

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2007

Editor: Bill Jacobs

Carole Rothfield

The Victorian bridge community is saddened by the passing of Carole Rothfield on April 23rd. Carole was a fine bridge player (she played for the Australian Open Team with husband Jessel in 1997 and 1999) and a wonderful person – a delight to be with.



To illustrate Carole's prowess as a player, here is a snippet of a hand I played many years ago, partnering Jim Borin. I declared 4♠, and Carole was on lead (I don't recall her partner – it wasn't Jessel). She led the club queen, and this was my club holding:

♣Q led
♣ Kx
♣ 10x

I covered the ♣Q with the king, losing to the ace of course. A club was played back to Carole's ♣J, and she now found the difficult killing switch, duly defeating 4♠.

At the scoreup, Jim berated my declarer play. "You shouldn't have covered with ♣K", he said, "as that meant Carole won the second club. She's going to find the winning switch – her partner might not have." ... BJ

Victor Champion Cup – Be There!

Thursday June 7 and Friday June 8:
Women's Swiss Pairs (playoff points!)
Seniors Swiss Pairs (playoff points!)
Restricted Swiss Pairs (< 100 masterpoints)

Saturday, Sunday, Monday June 9-11:
Victor Champion Cup (playoff points!)

Gold points available for ALL events

Entry forms are at your local club, or from
<http://www.abf.com.au/events/vcc/index.html>

LEST WE FORGET Blaine Howe

This is the title of a letter to the editor in the November 2006 issue of Bridge World, the world's premier bridge magazine.

The subject of whether there should be any sanctions for players who just plain forget their agreements is an issue that has been debated many times. My views about this have certainly softened over the years, especially during the organisation of the Bridge for Life event last year when I had many discussions with people about who plays bridge and why.

The letter and the reply by the editor below state a sensible position I wholeheartedly support.

Letter:

"Regarding the August Editorial on penalizing forgetfulness: Some reports place the average age of tournament bridge players in the mid- to upper-sixties. Our leagues are organizations of senior citizens. We forget things. Some of the things we can forget are bridge conventions, even in experienced partnerships. To assess penalties for forgetfulness would penalize a lot of innocent old fogies and probably antagonize them as well."

Editor's Reply:

"Good point! We ... um ... forgot about that."



2007 Autumn Day Pairs
3 week Red Point Day Time
Pairs Event!

It's on again a daytime Red Point Event!

Come Along and Earn Red Points!

Matchpoint Pairs

Thursday Mornings May 10, 17 and 24

Entry Fee: \$10.00

Table Fees: \$8 Members \$10 Non Members



FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Counting Points in the Play

One of the most important transitions from starter to advancer is in drawing inferences from the opponents' bidding (and play). The most basic of these is counting an opponent's high-card points and comparing the result with his bidding.

We'll go into Groundhog Day mode, and play the same hand three times:

Dealer: E ♠ J1042
Vul: nil ♥ J52
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ KJ107

 ♠ AQ9873
 ♥ 76
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ 82

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	???	2♠
		All Pass	

In each case your side's bidding is the same, as is the initial defence: West leads ♥10, and East wins with ♥Q, and follows with ♥A, ♥K, which you ruff. You now have to negotiate the spades and clubs for just one loser to make your optimistic 4♠ contract.

Auction 1: East has opened 1NT, showing 15-17 points. How do you play it?

Count East's points. 9 points shown in hearts, you hope and pray he has the spade king, that's 12 points. For him to get into the 15-17 range he has shown, he must have precisely the club ace, and not the queen.

So cross to dummy in diamonds, finesse the spades and draw trumps, and play a club to the *jack*.

Success, as East started with:

♠ Kx ♥ AKQ ♦ xxxx ♣ Axxx

It's an easy game.

Auction 2: East has opened 1NT, showing 12-14 points. How do you play it?

Count East's points. 9 points shown in hearts, you hope and pray he has the spade king, that's 12 points. For him to get into the 12-14 range he has shown, he cannot have the club ace.

So cross to dummy diamonds, finesse the spades and draw trumps, and play a club to the *king*.

Success, as East started with:

♠ Kx ♥ AKQ ♦ xxxx ♣ Qxxx

It's an easy game.¹

Auction 3: East has passed originally. You open a weak 2♠ and are raised to game. How do you play it?

Count East's points. 9 points shown in hearts, but he didn't open the bidding. Therefore he almost certainly won't have the spade king (that would give him 12 points and an opening bid), and he certainly won't have the club ace.

So bang down the spade ace, and nod wisely when West follows with the king – it's only what you deserve. Follow up with a club to the *king*.

Success, as East started with:

♠ xx ♥ AKQ ♦ xxxx ♣ Qxxx

This was not so obvious, as it is very easy to overlook that little initial pass by East, a pass that tells you how to play the contract. You then had to make an inference that the only chance was a singleton king of spades offside, and follow it up with the correct play in clubs.

If you made 4♠ on Auction 3, you are no longer a starter.

¹ There was an alternative holding to hope for: East holding ♠ xx ♥ AKQ ♦ xxxx ♣ Axxx, but finding the singleton ♠K off-side is a lot less likely than East having it, and West with the club ace.

Point to remember?

Routinely counting your opponents' points when declaring is a matter of practice. Of course you also need to do it when defending.


There is really no magic point to remember here: it is a matter of work ethic and concentration to get full value from this aspect of the game.



Suit combination of the month

AKJ5432
76

Nothing too complicated about this. How many ways are there to play it?



Email Updates

Each time we send out email distributions to members, we get some copies that bounce. This can be for any number of reasons. If it is because you have changed your email address, and you have not notified us, you will fall off the distribution list. Please remember to advise us of your email address changes.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Graduate Master | Gregory Law
Steven Shochet
Mary Warnock |
| Club Master | Marcel Dayan
Eugene O'Rourke |
| Local Master | Marion Burns |
| National Master | Kate Gullan |

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ K9752
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK95
 ♦ 854
 ♣ 5

♠ 10
 ♥ 1087
 ♦ KQ1076
 ♣ QJ86

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	4♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♠

1 No 5-card major

Partner leads ♠3. You are beginning to regret that you didn't interpose 2♦ here. But don't let that take your eye off the ball. The spade runs to ♠Q, and next comes another spade to ♠K. Now comes the club. How are you going to defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 43
 Vul: N/S ♥ K86
 ♦ QJ10974
 ♣ A8

♠ K1052
 ♥ 2
 ♦ K652
 ♣ K752

West	North	East	South
D'ble	Red'ble	Pass	1♥
1♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	5♠ ¹
		All pass	

1 Two key cards and heart queen

You don't want to lead a singleton trump, so the choice is one of the king-suits. You select ♣2: it runs to ♣8, ♣10 and ♣Q. Next comes ♣3, your ♣2, ♣A and ♣6. Next a spade (partner ♠6, natural count), to declarer's ♠A, followed by ♣9. Your play.

Solutions on page 6.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: E ♠ A
 Vul: nil ♥ 753
 ♦ 87
 ♣ AKJ5432

 ♠ K93
 ♥ AK62
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ 76

West	North	East	South
		3♠	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

The lead is ♠9. How do you play this:

- i) at IMPs?
- ii) at matchpoints?

Solution on page 7.

TEST YOUR 3NT

IMPs ♠ 43
 Dealer: E ♥ KJ
 Vul: nil ♦ AK87654
 ♣ 76

 ♠ A975
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ -
 ♣ AKJ5432

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

In response to East's weak 2♠, West leads ♠2, East playing ♠10. Take it from there. Solution on Page 8.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS - III
Bill Jacobs

Calling the Director 101

This instalment is about calling the director in response to someone's ethical dilemma. You might think: "he must be having trouble filling the newsletter ... what's there to write about simply saying one word loudly?" Well, bear with me.

Here's a deal to illustrate how I think things should work:

Dealer: W	♠ K982	
Vul: all	♥ K10	
	♦ 93	
	♣ Q8764	
♠ AQ		♠ J1073
♥ Q982		♥ A763
♦ AKJ10762		♦ Q5
♣ -		♣ A109
	♠ 654	
	♥ J54	
	♦ 84	
	♣ KJ532	

You are South, and the uncontested bidding for East-West starts as follows:

West	East
1♦	1♥
4♣	

East pauses for quite some time, and bids 4♥. Over 4♥, West thinks for a bit, and emerges with 5♥!

At this point, and without knowing what the East-West cards are, you are suspicious that West has used East's hesitation to decide to bid on, but you cannot know that for sure, nor do you know whether it's a winning move for the opponents.

I suggest that either you or your partner now say to East:

"Do you agree that you paused over 4♣?"

East will accept this to be the truth – it is fresh in everyone's minds, and no-one has accused anyone of anything.

The auction concludes as follows:

West	East
1♦	1♥
4♣	4♥
5♥	6♥
Pass	

You decide to lead a spade to 6♥, and that powerful West hand gets put down on the table. Hmm, was that a clear continuation over 4♥? You don't need to answer that question ... just get on with the play.

Scenario 1

Declarer wins the spade lead, plays ♥A, ♣A to pitch the spade, and another heart up, thinks, and he puts in the queen (an error), partner wins with the king, and your heart jack takes the setting trick. Nice!

There is no need to take any further action. You don't have to call the director, or make a comment to the opponents like: "if you'd made it, you wouldn't have been allowed to keep it". You should say nothing – just take your +100 and be happy.

Scenario 2

Declarer guesses the hearts: ♥A, ♣A, and a heart ducked to partner's king, claim.

Call the director. But do it properly – say: "I'd like to get a ruling on this one". Don't be nasty about it and make accusatory implications about your opponents' ethics.

The director will come over, and you will relate what happened. Just the facts, nothing more, and including that East agreed that he had hesitated. *Don't argue your case.* There is no need.

The director might ask East-West some questions: for example, what did 4♣ mean? That will help him decide his ruling. But basically, the matter is now out of your hands, and you are no longer needed.

The director will leave and come back sometime later with a ruling. If he rules a return to 4♥ for 680, write the adjusted score down and say nothing. If he leaves the score at 1430, write the score down and say nothing. There is nothing to be said: the director gave a ruling, and if you don't like it, you can lodge an appeal after the session. The same applies to your opponents.

Summarizing

You are not a policeman or official Protector of Ethics. If someone does something doubtful, but it doesn't cost you on the scorecard, don't make an issue of it. In the vast majority of cases, the person is just an honest citizen who's come to have an enjoyable game of bridge. He hasn't come expecting to have his integrity questioned.

When a hesitation occurs, and the hesitator's partner subsequently takes a positive action, confirm the hesitation with your opponents. This provides good protection for you in the event that your opponents may later deny the hesitation when the heat is on.

Only call the director when you have discovered that you might deserve an adjustment. Usually this is at the end of the play.

When the director arrives, don't get into a bridge argument with him or your opponents. It's terribly undignified. Just relate the facts, and let the director do his job.

RULE #1: KNOW THE CONTRACT

Apparently this is a true story, courtesy of Henri de Jong. From the Pennant Qualifying:

Dealer: E	♠ 8	
Vul: nil	♥ KJ10543	
	♦ K53	
	♣ J65	
♠ Q976		♠ 10542
♥ 7		♥ Q6
♦ Q984		♦ A762
♣ K982		♣ 1043
	♠ AKJ3	
	♥ A982	
	♦ J10	
	♣ AQ7	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
D'ble	1♠ ?	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
D'ble	6♥	D'ble	All pass

North, worried about the opponents' spades, decided to try 1♠ (ignoring Rule #2: "don't psyche in a higher suit than your escape suit"). The auction barrelled higher and higher to 6♥ doubled.

West led a heart, declarer drew a second round. Still mentally playing in spades, West "ruffed" this second heart with a spade. After sorting it all out, the spade queen now dropped on the third round, allowing two clubs to be discarded from dummy on good spades. A successful diamond finesse resulted in +1210. Apparently, everyone had a good laugh.

SLAM POST-MORTEMS - II
Bill Jacobs

Two disasters this month, both featuring Robbie van Riel. Sorry Rob. Just remember: he had played well enough to qualify for the finals of these events, not me.

2006 ANC final:

Dealer: S	♠ Q82
Vul: all	♥ KQJ753
	♦ K94
	♣ J
	♠ AKJ64
	♥ A
	♦ 32
	♣ AK932

North van Riel	South Mill
	1♠
2♥	3♣
4♠	4NT
5♣	5♠
Pass	

2006 GNOT semi-final:

Dealer: N	♠ A86
Vul: nil	♥ Q954
	♦ K62
	♣ A63
	♠ KQ102
	♥ -
	♦ Q4
	♣ KQJ9842

North van Riel	South Smith
1NT	2♠*
3♣	3♠
3NT	4♣
4♠	5♣
Pass	

* transfer to clubs

Both these 5-level contracts delivered 12 tricks (the diamond ace was on-side in the ANC hand), with slam bid and made at the other table. In both cases at the other table, in a similar or identical auction, North made a diamond cue bid.

Post Mortem

Two very similar hands, both revolving around diamond control.

On the ANC hand, Andrew Mill Blackwooded and then had to guess the diamond position. On the GNOT hand, David Smith had to guess similarly. In each case, North held the key diamond king.

The question here is: "what is a cue-bid?". On the second hand, could/should North have cue-bid 4♦ with the second-round control?

Similarly on the first hand, suppose South had cue-bid 5♣ over 4♠ - could/should North have cue-bid 5♦ in return?

What can we learn

30+ years of playing bridge has finally taught me this: the optimum cue-bidding strategy is to cue bid first *and second* round controls, and retain Blackwood as a check that you aren't missing two aces.

It's as simple as that.



And for Rob van Riel, perhaps some small solace from Ovid:

Perfer et obdura; dolor hic tibi proderit olim.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ K9752
Vul: N/S	♥ AK95
	♦ 854
	♣ 5

♠ J83	♠ 10
♥ 6432	♥ 1087
♦ 92	♦ KQ1076
♣ A1094	♣ QJ86
	♠ AQ64
	♥ QJ
	♦ AJ3
	♣ K732

This slam has been reached on minimal values and by a strange route – the limited hand has taken control and introduced

Blackwood. If declarer has ♣A it doesn't matter much which club you play, but what if partner holds ♣A? Declarer has 6 tricks in spades (5 and a ruff somewhere) perhaps 4 in hearts and ♦A. That comes to 11. Where is the 12th? The answer must be that declarer can perhaps expand his trump tricks to 7 by trumping 3 times in dummy. To prevent this DON'T rise ♣Q (or ♣J). If declarer plays ♣10 and comes to 12 tricks that way, tough. As the cards lie, partner after winning the club will know to lead that third spade.

Of course this hand has been misplayed – declarer should have risen ♠K and led the club straight away. Declarers do sometimes misplay.

This deal is from the 2007 Yeh Bros Cup.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 43
 Vul: N/S ♥ K86
 ♦ QJ10974
 ♣ A8

♠ K1052 ♠ Q96
 ♥ 2 ♥ 10973
 ♦ K652 ♦ A83
 ♣ K752 ♣ 1064

 ♠ AJ87
 ♥ AQJ54
 ♦ -
 ♣ QJ93

Do you cover ♣9 or not? If you don't you haven't been thinking about the club spots. Declarer knows where ♣K, so if he holds ♣J as well as ♣9 will finesse if you play low. If you cover and ♣K crashes partner's ♣Q your ♣7 will still be high.

Once you cover declarer is helpless. If he ruffs this he will have to concede a spade, and you can win and lead your last club. If he discards a spade, again you can lead a club. In both cases the fourth round of clubs perforce dislodges dummy's ♥K, setting up a trump trick for partner.

This deal is from the Vanderbilt final 2007. In play West did not cover and the slam was made.



THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Dealer: E ♠ A
 Vul: nil ♥ 753
 ♦ 87
 ♣ AKJ5432

♠ 94 ♠ QJ108765
 ♥ J984 ♥ Q10
 ♦ QJ9 ♦ 10643
 ♣ Q1098 ♣ -

 ♠ K32
 ♥ AK62
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ 76

How do you play the "suit of the month" here? Cashing the ace-king isn't wise, at imps, matchpoints or tiddlywinks, because you have no further entries to dummy should someone have ♣Qxx.

At imps, you should play a *low club* from dummy at trick 2, catering to West having all four clubs – not impossible given the preempt by East. Look what happens if you should happen to cross to hand at trick 2 and play a club to the jack. What happens is that you go three down when the finesse works.

And for goodness sake, don't cross to hand with the good intention of ducking a club and then have the first round of the club suit go: low-queen-ace-discard. Then West will own you for life!

At matchpoints, a compromise position would be to finesse the club jack on the first round of the suit ... paying off to the 4-0 break, but picking up a vital overtrick when West started with the more probable Qxx.

Autumn/Winter Series 2007
BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS
 at the VBA

FREE if you are under 30 years of age

When?	Thursdays 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm commencing 17 th May	
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee	
Cost?	\$125 per person, includes: - 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons - Certificate on completion - 6 Free Supervised Playing Sessions upon completion of course (value \$42)	
Registration?	Only by deposit of \$50 - MasterCard and Visa accepted	
Teacher:	Jeff Fust	
Phone:	9530-9006	E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au

TEST YOUR 3NT

Dealer: E	♠ 43		
Vul: nil	♥ KJ		
	♦ AK87654		
	♣ 76		
♠ 2		♠ KQJ1086	
♥ A9865		♥ 10743	
♦ QJ93		♦ 102	
♣ Q108		♣ 9	
	♠ A975		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ -		
	♣ AKJ5432		

A spade is led to 3NT. You better take this trick – a heart switch would not be welcome.

Now, the club suit: you mustn't lose a trick to East, but you also need to maintain an entry back to your hand. You can assume that West will have ♥A, but since he didn't lead one, choosing the singleton spade instead, perhaps he only has 5 hearts. In that case, he is quite likely to have 3 clubs, and the odds are that one of them is ♣Q.

What does this all add up to? You should play the *club jack* at trick 2, simultaneously losing the trick to West whilst maintaining a link back to your hand. No other card will do.



SUIT OF THE MONTH: THE OUTER LIMIT

Have we exhausted this suit? Check out:

Dealer: E	♠ AK1043		
Vul: N/S	♥ 762		
	♦ 954		
	♣ 76		
♠ 2		♠ QJ98765	
♥ 9853		♥ J104	
♦ KQJ762		♦ 3	
♣ 98		♣ Q10	
	♠ -		
	♥ AKQ		
	♦ A108		
	♣ AKJ5432		

West	North	East	South
		3♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the diamond king to your 6♣ bash.

You have one chance, and one chance only ... win the diamond ace, three top hearts, club ace and a *low club*, hoping East started with ♣Qx, and is down to nothing but spades.

It's a weird and wonderful game.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Pennant

- 1 C. Chua, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, L. Gold, I. McCance, B. Thompson
- 2 J. Fust, W. Scott, A. Mill, R. van Riel, C. Hughes
- 3= M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, S. Arber, H. de Jong
- 3= M. Dilks, D. Morgan, R. Gallus, J. Stark

Victorian Open Team Playoff

- 1 C. Chua, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, L. Gold, I. McCance, B. Thompson
- 2 G. Gaspar, E. Caplan, V. Goldberg, B. Tencer, M. Willcox, K. Chan
- 3 J. Fust, W. Scott, A. Mill, R. van Riel, A. Sarten, C. Hughes



Victorian Open Team Playoff Winners (L-R): Ian McCance, Ben Thompson, Leigh Gold, Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua, Bill Jacobs

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 I. McCance – B. Thompson
- 2 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 3 S. Klofa – C. Schwabegger



Ovid's solace: *Be patient and tough; some day this pain will be useful to you.*