

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2008

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## NOTICE OF VBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Bridge Association Limited will be held at the VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena, Victoria on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

### All Members Welcome

All members of the VBA are welcome to attend the AGM and enjoy a free game of duplicate thereafter. Any person whose name does not appear on the register of financial members will not be entitled to vote.

### Nominations for Council

All positions on Council will fall vacant on the date of the AGM.

Members are invited to nominate for the positions of President, Vice-President (2), Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary Councillors. The closing date for nominations is close of business on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

Please refer to the Nomination Sheet posted in the Sara Tishler Room.

The VBA regrets the passing of Brian O'Hara on Tuesday 1st October after he lost his battle with cancer.

He will be sorely missed in the bridge community, particularly at the Summer Festival of Bridge where he was a prominent identity.

## Victorian Bridge Association

invites you to the

# Summer Congress

A Red Master Point Event

to be held

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December and  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

at 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbeena

**Tournament Director - Laurie Kelso**

**Convenor: Cathie Lachman**

Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006

### From the Interstate Butler Qualifying

IMPs                    ♠ K952  
Dealer: S                ♥ Q7  
Vul: N/S                ♦ Q3  
                                 ♣ KJ1072

                                 ♠ AQ1063  
                                 ♥ K9  
                                 ♦ A85  
                                 ♣ 983

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♥A and gets the ♥2 (discouraging) from East. He continues with another heart. Drawing two rounds of trumps reveals that West started with ♠J7. Your move. Solution on page 4.

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

**Don't be a Wally**

Walter the Walrus is one of the great fictional characters of bridge. Created by Victor Mollo in his Bridge in the Menagerie series, Walter is a slave to the point count. He counts his points religiously and bids accordingly.

In Bridge in the Fourth Dimension, Walter commits the following auction:

♠ -	♠ 7642
♥ AJ43	♥ KQ5
♦ A987652	♦ K1043
♣ A4	♣ 53

Walter Walrus	Colin Corgi
1♦	2♦
Pass	

2♦ made seven. "What could I do," said Walter, "I had a 13 count – a bare 13".

"Well bid, Walter," said Colin. "We need only two more grand slams like this one to have 100 points below the line."

Last month we looked at some hands that might be worth more or less than their simple point count. Walter's diamond hand is perhaps the logical conclusion of such adjustments. According to Edgar Kaplan's hand evaluator, his hand is worth 18.55 points – that's more like it!

Let's revisit the hands from last month and pose some bidding decisions.

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A) ♠ 43 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ AQJ ♣ 5432

B) ♠ KJ ♥ KQJ4 ♦ QJ3 ♣ K432

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	Pass	2♠	??

Double by you is takeout here, and is the only bid worthy of consideration, other than pass. Would you double with either of those hands?

---

I'd double with hand A). It's not without risk, but it has quite good playing strength, and it is worth competing to the three level.

On this auction hand B) is a heap of junk – all 16 points of it. Suppose you double, partner bids 3♦ say, and it plays there, maybe doubled. RHO leads a spade, you put down your dummy including KJ of spades – you just know what's going to happen on tricks 1 and 2 don't you?

You can expect partner to have at most one decent high card, which if you count the high cards you are missing, means that you have an absolute minimum of 5 losers. There's little upside to coming into this auction with hand B).

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C) ♠ AK873 ♥ AQ53 ♦ 54 ♣ 73

D) ♠ 87543 ♥ 6543 ♦ AK ♣ AQ

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		1♦	??

Bid or pass?

---

C) is a perfectly good 1♠ overcall. And depending how the auction progresses, I might show the hearts next.

But I'm not bidding 1♠ on 87543, and nor should you. Some might consider doubling on hand D), but frankly it's not worth the risk of partner bidding clubs. Hand D) should pass over 1♦.

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E) ♠ K43 ♥ A632 ♦ A1042 ♣ Q3

F) ♠ 643 ♥ AK54 ♦ AQ102 ♣ 43

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1NT*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	??

\* 12-14 points

Well, both hands are right in the middle of your announced range. Accept or reject?

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I'd pass on hand E) and bid 4♥ on hand F). My strong hearts are comforting on F), and the ♦AQ102 is a good source of side tricks.

Hand E) lacks these qualities. In particular the queen of clubs gives me just third round control in the suit – something that the doubleton provides anyway. The club queen is a doubtful value.

A possible hand for partner:

♠ Axxx ♥ Qxxx ♦ Jx ♣ Axx

Try playing 4♥ opposite that hand with each of E) and F). It has little play opposite E) – even 3♥ may be too high - and is a heavy favourite opposite F).

G) ♠ A10985 ♥ K1094 ♦ A2 ♣ 76

H) ♠ A6532 ♥ K542 ♦ A2 ♣ Q5

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

Double or pass?

The heart spots are crucial here. On G) they are worth at least a trick, maybe two tricks. Imagine overcaller with ♥AQ??xx and partner with ♥J. Hand G) is worth 3 heart tricks, hand H) is worth 1. The club queen may or may not be worth a trick on H).

I would punish East with a double on hand G), but respect him with a pass on H).

Some might disagree with the decisions recommended on these hands. That's what makes horse-racing. But they should at least provide some food for thought.

*Point to remember:*

- Don't be a Walter the Walrus with points.

You might by now be heartily sick of these eight hands, but I'm not. We'll take a final look at them next month.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: S ♠ Q64  
 Vul: Both ♥ J762  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ KQJ8

♠ A7  
 ♥ AK103  
 ♦ AQ84  
 ♣ 762

West	North	East	South
			2♠*
D'ble	R'dble	2NT^	D'ble
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\* 5+ spades, 4+ minor  
 ^ Lebensohl (?)

You start with ♥K, asking for count, and partner shows *even* as declarer drops ♥Q. You are fairly sure of three tricks, but where is the fourth?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: S ♠ AK94  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 96  
 ♦ 1082  
 ♣ 10752

♠ J65  
 ♥ 732  
 ♦ AK54  
 ♣ KJ4

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

You start with the two top diamonds, partner following ♦6, ♦3 (natural count), declarer ♦9, ♦Q. How will you continue?

Solutions on Page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**The 50-90 Rule**

You've heard of the 80-20 Rule. The 50-90 Rule in bridge is: If you have a 50-50 guess, you can expect to get it wrong 90% of the time.

### SIMPLICITY Blaine Howe

Many fine bridge plays are a result of instinct tempered with logic. The trick is to see the answer while you check things out before committing to an instinctive play.

	♠ K952	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ KJ1072	
♠ J7		♠ 84
♥ A108653		♥ J42
♦ K76		♦ J10942
♣ A6		♣ Q54
	♠ AQ1063	
	♥ K9	
	♦ A85	
	♣ 983	

The defence starts with ace and another heart, and trumps turn out to be 2-2.

You need to set up clubs for two diamond discards. Club to the jack anyone? This was the normal line which was greeted by East's club queen and a diamond switch. One off. Oh well? Well, maybe.

My logic goes like this:

1. West seems to have 6 hearts (maybe 7) missing ♥K/♥Q so where is his overcall?
2. Must have the club ace? Yes.
3. Has the diamond king? Yes. If he did not, then why not a diamond at trick two? Don't play your opponents for idiots.<sup>1</sup>
4. So what is the line?

Simplicity. If West has ♣A and ♦K, then a club to the king cannot be wrong.

On the given hand, the club king holds and West takes the second club. He is endplayed. If West has club queen as well? Still no problem.

Did you miss the play? Don't get depressed - not many did at the table on the day.

<sup>1</sup> I suppose not. But if you **do** want to play your opponents for idiots, then you could draw trumps ending in dummy, and play a club towards your hand. If East is caught napping and plays low from ♣Qx, you have just landed an unmakeable contract. (BJ)

### THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs	♠ KJ105
Dealer: S	♥ A983
Vul: Both	♦ QJ
	♣ K82
	♠ A9763
	♥ KQ
	♦ K976
	♣ A5

Against your 6♠ contract on an uncontested auction, West leads the diamond ace, and continues with the diamond three (East follows 2-4, playing natural signals). Take it from there.

Solution on page 7.

♠   ♥   ♦   ♣

### RECENT RESULTS

#### Victorian Open Interstate Stage 1

##### North-South

- 1 R. Gallus – D. Beckett
- 2 F. Beale – D. Smart
- 3 L. Gold – P. Hollands

##### East-West

- 1 M. Dilks – H. Blakeman
- 2 D. Smith – R. van Riel
- 3 J. Magee – T. Strong

#### Victorian Women's Interstate Stage 1

##### North-South

- 1 J. Eddie – A. Paul
- 2 M. Woods – S. Collins
- 3 S. Tishler – R. Kaplan

##### East-West

- 1 S. Gerdan – R. Szabo-Bencze
- 2 H. Snashall – C. Lachman
- 3 M. Callander – D. Keenan

#### Ern Palfreyman Teams

- 1 L. Gold, D. Davis, R. Gallus, S. Henbest, J. Fust, E. Hardy
- 2 W. Scott, R. Drew, B. Tencer, G. Gaspar
- 3 M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, E. Samuel, T. Chira

**NORTHERN REGION GRAND NATIONALS  
Jan Hackett**

In September, the Northern Region held its finals for the GNP and GNOT competitions. 19 pairs from six clubs contested the GNP with Peter and Jennifer Goddard from Bendigo having a mammoth morning session of 70% to lead the field. They held on in the afternoon to take first place from a consistent Bill and Coral Pheasant from Yarrawonga. These two pairs are now eligible to represent the region in Canberra in January.



Bill and Coral Pheasant (left), Peter and Jennifer Goddard (right)

The GNOT drew a field of ten tables from six clubs. Winners Maggie Brown and John Nankervis (Ovens & Murray) and Tom and Jan Hackett (Yarrawonga) won all their matches to finish ahead of Yarrawonga's David Ware, Harold Hollingsworth and Bill and Coral Pheasant. The Brown team will take its place in the national final later this year. Maggie is especially pleased since her daughter just happens to work at the Banora Point venue!



(l-r) John Nankervis, Maggie Brown, Jan Hackett, Tom Hackett

**The Australian Bridge Directors Association**

Presents

**Directors Seminar & Workshop weekend**

At

**Victorian Bridge Association**

**8-9 November 2008**

The ABDA will provide a series of lectures and workshops on the Laws *plus* a workshop on various scoring programs at the VBA starting at 10 am on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Presenters will include:

Sean Mullamphy	ABF Chief TD
Arie Geursen	NZCBA Chief TD
Laurie Kelso	VBA Chief TD
Matthew McManus	NSWBA Chief TD

These directors will present lectures and workshops on many aspects of the new 2007 Bridge Laws, including:

- The Insufficient Bid Law
- Partnership Understandings
- Misbids
- Unauthorized Information
- Law 12
- Appeals

**Workshop on Scoring Programs**

There will also be a workshop presenting a variety of scoring programs used in Australia.

**Cost and Subsidies**

\$25 – 1 day  
 \$45 – 2 days  
 Lunch is included in the cost of each day.

The ABDA also offers subsidies for directors travelling more than 100 kms to this event.

For more information and registration, please visit the ABDA website at [www.abf.com.au/directors](http://www.abf.com.au/directors).

**WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?  
Blaine Howe**

**Episode 7 – Leaving the Table**

If you smoke a lot you won't like this. Leaving the table as dummy during play is bad manners. It can also be disruptive unless everyone at the table is happy for you to leave.

I am not sure whether the laws are OK with you leaving without a good reason. I try not to do it unless I am at a very friendly table where all the players are strong.

Please make an effort to wait until the hand is over. Some players leave the table when dummy for a cigarette, a cup of coffee or when just being plain lazy.

I have seen plenty of declarers and defenders lose concentration, particularly defenders who get too helpful and play the dummy for declarer.

Please do your job as much as possible when dummy. You want your partners to do the same, don't you?

**LEAVING THE TABLE: A CAUTIONARY TALE  
Bill Jacobs**

Blaine's article didn't come in time for Italian superstar Alfredo Versace. If it had, he might have had one more world championship cup in the silverware.

This was the last board of the 2003 Bermuda Bowl World Championship final:

IMPs	Versace	
Dealer: E	♠ KQ987	
Vul: E/W	♥ 7	
	♦ J3	
	♣ QJ983	
Soloway		Hamman
♠ A6543		♠ J10
♥ KQ1086		♥ 542
♦ 42		♦ A7
♣ A		♣ K107642
	Lauria	
	♠ 2	
	♥ AJ93	
	♦ KQ109865	
	♣ 5	

Italy was leading USA by 11 imps going into this deal. At the other table, the board had been played, and Italy had gone down 400 in 4♥ E/W.

After a confused auction, Lauria ended up in 5♦ doubled by South. The contract of course had no play, but it was a matter of how many undertricks. One down would give 11 imps to the USA, and an exact tie in the match. More down would give USA victory.

Soloway led the club ace, Versace put down dummy, and then as is - maybe *was* - his habit, left the table! (Despite it being ill-advised, this does show a remarkably positive attitude to the game.)

The play was not of world championship quality, although understandable after two weeks of intense bridge:

- Trick 1: club ace won
- Trick 2: heart queen (?), won by the ace
- Trick 3: heart jack, covered and ruffed
- Trick 4: club ruff
- Trick 5: heart ruff
- Trick 6: club ruff
- Trick 7: spade king, won by the ace

Declarer had lost two tricks, in this position:

	♠ Q987	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ QJ	
♠ 65		♠ 10
♥ KQ		♥ -
♦ 42		♦ A7
♣ -		♣ K107
	♠ -	
	♥ 9	
	♦ KQ1065	
	♣ -	

Trick 8: spade 6 (!) ...

... and the championship hung in the balance.

Lauria reached for, and touched, the spade 7, and Hamman covered with the 10. Down 2, and the Bermuda Bowl went to USA by 1 imp, instead of down 1, and a playoff.

Lauria claimed to the director, and then to the Appeals Committee, that he clearly intended to play the spade queen. No dice – down 2 was the decision, and rightly so.

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

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

Club Master	Sara Levy
*Local Master	Patrick Zhang Gerald Snowden Pat Makinson Esther Goldschlager
Regional Master	Geoffrey Bewis Kamara Nainanayake
Gold Grand Master	Jessel Rothfield



**THE TWELFTH TRICK  
Bill Jacobs**

IMPs	♠ KJ105	
Dealer: S	♥ A983	
Vul: Both	♦ QJ	
	♣ K82	
♠ 6		♠ Q82
♥ J7542		♥ 106
♦ A1083		♦ 542
♣ 976		♣ QJ1043
	♠ A9763	
	♥ KQ	
	♦ K976	
	♣ A5	

Anyone for “eight ever – nine never”? No one would complain if you banged out the ace-king of spades here.

Playing for Victoria in the recent ANC, Leigh Gold decided to embark on a voyage of discovery. He cashed the heart king-queen, and then the diamond king. Next he played the club ace, and a club to the king.

This was followed by the heart ace – when East discarded a club it was all over. Leigh discarded his last diamond, ruffed a club, played a spade to the king, and then ran the jack, confident that West would show out.

Playing all those side-suits entailed some risk – someone might ruff something, with spades friendly all along. So you can give yourself full marks if you at least considered the possibility of playing on the side suits to discover more about the distribution.

**SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS  
Ian McCance**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: S	♠ Q64	
Vul: Both	♥ J762	
	♦ K6	
	♣ KQJ8	
♠ A7		♠ 832
♥ AK103		♥ 9854
♦ AQ84		♦ J10732
♣ 762		♣ 10
	♠ KJ1095	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 95	
	♣ A9543	

Whatever his auction means, it looks as if partner started with 5 or 6 diamonds and you can afford to cash ♦A to have a look. Your partner signals *odd*, and now you can be fairly confident he has a singleton club. Lead one to set up the ruff.

[From the USA Spingold final, 2008. West continued hearts at trick 2.]

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: S	♠ AK94	
Vul: N/S	♥ 96	
	♦ 1082	
	♣ 10752	
♠ J65		♠ Q103
♥ 732		♥ 105
♦ AK54		♦ J763
♣ KJ4		♣ Q963
	♠ 872	
	♥ AKQJ84	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ A8	

Declarer must have good hearts, what can he have outside? The missing cards are ♠Q, ♣A, ♣Q.

If he holds ♣A and ♠Q there is no defence. If he holds ♣AQ and only two small spades, it will be fatal to switch to a club. If he holds both black queens, it might be fatal not to switch to a club. And if he holds ♣A and no queens but three small spades, it is essential to switch to a club. So two winning cases out of three? ♣4 it must be.

**MISOGYNY**

*If Professor Henry Higgins had played bridge*

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<http://www.reelclassics.com/Musicals/Fairlady/lyrics/fairlady-why cant a woman.htm>



Why can't a woman - play bridge like men do?  
 Our play is inspired - our bidding so true!  
 We're constantly willing - to educate you!  
 Why won't you just listen? - We haven't a clue!

One man in a million may overbid a bit.  
 Now and then he'll make a doubtful double.  
 Or perhaps he'll stretch a preempt just a whit.  
 But by and large his bidding keeps him out of trouble!

Why won't my partner - bid clearly like me?  
 My bids are so daring - so thrilling to see!  
 Precise and so lucid - you surely agree!  
 It's got to be her fault - when I'm doubled down three!

Why must a woman - play cards like a dame?  
 Men analyse quickly - the faults of her game!  
 We're kind and so gentle - to cover her shame!  
 Why can't a woman - admit she's to blame!

One man in a billion may raise his voice a tad.  
 Now and then he'll fail to thank the dummy.  
 At times he may reveal a face that's slightly sad.  
 But on the whole, we men are frightfully chummy!

Why can't a woman - behave like a bloke?  
 She tells you to hush up - when you tell a good joke!  
 She says that you smell bad - when you go for a smoke!

Then calls the director - each time you revoke!

If I forgot to lead your suit, would you be cranky?  
*(Of course not!)*

If I finessed you, would you pout and ballyhoo?  
*(Nonsense!)*

If I trumped your trick would you pull out your hanky?  
*(Never!)*

Why can't a woman - be like you!

Why are the ladies - so damn querulous?  
 Men play with such logic - no strain and no fuss!  
 With marvellous tactics - which we love to discuss!  
 Why can't you women - play like us !!!!

Next month: it's Eliza's turn ...



**BAIRNSDALE CONGRESS**  
**Christine Heesom**



Jessel Rothfield took the microphone to thank organisers of the Bairnsdale Congress following his team's narrow win from a field of 24 teams - pictured with Jessel are representatives from Domain Aged Care (major sponsors) and members of his team - Juliet Pettitt, Jeannette Collins and John Pettitt.

Jessel topped his day by winning the raffle!

