

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

December 2008

Editor: Bill Jacobs

*Ho, Ho, Ho,
It's the*

VBA



2008 CHRISTMAS PARTIES

This year there are 3 parties!

*Wed, 17th December (after last
round of Xmas Teams)*

Thurs, 18th December (for lunch)

*Thurs, 18th December (approx
10.15 p.m.)*



All Welcome



Congratulations to George Gaspar – fresh from winning the Seniors event at the PABF Congress on the Gold Coast, he followed it up with a double at the Sydney Spring Nationals. First a win in the Open Teams event, with partner Bob Richman, and then an easy victory in the Seniors, with team mates Victorian Chris Hughes, Peter Buchen (NSW) and Henry Christie (WA).



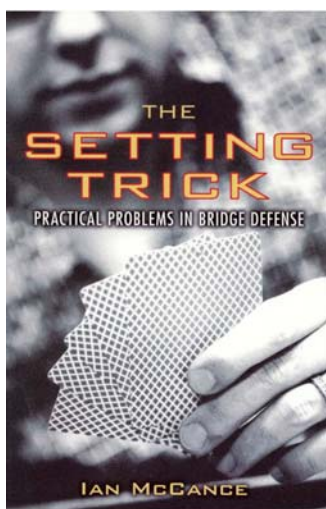
Chris Hughes, Henry Christie, George Gaspar and Bob Richman, Spring Nationals Seniors winners

Meanwhile Victorians Felicity Beale, Diana Smart, Helen Snashall, Sally Murray-White, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard and Andy Hung were competing in the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing (formerly the Olympiad).

The best result was by Andy Hung in the U26 teams. Having qualified in 3rd place in the 18-team round robin, they went down to Chinese Taipei in the quarter finals. Andy's feelings after that were wonderfully summed up on his Facebook home page. In the section "What are you doing right now?", he wrote:

"Andy ... wants to jump off a cliff."

Ian McCance has released a book: "The Setting Trick", published by Master Point Press. It consists of 100 problems that have appeared over the past 5 years in the VBA Bulletin – congratulations Ian! On the back cover is written: "What makes it unique as a problem book is



that you're not up against a declarer who will always play perfectly." Is that a veiled insult to Victorian bridge? Not at all – nowhere in the world does declarer play perfectly.

The problems are beautifully presented – highly recommended!

Bridge Teaching Meeting

Don't forget the Bridge Teaching meeting on Saturday 13th December at the VBA. It commences at 1:00 pm, and there is no charge!

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

On Plasticity

In the last two episodes, we have been examining point count, and how the raw count might be adjusted. In particular, the following features:

- aces
- points in long suits
- honours working together
- good spot cards

serve to augment the point count value of a hand.

We now take a final look at our eight example hands, and turn things upside down.

A) ♠ 43 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ AQJ ♣ 5432

B) ♠ KJ ♥ KQJ4 ♦ QJ3 ♣ K432

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	3NT	All pass	1NT

No bidding decisions here – the auction is over – but as you wait for LHO to make a lead, which hand would you prefer to have?

Frankly, I'd be nervous holding hand A), waiting for a spade lead to come barrelling through partner's stopper. It's much more comfortable to have B), and not particularly fear any opening lead.

Partner might hold:

♠ Qxx ♥ xx ♦ Kxx ♣ AQxxx

3NT is just about cold opposite B), and in big trouble against a spade lead on A).

It's the spread-out honours that make B) attractive for 3NT. In fact, some starters might shy away from opening a strong 1NT on A), due to the presence of the small doubleton.

Unfortunately, experience says that you do need to open 1NT on A), because an opening of 1 of a suit will likely lead to an impossible rebid problem. For example, if you open 1♣

or 1♥ on A), what's your rebid after partner responds an innocent 1♠?

Let's try an actual bidding decision next ...

C) ♠ AK873 ♥ AQ53 ♦ 54 ♣ 73

D) ♠ 87543 ♥ 6543 ♦ AK ♣ AQ

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	2NT	Pass	??

2NT shows the minors. What's your bid?

Well now, hand D) is suddenly the one with the "points in the long suits" – in this case, in *partner's* long suits.

Hand C) is poor – sure you've got partner's 3 major suit losers covered (the heart queen is a useless card), but no help at all in her minors. I'd just bid 3♣ on hand C).

Hand D) is a powerhouse: partner must have good interior cards in the minors to justify 2NT with those missing top cards, perhaps:

♠ Ax ♥ x ♦ QJ10xx ♣ KJ10xx

would be the minimum you could expect.

With D) I would cue bid 3♥ and raise partner's four of a minor to five.

E) ♠ K43 ♥ A632 ♦ A1042 ♣ Q3

F) ♠ 643 ♥ AK54 ♦ AQ102 ♣ 43

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♠	3♥*	??

* weak jump overcall

Your bid.

For play in spades, hand E) is better than F).

The heart king is not a great value in hand F). It might well face partner's heart singleton, and do little for her hand. The spade king on E) is worth its weight in gold.

I'd cue-bid 4♥ on hand E) – a slam try in spades – but content myself with 4♠ on F).

Partner might hold:

♠ AQxxxx ♥ x ♦ Kx ♣ AJxx

Slam is excellent opposite E), very poor opposite F). It's all about having the points in the right places.

G) ♠ A10985 ♥ K1094 ♦ A2 ♣ 76

H) ♠ A6532 ♥ K542 ♦ A2 ♣ Q5

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	??

Rate the hands.

On this auction, it appears that the excellent spots in the majors might not count for much, partner having no great length there. But the club queen – what a card!

Partner's hand:

♠ xx ♥ Ax ♦ Kxx ♣ AKJ10xx

The fitting club queen makes slam just about cold (and you can probably bid 6♣ directly on hand H). Without it, the slam is a touch less than 50-50.

So I have spent two months telling you how certain hands were better than certain other hands, and on the last month, throw up auctions that suggest the reverse. Why is this such a complicated game?

Back in the first half of the last century, Ely Culbertson came up with the term to describe this phenomenon: he called it "Plastic Valuation".

Plastic Valuation is the concept by which you continually re-evaluate the worth of your hand based on the bidding to date. It is an utterly essential part of good bidding.

Point to remember:

- Things are not always as they seem.

DIRECTORS' SEMINAR & WORKSHOP Sue Kelso

This was a great success, with a large attendance including visitors from all six states. Perhaps this was not surprising, given the standing of the presenters (Laurie Kelso, Matthew McManus, Sean Mullamphy, Simon Edler and John McIlrath).

Last year, one of these sessions was held in Sydney. In 2009, this seminar will be held in Brisbane.



Laurie Kelso explains all at the ABDA Seminar

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

KAPLAN KOLLAPSES

With all the publicity given to Edgar Kaplan's computer count in recent bulletins, we should in fairness present the following two hands:

Y) ♠ AKQJ1098 ♥ A32 ♦ A32 ♣ -

Z) ♠ AKQJ1092 ♥ A32 ♦ A32 ♣ -

Which hand is stronger?

Edgar Kaplan rates both these hands as worth 23.75 points. But in fact, hand Z) is **much** stronger than Y) – maybe as many as 4 tricks stronger.

Give partner:

♠ 765 ♥ 654 ♦ 654 ♣ AKQJ

and play in spades on a red-suit lead.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ AQ82
 Dealer: W ♥ K94
 Vul: N/S ♦ K32
 ♣ AJ7

 ♠ J109654
 ♥ A
 ♦ AJ10
 ♣ Q54

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

The lead is the heart queen. There are several finesses you could take. Plan the play. Solution on page 6.



TWO DEFENSIVE PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ 92
 Vul: E/W ♥ 4
 ♦ AKJ982
 ♣ 8732

♠ K7
 ♥ K10853
 ♦ 765
 ♣ Q105

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead a 4th best ♥5, ♥4, ♥A, ♥2. Partner returns ♥7, ♥Q, ??

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 854
 Vul: N/S ♥ 5
 ♦ A7652
 ♣ 8654

 ♠ Q109
 ♥ QJ976
 ♦ J43
 ♣ J7

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT*
Pass	Pass	All Pass	

* 20-22

Playing 4th best leads, partner leads ♥3 to your jack and declarer's ace. Declarer plays the diamond king, partner following with the 10, then continues with the ♥4, ♥2 from partner, club from dummy, and you win. What next?

Solutions on Page 7.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ KQ1053
 Vul: Both ♥ AJ2
 ♦ 943
 ♣ K9

♠ 9842
 ♥ K103
 ♦ AJ76
 ♣ 62

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♦
Pass	Pass	D'ble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You start ♣6, dummy ♣9 and partner takes ♣A, and leads a trump, declarer following ♦K. What is your plan?

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ J10
 Vul: nil ♥ 74
 ♦ A109762
 ♣ A98

 ♠ KQ43
 ♥ K62
 ♦ 85
 ♣ K432

West	North	East	South
2♠	3♣*	3♠	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♦

* transfer to diamonds

Partner leads ♠A and correctly reads your follow-suit card to show four, because he switches to ♣5. Dummy's ♣8 is played and you win ♣K, declarer following with ♣7. How do you continue?

Solutions on Page 8.

**BRIDGE IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Christine Heesom - Bairnsdale**

Frank Power is a Silver Life Master, member of Bairnsdale Bridge Club, an accredited bridge teacher and a man with a passion to teach, develop and improve the bridge playing standard of players within the East Gippsland Region.

Frank was inspired after reading an article describing how a group of 5th grade students in America who were taught to play bridge continued to outperform their peers through grades 6 and 7. "Why would learning to play bridge have such an effect? Dr Christopher Shaw who conducted the study believes the answer lies with inferential reasoning – a cognitive skill necessary to play the game. Bridge is a game that develops inferential reasoning skills which are very difficult to teach – these skills appear to be used in all five subject areas – Reading, Language, Math, Science and Social Studies – in middle school."

Frank approached Doug Vickers, Principal of Bairnsdale West Primary School, outlining his plan to teach a group of Grade 5 students how to play bridge. After seeing the data regarding the link between bridge and improved critical thinking skills and hearing about the teaching program Frank envisaged, Doug agreed to trial the idea for one hour per week until the end of the school year with the possibility of continuing with the same group into Grade 6 in 2009.

Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, another keen supporter of bridge in schools, believes that the game teaches math skills, logical thinking and the ability to work with others. He recently put his money where his mouth is, coming up with \$1 million to fund a program to teach contract bridge in junior high schools in America.

At West Bairnsdale Primary School Frank is teaching MiniBridge, a simplified version of the game, recommended by the ACBL for use in grades 4 to 8.

The ten participants in the West Bairnsdale Primary School trial are now into their 4th week of MiniBridge and as part of their fourth lesson were given an insight into the world of

Bridgebase Online (www.bridgebase.com) where it is not unusual to find 8,000+ players from every country in the world getting together to play bridge.

Blaine Howe from the VBA "met" the students online and offered his help and encouragement before they were taken on a virtual tour of the site.

Frank hopes that the idea of taking bridge to the schools will continue to grow and expressed the desire to see not only inter-school bridge competitions in the future, but also that some of his protégées might one day take their place amongst the junior bridge champions of Victoria why not the World?



Bairnsdale West Primary School Principal Mr Doug Vickers (left), pictured with Bairnsdale Bridge Club member and teacher Frank Power, and aspiring MiniBridge players Ash and Andrew.



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their master point promotions:

Club Master	Nanette Cooper Marcia Krampel Peter Zeimer
Local Master	Jeff Batten Kay Levy
*Local Master	Myer Janover Shaw Rudzki Pat Snowden
**Local Master	Martin Simons Andre Vary
Regional Master	June Adams Elizabeth Williams
Life Master	Alison Talbot

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

If Eliza Doolittle had played bridge ...
<http://www.allmusicals.com/lyrics/myfairlady/justyouwait.htm>



Just you wait Henry Higgins just you wait
 Passed a cue-bid but your tears will be too late
 I could balance, will I do it?
 Don't be silly, you can rue it,
 It's you I hate, Henry Higgins, it's you I hate

Just you wait till you slip up and revoke
 And you ask to take your card back, what a joke
 No matter how you hector,
 I'll be off to the director,
 Ho ho ho, Henry Higgins, you're up in smoke.

Ooooooh Henry Higgins!
 Just you wait until your auction's overboard
 Ooooooh Henry Higgins!
 I'll make quite sure you get your just reward
 When you finally arrive,
 You'll be axed and skinned alive
 Ho ho ho Henry Higgins
 Down you go, Henry Higgins, Just You Wait.

I will soon be a master, I won't be no dud,
 Play in Canberra so often, I can call in on Rudd
 One evening he'll say to me, "Eliza old thing,
 I want all Australia your praises to sing"

"Next month, you get to fulfil your dreams
 in the Liza Doolittle Knockout Teams
 All the players can celebrate your consummate skill
 And you allow whom to enter at your whim and your
 will"

"Thanks a lot, mate" says I in a manner all gay,
 "I think I'll force Henry Higgins to play ..."

"Done" says the PM with a grin
 "Let the battle of the sexes now begin"

Then we'll play till the final match is nigh
 And your foolish bidding leaves you high and dry
 You'll concede at 80 down
 The female gender wears the crown
 Ho ho ho, Henry Higgins
 Eat some crow, Henry Higgins,
 Just You Wait!



THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ AQ82	
Dealer: W	♥ K94	
Vul: N/S	♦ K32	
	♣ AJ7	
♠ 3		♠ K7
♥ QJ1085		♥ 7632
♦ 874		♦ Q965
♣ K1062		♣ 983
	♠ J109654	
	♥ A	
	♦ AJ10	
	♣ Q54	

Take the club finesse. If it fails, take the spade finesse next. If *that* fails, stay off the lottery tickets for a while.

But if the club finesse works, you are nearly home. Cash the spade ace. Discard a club on the heart king, ruff a heart, play a second club to the ace and ruff dummy's last club.

If all this passes off peacefully, and everyone followed to the trump ace, then you can exit with a second trump, end-playing whoever wins it. With clubs and hearts eliminated, the defender on lead must give you a ruff-sluff or guess the diamond suit for you.

IT'S CHRISTMAS! Bill Jacobs

Or is it? How did you go on those two defensive problems from page 4?

Problem 1:

Dealer: W	♠ 92	
Vul: E/W	♥ 4	
	♦ AKJ982	
	♣ 8732	
♠ K7		♠ Q1064
♥ K10853		♥ AJ976
♦ 765		♦ 10
♣ Q105		♣ 964
	♠ AJ853	
	♥ Q2	
	♦ Q53	
	♣ AKJ	

This was the last board from the final of the recent World Mind Sports Games. In the Women's event, England led China by 11 imps going in. The English defender ducked the heart queen. 10 (only!) imps to China, when the Chinese defence ran 5 heart tricks in the same contract in the other room.

Ducking the heart queen would have been the winning move had declarer held:

♠ AQJx ♥ QJ92 ♦ Qx ♣ KJx

Problem 2:

Dealer: E	♠ 854	
Vul: N/S	♥ 5	
	♦ A7652	
	♣ 8654	
♠ KJ3		♠ Q109
♥ K10832		♥ QJ976
♦ 10		♦ J43
♣ Q1032		♣ J7
	♠ A762	
	♥ A4	
	♦ KQ98	
	♣ AK9	

Again you can run your heart suit. East played back a heart, declarer threw the ♦8 and claimed three tricks later. A black suit switch was needed to beat the contract.

So it was Christmas on these deals, with two solid 5-5 heart fits against 3NT. Strange how difficult it can be to manage such suits.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Individual

- 1 Anne Paul
- 2 George Lovrecz
- 3 Stan Klofa

Victorian Open Pairs

Championship

- 1 B. Thompson – W. Jacobs
- 2 J. Selwyn – S. Weisz
- 3 C. Chua – S. Hinge

Plate

- 1 S. Klofa – R. Anderson
- 2 S. Arber – H. De Jong
- 3 K. Pearson – R. Greenfield

Consolation

- 1 P. Hood – J. Pettitt
- 2 H. Snashall – J. Atkinson
- 3 H. Stewart – K. French

Victorian Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Gallus – S. Henbest
- 2 S. Klofa – R. Livingston
- 3 C. Arul – H. Stewart

Open Butler Selection Stage 2

- 1 L. Gold – P. Hollands
- 2 D. Hohor – T. Chira
- 3 F. Beale – D. Smart

Grand National Restricted Pairs Qualifiers (Melbourne Metro)

- 1 J. Hare – K. Fong (VBA)
- 2 M. Longmire – G. Schaller (Yarra Valley)
- 3 A. Sharp – S. Strangward (Yarra Valley)
- 4 I. Williams – J. Lonergan (Moonee Valley)
- 5 F. Eccles – J. Ashkar (Mooney Valley)
- 6 I. Muir – R. Muir (Mooney Valley / Waverley)
- 7 G. Shanks – S. Cope (Mooney Valley)
- 8 B. Smith – E. Underwood (MCBC)

These eight pairs have qualified for the national final of this event, to be held at the Summer Festival in January.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: S	♠ KQ1053				
Vul: Both	♥ AJ2				
	♦ 943				
	♣ K9				
♠ 9842			♠ AJ		
♥ K103			♥ Q874		
♦ AJ76			♦ 8		
♣ 62			♣ AJ8754		
	♠ 76				
	♥ 965				
	♦ KQ1052				
	♣ Q103				

Count the tricks. You have two in trumps, ♣A, partner will have ♠A so you need two in hearts and you need to establish them quickly – dummy's spades are dangerous as you will have to follow to them. (Declarer's ♣Q is not a threat because you can trump it without being damaged).

So you must lead a heart, partner will need to hold ♥Q9xx or ♥Q87x. You can cater for both of these by leading ♥10, the only card that sets 2♦.

[In actual play, partner switched to a small heart at trick 2, playing you for ♥K109 and not ♦A; 2♦ doubled was made.]

Problem 2:

Dealer: S	♠ J10				
Vul: nil	♥ 74				
	♦ A109762				
	♣ A98				
♠ A98652			♠ KQ43		
♥ Q53			♥ K62		
♦ 3			♦ 85		
♣ Q105			♣ K432		
	♠ 7				
	♥ AJ1098				
	♦ KQJ4				
	♣ J76				

Partner has got it right. You will need the spade trick, a presumptive trick in hearts and two clubs to defeat 4♦. So continue clubs, playing partner for ♣QJ5 or ♣Q105.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN? Blaine Howe

Episode 8 – Housekeeping

The other 3 players are playing bridge. You are playing cards as instructed and otherwise minding your own business.

However, a little unobtrusive housekeeping won't go astray. Bridge tables don't clean themselves.

If you get a chance, put rubbish in a bin or in a pile on a side table. I like a clean table environment myself and try to provide the same for my partner.

As a hand comes to a close, check where the next board is coming from and be ready to start the next board.

Also, check the bridge clock to see how you are going for time. Then after the hand, if time is plentiful, perhaps suggest getting some water or having a short break.

As your activities when dummy are limited, you will have plenty of time to silently hum a little hum to yourself. Better to do this than watch the play. Let declarer get on with it.

In particular, avoid looking declarer in the eye unless talking to her directly. This is especially true when declarer makes a mistake or you think she has. We all do it from time to time and the reaction from declarer is never wonderful, is it?



Daytime RED POINT Competition

VBA Xmas Charity Swiss Pairs



Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December, starting at 11.00 a.m.

- > No Entry Fee - \$10 table fee for all
- > \$1 from each entry will be donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal
- > 11.00 a.m. start, break for lunch, finish 2.30 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.
- > The Bridge Players Café will be open for lunch, serving hot and cold food, cakes and drinks

Wednesday Daytime Competitions will recommence on 4th February, 2009

