

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2008

Editor: Bill Jacobs

AUSTRALIAN TEAM PLAYOFFS



Diana Smart, Sally Murray-White, Helen Snashall and Felicity Beale

Once again, Victorians dominated the Women's Playoffs. This year Sally Murray-White - Helen Snashall and Felicity Beale - Diana Smart (together with Sue Lusk and Therese Tully) qualified for the Women's A Team to represent Australia at the 1st World Mind Sports games (formerly the Bridge Olympiad) in Beijing in October.

Felicity and Di have been there many times, but this is a first for Sally and Helen.

Here's some fine bidding judgment to show how they did it:

Dealer: N	♠ 9762		
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ863		
	♦ Q1062		
Sally	♣ -	Helen	
♠ AKJ84		♠ -	
♥ K42		♥ J975	
♦ 7		♦ AJ83	
♣ AJ54		♣ KQ972	
	♠ Q1053		
	♥ 10		
	♦ K954		
	♣ 10863		

Sally	North	Helen	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	D'ble	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

This is a tempting setup for E/W, but any thoughts of a club slam died after North's takeout double. Sally's 2♦ bid on a singleton was a clever effort. It had three serendipitous effects:

- 1) Helen's raise established the diamond stopper
- 2) Sally could protect ♥K with 3NT
- 3) North was deflected from the killing diamond lead!

Not surprisingly, only two other pairs in the combined 12 tables of the Open and Women's playoff were able to land in 3NT, one of whom failed.

In the Seniors Playoff, George Gaspar (pictured) combined with Bobby Richman to qualify for the Australian Seniors team to contest the PABF Championships in Surfers Paradise in September.



Finally, there was a qualifier of a different sort for Beijing. Laurie Kelso has been appointed as a tournament director for the Mind Sports games.



This is the pinnacle for directors. We always knew that Laurie was a world-class director, and now he has the appointment to prove it!

LAWS 2008 STYLE

The 2008 version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge will come into operation in Victoria on 1st June. This won't revolutionize the way you play bridge, but for a summary of the main changes, see the November 2007 Bulletin.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: S ♠ 109765
 Vul: E/W ♥ A842
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A86

♠ AK432
 ♥ 73
 ♦ AQ1062
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All pass	

West leads the heart queen. Plan the play. Solution on page 10.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

I don't know about you, but I like to complain that I never seem to get any cards. So the following hand is a mild surprise:

♠ A52 ♥ AK4 ♦ A763 ♣ AK9

Playing IMPs, you are just getting ready to have some fun bidding with this 22 count when you notice that RHO is the dealer and a 3♠ bid is on the table. You are vulnerable – they are not.

Curses! What's your poison?

American Bob Hamman would be on everyone's short list as the best bridge player ever to have trod the earth. And he has his name on a rule-of-thumb.

Hamman's Rule:

"If 3NT is one of your alternative bids, choose it."

Hamman's Rule applies here. It is unlikely you can reach 3NT if you don't bid it right now, and 3NT could be the correct contract. It might not work out (there's an understatement!), but that doesn't stop it being the right bid.

Hamman's rule would also apply if you have a nice 15 count, perhaps:

♠ KJx ♥ Ax ♦ KQJ10x ♣ J10x

3NT would also be recommended here – how else are you to get there? Having a range of 15-22 points is no picnic, but of course that's why people pre-empt.

All right, you bid 3NT with 22 points, hoping partner does not have too good a hand, and all pass. The spade 10 is led:

♠ 43
 ♥ Q876
 ♦ K942
 ♣ 764

♠ A52
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ A763
 ♣ AK9

Partner's 5 points represents about a third of the missing high cards, so you cannot really complain about the dummy. Since 3NT is not laydown, this shows how right you were to simply bid it.

You have the makings of nine tricks if you can establish a long diamond, or maybe a long heart.

RHO overtakes the spade ten with the jack and continues with the king and queen – you win the ace on the third round. LHO follows to the second spade and discards a low heart on the third round.

There's no reason not to check for a happy heart break, so you cash the ace and king – but RHO discards a spade on the second round. So no joy there.

It's time to try the diamonds. How do you go about it?

You need diamonds to be 3-2, and of course mustn't let RHO in to run his spades. So lead a low diamond from your hand, and if LHO should put the queen on it, duck it.

In fact LHO follows with the five, so you win the king (eight from RHO), and play a low diamond off ... RHO follows with the 10.

Your play.

Only the jack and queen are outstanding, so you should duck this trick, hoping that LHO is forced to overtake. If LHO shows out, then you are down, but you were never making 3NT in that scenario. The full deal:

	♠ 43	
	♥ Q876	
	♦ K942	
	♣ 764	
♠ 107		♠ KQJ986
♥ J10532		♥ 9
♦ Q5		♦ J108
♣ Q1082		♣ J53
	♠ A52	
	♥ AK4	
	♦ A763	
	♣ AK9	

LHO wins his diamond queen – but you have nine tricks.

You've managed the diamond suit well: if you had cashed the diamond ace first, then West would have had the chance for a brilliancy: dump the queen on it! This forces you to lose a trick to East.

In the actual play, East could have put you to a nasty guess by playing the *jack* rather than the *ten* on the second round. Now you must guess whether he started with Jx (play the ace on the jack) or J10x (duck the jack). Not too many defenders would visualize that possibility.

Points to remember:

- When in doubt, consider 3NT. A 3NT overall of a 3-level pre-empt could be anything. Partner just has to guess.
- There is apparently no end to the delicate play positions that can arise at the bridge table. That's why the game remains popular. Imagine for a moment that East's diamonds were ♦Q10x. Can you see the play he has to make to beat you?

So the point to remember here is: you and I will never master this game.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ KJ8642
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK
 ♦ J10
 ♣ AQ6

♠ Q1053
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ AQ543
 ♣ J7

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

* Acol system – at least four

Partner leads ♦2. Your methods indicate that this is likely to be from ♦K, so you can see two tricks for the defence. Where are the other two?

Problem 2:

Dealer: W ♠ 1094
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q76
 ♦ Q973
 ♣ A87

♠ A765
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AJ108
 ♣ KQ102

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1NT	2♥
3♣	3♥	All Pass	

You lead ♣K, won by dummy's ♣A, partner contributing ♣6 and declarer ♣9. A diamond is led from dummy, to partner's ♦5 and declarer's ♦K. You win ♦A and play ♣Q, which wins, collecting ♣4, ♣3. You pause to consider your next move.

(You play natural count and attitude on lead.)

Solutions on page 6.



THE EXPERT AND THE PSYCHIC SPADE

If Lewis Carroll had played bridge...
(www.jabberwocky.com/carroll/walrus.html)



The time has come, the Expert said,
To speak of many things:
Of suits and sluffs and singletons
And Jacks and Queens and Kings,
And why the distribution's hot
And whether slams have wings.

One time I trumped, the Expert said,
My partner's diamond ace.
Dark anger glittered in his eye
And red suffused his face
As irate incredulity
To just plain ire gave place.

Declarer'd bid, upon my right,
A spade of psychic brand
Which suited me most perfectly,
In fact I thought it grand!
That diamond ace I butchered on
The eighth trick of the hand.

My partner won my spade return
And led his diamond king.
I ruffed it with the five of spades
As slick as anything,
Because I held no other suit -
A most peculiar thing.

That ruddy face, the Expert said,
Did now deep crimson burn.
A snort of fury burst upon
The trump I did return;
But when I killed his ace of clubs
I really felt concern!

His eyes went cold, completely glazed
With homicidal hate,
And sweat made ice upon his brow
His dander was so great.
Strange noises blurred within him
Quite inarticulate.

I threw my lone remaining trump
Face up for him to see
In pitiful endeavour just
To save his sanity,
But hatred screened from out his eyes
The sight of aught but me.

My bare white throat, the Expert said,
That paranoiac eyed!
As venom drieveld from his lips
I sought some place to hide;
But Providence was merciful,
He bit himself, and died!

Directors' Course

Sunday 25th May 2008



Conducted by Dr. Laurie Kelso
Victorian Chief Tournament Director
At the Victorian Bridge Association
131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

(suitable for people wanting to
learn how to direct)

9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

COST : \$70.00

***Affiliated Clubs are invited to send one
ABF registered member free of charge***

All enquiries and registrations to Cathie
(T) 03-9530-9006, (F) 03-9530-9212
or e-mail clachman@vba.asn.au

We regret to report that Rae Rosenberg, a long-time VBA member, passed away this month, aged 92. Her daughter Ruth is married to Mark Lowen (Walter Lowen's son). The VBA members, committee and staff extend condolences to Rae's family.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN? Blaine Howe

Episode 1 - Shhhhh

This is the first of a series of articles about dummy – the forgotten player. There are obligations when you are dummy and a lot of things you should and should not do. You are likely not expert at some of them and I am going to help you improve.

For those that are still with me: the first, and arguably most important, thing for dummy to do effectively is the hardest of all – be quiet. Dummy should be like the Lone Ranger – efficient, helpful and seemingly never really there.

Talk sparingly and always with a sense of purpose or a sense of humour. Even then you may achieve a common own goal for dummy: disturbing declarer's concentration, creating an ethical problem or getting up the opponents' noses for no particular reason.

The French call the dummy "Le Mort". This is right on the money for a lot of reasons. When you are dummy, relax and ignore the hand unless partner speaks directly to you. Then do exactly what you are told – many of you will have to practise this, won't you?

Declarer has to do the tough stuff, which is making all of the bridge decisions and making as many tricks as possible for your side. Helping declarer to do this is your job when you are dummy and there are a lot of little things that will assist your side. Surprising nobody, I am going to offer some pointers for us all.

Everything you do as dummy should be automatic, effortless, well-mannered and obedient. Clearly a change in mindset is required by many of us to become an effective dummy.

Subsequent articles will deal with:

Full disclosure	Calling the director
Putting dummy down	Leaving the table
Playing the cards	Housekeeping
Claims	Deportment



RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Pennant

- 1 L. Gold, A. Sarten, C. Chua, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson
- 2 R. Gallus, K. Chan, A. Krolikowski, H. Blakeman
- 3= J. Fust, W. Scott, I. McCance, G. Chettle
- 3= G. Kilvington, D. Smith, R. van Riel, F. Beale, D. Smart

Board-a-Match Teams

- 1 L. Gold, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, C. Chua, S. Hinge
- 2 T. Bloom, L. Meyer, J. Fleiszig, G. Fleiszig
- 3 G. Kilvington, G. Chettle, M. Henbest, R. Thomson, H. Sawicki, D. Smith

Master Teams

A Section

- 1 B. Tencer, G. Gaspar, W. Scott, R. Drew
- 2 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, S. Arber, L. Meyer
- 3 V. Muntz, K. Muntz, J. Selwyn, R. Rozen

B Section

- 1 J. Hall, B. Dembo, E. Linton, E. Matheson
- 2 M. Yuill, G. Hill, P. Corrigan, L. Hickman
- 3 A. Murray, C. Whiddon, J. Atkinson, J. Homer

Victorian Open Team Playoff

- 1 *Pennant*: L. Gold, A. Sarten, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, C. Chua, S. Hinge
- 2 *Butler*: B. Howe, N. Ewart, G. Gaspar, B. Tencer, P. Schroor, D. Sheather

Congratulations to the winning Pennant team, who now form the Victorian Open team for the upcoming ANC on the Gold Coast.

Anzac Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 2 R. Livingston – P. Hill
- 3 A. Hu – J. Yang

Swiss Teams

- 1 R. Livingston, P. Hill, M. Weinberg, A. Halmos
- 2 D. Jacobs, M. Elson, L. Szabo, C. Hagan
- 3 A. Branicki, L. Branicki, G. Pick, J. Fust

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

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

Graduate Master	Nanette Cooper
Club Master	Les Ajzner Gary Blusztein Bianca Chambers Dubravka Zec
Local Master	Esther Goldschlager Pat Makinson Shaw Rudzki Pam Smith Valerie Sterling
*Local Master	Ray Gilmour Leslie Goldschlager
**Local Master	Valerie Trice
*Regional Master	Alice Rogelberg
State Master	Philip Knightley
National Master	John Bristow Christina Macquarrie
*National Master	Wendy Freeman
Bronze Life Master	Ian Webb
Silver Life Master	Anton Stavik
Silver Grand Master	Lilli Allgood

MASTER POINT IMPROVERS - 2007

Here are the winners of "most improved" awards for 2007:

Overall:	Andy Hegedus (VBA): winner of the Mike Merai trophy
Silver Grand Master:	Jamie Ebery (VBA)
Grand Master:	Jill Magee (VBA)
Gold Life Master:	Dale Sheather (Waverley)
Silver Life Master:	Justin Howard (Alphington)
Bronze Life Master:	Andy Hegedus (VBA)
Life Master:	Kae French (Mooney Valley)
** National Master:	Nimal Weerasinghe (Bendigo)
* National Master:	Helen Stewart (Yarra Valley)
National Master:	Dorothy Stewart (Yarra Valley)
* State Master:	Kate Bechet (Mornington)
State Master:	Chelliah Arul (Waverley)

* Regional Master:	Allan Nolan (Macedon Ranges)
Regional Master:	Elizabeth Brady (Borins)
** Local Master:	Kim Frazer (Mooney Valley)
* Local Master:	Liz Haywood (Bendigo)
Local Master:	Janet Attrill (Warrnambool)



SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ KJ8642	
Vul: N/S	♥ AK	
	♦ J10	
	♣ AQ6	
♠ A97		♠ Q1053
♥ J109		♥ Q3
♦ K82		♦ AQ543
♣ 8532		♣ J7
	♠ -	
	♥ 876542	
	♦ 976	
	♣ K1094	

Partner's 1NT showed some values, probably in the black suits. Clearly ♣K won't be of much use, perhaps ♠A?

Wherever, we should hope for one trick with partner and set about building the fourth. Partner almost certainly hasn't got four diamonds, else would have raised. So trick 3 can come from promoting our ♥Q by forcing dummy.

If we win ♦A and return a diamond to ♦K, will partner know to play another diamond? (We know we have only five diamonds!). Perhaps after ♦A we could cash ♦Q, intending to follow a third diamond, but sometimes partners take odd views, such as overtaking to switch to a club! Since without ♦K in West we aren't getting our setting trick, best is to play ♦Q to trick 1, following with ♦A then ♦x.

Without this defence, declarer has just enough entries to ruff down ♠A and come to 10 tricks. We see later that partner would have had no trouble with the promotion defence.

Problem 2:

Dealer: W	♠ 1094	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q76	
	♦ Q973	
	♣ A87	
♠ A765		♠ KJ
♥ 2		♥ J105
♦ AJ108		♦ 6542
♣ KQ102		♣ J654
	♠ Q832	
	♥ AK9843	
	♦ K	
	♣ 93	

Your partner's 1NT response suggested clubs, and declarer's play at trick 2 suggests ♦K was singleton: this is consistent with partner's *even* signal. So partner looks to have been 4-4 in the minors. You have won two tricks and are bound to come to ♠A.

How to come to two more? Partner will need to hold ♠K and that of course is the solution. Unless declarer has 7 trumps, partner started with 2344 shape and you can engineer a ruff in spades. Return ♠5.

(From French Playoff for the Seniors Euro Championships in Pau, 2008. Play found by Phillippe Vanhoutte.)

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE INAUGURAL RESTRICTED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP
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Restricted events have long been lacking from the Victorian bridge calendar. Whilst restricted events are held nationally there are few gazetted locally. A very experienced player, Charlie Snashall who was a Gold Grand Master was well known for his attitude towards restricted events and always tried to encourage less experienced players to participate in all events.

There is a noted reticence by restricted players to participate in "open" events because they feel inadequate against strong players. In 2007 the VBA Council and Match and Tournament Committee decided to trial an event, in which restricted players could play against other players of a similar standard, and so the 2008 Victorian Restricted Pairs championship was held on Sunday 29th March.

Feedback from the event was outstanding (see the letter below for example). All 112 players enjoyed the event and of particular note was attendance from the country clubs Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance and Benalla. The prize medals and books were donated anonymously by somebody with a passion to encourage restricted events.

Following the success of the Championship, restricted players can look forward to the 2009 event, which will be a State event and not a congress, and therefore carries the appropriate masterpoint status as any other state event.

Also, do not forget the Restricted Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams events which form part of the Victor Champion Cup coming up in June – see the last page of this bulletin for details.

Dear VBA,

Congratulations on the Restricted Pairs

I want to advise how great it was to play the restricted competition last Saturday March 29. It is a great idea that needs to be expanded with more events with restricted points ranges. It was well run and had very good player support. Well done!!!

In 12 years of playing bridge I do not recall enjoying a day more.

It is very good for the sport as it enables you to compete at your own level with virtually no rude, predatory, over competitive behaviour which is how too many highly experienced players behave at the table. It also eliminates the professional bridge players, and I personally think this is a real positive move.

As a restricted points player who plays duplicate once, occasionally twice a week plus an occasional congress, I know that I have no chance of beating grand masters. However, last Saturday I felt there was a real chance when playing against players with experience similar to mine.

Jeff Lacey

ABOUT DONKEYS
Bill Jacobs

Donkey:

1. the domestic ass, *equus asinus*
2. (since 1874) a representation of this animal as the emblem of the U.S. Democratic party
3. a stupid, silly or obstinate person and ...
4. gadget in bridge for opening two bids with two 4-card suits, popular in Victoria in the first part of the 21st century

Uncharitable people might suggest that Definition 3 begets Definition 4.

Donkey Twos are indeed enjoying a period of popularity here in Melbourne, in particular featured in the Pennant qualifying and finals. It is a two level opening showing less than opening strength, with two suits (maybe only 4-4 in length). The suits may or may not be known. The suit bid may or may not be in one of the suits shown. For example:

- 2♣: both majors
2♦: hearts and another suit
2♠: spades and clubs

Practitioners like them not because they are sound (they aren't), but because opponents often do not cope. Like forcing pass systems, they winimps through unfamiliarity rather than technical merit. And like forcing pass, their popularity is cyclical for this very reason.

There are two ways to cope with Donkey Twos:

Method 1: Emigrate to America, where they are banned (except in the Vanderbilt and Spingold nationals).

Method 2: Adopt my three golden rules for dealing with nutty two-openings.

Because of the subtle variations in donkey twos, you need sound general principles in preparing your defence. Your aim should be to not have to discuss your defence with your

partner when you sit down and get pre-alerted, confident that your principles will see you through.

Golden Rule #1: If they bid a suit which in normal circumstances might be passed (including a pass-or-correct bid), double is takeout of that suit.

Examples:

- 2♠: spades and clubs
2♦ (hearts and another) - 2♠ (pass if your other suit is spades)

In both auctions, double is takeout of spades.

The corollary is: having made one of these takeout doubles, if the opponents bid another suit, then double by your side is for penalties.

Golden Rule #2: If their opening bid is artificial and in normal circumstances won't be passed, double shows an opening hand.

Examples:

- 2♣: both majors
2♦: hearts and another
2♦: multi (I just threw that in)

Double here should show any old boring opening hand, say 12 points or more. You could alternatively overcall in a nice suit, or bid 2NT with 16-18, but the key is to get in there and show your values in a situation where your side is not forced into the auction.

When you double one of these artificial openings, you can reasonably expect that you are not making a dangerous entry into the auction. By that I mean: even if your side is in trouble the opponents will usually have to rescue you by bidding. In very rare situations, the opponents will be happy to play in that opening bid, doubled or redoubled, and you may be in strife. But mostly, the opponents will be forced to bid, and now you have got your values across to your partner "for free".

Golden Rule #3: If they show only 4+ cards in a certain suit, then bidding that suit is natural.

Examples:

- 2♣ (majors): a 2♥ or 2♠ overcall is natural.

2♠ (spades and clubs): a 3♣ or 3♠ overcall is natural.

You cannot get distracted by their side showing 4 card length: you can easily belong in that suit. Obviously you will be a bit more cautious, only overcalling in strong suits because of the poor break looming.

HOW TIMES CHANGE Blaine Howe

I was reading one of Alfred Sheinwold's excellent old puzzle books recently and came across the following introduction to one of the hands. The book was written in 1970.

Manoeuvre Is Not Indelicate

About 40 years ago, Milton C. Work wanted to write about a bridge manoeuvre called "stripping". Some of his newspapers considered this term indelicate, so Work solved the problem by calling the manoeuvre "elimination"¹.

As you can see in a simple example, the manoeuvre itself is not indelicate.

Not only is this a lovely little story, but for me the word elimination will never be quite the same again.

If the name Milton C. Work does not ring a bell, every time you count 4-3-2-1 points in your hand (on every deal, right?), you are using the methodology that he helped define and popularise an awfully long time ago.

I have always been very fond of the partial elimination because of the simplicity and elegance of many of the hands where this technique helps you make a contract. They are very easy to miss at the table.

The book is the Devon Book of Bridge Puzzles Number 3. They are a good read and some of them are in the VBA Library.

¹ Ely Culbertson had no such inhibitions. He coined the bridge term "approach forcing" because of the connotations. Approach forcing is the concept by which if your partner opens the bidding, and you name a new suit, partner must bid again ... and this is the cornerstone of modern bidding. (BJ)

Here was the article in question:

Dealer: N	♠ 63		
Vul: N/S	♥ K543		
	♦ K104		
	♣ AK74		
♠ K109852		♠ 74	
♥ 82		♥ A7	
♦ A2		♦ 98653	
♣ QJ2		♣ 10985	
	♠ AQJ		
	♥ QJ1096		
	♦ QJ7		
	♣ 63		

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All pass	

Opening lead: ♦A.

How the hand was played: West leads the ace of diamonds then a low diamond. South is thus threatened with a diamond ruff in addition to two aces and the king of spades.

Most players would go ahead with the trumps anyway, relying on the spade finesse to see them through. East takes the first trump with the ace and returns a diamond for West to ruff. West gets out safely with a club, and South must eventually take the spade finesse. Down one.

Work on Clubs

South can make the contract by working on the clubs before drawing trumps. (And there's a phrase that not even the most delicate person could sniff at.)

After winning the second trick, declarer cashes the top clubs and ruffs a club in hand. This strips the clubs from West's hand. Or you might say it eliminates the clubs from the West hand.

Now South leads a trump. East wins with the ace of trumps and leads a diamond for West to ruff.

What does West lead now? He has nothing but spades, so he must give South a free finesse. South gratefully takes his two spade tricks and ruffs a spade in dummy, winning the game and rubber.

SUPPORT DOUBLES FOLLOWUP

Several Acolytes raised some objections to my ra-ra effort on Support Doubles in last month's newsletter.

Mary Elson was concerned about handling a generally good hand with length in the fourth suit. So after:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2♦	1♣ ?

what should South bid with:

♠ KQxx ♥ Qx ♦ xx ♣ AKxxx

She likes to use a negative double here, which might be necessary to uncover a spade fit. I'd say: "fair enough", but the need to distinguish between 3 and 4 card support would be more frequent.

Chris Mulley from Perth plays a form of Support Doubles that might be better suited to Acol, if you like to colour your bidding "aggressive". A direct raise shows a minimum with 3-card support and a double shows a good hand (perhaps a strong notrump) with 3-card support. With four card support, you find the man's bid of a jump raise (minimum) - or a cue-bid (strong).

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs**

Dealer: S	♠ 109765		
Vul: E/W	♥ A842		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A86		
♠ Q		♠ J8	
♥ QJ105		♥ K96	
♦ 75		♦ KJ984	
♣ KJ10754		♣ Q93	
	♠ AK432		
	♥ 73		
	♦ AQ1062		
	♣ 2		

You don't want to take a diamond finesse here. A much better chance is to establish the diamonds via ruffs – this requires diamonds 4-3 or perhaps the king dropping doubleton.

On other 5-2 diamond breaks, things are not so rosy, but if the short diamond is with the singleton spade, perhaps you can ruff all four of your diamond losers.

Adding this all up, the correct and winning line is to play a diamond to the ace at trick two and ruff a diamond. Then if nothing exciting has happened in diamonds¹, a spade to the ace and continue with a third diamond.

On the actual layout, you have the entries to ruff all four diamonds. East with the odd trump is helplessly following suit all the way.

See what happens if you play a trump before starting the diamond ruffs. With one diamond still to ruff, you will have to play a heart off dummy. East pounces on this trick and plays a second trump, to your regret.

REPLAY

Dealer: S	♠ 109765		
Vul: E/W	♥ A842		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A86		
		♠ J8	
		♥ K96	
		♦ KJ984	
		♣ Q93	

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All pass	5NT

West leads the heart queen to 6♠. Declarer wins this, plays a diamond to the ace and ruffs a diamond.

East can alter the course of history by smoothly following to this trick with the jack!

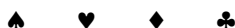
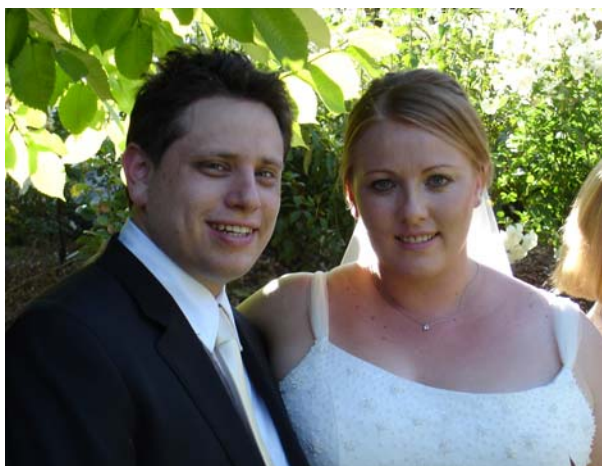
Now look at it from declarer's view. It seems East started with either ♦KJx or ♦Jx. In either case, he can draw trumps, ruff his low diamond, then either the diamonds are high, or he has a proven ruffing finesse against West's king.

Down 1.

¹ See Replay

Getting Your Priorities Right ...

Congratulations to Bianca Chambers and Leigh Gold on their recent nuptials. Bianca and Leigh were married in March, although the wedding was scheduled for April. Unfortunately Leigh was playing in the VBA Pennant finals so the wedding just had to be moved!



Knowing your postcodes ...

Here are the solutions to last month's quiz about post-codes and bridge scores:

Postcode/ Score	Place	Contract
2070	Lindfield	6♥ redoubled, vul, 12 tricks
2140	Homebush	7♣ vul, 13 tricks
2230	Cronulla	1♣ redoubled, vul, 12 tricks
2330	Singleton	7♣ doubled, vul, 13 tricks
2560	Cambelltown	3♥ redoubled, vul, 13 tricks
2840	Bourke	2♥ redoubled, vul, 13 tricks
2880	Broken Hill	2NT redoubled, vul, 13 tricks
3160	Belgrave	1NT redoubled, vul, 13 tricks

2♣ FOLLOWUP

There was a positive response to the March edition article on improvements to methods after 2♣ openings. A couple of clarifications were requested, after the auction starts 2♣ - 2♦. Remember, 2♦ shows any 9+ or 5-8 with no 5-card suit.

- 1) If opener now bids 2♥ or 2♠, a jump in notrumps shows 9+, no support, no 5-card suit. In this case, this means a jump to 3NT. *It is forcing.* (A 9+ HCP hand opposite a 2♣ opening should be ok for a contract higher than 3NT!)

If opener instead rebids 3♣ or 3♦, it's stickier. The jump in notrumps (4NT here) should perhaps not be forcing, showing 9-11 points without support. With a stronger hand, you may have to blast, or show support even with a doubleton, before ending up in 6NT. You can console yourself that it would be no easier if you had bid 2♦ "waiting".

- 2) If opener now bids 2NT, there are no special methods. Responder bids according to your favourite techniques after a strong 2NT bid: Stayman, Puppet Stayman or whatever. With opener's hand described within narrow limits, responder should be able to take control.

GNOT Metropolitan Heat
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Theodor Herzl Social Club Inc

Registrations: Judith Ivanyi - 0411 727 511 or
a.ivanyi@optusnet.com.au

Sheinwold Snippets ...

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he cannot afford to waste it on bridge partners.

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.

A player cannot defend accurately should try to be declarer.



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