



### Victor Champion Cup – Last Call!

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>

**FOR STARTERS**  
**Bill Jacobs**

#### On Captaincy

Here are a couple of bidding problems for you.

♠ QJ87632  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ K95

With no one vulnerable, you open 3♠.  
 Partner responds 3NT. Your move.

♠ J4  
 ♥ KQ108732  
 ♦ K65  
 ♣ 4

You are vulnerable, they are not. You open 3♥, partner raises to 4♥ and now RHO comes in with 5♣. Your move.

Captaincy is an important principle in bidding theory. Captaincy occurs in many situations – typically when one player has fully described his hand, then the captaincy of the auction goes to his partner.

For example, when somebody uses Blackwood – 4NT to ask for aces – they generally assume captaincy. Partner shows the number of aces, and then the Blackwooder chooses the contract. Rarely if

ever should the responder to Blackwood overrule that decision.

The other crucial scenario is when one player pre-empts. Then partner automatically assumes captaincy and it is highly unusual for the pre-emptor to bid again.

Deal 1.

	♠ A105	
	♥ QJ97	
	♦ KQ10	
	♣ AJ4	
♠ 4		♠ K9
♥ A103		♥ K652
♦ 87652		♦ AJ94
♣ Q1082		♣ 763
	♠ QJ87632	
	♥ 84	
	♦ 3	
	♣ K95	

North found a lovely bid of 3NT, despite having excellent spade support. With those soft values, he liked the idea of 9 tricks in notrumps rather than 10 tricks in spades. And right he was.

Don't spoil it all by returning to 4♠, because your hand "doesn't look notrumpy". Partner is the captain. Trust him. Also, is there any reason why he shouldn't have a hand like:

♠ - ♥ Axx ♦ AKQJxxx ♣ Axx ?

Deal 2:

Dealer: S	♠ KQ963	
Vul: N/S	♥ A	
	♦ A3	
	♣ KJ983	
♠ 10872		♠ A5
♥ 9654		♥ J
♦ J10742		♦ Q98
♣ -		♣ AQ107652
	♠ J4	
	♥ KQ108732	
	♦ K65	
	♣ 4	

This hand was from the Victorian Open Teams Playoff. South violated captaincy principles by bidding 5♥. Poor old North, who was about to get his claws into 5♣ (down 1,100), could only watch in dismay as South went down in 5♥. (A diamond was led – South won in hand, cleared the heart ace, and played a spade. East took a negative

inference that has been discussed in this series – when West doesn't lead a club, he doesn't have one – went up with the spade ace, cashed the club ace, and played another club. West's heart nine had to score.)

Once again, North made a fine bid - 4♥. Despite the singleton heart, hearts is where you want to play it. You may not be able to run hearts in 3NT – there might not be an entry. And trying for a spade or club contract is silly, when you already know about a 7-1 heart fit.

*Points to remember.*

- It is paradoxical that when partner opens a pre-empt, it is sometimes right to bid 3NT with a good fit, and to raise partner without a fit. But that's the way it is. Looking again at deal 2, a pair of beginners might bid it like this (assuming no interference from the opponents):

3♥ - 3NT  
4♥ - Pass

3NT is wrong, as discussed above. And returning to 4♥ is also wrong, as discussed above. But in this case, two wrongs make a right!

- If you open a pre-empt, *don't bid again!* You've made your bed, now you must lie in it. Partner is the captain.

**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 in the Croft Teams to be held on Saturday June 16, 2007 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. There are restrictions on teams, for example, in each team; a grandmaster must be balanced by a novice.

Session times are 10am and 2.15pm. A light lunch will be available for all players.

**Suit combination of the month**

Dummy  
KQ65

Declarer  
A432

The search for interesting suit combinations goes on! You are in no-trumps, and want to run this unbid suit. How would you do it?

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: N ♠ J105  
Vul: E/W ♥ 1086  
♦ QJ105  
♣ KQ4

♠ A83  
♥ AQ43  
♦ A4  
♣ J1073

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
D'ble	2♠	3♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Your partner's 3♦ has pushed the opposition to the 3-level and it is up to you to defeat it. You start with ♦A, Partner signalling odd. How will you continue?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: W ♠ J10  
Vul: N/S ♥ Q10976  
♦ Q65  
♣ A42

♠ Q98  
♥ J84  
♦ KJ974  
♣ 63

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	D'ble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♣8, which runs to ♣10. Declarer cashes ♥AK, on which your partner shows even and you show odd. (!). Next comes a low spade (partner odd) and you win ♠Q. What comes next?

Solutions on page 6.

**BRIDGE IN ORBOST**  
**Christine Heesom –**  
**Paynesville Bridge Club**

Approximately 8 months ago, Anne Den Houting, a member of Lakes Entrance Bridge Club undertook to teach bridge to a group of ladies in Orbost – involving a round trip of some 150 kms on a weekly basis for Anne.

After completing their series of lessons, these ladies were enthused enough to commence social bridge on a Monday evening in Orbost, but also to travel to Lakes Entrance (130 kms round trip), Bairnsdale (200 kms) and Paynesville (230 kms) to continue the learning experience by playing in local sessions at those clubs.

Two weeks ago, these same ladies organised a 4-day trip to Bemm River (the bream capital of Victoria), about 35 kms east of Orbost. 37 bridge players and some spouses from Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Paynesville bridge clubs made the trip, some towing caravans or boats, but most opting to stay in the Cosy Nook flats which provided perfect facilities for such a large group including a large recreational room for bridge playing and an outdoor barbecue area for cooking, eating, drinking and talking.

Over a counter tea at the local pub on the first evening, Myrtle Hodgson, 80+ years old and a regular bridge player for many of those years, was unanimously elected "Monarch of the Bemm" and presided over the presentation of awards, settling of disputes, and generally setting the tone of behaviour for participants.



Monarch of the Bemm, Myrtle Hodgson and friends

Senior players hosted a variety of lectures during the 4 days including Multi 2's, Ogust, Defensive Play and Negative Doubles.

Playing sessions were conducted in a non-threatening atmosphere for the novices, with the emphasis on learning and fun. New players were teamed with Life Masters for a teams event and it was great to see some of the novices collecting their gold, red and green "points" (coloured and sharpened wooden lollypop sticks covered with glitter).

The local community hosted a tour of the Bemm River Community Centre showcasing their local hand-made craft and provided a wonderful afternoon tea and raffles. Leftover cakes etc were sent back with the bridge players to swell the already groaning food cupboard. The tour was conducted by "Princess Mary" and fortunately our own "Monarch of the Bemm" turned up without her regal crown and thus avoided an embarrassing diplomatic situation.

On the second day non-playing spouses were sent off in boats with fishing gear to provide food for the evening meal – the organisers showed amazing foresight in providing spit roasted venison and pork with roast pumpkin and potatoes and one of the local players celebrated a birthday by sharing a crate of champagne.

Due to the popularity of the trip and the excellent facilities, plans are already underway to return to Bemm River next May, after a similar getaway scheduled for Mount Hotham in November.

Well done to the Orbost group for their initiative and to the local bridge clubs in this area who have all banded together to provide assistance and support. I hope we will see Orbost Bridge Club applying for affiliation to the VBA before too long.

**Partnership Service Desk - Day or Night Sessions**

The VBA has recently set up a partnership desk for players new to the VBA and beginners wanting to broaden their experience.

If you would like to access this facility please e-mail [suggestions@vba.asn.au](mailto:suggestions@vba.asn.au)

### THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: E      ♠ A54  
 Vul: nil      ♥ AJ82  
                  ♦ Q73  
                  ♣ J54

♠ KQ873  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ AKJ  
 ♣ AK102

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

West leads ♥10. Plan the play in 6♠.

Solution on page 8.

### ETHICAL DILEMMAS - IV Bill Jacobs

#### (Mis)Explanations

If bridge were played on an ideal plane, your opponents would have a full statement available of your system and style, including all your agreements, understandings and general proclivities. This is what the laws of bridge (Law 75) give them the right to know. They would never have to ask you any questions – they could just read your notes.

But as we all know, the real world is different. The opponents have access to your system card, maybe hastily scrawled out 5 minutes before the start of play. Even if carefully and fully filled out, it might only represent 25% or 50% or 75% of your full set of system agreements. Hence the need to explain your partner's bidding at the time.

Your partner's explanations are Unauthorised Information to you. You cannot take them into account in your own bidding or play. Imagine that you are playing with screens. With partner behind a screen, you do not know what explanation he has given for your bid. That is the environment in which you must operate.

West (You)	East
♥ A53	♠ 1083
♠ QJ8	♥ 1052
♦ AK7652	♦ Q9
♣ 5	♣ KQ874

South opens a 12-14 1NT. You bid a natural 2♦. Partner alerts, and when asked says: "We play Cappelletti, so that shows the majors". It now goes pass on your left, 2♥ from partner, pass on your right.

You have an ethical dilemma.

This situation is a bit like what you see on Law and Order (or a million other TV shows) occasionally - the judge says: "the jury will disregard that answer". But it's so hard to ignore what's out there!

Over a *natural* 2♦, 2♥ is surely a natural bid, showing at least 5, probably 6 hearts, and some decent values. You have a wow of a hand in support of hearts, and nothing less than a jump to 4♥ does justice to your cards. Hence, you must knowingly bid to game in a foolish 3-3 fit. Any other bid fails the ethics test.

There's no way out. The jury must disregard.

One further point: suppose partner alerts 2♦ but the opponents *don't ask*. The alert itself is unauthorized information to you. It will probably be an alarm clock wakeup for you: "he thinks 2♦ is Cappelletti"; however you must still bid 4♥, ignoring the information from the alert.<sup>1</sup>

You might have noticed that there is one piece of information I haven't included in this narrative. That is what your system actually is. The implications of the answer to that question will be the topic for next month. But for the purpose of your bidding, the simple point is to bid in a vacuum taking no account of what partner has said ... that means you bid 4♥ here.

<sup>1</sup> Many years ago, it was common for pairs to ask not to be alerted to anything. Jim and Norma Borin were one pair who preferred not to know. Their theory was that their opponents gained more out of their own alerts than they did. Nowadays, the game has matured, and everyone including directors realise that players must not profit from hearing their own alerts; asking not to be alerted is no longer in the playbook.

### SUIT COMBINATION OF THE MONTH

Dealer: E	♠ 53	
Vul: nil	♥ 764	
	♦ 10832	
	♣ KQ65	
♠ Q1087		♠ 962
♥ QJ98		♥ 10532
♦ Q94		♦ AK7
♣ 98		♣ J107
	♠ AKJ4	
	♥ AK	
	♦ J65	
	♣ A432	

You bid 2NT – 3NT. Against 3NT, West leads the heart queen. How should you play it?

Your main chance is the spade finesse, but you will run the clubs first, just to give the opponents a chance to make a mistake.

The club suit doesn't look interesting, but here's a thought: if you can make the defender who holds a doubleton club discard *twice* before his partner discards even *once*, then that defender will be discarding essentially in the dark, without having seen a signal from partner.

Here's how you do it. Lead a low club to the king. Both defenders, thinking their partner might have ♣A, will give honest count, to assist in a defensive hold-up. Suppose E/W play standard signals: West plays ♣9, East ♣7. So you decide that *West* has the doubleton club.

Play ♣Q (if East had been short in clubs, you would have played back to ♣A next). Now a third club to your ace: East follows, West discards (perhaps a heart?). Now play your last club from hand towards dummy's 6, forcing a second discard from West, with East yet to make a discard.

If West can avoid a spade discard, good luck to him. But as you can see from the hand diagram, this is not easy!

Notice what happens should you lead the fourth round of clubs from dummy. East discards ♠2 (standard signals) or ♠9 (upside-down signals), and West knows to cling on to his spades. Neat?

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

#### Problem 1:

Dealer: N	♠ J105	
Vul: E/W	♥ 1086	
	♦ QJ105	
	♣ KQ4	
♠ A83		♠ 7
♥ AQ43		♥ J752
♦ A4		♦ K8762
♣ J1073		♣ 862
	♠ KQ9642	
	♥ K9	
	♦ 93	
	♣ A95	

Partner can't have much, but he did find a free bid. It looks as if he has ♦K. Counting carefully you find you have 2 diamonds, a spade and, if you can get partner to lead a heart, 2 tricks there. What you mustn't do is waste partner's entry (his only entry, for sure) by getting him to return a diamond. So switch – almost any black card will do. When partner wins ♦K he will return a heart.

#### Problem 2:

Dealer: W	♠ J10	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10976	
	♦ Q65	
	♣ A42	
♠ 642		♠ Q98
♥ 532		♥ J84
♦ A8		♦ KJ974
♣ KJ987		♣ 63
	♠ AK753	
	♥ AK	
	♦ 1032	
	♣ Q105	

Your combined efforts in signalling the hearts have created enough doubt in declarer's mind for him not to cash out 9 tricks. You must take advantage of this by switching to diamonds.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:  
“Good players guess well on some days and bad players guess well on some days. But good players guess well on more days”

**WACKY METHODS**  
**Bill Jacobs**

**CRYPTOGRAPHY IN BRIDGE**

When it comes to wacky, this could be the ultimate. Cryptography in bridge is a (legal) method of communicating with your partner where the rules of communication are determined by a "key" which only you and your partner know. It can apply in both bidding and defence<sup>1</sup>.

In bidding you hold as South:

♠ xx ♥ Kxx ♥ Kxxx ♣ Jxxx

and the auction proceeds at matchpoints:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	
3NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 1 Raise with one of the ace or king of spades
- 2 Either the spade king with a diamond control, or the spade ace without a diamond control

Your lead. It's a guess – the opponents may or may not have a diamond control. They may have:

West	East
♠ Kxxx	♠ AQxxx
♥ AJxxx	♥ Qx
♦ Qx	♦ Jx
♣ Kx	♣ AQxx

You'd better lead a diamond. Or:

West	East
♠ Axxx	♠ KQxxx
♥ Qx	♥ Jx
♦ Jx	♦ AQxx
♣ AKxxx	♣ Qx

You'd better lead a heart.

The opponents have used the key of the spade honours to encrypt their auction. It's just like when you send a credit card number over the internet. Both "you" and the vendor

<sup>1</sup> The hands in this piece are based on deals created by Peter Winkler, one of the inventors of encrypted methods.

know the key by which your number is encrypted in transmission – without that key, a hacker cannot steal it.

In the play, it might be even more frustrating. Try this declarer play problem:

♠ AJ105  
♥ J104  
♦ A9  
♣ Q1054

♠ Q96  
♥ KQ74  
♦ 1072  
♣ AKJ

North	South
	1NT
2♣	2♥
3NT	Pass

West leads the diamond **three** to East's queen. East returns the diamond five, low, six, ace.

If diamonds are 4-4, you can just knock out the heart ace for 9 tricks. If diamonds are 5-3, you have to take the spade finesse. You innocently ask East: "what are your leads?". East takes a deep breath and replies:

"If West has an odd number of hearts, he leads 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> best; if West has an even number of hearts, he leads 4<sup>th</sup> best."

The opponents have used your known four-card heart length to encrypt their signals.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

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

Club Master	Alan Johnston
Local Master	Coral Strahan
*Local Master	Lyn Lutchner
**Local Master	Aron Grinberg Sonia Grinberg Margot Slonim
Regional Master	Philip Knightley

## RECENT RESULTS

### Victorian ANC Youth Team

A. Hung – P. Hollands  
 J. Howard – I. Hu  
 B. Kingham – A. Monroe

### Victorian ANC Women's Team

M. Spurrier – J. Day  
 M. Tildesley – Y. Millman  
 D. Jacobs – M. Elson

### Victorian ANC Seniors Team

G. Gaspar – B. Tencer  
 V. Muntz – A. Meydan  
 R. Gallus – M. Dilks

### Thwaites Mixed Pairs

#### Championship

- 1 J. Thompson – B. Thompson
- 2 V. Goldberg – B. Tencer
- 3 C. Lachman – G. Gaspar

#### Plate

- 1 M. Woods – D. Hohor
- 2 H. Snashall – C. Snashall
- 3 T. Bloom – M. Willcox

#### Consolation

- 1 J. Grigg – J. Hare
- 2 A. Mellings – S. Klofa
- 3 S. Gerdan – M. Balint

### Autumn Day Pairs

- 1 S. Gerdan – E. Hardy
- 2 L. Allgood – P. Havlicek
- 3 M. Lambert – P. Dams

### Autumn Nationals - Adelaide

#### Women's Swiss Pairs

- 1 Cathy Chua (playing with Christine Boylson from Sydney)

#### Autumn National Open Teams

- 2 Justin Stark, Michael Dilks, Blaine Howe, Neil Ewart (lost to the strong OzOne squad in the final)

♠   ♥   ♦   ♣

## THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

Dealer: E	♠ A54	
Vul: nil	♥ AJ82	
	♦ Q73	
	♣ J54	
♠ J1062		♠ 9
♥ Q1096		♥ K743
♦ 1084		♦ 9652
♣ 83		♣ Q976
	♠ KQ873	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ AK102	

In 6♠ you are safe if trumps are 3-2. If they are 4-1, you will need the club finesse.

The correct line is to play a club to the 10 at trick 2. If it loses, hope that spades divide, and that there is no unlikely club ruff.

If the finesse wins, continue playing clubs from the top. If the queen drops, you can revert to trumps. If West ruffs the third club, then dummy's trumps will be on hand to deal with the fourth club.

It would be a fatal error to play even one round of trumps before playing on clubs. Then West can ruff the third club, and play a second round of trumps, skewering you whatever you do.



**CLEARANCE SALE -  
BIDDING PADS**



Following a resolution by the Match & Tournament Committee, the VBA now uses bidding boxes in all State and Club events as well as duplicate sessions. We now have an excess supply of bidding pads.

Bidding pads are available for purchase by individuals or clubs at the following prices. All pads are 500 sheets double sided.

1-4 pads	\$4.00 each
5 -10 pads	\$3.80 each
10-29 pads	\$3.60 each
Boxes (30 pads)	\$102.00

Available from on-duty directors during session times or phone Cathie on 9530-9006.