

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2007

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## LAWS OF BRIDGE - 2007

About once every 10 years, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge are updated. The 2007 Laws will come into effect in Australia at the beginning of February, dependent on there being sufficient copies of the law book available.

Twenty years ago, there was a massive change to the laws when the penalty for the third and subsequent non-vulnerable doubled undertrick was increased from 200 to 300 points. This time around, there are no such upheavals.

Indeed the only thing you apparently have to do differently in February is described in Law 7: *you must shuffle your cards at the end of play before returning them to the board.*

Most of the other changes involve the director. Some might be of interest to the more legally minded (Bob Gallus, are you there?):

- The severity of the revoke law has been reduced (there are now more situations where a revoke costs only a single trick).
- You can now replace an insufficient bid without penalty with another call in any denomination, providing it has the same meaning.
- Premature corrections of infractions (before calling the director) now saddle the player with further restrictions. So, now as before: *when in doubt, call the director!*
- The facility to make a purposeful change of call during the auction has been removed (corrections of inadvertent actions are still possible).
- You are now no longer subject to penalty if you don't call the director when an irregularity occurs. Essentially, the laws now allow you to forgive an opponent's unintentional infraction of the law (such as an insufficient bid or a revoke).

## THE SEVEN DEADLY PARTNERSHIP SINS Blaine Howe

### Sin 3: Unilateral Defence

Defence is how partnerships rise and fall. If you defend well the rest of your game tends to follow.

You are defending a hand where they are in 2♠ and you have both been working hard for several minutes to beat the hand. You are on lead at a critical point and have to decide whether to make a passive return and keep on grinding out the defence.

You look at the hand for a while and finally sling out an unsupported ace to get the hand over with. Your partner can see you pretty much shrug your shoulders – the defence collapses and declarer soon claims.

You can almost hear your partner thinking: is it worth all the effort? If you do this a lot the answer is no.

Putting effort into defences to beat more contracts is the best way I know to get your partner to believe in your partnership. To be successful at the table, you and your partner must think that hard work in defence together is worthwhile.

The other thing that happens when you start defending solo is that you don't pay enough attention to your partner's signals. You should always feel bad when you miss a basic signal.

When I miss a couple of these in a session and I know we both know it, I start looking in my bridge bag for my knee pads – I know the apology is going to be painful.



Mark down Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December into your diary – that is the date of the VBA's 2007 Annual General Meeting.

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

**Michaels Cue Bids**

Non vulnerable versus vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ AK1098 ♥ 6 ♦ K10874 ♣ J10

RHO deals and opens 1♥. What are your options?

You could overcall 1♠ and not come to any harm. But if you would like to get both suits in in one go, then the Michaels convention is for you. The Michaels cue bid is a bid of the opponent's opening suit to show a two suiter of your own. The scheme works as follows:

- Over 1♣, your 2♣ shows both majors
- Over 1♦, your 2♦ shows both majors
- Over 1♥, your 2♥ shows spades and a minor
- Over 1♠, your 2♠ shows hearts and a minor

Both suits should be at least 5 cards long.

You can play Michaels cue-bids in conjunction with the Unusual 2NT overcall. Over any natural 1-level opening by RHO, a direct 2NT shows the two lowest unbid suits. That means 2NT shows the minors over a 1♥ or 1♠ opening, and hearts and the other minor over a 1♣ or 1♦ opening.

Anyway, this hand qualifies for a Michaels cue bid of 2♥ over 1♥, showing spades and a minor. You try 2♥, LHO passes, partner bids 3♦, and RHO repeats his suit with 3♥. So the bidding has been:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	3♦	1♥ 3♥	2♥ ?

What now?

You should Pass. Partner's 3♦ doesn't show a diamond suit: it simply is saying: "if your minor is diamonds, I want to play 3♦." Paradoxically, his 3♦ bid implies strong *clubs*, because if you actually have spades and clubs, his 3♦ bid forces your side to a higher level, presumably in clubs.

You pass, LHO raises to 4♥ and this is passed out. The auction has been:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass 4♥	3♦ Pass	1♥ 3♥ Pass	2♥ Pass Pass

You lead a top spade, and see:

♠ Q764  
♥ J10  
♦ AJ95  
♣ 763

♠ AK1098  
♥ 6  
♦ K10874  
♣ J10

Your high spade fetches the 4, 2 and 3. You are playing natural count.

What next?

I hope you weren't taken in by that bit about natural count! Partner is certainly showing an odd number of spades, but can he have three of them?

Think back to the auction: partner has bypassed 2♠ to bid 3♦ on a weak hand without great length in diamonds. If he held three spades to the jack, he would have instead chosen a 2♠ bid – selecting the known 5-3 fit.

You should continue with another top spade and give partner a ruff. Partner will then cash the club ace for the setting trick, the full deal being:

<p>♠ AK1098 ♥ 6 ♦ K10874 ♣ J10</p>	<p>♠ Q764 ♥ J10 ♦ AJ95 ♣ 763</p>
<p>♠ J53 ♥ AKQ942 ♥ Q2 ♣ KQ</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ 8753 ♦ 63 ♣ A98542</p>

*Points to remember:*

- Michaels Cue Bids are a neat way of getting two suiters into the auction. Over a minor, it shows both majors; over a major, it shows the other major and an undisclosed minor.
- In ambiguous situations where you have not specified your suits (like Michaels, or Multi-two bids), when partner bids a suit you *might* have, he is merely expressing a desire to play there if that is your suit – not showing a suit of his own!  
  
(If you had bid 4♦ over 3♥ you might have lived to regret it!)
- During the play, don't forget the bidding. Here the bidding told you that partner couldn't possibly have three spades, and therefore he must have a singleton.

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

Dealer: S      ♠ AK2  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ AQ  
                   ♦ 87642  
                   ♣ 865  
  
                   ♠ QJ10985  
                   ♥ K4  
                   ♦ AQ  
                   ♣ AK2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All pass	

\* Balanced spade raise to game

West leads ♥7. Over to you. Solution on page 5.

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

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

Graduate Master	Alan Martin
Local Master	Martha Van Der Hoek
*Local Master	Andor Herman
Bronze Life Master	Graham Hill

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: S      ♠ 1052  
 Vul: E/W      ♥ A1053  
                   ♦ 974  
                   ♣ AK8  
  
                   ♠ 7  
                   ♥ J864  
                   ♦ J105  
                   ♣ Q10532

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	6♠	All pass	

- 1 negative or waiting
- 2 8-9 playing tricks
- 3 two key-cards

Partner leads ♣6, won in dummy. ♠2 goes to ♠Q and partner's ♠K. He returns a spade. Dummy's ♠10 wins and ♣K is cashed, declarer discarding ♦6. Dummy's last spade is won in South, partner discarding a club. South wins and plays another spade. You have had 2 easy club discards, but as it looks as if you are going to be put to more. On this spade partner has played ♦8 and dummy ♥3.

What do you know about South's hand and what is the recipe for a successful defence?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: S      ♠ AQ732  
 Vul: E/W      ♥ A96  
                   ♦ 73  
                   ♣ 1073  
  
                   ♠ 1098  
                   ♥ J87  
                   ♦ A52  
                   ♣ AKQ5

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

Partner leads ♥2, to your ♥J and South's ♥Q. Declarer decides to go passive, playing a low club. Partner rises ♣J, holding, and plays ♥K, allowed to win, and another heart. Declarer plays ♦3, which you duck, to ♦K, then another club. How to find the coup de grace?

Solution on page 8.

**MEMORIES OF TIM SERES**  
**Bill Jacobs**

My earliest memory of Tim was at the Brisbane ANC of 1978: I kibitzed him in a session of the Australian Open Pairs – these were the days when that event meant something. His partner at the time was Mary McMahon, but Tim was a one man army. Looking back, I now realise that what makes a player great is that he sees things differently from his contemporaries – he was somehow operating on a higher plane than the rest of us. Today this is what Zia and Geir Helgemo do.

The first thing I noticed was that when Tim declared, he would routinely not play the lowest card from his hand when following or discarding. We should all “mix it up”, but how many of us actually do? And Tim did everything fast; perhaps it was his rubber bridge background, but one got the sense that his opponents were left far in the wake of his speed of thought, always trying to catch up, but never succeeding.

In third seat, he picked up:

♠ Kxx ♥ J10xx ♦ Kxx ♣ xxx.

RHO opened a Precision 1♣, and Tim bid a natural 2♥! This seemed ridiculous, even at favourable vulnerability, but now I realise that Tim didn't like his position opposite a passed partner and against an above-average pair playing Precision. Hence the attempt to throw dust in the eyes.

LHO doubled to show general values, RHO passed for penalties, and now Tim redoubled for rescue. Mary removed to her 5-card suit – this was doubled but beaten only 500 for a top to Tim and Mary.

Everyone was in awe of Tim, and of course this helped his scores. My wife Diana tells of watching him in one of the first NOTs in the mid-70s, played in Sydney. Tim was partnered with Roelof Smilde and on one board he arrived in a spade slam. The lead was the ace of clubs, and the partner of the opening leader ruffed it! Making 6.

Back in Brisbane in 78, Tim held

♠ AQx ♥ xx ♦ QJxxxx ♣ xx.

Mary opened 3♠ and RHO doubled. I don't know what you would do, but Tim's choice spoke volumes. He bid 4NT, Blackwood. Apart from having a psychic effect, Tim was interested in knowing whether partner had an ace, so he could judge how high to sacrifice. Once again, the opponents weren't fooled – they bid 5♥ over 4NT, and then 6♥ over Tim's 5♠ bid. It didn't work – the defence cashed two aces. On the deal, the opponents needed to use 4NT themselves to find out they were off two aces, but Tim's creative strike had removed the opportunity for Blackwood in the strangest way possible.

In those days, Tim and his partner of choice had automatic entry into the Australian team, and one can see why.

Tim was an imaginative bidder *and* an imaginative player. One hand from the 1989 ANC sticks in my memory. I was playing with Ian McCance and Tim arrived in 6♥. Dummy had ♣ AQxx and no other high cards. I was sitting under dummy with the club king. I led a spade and at trick 2, Tim played a club from his hand to the queen, successfully finessing for my king. Now, without apparent thought, he ran his 7 card heart suit. Ian and I had to make what seemed like a hundred pitches, and it was agony. Dummy's clubs looked threatening, so I held my clubs and weakened my other suits.

As it turned out, Ian had just enough strength to beat the contract himself, but the amazing thing was that Tim's club was a singleton. Having finessed the queen, he abandoned the ace and played one of the nastiest pseudo-squeezes I have ever seen. (The club ace would have been only his 11<sup>th</sup> trick.) Michael Courtney wrote this hand up as playing “a squeeze without the entry”, and on a slightly different layout, it would have worked.

It was a privilege for David Smith and I to play on teams with Tim (and Dick Cummings) in the early eighties. Tim and Dick were very charming people, and wonderful teammates. In the 1980 NOT quarter final, I picked up

♠ xx ♥ Qxxx ♦ xxx ♣ xxxx.

Vulnerable against not, David dealt and opened a 12-14 1NT. Ouch. RHO passed

and I had to figure out how best to escape a huge penalty. Passing 1NT seemed futile – we would surely get doubled – so I tried transferring to 2♥. It didn't work: our opponents Jim and Norma Borin had the necessary agreements to double us in 2♥ (one of them had five hearts), and David went down 1,100.

This was particularly unfortunate, because after a 1♦ opening at the other table, Tim and Dick had got to a thin 3NT and Tim played it brilliantly to make it. Their superb +400 was a 12 imp loss. At the scoreup, Tim and Dick were sympathetic as usual, but Tim had an innovative suggestion. He said: "what about bidding 3NT over 1NT?" Sure enough, neither of the opening hands against us would have had anything to say, and even though that contract goes five down vulnerable, we would have lost only 3 imps.

In the semi final of that event, we played against the Victorian team of Tim Bourke, Rob van Riel, Paula Schroor, Wally Scott and the late Jeff Lathbury. Due to some bad bridge from the non-Tim pairs (and of course some good bridge from the Victorians), we were 50 imps down with 16 boards to play. We went on to lose, but I certainly understood the observation from Rob van Riel after he came out of the last set, having played against Tim and Dick: he said "that was the most frightening set I have ever played." Tim of course had brought all his creativity out to play. It was to Rob and Wally's credit that they hung in there and won, and won again in the final.

Tim found creativity in the most unlikely places. It was he who showed me how to play AJ10x opposite KQxx in notrumps (this concept featured in a play problem in the June newsletter). The idea is to make the defender with a doubleton discard twice before he has seen even a single discard from his partner. Cash the jack, and then the queen – let's say everyone follows. Now lead the king – if next hand shows out, let the king win so that the fourth round forces a second discard. If next hand follows, overtake with the ace to lead the fourth round with the same effect on the other defender.

The bridge world has been the richer for Tim Seres.

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

Dealer: S	♠ AK2	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ	
	♦ 87642	
	♣ 865	
♠ 643		♠ 7
♥ 97653		♥ J1082
♦ K9		♦ J1053
♣ J94		♣ Q1073
	♠ QJ10985	
	♥ K4	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ AK2	

The problem with taking a diamond finesse at trick two is that if it loses, a heart will come back, taking out one of dummy's entries at an inconvenient time. You will need a 3-3 diamond break to make the contract.

Better is to play ace then queen of diamonds, scorning the finesse. Now you are in good shape to set up the 5<sup>th</sup> diamond – you have three entries to dummy: two to ruff diamonds, and the third to enjoy the long card. Assuming trumps are not 4-0, this will make in all makeable layouts unless West started with a singleton diamond, and might he not have led his diamond in that scenario?

Best is to cash the spade queen at trick two. If both opponents follow, continue with ace and queen of diamonds, following the "better" line. However if spades turn out to be 4-0, you cannot draw trumps ending in dummy to cash the long diamond, and so need the diamond finesse – which you are still in a position to take.

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The VBA invites you to the 2007  
Summer Congress  
to be held 8<sup>th</sup> and  
9<sup>th</sup> December.  
Entry Forms are  
available at your  
Club or phone  
Cathie on 9530-9006 for further  
information.

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## Summer Festival of Bridge – Canberra

### National Novice Teams

The National Novice Teams caters for players who are new to bridge at a national level with separate categories for players under 50, under 100, and under 150 masterpoints. It is the largest event of its kind in Australia.

The Welcome Drinks (from 6pm to 7pm on Tuesday 15 January) is not only to welcome players but also gives an opportunity to demystify Teams Bridge in such a large event as the Summer Festival.

Convenor Sean Mullamphy is also looking forward to welcoming teams from the Non-Life Teams Championship at the Welcome Drinks.

Last year, pairs who were matched through the Partnership Desk also used the Welcome Drinks as an opportunity to meet up with their teammates before the event started.

The Novice Teams event runs for three days and is immediately followed by a one-day Novice Pairs competition. Last year many players took the opportunity the stay over the extra day and get in some more quality bridge.

### National Women's Teams

The NWT is a three-day event and due to popular demand will be held at the familiar Rydges Hotel by the lake in Canberra from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January. The format is nine 20-board matches followed by semi-finals and finals for the top four teams. The size of the field and the Swiss scoring make this a great opportunity for up and coming players or those just building their skills to gain experience and improve their game in a world-class field.

The Summer Festival recognizes that women are the backbone of Australian Bridge. With this in mind, the National Women's Teams Championship is immediately preceded by the Women's Last Train (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January) and followed by the Women's Pairs on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January. As well, the leading all female team at the conclusion of the South West Pacific Teams is recognized with its own trophy.

### On-line Entries

You can now enter all events of the Summer Festival on-line!

Visit [www.summerfestivalofbridge.com](http://www.summerfestivalofbridge.com)

## RECENT RESULTS

### Victorian Open Pairs

#### Championship

- 1 L. Branicki – J. Fust
- 2 A. Czapnik – J. Leach
- 3 M. Dilks – J. Stark

#### Plate

- 1 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 2 K. Chan – C. Lachman
- 3 J. Clyne – M. Tildesley

#### Consolation

- 1 S. Collins – J. Selwyn
- 2 B. Kingham – J. Howard
- 3 J. Dunstan – J. Yang



Leeron Branicki

Jeff Fust

Winners of the Victorian Open Pairs Championship

### Ern Palfreyman Teams

- 1 F. Beale, R. van Riel, D. Smart, D. Smith, G. Kilvington
- 2 R. Ellery, J. Grigg, E. Hardy, K. Brook
- 3 G. Gaspar, B. Tencer, S. Klofa, R. Gallus

And congratulations to Neil Ewart and Blaine Howe for their second place in the recently completed Sydney Spring National Open Teams.

## ETHICAL DILEMMAS - VIII

### Bill Jacobs

#### Declarer's Dilemmas

Last month we looked at Defender's ethics, and now we turn to the Declarer. There are fewer problems here, as declarer doesn't have a partner to worry about. Most issues relate to tempo.

Playing too fast

It is unethical to win the first trick in your hand in a flash and fire out your singleton, with king-jack in dummy. Law 73 tells you to, as far as possible, maintain an even tempo, and also not to attempt to mislead your opponent by the haste of your play. You should use an even deliberate tempo in making your singleton play.

Playing too slow (the Rip van Winkle Coup)

This is where you take so long to play a card as declarer that the defenders fall asleep, forget the details of the deal, and hand you the contract. It has two forms, deliberate and inadvertent.

The worst deliberate case I have heard was related to me by Diana Smart. In the Far East Championships some years ago, her Chinese opponent declared a slam that had no play whatsoever. Declarer tanked for about 10 minutes over which no-hope line to try, with the result that Diana pitched a winner to let the slam make. That's about as ethically slimy as it gets, but the only action Diana could have taken would be to report the incident to the Recorder.

A fine example of an inadvertent RvW coup plus superb sportsmanship occurred in the recent Bermuda Bowl. In a tense and close semi final between USA and South Africa, Howard Weinstein for USA declared an unpleasant 5NT contract on this layout:

	Garner	
	♠ KJ6	
	♥ AK1076	
	♦ AK	
Holman	♣ A103	Cope
♠ -		♠ Q109753
♥ 9432		♥ QJ5
♦ J97654		♦ 10
♣ Q96		♣ J52
	Weinstein	
	♠ A842	
	♥ 8	
	♥ Q832	
	♣ K872	

Here is the report from the Daily Bulletin:  
Holman led his fourth-best diamond to dummy's ace. Weinstein thought for some considerable time,

then played a spade to his ace, getting the bad news as Holman threw a diamond. Weinstein thought for a long time before leading the eight of hearts and, when Holman played low, put in the ten, losing to the jack. Tim Cope returned the ♥Q to dummy's ace and, after some minutes more thought, Weinstein cashed the ♥K.

Play to this point had taken a very long time, and Cope lost concentration to the extent that he dropped the five of spades on this trick. When he noticed, he corrected his play to the five of hearts. Declarer could have made his contract now by using the penalty card, leading the jack of spades from dummy and requiring East to follow with the five, but Weinstein, who appreciated that he had played at what was a long way from a normal tempo throughout the deal, showed the highest sportsmanship by telling Cope he could pick up the low spade with no penalty.

Weinstein went one down in his contract. The match was still very much alive at this point and could have been decided in South Africa's favour by Weinstein's generosity. How many of us would be willing to risk a world championship for our sporting principles?

Unnecessary comments or body language

This is one that I am sometimes guilty of, but I'm working on it. Partner puts down dummy and you see that you are in the wrong contract. All of the following actions are ethically suspect:

- disgusted shake of the head
- expletives undeleted
- comment on partner's bidding ("where's the hand you had during the bidding?")
- comment on your own bidding ("sorry, pard") – yes, rare I know
- slapping your cards down during the early tricks
- super-fast semi-random play

These actions are not done with an intent to gain advantage, rather they are normal human reactions to the impending catastrophe. However, they can have the side effect of switching defenders off ... it gives the impression that they have a good board however they defend. But on occasions, the bad contract makes because the defenders get careless. That will be an ethically corrupt result, and there is little the defenders can do to get redress.

**SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS**  
**Ian McCance**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: S	♠ 1052		
Vul: E/W	♥ A1053		
	♦ 974		
	♣ AK8		
♠ K6		♠ 7	
♥ K97		♥ J864	
♦ Q832		♦ J105	
♣ J976		♣ Q10532	
	♠ AQJ9843		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ AK6		
	♣ 4		

South's hand-shape is 7??1, with ♦A6. Moreover he must hold another diamond, because partner would have led ♦K from ♦KQ. So it should be 7231; 7141 was just possible, but ruled out by partner's helpful ♦8. Consequently all the threat cards against *your* hand, ♣8, ♦9, ♥10 – are in dummy, which has to discard before you do.

So the strategy is *follow dummy's discards down*. Declarer will let go ♥3 then ♥5. Discard 2 hearts and cling grimly to your diamonds. Partner has ♥K (or there was no defence) and can be squeezed down to two diamonds. Dummy's three small diamonds are part of a genuine menace.

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: S	♠ AQ732		
Vul: E/W	♥ A96		
	♦ 73		
	♣ 1073		
♠ KJ5		♠ 1098	
♥ K1032		♥ J87	
♦ J64		♦ A52	
♣ J84		♣ AKQ5	
	♠ 64		
	♥ Q54		
	♦ KQ1098		
	♣ 962		

This one is dead easy. One card South does not hold is ♠K. So cash ♦A and play a spade, picking up ♠J if South happens to have that. Your 3<sup>rd</sup> spade means down one, or even 2 if partner can win and cash her ♥10.

**CHANGE TO**  
**WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS 2008**

Keep Labour Day weekend free next year. Waverley Bridge Club Congress is moving from August to March 8-10. It will feature an inaugural Match Pointed Pairs event on Monday March 10.

More details will be coming shortly, but if you want further information you can ring the convenor, Trish Henderson on 9877 5000, or Mary Elson on 9583 5092.

**APHORISMS FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS**  
**Lindsay Coker – Yarra Valley**

It is better to play a simple system well than a complex system poorly.

It is better to remember the details of a simple system than the surface of a complex one.

The best systems cope with deals that occur frequently. Systems designed to cope with rarer frequencies are more difficult to remember, and generate more mistakes.

The more complex a system the more you have to practise. The more you practise the more you'll remember.

The only person who needs to understand your bid is your partner.

No one is ever too old or green to learn how to count.

No one is ever too old or green to get great pleasure and satisfaction from playing – at any level.

Everyone makes mistakes. Accept your opponent's courteously and your partner's gracefully. And hope they do the same.

If your attention span is less than one minute forget about learning. If longer you will succeed in the best mental exercise every discovered.

Rest and anticipation – the two best things to help you get to the club on time.