

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2008

Editor: Bill Jacobs

EDITORIAL

Bridge is an emotional and stressful game. Can you think of other pair or team-based sports/pastimes where an error by one player can make another player on the team look stupid? (My answer below right.)

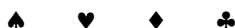
For the first time in several years, I played in the National Open Teams in Canberra. With over 200 teams vying for 16 finals spots in this premier competition, emotions can run high. However it was disappointing to hear so many reports of poor player behaviour at table numbers from high to low; in particular: aggressive fighting with partner, being rude to opponents, and repeated calls for the director in an attempt to get any edge possible.

Does this sound familiar? Think Australian cricket team. There is perhaps more excuse for bridge players: our profile is non-existent, and we don't have the coaches, sports psychologists or media exposure to tell us how to behave.

I know that one editorial is not going to fix the behavioural problems that have existed in bridge since the dawn of time. But can we at least show a bit more respect for our long-suffering partners? I suppose when all is not going well in Canberra, we think: "why did I spend all this time and money to play in this tournament?" Your partner might be thinking the same thing.

You could say that your interaction with your partner is none of my business, but it is. When partnerships fight at the table, it creates an unpleasant and unhappy environment for all the players. It's sad to hear of players, having entered the event to test themselves and have a good time, have their enjoyment destroyed by bickering opponents. People are vowing never to return to these tournaments.

Winning is not everything ...



2008 VBA COUNCIL

President:	Jeannette Collins *
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Councillors:	Jeremy Goldberg Christina Macquarrie Frank McConvill Brian Morgan Les Morris Alister Murray June Pulford

* Congratulations to Jeannette who was voted a VBA Life Member at the recent AGM.

Victorian Bridge Association invites you to the 2008 Victorian Restricted Pairs Championship

A red point State Event
This event is limited to players with less than
300 Masterpoints

Saturday 29th March 2008
at
131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena

Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso
Convenor: Cathie Lachman
Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006
E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au

Looking Stupid

Ballroom Dancing and Ice-skating are the only other two team sports I can think of where partner's blunder might make you look stupid.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You hold:

♠ K974 ♥ 762 ♦ K965 ♣ 82

and hear an auction we are all familiar with:
RHO: 1NT, LHO: 3NT. The opponents are playing Acol, so 1NT shows 12-14 points.

Your lead?



"4th highest of your longest and strongest" doesn't help a lot here, as there is a tie.

In resolving the decision between spades and diamonds, you might reflect that the opponents have not investigated in playing a major. For example, LHO didn't use Stayman, so presumably he does not have particular length in a major.

You know nothing about RHO's hand, but the inference that LHO is more likely to have length in a *minor* than in a *major* should steer you to a *major* suit lead against this particular auction.

You lead the spade four, and see this:

♠ K974	♠ 1032
♥ 762	♥ J84
♦ K965	♦ AQ10
♣ 82	♣ AQ65

Partner wins the spade ace (declarer playing the six) and returns the spade eight, on which declarer plays the queen. Now what?



What is the spade layout? There are a few possibilities.

If partner started with A8 doubleton, not much matters. Declarer has QJxx, and he will make two spade tricks whatever you do.

It's unlikely that partner started with AJ8, as declarer, with Qxx, would surely play low on the spade eight here.

The two "live" possibilities are partner with A8x (declarer has QJx) or AJ8x (declarer has Qx). And you have to make different plays for each of these holdings.

If partner started with A8x, you must let declarer hold the second spade trick, otherwise there will be no entry to your long spade.

If partner started with AJ8x, you need to win the spade king, and take the four spade tricks owed to you.

The solution is for partner's return to show his length in the suit, and the normal method is that partner shows the normal lead based on his *remaining* cards. So: after winning the ace from A8x, play the 8 (starting a high-low with the remaining 8x holding). And after winning the ace from AJ8x, return the "x" (leading low from the remaining J8x holding).

When partner actually returned the 8, you know that he didn't start with AJ8x, and can safely duck declarer's queen. The full deal:

	♠ 1032	
	♥ J84	
	♦ AQ10	
	♣ AQ65	
♠ K974		♠ A85
♥ 762		♥ 10953
♦ K965		♦ 872
♣ 82		♣ KJ7
	♠ QJ6	
	♥ AKQ	
	♦ J43	
	♣ 10943	

This keeps communications open with partner, and you will eventually take three spades and two clubs, to beat 3NT.



Points to remember:

- If the opponents don't investigate a major suit fit after a NT opening, lead a major in preference to a minor to 3NT.
- When returning partner's lead, play the card that is your "normal" lead from your remaining cards in the suit.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ K3
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10854
 ♦ J854
 ♣ A82

♠ J1092
 ♥ J973
 ♦ A
 ♣ 10975

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♥*	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	D'ble	All pass

* spades and a minor, 5+/5+

Partner starts ♦10 and you win ♦A. You can see that you have a trick in trumps and partner must have ♠A. Where will the 4th trick come from? What should you return?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ AQ105
 Vul: Nil ♥ KQ4
 ♦ J832
 ♣ 32

♠ 643
 ♥ A85
 ♦ 964
 ♣ Q1094

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣*
1♦	1♥**	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

* Standard, 3+
 ** spades!

Partner leads ♦K, taken with declarer's ♦A. South plays a spade to ♠Q and a low club from the table. Declarer's ♣J loses to partner's ♣A, and partner switches to ♥J, covered, and you win ♥A (I assume). What do you play next?

Solutions on page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ Q85
 Dealer: N ♥ AK1074
 Vul: E/W ♦ KQ32
 ♣ 9

♠ AJ73
 ♥ -
 ♦ A
 ♣ KQ1087653

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

West leads ♦J. It's all totally annoying but you must soldier on. Solution on page 7.

RECENT RESULTS

Xmas Teams

- 1 W. Jacobs, C. Chua, S. Hinge, L. Gold, J. Ebery
- 2 J. Thompson, E. Caplan, J. Alexander, V. Goldberg
- 3 R. Van Riel, F. Beale, D. Smart, I. McCance

VBA Summer Congress

Pairs

- 1 J. Ebery - L. Gold
- 2 B. Jaffrey - A. Paul
- 3 S. Gerdan, R. Szabo-Bencze

Teams

- 1 J. Ebery, L. Gold, B. Howe, N. Ewart
- 2 S. Klofa, G. Ridgway, R. Gallus, K. Chan
- 3 C. Mill, A. Mill, J. Howard, P. Hollands

VBA Mixed Pairs

- 1 S. Gerdan – J. Selwyn
- 2 J. Gaspar – G. Gaspar
- 3 J. Hall – R. Livingston

VBA Unmixed Pairs

- 1 S. Arber – L. Meyer
- 2 L. Gold – D. Davis
- 3 S. Klofa – R. Gallus

Charlie Snashall
1947 – 2007

Charlie was one of nature's gentlemen. He was always busy, working, feeding his mates, playing bridge, or doing the crossword — at all of which he was exceptionally able.

He was great fun at the bridge table, a great partner, a fearsome opponent, and a wonderfully supportive teammate. Let me tell you a few stories about Charlie.

Charlie and I were playing in the Seniors' final for Victoria against South Australia, and George Smolenko and David Mortimer arrived 15 minutes late for the session. Note that patience wasn't one of Charlie's many virtues.

On the first hand George played 2♠, and Charlie led a little club through dummy's Q third and my J somewhat surprisingly won the trick. I returned a club and Charlie took his A and K, and played the thirteenth club. Declarer ruffed in dummy with the 9 (his highest trump) and I over-ruffed with my singleton 10, which promoted an extra trump trick for Charlie.

When the hand was over, George stuck his head under the screen and enquired of Charlie: "Where did you pluck that !@#\$\$%^& lead from?" Charlie responded with: "That's what you get for coming late!"

Now as we all know, Charlie loved feeding people, but of all the things he did, his roasts will never be forgotten (unlike his magnificent cauliflower cheese, which he used to make the day before and reheat in the microwave just before the meal, and that's where it was usually found the next day).

Charlie was once playing with Alex Green, and sat down against Terry Brown and Phil Gue. As he parked himself, he remarked: "Help, I'm surrounded by Brown, Green, Gue!"

Charlie was never judgemental. He accepted everyone for what they were. I've spent the last few days trying genuinely (as a challenge) to find anyone who didn't like Charlie – I couldn't! Charlie was an exceptionally decent human being.

Bill Jacobs told me that one of his enduring memories of Charlie was his calm competence and common sense when he sat on Appeals Committees and Disciplinary Committees.

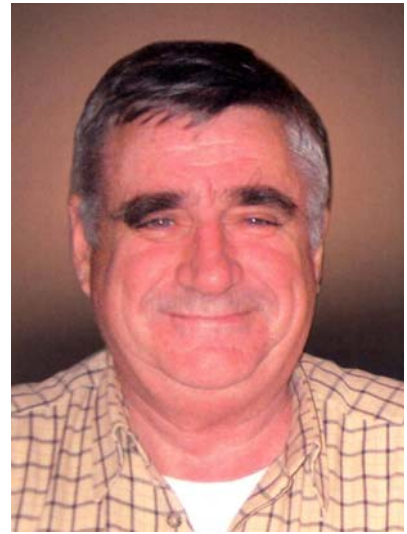
Bill also pointed out that he was exceedingly modest: he wrote up the win in the Seniors ANC a few years back, and all the good hands were about his partner and teammates – nothing about himself.

Finally, Bill said that Charlie was a party to his biggest drubbing ever: it was 0 (Bill's team) – 72 (Charlie's team) over eight boards, and that Bill's team was certainly in a position to "swiss it" after that match!

Blaine Howe told me that Charlie used to be one of his first ports of call when he had a difficult bridge problem to resolve – whether technical, political or ethical.

Blaine said that he has never been short of an opinion and frequently checked out a problem with Charlie thinking there was a black-and-white answer, whether he was right or wrong. However, Blaine lost count of the times when after explaining the problem the response was: "Well...."

After this start Blaine would mostly find that the problem was more complicated than at first thought and a simple solution was not available, as is very common in most life situations. Blaine says he going to miss Charlie's ability to see the bigger picture, as I think, are we all.



Blaine was shooting the breeze with Charlie one day about why we all keep turning up to play the beautiful game and what we get out of it.

Charlie said that the biggest thrill he got from bridge was taking the first hand from the board at the start of an event and feeling the excitement of a new competition as he checked out his cards. It didn't matter whether it was an evening's duplicate or a national event – the feeling was the same.

Of course he was right on the money. As long as that feeling is still there when starting a new event you know that the game is still with you.

We all of course wish Charlie was too.

The sympathies of all the Bridge players Charlie ever met, particularly from us here in Victoria, are extended to Helen and all of Charlie's family, especially Charlie's son Andrew, who had a double tragedy in that he also lost his sister earlier in the year to a sudden illness.

... Grant Kilvington



Andrew Samuel
1934 – 2007

Andrew was a member of the VBA since 1973, and together with his wife Eva they were an institution at the club. Andrew served on the VBA Council and as Secretary in recent years.

In his working life, Andrew was Professor of Engineering at Melbourne University. He was a pioneer of engineering design and research, a prolific author and respected educator.

Andrew was born in turbulent times in Ujpest Hungary, and as a 10-year-old, he demonstrated his courage by not wearing the yellow star decreed to identify all Jewish citizens. For 12 months, he lived among strangers and survived the horrors that took the lives of so many. His mother and older brother perished in Auschwitz.

In 1949 he arrived in Australia with his father to start a new life. He quickly gained mastery of the English language, in addition to his earlier fluency in German and his native Hungarian. He studied at night school and won a scholarship to Melbourne University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with honours in 1959.

He gained his master's degree in 1963 in the field of fluid mechanics, and his PhD followed in 1973, titled *The Development of Turbulent Boundary Layers in Adverse Pressure Gradients*. That thesis provided benchmark data for many later theoretical and experimental investigations.

Andrew's thesis had been passed by the examiners 12 months earlier, but he delayed acceptance of the degree until Eva had also passed her examination and was ready to receive her PhD in Chemistry! The awarding of PhDs to husband and wife at the same ceremony was a unique and significant event, both for the Samuel family and for the university community in Melbourne.

In the 1980s Andrew established and led an important and successful research program in kinematic design and robotics.

Amongst Andrew's many fine bridge results was a win (with Eva of course) in the 2005 Thwaites Victorian Mixed Pairs. Our thoughts are with Eva and their children and grandchildren.



THE SEVEN DEADLY PARTNERSHIP SINS

Blaine Howe

Sin 5: Body Language

Body language is unavoidable but bridge players have to make an effort to control it at the table. This is not easy.

There are two kinds of body language you have to control. The first is where you pass information to the table because of how you bid or play a card. This puts pressure on partner making it difficult to play effectively.

1. You think about a bid or play for a long time and clearly show distress about your choice.
2. You move your hand to the Pass side of the bidding box, then change your mind and select a bid.
3. You lead your singleton with gusto as soon as the last pass is completed.

Giving partner ethical problems or creating a tense environment because the opponents suspect there is one is a bad thing to do.

The second is where you are making loud silent commentary.

1. Your partner makes a stupid switch and you roll your eyes and play your card with a lobe or lean over the table to inspect partner's card.
2. Your shoulders slump when dummy comes down or when the opponents find the correct continuation after holding the lead. The defence now feels confident and starts looking for that extra one off.
3. Your partner gives you a look that makes it clear he wants you to be arrested or exterminated.

You don't have an unlimited number of get out of jail free tickets for bad behaviour so use your tickets carefully.

In a similar vein, asking too many questions, coffee housing or getting involved in your opponents' discussions can do your partner's head in. If your partner shows a distinct dislike of this behaviour, you had better pay heed.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ K3	
Vul: E/W	♥ 10854	
	♦ J854	
	♣ A82	
♠ AQ765		♠ J1092
♥ -		♥ J973
♦ Q10963		♦ A
♣ 643		♣ 10975
	♠ 84	
	♥ AKQ62	
	♦ K72	
	♣ KQJ	

If you now play ♠J partner may well win and play another diamond – from his point of view there are only 2 missing and if you have ♦7, no harm done, if you don't, you get a ruff. But you don't want a ruff. Return ♣10 and let declarer get on with it. Even if this leads South to suspect 4-0 trumps, he lacks the entries to dummy to pick them up.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E	♠ AQ105	
Vul: Nil	♥ KQ4	
	♦ J832	
	♣ 32	
♠ 97		♠ 643
♥ J1097		♥ A85
♦ KQ1075		♦ 964
♣ A6		♣ Q1094
	♠ KJ82	
	♥ 632	
	♦ A	
	♣ KJ875	

You can solve this conveniently by counting declarer's tricks. He has 3 plain-suit tricks, ♦A, ♣K, ♥K, and has taken one in trumps. That's 4. Where will he get another 6?

If you tackled the matter in this way you get it right – 6 trumps can now be made separately – unless you lead one.

This play was found by Alain Levy in a playoff for French representation in Pau, 2008. At the other table the play was identical up to ♥A, when East put back a heart and 4♠ was made.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

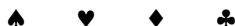
IMPs	♠ Q85		
Dealer: N	♥ AK1074		
Vul: E/W	♦ KQ32		
	♣ 9		
♠ 1042		♠ K96	
♥ Q65		♥ J9832	
♦ J1095		♦ 8764	
♣ J42		♣ A	
	♠ AJ73		
	♥ -		
	♦ A		
	♣ KQ1087653		

You have only one technical chance, and you should play for it. If someone has the singleton club ace and the spade king, they can be endplayed with it.

To avoid losing a trick to the club jack as well, you must play a low club from your hand at trick two. Miracles can happen! (In fact, the club ace will be singleton around 12% of the time, so it's not a genuine miracle you are playing for.)

You might go 2 down rather than 1 down on this line? Real men don't worry about the odd extra undertrick.

What about playing for a defensive error? A high club, and hope an opponent wins the ace from Ax and switches to a spade from the king? Only the most naïve opponent would fall for that. But if you do try it, make sure you lead the club queen, not the king, to encourage someone to duck from Ax.





**WEDNESDAY MORNING
SUPERVISED PLAY CLASSES
at the VBA**

When? Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
commencing 6th February, 2008

Where? Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms (Melway 60 C6)
131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

Cost? \$8 per session including morning tea

Supervisor: Cathie Lachman

Fun, Friendly and Informative for all players




THE ITALIAN JOB
Ron Klinger

West	North	East	South
?	1♥	Pass	4♥

What would you do (nil vul) as West with:

♠ K87432 ♥ - ♦ A4 ♣ 107643

When Italy won the 2000 World Open Teams Olympiad, Alfredo Versace found a great bid on this deal from the final:

IMPs	♠ Q65		
Dealer: N	♥ KQJ954		
Vul: Nil	♦ J9		
	♣ KQ		
♠ K87432		♠ J9	
♥ -		♥ A6	
♦ A4		♦ KQ873	
♣ 107643		♣ A852	
	♠ A10		
	♥ 108732		
	♦ 10652		
	♣ J9		

West	North	East	South
4♠ (!)	1♥	Pass	4♥
	Pass	Pass	Pass

The lack of spade length argues against a takeout double by East and the diamonds lack the quality needed for a 2-level overcall. The rationale for Versace's very courageous 4♠ was:

(a) The void in the enemy suit (usually a good sign for competing), and

(b) The good shape (6-5 pattern) with moderate strength. As South's was a weak action and West was also weak, it was very likely that East would have some useful values. Indeed they were sufficient to allow 4♠ to make, thanks to the ♠A onside and the 2-2 split in clubs.

At the other table East overcalled 2♦, but the bidding ended with 3♠ by West. In the Women's final, both Wests did bid 4♠, but that was aided by East's 2♦ overcall.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Belinda Briggs Sherril Catsburg
Club Master	Rosemary O'Connor
Local Master	Marcel Dayan
*Local Master	Michael Glasman Sara Glasman
**Local Master	Bert Van Eijk Jennifer Millar
Regional Master	Anna Levin
*Regional Master	Barbara Berlin Tamar Rapoport
State Master	Chrana Greene Margaret Inglis
Bronze Life Master	Andrew Hegedus
Silver Life Master	Marek Tauman
Silver Grand Master	Stefi Gerdan

NEW FACES AND OLD

The VBA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Les Ajzner	Corinne Bader
Gary Blusztein	Maurice Bolling
Gary Campbell	Rodney Carr
Sherril Catsburg	Jill Chambers
Barbara Dimsey	Ray Gilmour
Jean Goff	Carl Hagan
Ruth Hall	Irene Hamilton
Janet Hill	Jacob Kirsh
Paul Kron	Sara Levy
Susan MacCallum	Frank McConvill
Brian Morgan	Rosemary O'Connor
Shirley Rogers	Simon Rose
Shaw Rudzki	Aileen Shea
Martin Simons	Helen Stewart
Mary Williams	Marguerite Woodford
Dubrovka Zec	

HOW KEEN ARE YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME?

You owe it to yourself, your partners and your team-mates to visit and sign up with <http://www.ronklingerbridge.com/>

New material added constantly

TRICK 13

	♠ J84	
	♥ 85	
	♦ AJ10952	
	♣ KQ	
♠ 9752		♠ A1063
♥ A97642		♥ QJ
♦ 6		♦ K32
♣ 43		♣ 8752
	♠ KQ	
	♥ K103	
	♦ Q87	
	♣ AJ1096	

South declares 3NT.

West leads a heart to the jack and king, and the diamond finesse loses. East cashes the heart queen and leads a low spade. All quite reasonable.

Declarer has the rest with a trick to spare, but understands the beauty of the game. He cashes dummy's clubs, crosses to a diamond, cashes two more clubs, and finally crosses back to dummy with a diamond to run the diamonds. Trick 13 is as follows:

	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ A	
	♣ -	
♠ -		♠ A
♥ A		♥ -
♦ -		♦ -
♣ -		♣ -
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ A	



Summer/Autumn Series 2008 BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS at the VBA



When?	Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 6 th March
Where?	Victorian Bridge Association Clubrooms 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena
Cost?	\$130 per person (students and under 30s \$80) includes: - 8 weeks of 2 hour lessons - Certificate on completion - 6 Free Supervised Playing Vouchers 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