 ♣ 10873
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♠ 42
 ♥ A1043
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ AK94

What do you make of declarer's discarding a diamond – has she another source of tricks? Have you been watching the heart spots? I hope you play count – if you do you will have missed ♥5. Partner has it, and has elected to play ♥6. You should switch to a spade.

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ 63
 Vul: nil ♥ A10
 ♦ KQ10943
 ♣ A82

♠ QJ1094 ♥ 853 ♦ 76 ♣ KJ9	♠ K75 ♥ Q972 ♦ A85 ♣ 1063
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♠ A82
 ♥ KJ64
 ♦ J2
 ♣ Q754

It looks as if partner's spades can be set up, but clearly YOU have the crucial entry and it may be too late for the spades. Is there a useful switch?

If there is, the only possibility for two fast tricks to go with your two spades and ♦A is in clubs. If you found ♣10 at trick 3 you go on Setting Trick's Roll of Honour.

So declarer, not vul, was one HCP light – hasn't this happened before?

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

AUSTRALIA-WIDE NOVICE PAIRS 2006

On 25th July, the VBA conducted a heat of the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs hosted by Australian Bridge. This year attracted 12 tables a considerable increase from last year. To enter each player had to be on or below the ranking of Local Master one star.

Notable performances from the VBA Heat were:

Overall Australian Results:

17th Michele Collette & Simone Murray (65.4%)
 19th Martin Wardle & Jeremy Rosen (65.2%)

and VBA members:

54th Robin Rawson & Geoff Stanning (60.6%)
 75th Tim Blizard & Mary Bertuna (59.3%)

Congratulations on a fine result.



RECENT RESULTS

Grand Prix Pairs

1 S. Stock – N. McManamny
 2= E. Hardy – R. Ellery
 2= S. Tishler – J. Leach

Victorian Seniors Teams

1 S. Klofa, B. Howe, R. Gallus, M. Dilks
 2 S. Gerdan, J. Selwyn, G. Gaspar, J. Gaspar
 3 B. Tencer, H. de Jong, M. Tencer, M. Chrapot

Open Interstate Stage 1

N/S

1 N. Ewart - B. Howe
 2 E. Kaplan – G. Gaspar
 3 I. McCance – B. Thompson

E/W

1 C. Chua – S. Hinge
 2 P. Hollands – J. Howard
 3 P. Corrigan – L. Hickman



Join Joan Butts for a day of Bridge

Victorian Bridge Association

131 Poath Rd, Murrumbeena

Friday 17th November 2006

Joan hails from Brisbane and is the official teacher of bridge in Queensland. Additionally she has owned and operated a bridge club there for 17 years. She has a BA, Dip Ed & Dip Ed Psych from the University of Qld, has written bridge books for beginners and intermediates and has introduced thousands to the game. As a player she has represented Australia and Queensland many times. Her passion is teaching bridge, from beginner to advanced and she aims to create an atmosphere of fun for the students while using a hands-on straight forward approach.

The Day

10.30am – 12.30 pm - Intermediate Lesson with Joan – “**New Bidding Techniques**”

12.30 pm – 1.00 pm - Lunch

1.00 pm – 4.30 pm - Duplicate game of bridge using pre-dealt boards with hand records followed by discussion of interesting hands using Vu-Graph Bridge Movies with commentary by Blaine Howe.

\$30.00 for the day including lunch

Registration - Notice Board at VBA ~ e-m clachman@vba.asn.au or Tel: 9530-9006