

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2007

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## EDITORIAL LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Editorials often seek to criticize, so for a change this month, a letter that highlights what we sometimes take for granted:

The President,

We are writing to say how much we enjoy our daytime bridge at the VBA. Apart from the card play itself, there are so many extra factors which add to the pleasure.

There is Cathie, of course, whose cheerful and tolerant manner almost disguises her great efficiency and managerial skill. Then there is Hazel whose warm and friendly interest in the members makes us feel so at home. Next there is Val, a delightful director, who displays great patience and quiet control.

Then there is Alex in the cafe. We find him a huge asset to the club for a number of reasons. First is Eva who works so hard when an extra pair of hands is needed. Then there is the variety of food he offers - so much more interesting than the ubiquitous pie 'n sauce and lamingtons! His 'take-away' service is so helpful to reluctant cooks like us! His prices seem very reasonable and he takes great pride in keeping his domain so bright and clean and tidy. Best of all, he obviously feels that he too is a member of the club and takes such a personal interest in his customers - their 'usual' orders, their health and well-being, and always makes a point of welcoming back anyone who has been away.

Our thanks to the VBA for all the happy and constructive time we spend there.

Val Trice and Ann Bednarz

## Personality Profiling

You are playing IMPs with your favourite partner, and pick up:

♠ QJ32 ♥ KQ9842 ♦ - ♣ A84

You open 1♥, and with the opponents silent, partner raises to 2♥. What is your plan?

## Tim Seres (1925 – 2007)

It was sad to hear that Australia's greatest ever player, Tim Seres, passed away on September 27<sup>th</sup>.



Tim was a winner of countless Australian national events and represented his country with great distinction over six decades.

## THE SEVEN DEADLY PARTNERSHIP SINS Blaine Howe

### Sin 2: Agreement Violations

You open a Weak 2♥ with 6-4 in the reds and two queens. Sounds OK, yes?

Well, maybe. You are vulnerable in 2<sup>nd</sup> Seat and your partnership has a strong agreement that vulnerable Weak Twos are constructive.

Whatever happens now, you will worry about how your partner views the bid. If the opponents bid 4♠, get doubled and make an overtrick you are in a big hole. Is it worth it?

Of course the answer is No (see the heading?) and you need to be very clear about what your agreements really are. Good partnerships depend on effective agreements. They are as important as your system itself.

If you won't honour an agreement then don't make it. This is not negotiable. Partnerships regularly break up because of problems in this area.

When you make agreements, you decide whether they are suggestions, strong guidelines or absolutes. You need to learn these better than you learn your formal system and spend time developing them. If you regularly fail in this area and have ambitions, your partnership is doomed. Sorry, but there it is.

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

**Pre-empt Anyone?**

You are dealer and pick up

♠ AJ97652 ♥ 6 ♦ 6 ♣ J842

This hand is a candidate for an opening pre-emptive bid - a high level spade opening designed to make life difficult for your opponents.

Should you pre-empt with this hand, and if so, how high?

The **Rule of 2 and 3** helps with this decision. The concept is that the trick taking potential of your hand should be within *two* tricks of your contract when *vulnerable* and within *three* tricks of your contract when *non-vulnerable*.

Essentially, if you are doubled, you are prepared to go down 500 points opposite a worthless dummy, which should be a reasonable investment against your opponents' likely game. A 500 point penalty equates to 2-down vulnerable or 3-down non-vulnerable, hence the rule of 2 and 3.

A more advanced form of the rule takes into account your opponents' vulnerability and what the game bonus is worth to them: this is the **Rule of 1, 2, 3 and 4**. What would that rule be?

The rule expands to:

Us Vul, They Non-Vul:	accept 1 down
All Vul:	accept 2 down
All Non-Vul:	accept 3 down
Us Non-Vul, They Vul:	accept 4 down

This rule equates to a more cautious position when we are vul, a more free-wheeling position when we are not vul.

To use the Rule of 2 and 3, or its advanced cousin, you need to be able to estimate the tricks in your hand. A good way to do this is to count your losers. You count a loser for each of the ace, king and queen you don't

hold in a suit (up to your length of the suit), add them up, subtract from 13, and that's how many tricks your hand is worth.

Back to our example hand:

♠ AJ97652 ♥ 6 ♦ 7 ♣ J842

How many tricks is this worth?

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Count your losers: two in spades for the missing king and queen, one each in the red suits, and three in clubs for the missing AKQ. That's 2+1+1+3 = 7 losers, or 6 winners. **Your hand is worth about 6 tricks.**

What do you open at the various vulnerabilities?

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Using the rule of 2 and 3, you would open this hand with 2♠ if vulnerable, and 3♠ if not-vulnerable. Opposite a worthless dummy, you will be about 2-down in 2♠, 3-down in 3♠. That should be satisfactory.

Using the rule of 1, 2, 3 and 4, you might consider passing this hand vulnerable versus not, and opening 4♠, a pressure bid, if not vulnerable versus vulnerable.

All right, let's imagine you are not vul versus vul. You push the boat out and open 4♠. This is passed round to RHO who doubles, and that is the end of the auction. Whilst you anxiously await dummy, you sure hope these rules are good ones.

LHO leads the heart 3, and you see:

♠ Q  
♥ QJ8  
♦ KQ10872  
♣ 953

♠ AJ97652  
♥ 6  
♦ 6  
♣ J842

Yuck. This is the sort of dummy you despise. Whilst the ♠Q is pleasant, those red suit cards seem useless to you, being of value only in defence.

Still, you must soldier on. You put in the heart jack, RHO wins with the ace, cashes ♣K and plays a low heart. What do you do?

To give power to dummy's heart queen, you should discard your diamond loser here – *a loser on loser play*. Discarding a loser in order to set up a winner is a tactic to keep in mind.

Here is the full deal:

Dealer: S	♠ Q		
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ8		
	♦ KQ10872		
	♣ 953		
♠ K83		♠ 104	
♥ K7632		♥ A1095	
♦ 543		♦ AJ9	
♣ Q6		♣ AK107	
	♠ AJ97652		
	♥ 6		
	♦ 6		
	♣ J842		

If you find the loser-on-loser play, the defence cannot prevent you from ending up with seven tricks: down 3, with 4♥ on for East-West. Despite the wretched dummy, you show a profit from your 4♠ opening.

The defenders might have done a trick better and nicked you for 800, but they committed no heinous crime in the play.

*Points to remember:*

- The Rule of 2 and 3: bid to within two tricks of your contract vulnerable, and within three tricks of your contract non-vulnerable, has been around since the dawn of time, and is as fresh now as it was then.
- To value your hand for the rule, count one loser for each of the missing ace, king and queen in a 3+ card suit; one loser for each of the ace and king in a 2-card suit, etc; and one loser for any singleton (except singleton ace!). Subtract from 13, apply the rule, and voila.

- Watch out for opportunities to discard a loser in order to set up a winner. In this hand, you didn't even have an entry to the winner (the heart queen), but sooner or later, the defence would need to give you that entry.

And finally, let's take another look at the bidding. You opened 4♠, West and North passed, and East re-opened with a double, which some pairs play as takeout.

West made a fine decision to pass 4♠ doubled. Lesser mortals, hearing a takeout double and being vulnerable against not vulnerable, would have tried 5♥, and this contract cannot make: losing a spade, a heart and a diamond.

And that's the power of the aggressive high level pre-empt: giving opponents difficult decisions which they might get wrong.

*For the convenience of retired people and for parents while the kids are at school, and because of many requests for these, the VBA is commencing*

### **Daytime Introduction to Bridge / Beginner's Bridge Classes**

**Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Cost ~ \$75 for 8 lessons**

*The first session is free – come along and meet Cathie and discover what bridge is all about - there is no obligation to continue if you feel bridge is not the game for you....*

*If you have friends or neighbours who would like to learn bridge and would find daytime classes convenient spread the word!*

**Phone 9530 9006 to reserve a place  
or e-mail: [info@vba.asn.au](mailto:info@vba.asn.au)**

**Victorian Bridge Association Ltd  
131 Poath Road Murrumbena 3163**

**DESCRIBER VERSUS DECIDER**  
**Bill Jacobs**

You are playing IMPs with your favourite partner, and pick up:

♠ QJ32 ♥ KQ9842 ♦ - ♣ A84

You open 1♥, and with the opponents silent, partner raises to 2♥. Your move.

I gave this problem to a number of top Victorian players, including Robert Fruewirth (still a Victorian, just, living in Echuca). As usual, Rob nailed the issue, writing:

*If one were playing short suit trials, it would be the right tool I suspect. The opponents haven't entered the auction yet; both have had a chance, so maybe a slow approach is warranted. Releasing information is always dangerous and jumping to game gives very little away. A border-line decision in my opinion.*

Making an invitation, via either a long-suit or short-suit game try is the mark of a Describer. Jumping to game (or perversely passing 2♥) is what a Decider would do.

Here are the poll results:

Describers: (game try)

Ian McCance	Ivan Hu
Jill Magee	Adam Sarten
Stan Klofa	Diana Jacobs
Bill Jacobs	Justin Howard
Bob Gallus	Rob Fruewirth
Helen Snashall	Laurie Kelso
Diana Smart	

Deciders: (bid 4♥)

Leigh Gold	Meredith Woods
Cathie Lachman	Simon Hinge
Cathy Chua	Kitty Muntz
Jenny Thompson	Ben Thompson
Andrew Mill	Dan Hohor
Miriam Tencer	Seamus Browne
Blaine Howe	

Plus one Charlie Snashall who bids 4♥ if vulnerable and makes a game try not-vulnerable.

Most of these answers don't surprise me. Simon Hinge, Cathie Chua, Ben Thompson and Andrew Mill are natural-born Deciders. Ivan Hu, Jill Magee, Adam Sarten, Diana Jacobs and Robert Fruewirth are describing types. I thought Bob Gallus might blast 4♥, but there are few humans who can predict what Bob might do on any particular hand.

Which way did you jump with this hand? If you, like Rob Fruewirth (and some of the other respondents) thought it was borderline, then fine – I cannot pigeon-hole you. But if you thought the decision was clear, then you have been profiled. If you Described, then perhaps you should take a few more decisions. If you Decided, then perhaps you might consult partner a bit more.

... to be continued

COMMERCIAL BRIDGE CLUB *presents*

**ALBURY'S 27th INTERSTATE  
BRIDGE SUPER CONGRESS**

**COCA COLA PRE CONGRESS PAIRS**

Friday 12th October

**COMMERCIAL CLUB SWISS PAIRS**

Saturday 13th October

**COCA COLA SWISS TEAMS**

Sunday 14th October

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- Director: Martin Willcox
- Masterpoints: Red Level B3
- Entry forms available at your club

In the September bulletin, it was reported that Lorna Watts' first masterpoints were red rather than green, and the question asked: "is this a first"?

Perhaps – but it can be topped. In 1997, Frank Calegari played in the ANC Youth Teams, having previously played only social bridge, and won 17 *Gold* points (partnering appropriately Leigh Gold). These were the first points he ever won, and to Leigh's knowledge also his last.



**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: W     ♠ 85  
 Vul: E/W     ♥ K107  
                   ♦ AKQ96  
                   ♣ 1076

                  ♠ 107  
                   ♥ AJ9  
                   ♦ J10532  
                   ♣ Q92

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♥5, and dummy's ♥7 is played. How will you defend?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: N     ♠ AJ82  
 Vul: Both    ♥ AKJ  
                   ♦ K109642  
                   ♣ -

                  ♠ 105  
                   ♥ 75  
                   ♦ A8753  
                   ♣ J952

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	D'ble	3♠
5♣	5♠	All Pass	

Partner's ♣A is trumped. Declarer leads ♥J to ♥Q (partner's ♥6) and then ♠3 (partner ♠4) to ♠J. Next comes ♠A (partner's ♠6). Now comes ♦2, you fly ♦A and discover that declarer had ♦QJ. It's up to you.

Solutions on Page 8.

**RECENT RESULTS**

**VBA Grand Prix Pairs**

- 1= G. Gaspar, B. Tencer
- 1= J. Grigg, R. Ellery
- 3 S. Gerdan, J. Selwyn

**Melbourne Metro GNOT Qualifying**

- 1 M. Tencer, B. Tencer, M. Chrapot, G. Gaspar, S. Arber, H. de Jong
- 2 C. Snashall, F. Beale, R. van Riel, I. McCance, G. Kilvington, D. Smart
- 3 M. Wardle, B. Kingham, P. Hollands, J. Howard

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

Dealer: S     ♠ AQ  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ Q86  
                   ♦ K753  
                   ♣ A974

                  ♠ KJ109874  
                   ♥ J  
                   ♦ A92  
                   ♣ K5

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

\* Two key cards

West leads the diamond queen. Plan the play. Solution on page 7.



**FREE INTERMEDIATE LESSONS OPEN TO ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS**

The Victorian Bridge Association on behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation invites all bridge players to come along for a *Free Intermediate Clinic* on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at the VBA, 131 Poath Road Murrumbeena Vic 3163

The focus will be on **Competitive Bidding Tools** and there will also be **plenty of Card Play**

Session 1: 11.00 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.  
**Competitive Doubles, Law of Total Tricks, Cue Raises**

Session 2: 1.45 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
**Splinters, Fit Showing Jumps, Jacoby 2NT**

Teacher: Jeff Fust

The bridge players café will be open for lunch, coffee, tea, cakes etc.

For additional information: [info@vba.asn.au](mailto:info@vba.asn.au) or phone 9530 9006  
 Registration essential



This is a joint ABF and VBA initiative



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

"East is wondering why he didn't pass one spade. So am I."

"East-West can make a singular number of hearts but not a plural number."

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

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

Local Master	Ola Cohen Leslie Goldschlager
**Local Master	Anna Allwood Peter Yuill
*Regional Master	Matti Shub
*State Master	Ian Bram
Life Master	Michael Phillips
Silver Grand Master	Jean Eddie

**ETHICAL DILEMMAS - VIII**  
**Bill Jacobs**

**Defensive Dilemmas**

Here's Sydneysider humorist Ted Chadwick on lead to 1NT after the following auction from the opponents:

1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠
1NT	Pass

All the bids were natural.

Ted hums and haws and says to his partner: "Any bids you would like to ask about?"

OK, so we all know not to ask gratuitous questions unless it's going to affect our bid or play. It would be grossly unethical for the player sitting over the 1♠ bidder to ask "what's 1♠" at any point in the bidding (in particular, in the passout seat).

But that's about as easy as it gets when you are on defence. Defence is hard, hesitations abound, and it is up to the partner of the hesitator to take no notice. The best I can offer is a few tips.

Don't hesitate with a doubleton

Partner opens a weak 2♥, the opponents reach 4♠, and partner leads the heart king:

♥ K	♥Q1073	♥ 92
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Play a prompt honest 9 (or 2 if playing upside-down signals). Don't hesitate for a millisecond, just give the count. Any hesitation tells your partner the layout in the suit, and puts him on the horns of the ethical dilemma.

Inform declarer

The opponents reach 3NT, and your partner leads the spade 3:

♠ 3	♠ AQ94	♠ 87
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Declarer calls low from dummy, and you decide you need to think about the defence as a whole. Feel free to think, but it's important not to lead declarer into the false assumption that you have anything to think about with your trick one play. Say: "I have no problem with this trick – I'm thinking about the whole hand".

There was a deal from the Venice Cup (Women's World Championship) some years ago where East held the singleton jack of spades in this layout. The spade lead was ducked in dummy, and she paused dramatically before playing her jack. Declarer then completely misread the layout and went down.

Infuriated, declarer called for the director, who was equally shocked and adjusted the score to 3NT making. On appeal, East explained that it was standard practice in her part of the world to routinely pause as defender when playing to trick 1. Her appeal was upheld. In *our* part of the world, you should tell declarer that you are not thinking about your play to trick 1.

Where obvious play in tempo

In the middle of the play, declarer leads a club from hand:

♣ Q92	♣ KJ73	♣ 2
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Play low in perfect tempo. Don't fidget. Don't think about whether to play the 2 or 9. It is the worst sort of ethics to show any form of histrionics here. Play identically if you have ♣A92.

As declarer, chill out

As I said, defence is hard. If you as declarer misread an opponent's hesitation, don't be quick to pass judgment on his ethics.

Here is a deal from the recent ANC in Fremantle to illustrate the point:

Dealer: N	♠ 954		
Vul: N/S	♥ AK83		
	♦ K842		
	♣ Q8		
♠ J10863		♠ KQ	
♥ J72		♥ 10965	
♦ AJ106		♦ Q9	
♣ J		♣ K10973	
	♠ A72		
	♥ Q4		
	♦ 753		
	♣ A6542		

South played 1NT, and I as West led a spade. Declarer allowed East's queen and king to hold.

Now East, Leigh Gold, switched to the *nine* of diamonds. That rode to dummy's king, and declarer, a first-rate player, played a second diamond to the queen, low, and ...

I hesitated briefly, wondering what on earth was the diamond position. Had East really switched to the nine from queen-nine doubleton? But if he has a third diamond, why was declarer returning the suit?

Anyway, it didn't seem to matter, I overtook with the diamond ace to play a third spade (wrong – to legitimately beat the contract, I must find the switch to the club jack, taking partner off an endplay). Declarer misplayed the position, winning the spade and playing a third diamond, hoping for a 3-3 break there. The defence had seven tricks.

Declarer turned to me and said, dripping with venom, "nice one, Bill, hesitating before making the obvious play on spades". Perhaps he was kicking himself for having missed the winning line, or not thought enough about East's carding, but he nastily took it out on me, whose hesitation had been entirely honest.

The lesson is: don't be too quick to accuse a defender of gamesmanship.

**THE TWELFTH TRICK****Bill Jacobs**

Dealer: S	♠ AQ		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q86		
	♦ K753		
	♣ A974		
♠ 65		♠ 32	
♥ K9532		♥ A1074	
♦ QJ9		♦ 1064	
♣ 1062		♣ QJ83	
	♠ KJ109874		
	♥ J		
	♦ A82		
	♣ K5		

How did we get so high? It's not looking too good in 6♠.

What are your options? You could hope that someone holds precisely ♣ QJ10, in which case the ♣9 will set up with a ruff. The power of prayer may help with that quest.

More likely, you could try for a squeeze, or pseudo-squeeze, by running trumps.

If you are prepared to risk instant annihilation, then your best chance is to play a low diamond from both hands at trick one. If West lacks the heart ace, he will expect that the defensive ace is in diamonds (he knows that his side has an ace from the bidding), and is very likely to continue with diamonds. Then if diamonds are 3-3 ...

If you were West and saw your diamond queen hold the first trick, would you switch to a heart? Nor would I.

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## SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

### Ian McCance

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: W	♠ 85				
Vul: E/W	♥ K107				
	♦ AKQ96				
	♣ 1076				
♠ K4				♠ 107	
♥ 6532				♥ AJ9	
♦ 74				♦ J10532	
♣ AJ853				♣ Q92	
	♠ AQJ9632				
	♥ Q84				
	♦ 8				
	♣ K4				

It looks as if this lead is not a genuine fourth best, not least because declarer has not used ♥10. If you allow South to score ♥Q, he may be able to take fast discards on the diamonds. It looks best to win ♥A and switch to a club.

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: N	♠ AJ82				
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ				
	♦ K109642				
	♣ -				
♠ K64				♠ 105	
♥ 8642				♥ 75	
♦ -				♦ A8753	
♣ AKQ643				♣ J952	
	♠ Q973				
	♥ Q1093				
	♦ QJ				
	♣ 1087				

Declarer is all set to run winning diamonds but partner still has one trump. All you have to do is force out dummy's last trump. Partner can step on the next diamond and cash a club, as long as he didn't start with 7. (You can be pretty sure of this from the count card in hearts, ♥6 had to be from 4 unless partner had 8 clubs.)

♠   ♥   ♦   ♣

Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan:

“The modern fashion in cuebids is not to show anything in particular but to cast a rosy glow over the whole auction.”

**UPCOMING STATE EVENTS AT THE VBA****2008 Victorian Open Team Selection Stage 1**

### Would you like to try out for a place on the Victorian Open Interstate Representative Team for 2008?

The Open Interstate Butler Stage 1 is the first stage of the selection process, and is a 4 week event starting at the VBA on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

Following Stage 1, the top 14 placed pairs, plus 2 Victorian Country pairs, progress to Stage 2, played on the weekends of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November.

The top 3 pairs become Victoria's 'Butler' team, who will play off next year against the 2008 winning Pennant team for the right to represent Victoria at the Australian National Championships in Queensland.

*Victorian Country pairs qualify through the ERBA Regional Pairs and Northern Regional Pairs events.*

*NOTE: The Open Stage 1 now provides an alternative path for eligible Women's and Seniors Pairs to get to their respective Stage 2's (in addition to the later Senior's heats and Women's Stage 1).*

*NOTE: It is not necessary to be a member of the VBA to play in State events. Pairs who do not wish to try out for the team or the Butler pairs (non-contending pairs) may play in the event up to the end of Stage 1.*

**Victorian Individual**

This is a 2 week event commencing at the VBA on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November.



Enter: via the website: [www.vba.asn.au](http://www.vba.asn.au)  
or phone 9530-9006