

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2007

Editor: Bill Jacobs

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2007

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WHAT'S NEW IN 2007

Here are a few topics that you can expect to see canvassed in the VBA Bulletin this year:

- Slam bidding. As promised in the last issue, we will pick over the remains of Victorian slam bidding in both the GNOC and ANC finals, and see if we can learn something.
- Matters of ethics. Several members have asked for guidance on the various tricky ethical problems that can arise.
- Operating bidding boxes. Traps to avoid.

What else would you like to see in the Bulletin? Email bill.jacobs@quest.com or write to the VBA.



BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS

FOR STUDENTS

at the VBA

When?	Tuesdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 6 th March
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms (Melway 60 C6) 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee
Cost?	\$20 with Student Card - 6 weeks of 2 hour lessons - 4 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$28)
Registration?	Phone Cathie: 9530-9006 or E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au
Teacher:	Jeff Fust
Transport:	Train: Hughesdale Station (3 min walk, head south along Poath Road) Bus: 767 get off at the Cnr of Poath Rd & Stewart St.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Spots not just for leopards

It's a big step for starters on defence: watching the spot cards that partner plays and attributing meaning to them – and playing meaningful spot cards yourself.

It's a matter of concentration and short-term memory, but the rewards are huge.

The most basic of spot card signals is **high-low with a doubleton**: it might be part of a count structure (play high-low with an even number or low-high with an odd number), or an attitude structure (high = I like that suit, because I might get a ruff). The signal has several names: an echo and a peter¹ amongst them. Whatever its name, you cannot do without it.

Almost as useful is the **suit-preference signal**, or McKenney². This is where you play a high spot card to indicate preference for a high suit (where spades is the highest, and clubs is the lowest), or a low card to indicate preference for a low suit.

Let's see both these signals in action:

Dealer: S	♠ 64		
Vul: nil	♥ 8532		
	♦ K1082		
	♣ K107		
		♠ 32	
		♥ J10	
		♦ Q7653	
		♣ QJ92	

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

Against 3♥, your partner leads the spade ace, and you start a high-low/echo/peter by playing the 3, declarer plays the 5. Next comes the spade king, 2 from you, 7 from declarer.

¹ The origin of the term "peter" is "blue peter", a blue flag with a white square in the centre, flown to signal that a ship is ready to sail.
² Origin: Mr McKenney.

Now partner plays the spade 10, declarer ruffs with the heart 8, you over-ruff with the 10, and declarer follows with the spade jack. What now?

You have three tricks – two to go. If you can get partner back in with a minor suit ace, then he can lead another spade, and you can overruff dummy again for the setting trick. But which minor ace will partner have?

The spade 10 told the story – it is a high card indicating a suit preference for a high suit. In this case, there are only two suits of interest: clubs and diamonds, the higher of these is diamonds, and you should return a diamond. The full layout:

Dealer: S	♠ 64		
Vul: nil	♥ 8532		
	♦ K1082		
	♣ K107		
	♠ AK1098		♠ 32
	♥ 94		♥ J10
	♦ AJ		♦ Q7653
	♣ 8653		♣ QJ92
		♠ QJ75	
		♥ AKQ76	
		♦ 94	
		♣ A7	

Partner wins the diamond ace, and plays a fourth spade.

Without the suit preference it's all guesswork.

Suit preference signals can arise in all sorts of situations. In this hand from the final round of the Christmas Teams, the defence was botched at both tables in the match between first and third. See how you go.

Dealer: S	♠ 8		
Vul: all	♥ 2		
	♦ AK653		
	♣ K98542		
	♠ 5		
	♥ Q94		
	♦ QJ8742		
	♣ Q76		

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♣	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead your spade, low, queen ace. Declarer now plays the spade 3, you ruff, dummy discards a club, and partner follows with the two.

What now?

At the match at table 1 of the Christmas Teams, one defender played a trump now, whilst the other played a diamond. Red faces all round, as the full deal was:

Dealer: S	♠ 8		
Vul: all	♥ 2		
	♦ AK653		
	♣ K98542		
♠ 5		♠ KQ7642	
♥ Q94		♥ J10	
♦ QJ8742		♦ 109	
♣ Q76		♣ AJ10	
	♠ AJ1093		
	♥ AK87653		
	♦ -		
	♣ 3		

On a trump switch, declarer drew trumps and lost a spade and a club for 620. The diamond lead fared even worse – an overtrick for 650.

And all along, a club switch would have scuppered the contract – East wins, and plays another low spade ruffed by West. As long as the defence now hold declarer off dummy, there is further spade to lose for down one.

The spade two was such an eloquent card: it said – “partner I have clubs”. Perhaps West thought East was just following suit – what a pity.

In summary, there are many imps, matchpoints and masterpoints to be had if you are prepared to work the spot cards. However, it requires considerable mental energy.

It is actually easier to *issue* spot card signals than to *receive* them. In the second hand, both Easts had no problem playing the spade 2 ... they knew they wanted partner to play a club next. But partner didn't receive the message.

You really have to be concentrating. To see why, go back to the first hand. Suppose partner, holding the club ace rather than the diamond ace, had led spade ace-king, and followed with the *eight* – his lowest outstanding spade, to signal for a club switch.

The eight is not all that low a card - would you as East have recognized it as low? Only if you could remember back to tricks 1 and 2, where every card below the eight had already been played. In describing the play, I listed the spot cards for you – were you watching and thinking about them?

Expression of Interest

Victoria appoints two delegates to the ABF for a three year term where they act as Councillors. Their terms of office are staggered with one of the positions becoming available in March 2007. Victorian delegates are appointed by the VBA Council. Potential appointees must be a member of an affiliated Victorian Bridge Club and should have experience in bridge administration. This is an honorary position.

Expressions of interest are invited by Wednesday 28th February, 2007.

Please register your interest with the VBA Manager
Cathie Lachman
Telephone: 9530 9006
E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au

Jean Hall
Secretary

Suit combination of the month

You are at notrumps with

32	(dummy)
AJ1054	(hand)

You need 3 tricks from this suit. How do you play it with unlimited entries to hand and:

- i) no entries to dummy (medium)
- ii) one entry to dummy (hard)
- iii) two entries to dummy (easy)

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ 1074
 Vul: nil ♥ J42
 ♦ KQ542
 ♣ 42

♠ 6
 ♥ Q1085
 ♦ 93
 ♣ AQJ873

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

Your partner leads ♣6 to your ♣A, and declarer's ♣5. What would partner need for the defence to have a chance? What is your next card?

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ A1032
 Vul: nil ♥ -
 ♦ KQ85
 ♣ J10732

♠ 9
 ♥ Q8653
 ♦ A73
 ♣ AQ94

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

* 4th suit game forcing

You decide to start with a low heart. Partner wins ♥A and returns ♥7, ♥J and your ♥Q. Dummy's ♣32 were discarded on the hearts. It looks as if you have set up 3 heart tricks for declarer, but you can see 4 tricks. Where to look for the fifth?

Solutions on page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

FOR MULTI-ISTS Bill Jacobs

Your partner opens a 2♦ multi, and you hold one of these two hands:

1. ♠ K103 ♥ K107532 ♦ AQ ♣ K10
2. ♠ AQ5 ♥ AQJ92 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ43

Both these hands came up recently at the VBA – hand 1 in the GNOT Metropolitan Final and hand 2 in the Victorian Open Pairs. The common thread of each hand is that it wants to declare, to protect its tenaces.

How to achieve that?

The player holding hand 1 was prepared to bet that partner held spades (how likely was he to have a 6-6 heart fit?) and simply bid 4♠ over 2♦. This was the full deal:

	♠ 9
	♥ AJ9864
	♦ 9732
	♣ 42
♠ AQ87642	♠ J5
♥ -	♥ Q
♦ J4	♦ K10865
♣ A953	♣ QJ876
	♠ K103
	♥ K107532
	♦ AQ
	♣ K10

4♠ by South on the 3-1 fit was not a success.

But South had the right idea – Deep Finesse says that 5♥ by South makes, but 10 tricks is the limit should North declare hearts. And this might be relevant if E/W bid up to 4♠.

For hand 2, see Twelfth Trick.

How to solve this problem of positioning the declarer? Neither a pass-or-correct bid nor 2NT (in most methods) can reliably get the job done.

There's a simple solution: a 4♣ response to a 2♦ multi should ask partner to bid the suit *below* his long suit – then responder can declare in the long suit.

No multi-ist should be without this device.

The VBA regrets the passing of the following Victorians:

Richard Iser died on Tuesday 2nd January after a short illness. He was the Director of the Bendigo Bridge Club, a strong advocate in the promotion of bridge and a regular attendee at many congresses. He will be sadly missed by the bridge community.

Anna Braham, a long standing member, died in early January. Anna was a regular day time player and had experienced illnesses during 2006. She will be missed by her many friends.

Peter Kibby, Owner of the Global Bridge Centre, passed away on Tuesday 16th January. The VBA members, committee and staff extend condolences to Peter's family and friends.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Matchpoints ♠ K98764
 Dealer: N ♥ 3
 Vul: All ♦ A10
 ♣ J1086

 ♠ AQ5
 ♥ AQJ92
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ43

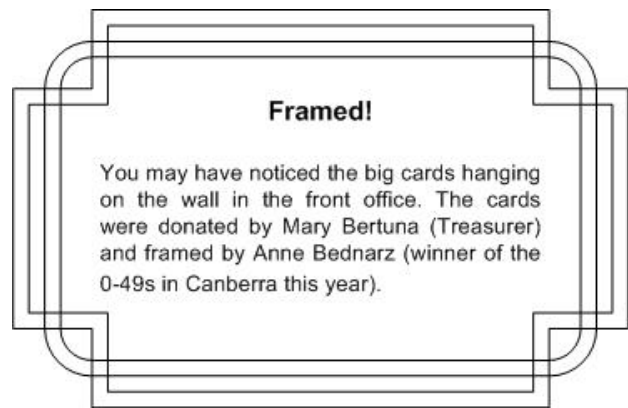
West	North	East	South
	2♦*	Pass	4♣**
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* multi
 ** please bid the suit below your suit

The diamond queen is led to 6♠. Plan the play.

Solution on Page 6.

Vanessa James from Manchester, a regular visitor to Australia, and Rosanne Sansom from Central London have been playing together in the daytime duplicates demonstrating yet again it's a small world and that bridge is an international passport.



RECENT RESULTS

Christmas Teams

- 1 C. Chua, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, L. Gold, I. McCance, B. Thompson
- 2 B. Tencer, V. Goldberg, H. de Jong, S. Arber
- 3 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, L. Meyer, P. Moritz

VBA Mixed Pairs

- 1 B. Bennett – S. Stock
- 2 B. Rosenberg – B. Rosenberg
- 3 G. Hill – M. Yuill

VBA Unmixed Pairs

- 1 B. Tencer – L. Meyer
- 2 B. Howe – R. Gallus
- 3 A. Paul – B. Jaffrey

VBA Summer Congress

Pairs

- 1 K. Chan – T. Lee
- 2 J. Day – M. Spurrier
- 3 J. Eddie – A. Paul

Teams

- 1 N. Ewart, B. Howe, F. Beale, R. van Riel
- 2 P. Moritz, L. Meyer, P. Schroor, D. Sheather
- 3 R. Livingston, M. Woods, M. Hickey, Q. van Abbe



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:
 "Twice doubled, twice made. The double seems to be the Good Housekeeping seal of approval in this match."

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ 1074
 Vul: nil ♥ J42
 ♦ KQ542
 ♣ 42

♠ J5	♠ 6
♥ K93	♥ Q1085
♣ A10876	♦ 93
♣ 1096	♣ AQJ873

♠ AKQ9832
 ♥ A76
 ♦ J
 ♣ K5

The opponents' system must call for a response of 1NT on a variety of hands, some stronger than what you see in dummy.

But blabbermouth on your left has told you he controls clubs – no point in continuing. The only practical switch is to hearts, so ♥5 it is. You are rewarded when partner turns up with ♥Kxx and ♦A.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ A1032
 Vul: nil ♥ -
 ♦ KQ85
 ♣ J10732

♠ 9	♠ Q8654
♥ Q8653	♥ A72
♦ A73	♦ 942
♣ AQ94	♣ 86

♠ KJ7
 ♥ KJ1094
 ♦ J106
 ♣ K5

Partner's ♥A was a bonus – not much more over there. However he could just hold a King. If it's spades, well and good, it's a trick. If it's clubs we'd better start them. ♣4 is the solution, catering also for no tricks from partner but only ♣Kx with South.



2006 Most Improved

Congratulations to Andy Hegedus who won the Victorian overall "Most Improved" award for 2006.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Matchpoints ♠ K98764
 Dealer: N ♥ 3
 Vul: All ♦ A10
 ♣ J1086

♠ 3		♠ J102
♥ K10876		♥ 54
♦ QJ9		♦ K875432
♣ K752		♣ 9

♠ AQ5
 ♥ AQJ92
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ43

It's the easy hands that sometimes get you. It looks like 12 or 13 tricks depending on the club finesse, but if you muck up trick 2, you go down in 6♠.

You must not forget to ruff a diamond at trick 2. Then you will be able to draw trumps (ruffing a heart to get to dummy) and take the club finesse in peace.

If you carelessly play a spade at trick 2, you will end up in a mess, and likely go down.



Suit combination of the month

32
 AJ1054

for three tricks:

With no entry to dummy, play the ace and then a *low* one, hoping for a 3-3 break or someone with Kx or Qx.

With one entry to dummy, do the same thing: (A) ace and a low one, ignoring the entry! The alternative play (B) is to finesse the jack with your entry then play the ace. (A) gains over (B) if LHO has Kx or Qx (8 holdings). (B) gains over (A) if LHO has xx (6 holdings). You need to know your combinatorial statistics! Yes, you can use your entry to dummy for one of the (A) plays, to tempt RHO to split from KQxx.

With two entries to dummy, use them to finesse the suit twice, and curse your bad luck if LHO started with precisely KQ doubleton.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Toni Alfredson Jeff Batten Bianca Chambers Endra Che-Kahn Marcel Dayan Tony Housepeters Kay Levy Robin Levy John Makinson John Spender
Club Master	Pat Makinson Robin Rawson Francis Rose
Local Master	Rene Leske Steve Tiomkin
Local Master*	Richard Carter Valerie Trice
Regional Master	Ken Trolland
State Master	Dinny Downie
State Master*	Christina Macquarrie
National Master*	William Pattison
Life Master	Max Kestin
Bronze Life Master	Penny Corrigan Brian Robinson
Gold Life Master	Robert Ellery Franci Halmso
Grand Master	Susie Pick
Silver Grand Master	Terry Strong

NATIONAL McCUTCHEON RESULTS

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

Overall:

5th Blaine Howe (VBA)
8th Bob Gallus (VBA)

Silver Grand Masters:

5th Blaine Howe (VBA)
7th Bob Gallus (VBA)

Grand Masters:

9th Michael Dilks (VBA)

Gold Life Masters:

3rd Jill Magee (VBA)

Silver Life Masters:

6th Margaret Yuill (VBA)
8th Jeff Fust (Alphington)

Bronze Life Masters:

6th Judy Banks (Bairnsdale)
7th Phyllis Moritz (Borin BC)

Life Masters:

5th Paul Hill (Yarra Valley)
8th Claire Lee (Bairnsdale)

**National Masters:

3rd Bill Bennett (Waverley)

*National Masters:

2nd Justin Howard (Alphington)
5th Alister Murray (Borin BC)
6th George Lowrecz (Melb BC)

National Masters:

4th Andy Hung (Youth)

*State Masters:

1st Andy Hegedus (VBA)
10th Janet Hill (Waverley)

State Masters:

4th Helen Stewart (Yarra Valley)
9th Andrew Morcombe (Youth)

*Regional Masters:

5th Madeline Zafir (VBA)

**Local Masters

3rd Peter Hollands (Youth)

*Local Masters:

4th Ben Kingham (Youth)
9th Reginald Bond (Frankston)

Local Masters:

2nd Kate Bechet (Mornington)

Graduate Masters:

3rd Jeremy Goldberg (VBA)
7th Martin Wardle (Geelong)

Nil Masters:

2nd Midori Kaneko (Southern)



SUMMER FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

Some impressive results from Canberra, in approximate chronological order:

National Women's Teams:

Semi-finalists: Paula Schroor, Rena Kaplan and Cathy Mill

Runners-up: Jenny Thompson, Sally Murray-White and Helen Snashall

Winners: Felicity Beale and Diana Smart (with Margaret Bourke, Dagmar Neumann, Therese Tully and Sue Lusk).



Felicity Beale



Diana Smart

Senior's Teams:

Runner-up: Chris Hughes

0-49er Teams:

Winners: Ann Bednarz, Lizzie Williams, Sylvia Heimer and Mary Bertuna

Mixed Pairs:

Winners: Viv Goldberg and Michael Chrapot



Australian Mixed Teams:

Winners: Neil Ewart and Blaine Howe (with Alida Clark, Liz Havas, Candice Feitelson and Peter Rogers)

National Swiss Pairs:

Winners: Justin Stark and Leigh Gold



National Open Teams:

Round of 16:

Gary Ridgway and Arthur Robbins
Neil Ewart and Blaine Howe

Quarter Finalists:

David Morgan
Justin Howard and Andy Hung

Semi Finalist:

Andrew Mill

Gripe Corner

Editorialship has its privileges. It allows me to write this.

What were the organizers of the National Open Teams in Canberra thinking? After qualifying 16 teams from the Swiss, they talked themselves into producing a most foolish format for the finals. This involved a 32-board quarter final with random pairings, which as it turned out created a marquee match between the original 1 and 3 seeds (Oz-One and Brogeland): two teams that had run 1st and 2nd in their section.

The NOT is one of the world's best events. It can be handled better than setting up such ridiculously short quarter finals.

... BJ