

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VBA HELPING THE COMMUNITY Cathie Lachman

You may have noticed recently that the VBA is holding regular charity events on Wednesdays during the day. These events are proving to be very popular. Of course the spinoff from these sessions is that certain charities receive \$1 from each player per week.

In December, the Salvation Army Christmas appeal received \$192 and following the completion of the two events in February, the RSPCA will receive \$144 and Guide Dogs Victoria \$36.

During the week 16th February to 21st February inclusive the VBA undertook to donate its income from duplicate, club and state events to the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009. This amount was a staggering \$4,243 plus personal donations of \$60, totalling \$4,303.

Thank you to all players who have participated in our fund raising activities; the VBA is very proud of the effort you have made supporting the community.

The next charity event is Swiss Pairs to be held on March 11, 18 and 25 (see advertisement below). Another donation will be made to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

 **Daytime RED POINT Competition** 

VBA Victorian Bushfire Charity Appeal **Swiss Pairs**

Wednesdays 11th, 18th and 25th March, starting at 11.00 a.m.

- > No Entry Fee - \$10 table fee for all
- > From the table fee \$1 from each player, each week will be donated to Victorian Bushfire Charity 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

The following Wednesday Daytime Competition will be held on 1st, 15th and 22nd April



THREE REAL-LIFE PROBLEMS

1) You are vulnerable, they are not, and you deal and open 1♥ on:

♠ QJ6 ♥ AKQ8653 ♦ K4 ♣ 7

The auction proceeds:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	1♠	D'ble	4♠
?			

What do you do? At IMPs? Or matchpoints?

2) ♠ AKJ1032
♥ 1074
♦ 965
♣ 9

♠ Q84
♥ AK2
♦ KQ72
♣ QJ5

You	Partner
1NT	2♥
2♠	4♠
Pass	

Against 4♠, a trump is led. Plan the play.

3) All vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AK765 ♥ 65 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AQJ

Partner deals and your uncontested auction is:

You	Partner
	1♥
1♠	2♥
?	

Your bid.

More on these hands later.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You pick up as dealer:

- ♠ AK73
- ♥ 7542
- ♦ K75
- ♣ K3

Your partner deals and opens 1♣. RHO passes, and you ...?

In a previous "For Starters" (Sept '08), we talked about bidding 4-card suits "up-the-line", that is, the lowest first, when responding at the one-level. But is that rule meant to be applied when it means you bid the pathetic 7542 suit before the magnificent AK73 suit?

All rules have their exceptions, but this ain't one of them. In the long run, you will be better off showing the suit lengths honestly, irrespective of strength ... at least in this bidding situation.

You respond with the disciplined 1♥ and with the opponents silent, partner raises you to 2♥.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	??

Your bid.

OK, time to flee from the 7542 suit. If partner has given you a raise with only three hearts, a heart contract is probably not where you want to be. Your 13 points are enough for game, and the obvious game to suggest here is 3NT.

You bid 3NT, but partner returns you to 4♥. There seems to be no escape from your feeble suit!

Oh well, you pass 4♥, completing the auction, and anxiously await the lead. It is the club jack, and you see:

- ♠ J5
- ♥ A863
- ♦ QJ4
- ♣ A765

♣J led

- ♠ AK73
- ♥ 7542
- ♦ K75
- ♣ K3

Partner was quite right to insist on the 4-4 heart fit, and four hearts is where you want to be. Clean living and a good understanding of bidding has meant that your response of 1♥ has worked out well.

What is your plan in playing 4♥?

Some people like to count winners in suit contracts – others prefer to count losers. And a few don't count at all! I suggest you take the time to check both winners and losers.

In terms of losers, there's one in diamonds, two in trumps, and none in the blacks. A total of three losers: that's a tick.

What about winners? Once you have knocked out ♦A, you have two winners in each of the side suits – that's 6. So you need four tricks in trumps. That means you cannot draw trumps, because it will only win you the ♥A and two long trumps.

That should all lead you to the plan of aiming for a cross-ruff for your contract: ruffing clubs in hand, and spades in dummy.

First establish your tricks in diamonds: after winning the club, you play diamonds. West wins the second round and plays a second club which you win. The position is:

- ♠ J5
- ♥ A863
- ♦ J
- ♣ 76

- ♠ AK73
- ♥ 7542
- ♦ 5
- ♣

What now?

You need to get rid of some of the enemy's trumps, otherwise they are likely to be able to get in the way of your cross-ruffing plan. Ideally, you would like to play **two** rounds of trumps, losing one, and winning one with the ace. Assuming a 3-2 heart break, that will leave you with four trumps, and the opponents with one. Nothing can prevent you from winning three of those, for your 10 tricks.

To achieve this, play a **low** trump from both hands. When you get back in, you can cash the ace, and now play on the side suits. The opponents can do nothing more than take their top trump at some point with a ruff – you will have the rest. The full deal:

	♠ J5	
	♥ A863	
	♦ QJ4	
	♣ A765	
♠ 1084		♠ Q962
♥ KJ9		♥ Q10
♦ A62		♦ 10983
♣ J1098		♣ Q42
	♠ AK73	
	♥ 7542	
	♦ K75	
	♣ K3	

Points to remember:

- Don't be frightened of bidding a weak suit if that's the "system" bid. A weak four card major usually plays well opposite four-card support. Look at 3NT in the above layout – it's a hopeless contract.
- In game-level suit contracts, when dummy goes down, count your winners and your losers separately. This will help you plan the play.
- Some hands require you to plan for a specific number of rounds of trumps to be played. If you hold the trump ace, it can generally be achieved.

Check out what would have happened if you'd started ruffing the black suits without playing any trumps. Eventually, the defence will start ruffing, and *they* will be the side that ends up with a winning cross-ruff.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ AK4
 Vul: Both ♥ J1095
 ♦ AJ43
 ♣ J8

♠ Q83
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AQ109763

West	North	East	South
			1♦*
3♣	D'ble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

* at least 4 diamonds

You lead ♦5 and ♦A is played from dummy, partner signalling odd. Next comes ♥J, partner ♥4 and South ♥6. You win and must decide what comes next.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ KJ108
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q53
 ♦ 763
 ♣ A82

♠ 654
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ J92
 ♣ KQJ106

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* limit raise

You opened 1♣, but perhaps it doesn't always have clubs. Anyway partner decides to lead a heart, ♥10. How will you defend?

Solutions on Page 5.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

46.4 degrees did not stop 80 (!) hardy pairs turning up to the Yarra Valley Swiss Pairs congress event on Black Saturday the 7th February.

THE RESULTING TRAP
Bill Jacobs

How did you go with those three problems on page 1? Here's the full story.

Surfing the web one day, I looked at the ABF web site, and a segment on it called: "What should I bid?", where readers can submit bidding problems. Hand 1) was presented:

♠ QJ6 ♥ AKQ8653 ♦ K4 ♣ 7			
You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	1♠	Dble	4♠
??			

It seemed pretty easy to me. Even though the type of game (IMPs or matchpoints) wasn't specified, with partner obviously having at most one spade, and us vul versus not, it appeared clear to bid 5♥.

But on the site, Sydney star Sartaj Hans wrote:

"We should not really be bidding 5♥ with a trump trick in their suit and no primary fit our way. I can't see a compelling reason to commit to the 5-level. That leaves pass and double ..."

That shocked me, but then I looked closer at the web page and discovered more. The submitter went on to write:

"What should I bid now – pass, double or 5♥? Partner held

♠ 82 ♥ 4 ♦ AQ752 ♣ KJ1063."

So of course, it was right to defend 4♠. Somehow the opponents have been able to jack it up to 4♠ in one round, with a mediocre 8-card fit and a combined 15-count. Not a likely scenario!

To test my view, I submitted the problem (without giving the responding hand) to a bridge forum, and sure enough, 9 out of 10 posters confidently bid 5♥. That's not to say that choosing to defend 4♠ is wrong in theory – it could well be right – but the "solution" was so much easier when you know partner's hand.

This is an example of the Resulting Trap – seeing what works, and then reverse-engineering the winning decision.

Another day of web surfing, and I came across Cathy Chua's excellent blog at <http://swatchless.wordpress.com/> (you're no one if you don't have a blog these days). Problem 2) in declarer play was presented, but all four hands were shown, like this:

♠ 75 ♥ J965 ♦ AJ108 ♣ 1074	♠ AKJ1032 ♥ 1074 ♦ 965 ♣ 9 ♠ Q84 ♥ AK2 ♦ KQ72 ♣ QJ5
♠ 96 ♥ Q83 ♦ 43 ♣ AK8632	

Single dummy, declarer has a close decision of whether to lead up a club or a diamond at trick 2. A diamond gives the best technical chance, but a club would work if East, holding the club ace but not the king, clatters up with the ace. So the "right" play might depend on what you think about East.

But surprise, surprise, the first four respondents to the quiz all played a club up, and all agreed that it was clear-cut. The Resulting Trap at work.

The fifth respondent was none other than Sartaj Hans, and he made what I think was the right comment:

"Giving a play problem while showing all four hands is no good."

The moral of these two hands? If partner makes a losing decision: 5♥ on hand 1), a diamond up on hand 2), then count to at least 10 before blasting.

A close cousin to the Resulting Trap is the Failure To Recognize That Partner Had A Genuine Problem Trap. We all fall into it from time to time.

Deal 3) occurred in an on-line practice game:

♠ AK765 ♥ 65 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AQJ

You	Partner
	1♥
1♠	2♥
?	

Not knowing what to do, this player tried 6NT. Slam had no play, as partner held:

♠ 92 ♥ A107432 ♦ KJ5 ♣ K10

In the post-mortem, no one did any blasting, but the responder said: "I wish we played 2NT as forcing, because then, when you bid 3NT, I can give a quantitative raise to 4NT".

His partner said: "OK, let's switch to 2NT forcing there after 1X-1Y-2X".

The partnership had fallen into the Resulting Trap (Over Hasty System Change department). They modified their system from using a totally sensible invitational 2NT in that auction to cater for a specific setup that would be aided by a forcing 2NT.

And of course, the trap will be sprung at some stage when responder has:

♠ KQJx ♥ x ♦ Q10xx ♣ QJxx

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ AK53
 Dealer: W ♥ A5
 Vul: Nil ♦ K92
 ♣ AQ32
 ♠ QJ108
 ♥ K7
 ♦ A87
 ♣ K1096

West	North	East	South
2♥*	D'ble	3♥	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All pass	

* weak two

West leads the heart queen. You win and play two top trumps – West throws a heart on the second round. Take it from there.

Solution on page 7.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: S	♠ AK4	
Vul: Both	♥ J1095	
	♦ AJ43	
	♣ J8	
♠ Q83		♠ 109652
♥ Q3		♥ A42
♦ 5		♦ 1086
♣ AQ109763		♣ 42
	♠ J7	
	♥ K876	
	♦ KQ972	
	♣ K5	

You have 2 options:

- (1) go passive and return a trump. If partner has ♥A you are in clover – he will win and you can come to ♣AQ.
- (2) play partner for ♣K and play ♣A then to ♣K for a ruff in diamonds (also works if partner has a singleton club).

But declarer can't have started with ♥AK, or he would have played at least one of them. Could partner have ♥K AND ♣K? That would leave declarer with ♠J; ♥A; ♦KQ only, surely not enough. So passive it is, return ♥3. Partner has done well not to rise ♥A, but the play to tricks 1 and 2 certainly smelled finesse. Note partner played ♥4 on ♥J, not wishing to suggest clubs.

Problem 2:

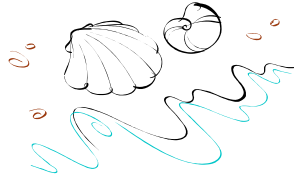
Dealer: N	♠ KJ108	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q53	
	♦ 763	
	♣ A82	
♠ A		♠ 654
♥ 109742		♥ AJ
♦ 10854		♦ J92
♣ 953		♣ KQJ106
	♠ Q9732	
	♥ K86	
	♦ AKQ	
	♣ 74	

You haven't much, so everything will need to be right. So what is right? Dummy is dead flat – nothing is going anywhere, it seems. Let's play ♥A and persevere with hearts: maybe partner has ♥K ... or ♠A.

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Rye Beach Bridge Club

Rye Beach Bridge Club was established by Margaret and Brian Morgan (pictured) in October 2005. Sessions are on Monday evening and Thursday afternoon. The intention was to improve both the standard of bridge and the number of participants at the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula.



Since then the club has grown to over 60 members, about 20% being players new to the bridge scene, and some returning to the fold.

The club policy is that bridge must be fun, but also has to be challenging. We are able to provide teaching for new players, have established a light-hearted supervised session at Portsea Golf Club on Monday mornings, and encourage players to take part in congresses. The aim is to help each player to go as far as he/she wants to go. The majority of the Monday evening players are regular congress participants – this all helps to improve the quality of bridge on the Peninsula.

The club is a keen supporter of the Nationwide Pairs competition, recently had an individual competition, and tries to bring in as much variety as possible. The club was quick to recognize the opportunities provided by the new Grand National Restricted Pairs competition (95% of the members were eligible) and was the driving force in the establishment of the new Mornington Peninsula Region.

The Monday morning session at Portsea serves a dual purpose – it provides a relaxed learning environment for new players and helps to build their confidence, while the format is ideal for those players who enjoy a social game without the competitiveness of master-pointed club events. The numbers at this session continue to grow.



Thursday Duplicate at Rye Beach Bridge Club

The club is holding its inaugural congress on the weekend of March 14-15, with significant cash prizes for leading contestants. The Peninsula is at its best in March, and Rye is just a 60 minute drive from the VBA. There is plenty of good accommodation in Rye, and lots of local attractions for non-playing partners of congress participants – wineries and golf courses spring to mind. All visitors will be made very welcome.

In summary, the club has gone a long way to meeting its objectives – more players, better standard and, above all, bridge is fun.

Venue: Rye Beach Community Centre
Nelson St, Rye, 3941

Mail address: 4 Leawarra St, Rye, 3941

Contacts: Brian Morgan: 0439 845 753
brimorg@bigpond.net.au
Margaret Morgan: 0418 845 752
mjmorgan@bigpond.net.au

Congress: Sat 14 March (Swiss Pairs)
Sun 15 March (Swiss Teams)
Rye Civic Hall, Napier St, Rye
Enter on the internet at
www.bridgeunlimited.com,
or enquiries to Brian Morgan

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ AK53		
Dealer: W	♥ A5		
Vul: Nil	♦ K92		
	♣ AQ32		
♠ 7		♠ 9642	
♥ QJ10864		♥ 932	
♦ Q10654		♦ J3	
♣ 4		♣ J875	
	♠ QJ108		
	♥ K7		
	♦ A87		
	♣ K1096		

If spades had been 3-2, you would have had an easy time: draw the trumps, cash the red suit tops and exit a diamond. The defence would have had to broach clubs or give you a ruff-sluff.

That plan is out the window. However, with West seemingly having 1-6 in the majors, an alternative plan is just as good.

Draw all the trumps in 4 rounds, and play a low diamond from both hands. Win the red suit return, and cash two more diamonds. If:

- a) East shows out on the third diamond, then play East for four clubs (see above). Or:
- b) West shows out on the third diamond, then play West for four clubs. Or:
- c) No one shows out on the diamonds. Then West is either 1-6-3-3 or 1-6-4-2, and you can play no one for four clubs.

RECENT RESULTS

Ramsden Handicap Swiss Pairs

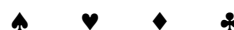
- 1 G. Gaspar – B. Tencer
- 2 C. Macquarrie – D. Sharman
- 3 R. Rozen – J. Selwyn

Gold Coast Preparation Butler Pairs

- 1 G. Collins – R. Kaplan
- 2 S. Tishler – M. Tildesley
- 3 G. Harband – C. Greene

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Barbara Appel Joe Krampel
Club Master	Reginald Rich
Local Master	Max Henbest (ABF Youth) Paul Kron
*Local Master	Ola Cohen
**Local Master	Patrick Zhang
State Master	Ed Beaumont Ann Bednarz
National Master	Angus Munro (ABF Youth) Martin Wardle (ABF Youth)
Life Master	Mary Allison
Bronze Life Master	Barry Rawicki
Silver Life Master	Peter Hollands (ABF Youth)
Gold Life Master	Erica Linton



CANBERRA DEPT OF DEFENCE - II

IMPs	♠ A108		
Dealer: N	♥ KQ		
Vul: Nil	♦ KQ10952		
	♣ 108		
		♠ KQJ53	
		♥ J7	
		♦ A84	
		♣ 532	

West	North	East	South
	2♦*	Pass(?)	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 6 diamonds, 11-15 points

Partner leads the heart 10. That's not the lead you were hoping for! Should you have risked a 2♠ overcall to avoid this development? Anyway, declarer wins and plays a low diamond off table. Your play.



<http://www.vba.asn.au/index.php> is the VBA's website. Take a look at the results for the Gold Coast Preparation Butler Pairs. This is the work-in-progress of Blaine Howe, and it gives a glimpse into an exciting development in presentation of results. More to come in future months.

PENNYS CASH IN



Congratulations to VBA members Penny Purbrick (left) and Penny Corrigan who won medals for winning their section of the Flighted Swiss Pairs at the recent Summer Festival in Canberra.

UPCOMING STATE EVENT AT THE VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The VBA invites all Victorian players to enter the following State event commencing shortly



2009 F Altman Open/Restricted Swiss Pairs

A 4 session Swiss Pairs event commencing on Wednesday evening 25th March 2009.

The winner of the event receives automatic paid entry into Stage 2 of the ANC Open Butler pairs to be held in Canberra in July this year.

A restricted pair consists of both members of the partnership holding less than 300 Materpoints each

It is not necessary to be a member of the VBA to play in State events.

Enter via the website: www.vba.asn.au or phone 9530-9006

Calling BBO Enthusiasts

Who would like to play bridge on BBO ??

We are attempting to establish a Victorian BBO community. If either you or your partnership register your interest with Simon Hinge by providing your details: e-mail, mobile and session time preferences, he will coordinate this.

shinge@bigpond.com.au 0404 091127

**CANBERRA DEPT OF DEFENCE - II
Bill Jacobs**

IMPs	♠ A108	
Dealer: N	♥ KQ	
Vul: Nil	♦ KQ10952	
	♣ 108	
♠ 762		♠ KQJ53
♥ A109652		♥ J7
♦ 73		♦ A84
♣ 94		♣ 532
	♠ 94	
	♥ 843	
	♦ J6	
	♣ AKQJ76	

I was steaming. If only North had opened one-normal-diamond, I could have overcalled 1♠ and avoided this mess. Anyway, I routinely ducked the diamond when a low one was played from dummy at trick 2.

Declarer won the jack, and laid down his hand: 6 clubs, and one of each. Oh no!!

If you've checked Cathy Chua's blog, she has a recent article on it called "The Critical Point, a.k.a The Suicide Point". It's about a player erroneously thinking the critical point of a hand has passed, and there's no decision left.

This deal seems an excellent example. When I didn't bid my spades, I thought the hand was over. But it wasn't. I certainly felt suicidal afterwards.

ROMANCE

Nobel Prize winning playwright Harold Pinter died in December. He and his wife Antonia Fraser, herself a celebrated author, were keen bridge players. After a game played on their third wedding anniversary in 1983, she penned the following:

*You're my two hearts-as-one
Doubled into game
You're my Blackwood
You're my Gerber
You're my Grand Slam,
vulnerable
Doubled and redoubled
Making all other contracts
Tame ♥*

