

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

BRIDGE GOVERNANCE IN VICTORIA

Many years ago, the VBA was the dominant bridge club in Victoria – there was just a handful of other clubs affiliated with the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF). Over recent decades, organized bridge has decentralized, and there are now some 50 affiliated Victorian clubs.

However, it is the VBA that remains charged with administering bridge in Victoria – it is the ABF's designated state authority. The problem with this is that the officers of the VBA are elected by VBA members, who now represent quite a small minority of the total population of ABF-registered players. The ABF, VBA and FABCV (Federation of Affiliated Bridge Clubs of Victoria) all agree that the time has come to investigate different structures that will best represent, and work for, all the bridge players in the state.

Most other states have already gone through this process of separating state-wide matters from the original state association. These changes have not been easy, but they have been necessary. Now it is our turn. The process will take some time, with a primary objective being to not disrupt the smooth operation of state bridge. The VBA has formed a sub-committee to work on the project, and this committee will be liaising with the ABF, the FABCV and all Affiliated Clubs to plan the future of bridge in Victoria.

The VBA will publish information about the project as it proceeds. Interested members are welcome to contact the club if they wish to know more, or to voice an opinion.



Playing Swiss pairs, at nil vul, you pick up:

♠ AKQ ♥ AK ♦ AK ♣ AKQ873

Nice hand. What do you think the datum might be on this deal? What is your bidding plan? All is revealed on page 7.

2009 VICTORIAN OPEN TEAM

Congratulations to (l-r) Simon Hinge, Michael Dilks, Brad Wein, David Morgan, Serhat Ozenir and Hayden Blakeman who won the Victorian Open team playoff last weekend.

Next stop: Canberra!



ABF 2009 Victor **vba**
Champion Cup

Gold Points and Playoff Points
New session times – No night play!

Thursday 4th June – Friday 5th June

McCance Seniors Swiss Pairs

VCC Women's Swiss Pairs

VCC Restricted Swiss Pairs

Saturday 6th June – Monday 8th June

Victor Champion Cup Swiss Teams

Charlie Snashall Trophy Restricted Swiss Teams

Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre,
Corner of Flinders Street and Spencer Street,
Southbank, Melbourne

Tournament Organiser: Sue Smith

Email: vcc2009@optusnet.com.au

Mobile: 0429 056 445

Home: (03) 9886 8809

Website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc2009

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Magic

With no one vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J4 ♥ AJ10765 ♦ AKJ ♣ Q5

LHO deals and opens 1♠, passed to you:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	Pass	Pass	??

What do you bid?

You could perhaps double, or bid 2♥ - they would be your choices in the direct seat.

In the passout seat however, you have a third choice: a jump of 3♥. Even if you normally play weak jump overcalls, there's little point pre-empting when the opponents have already chosen a contract of 1♠.

Instead, you should play that a jump overcall shows a sound hand, say 13-16 points, with a good 6-card suit. Such bids are described as "intermediate jump overcalls" – not too weak but not too strong. With a weaker hand, you will overcall 2♥; with a stronger hand you would start with a double.

You bid 3♥, raised to 4♥ by partner:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

The spade 10 is led and you see:

♠ A653
♥ K43
♦ 1042
♣ 1087

♠ J4
♥ AJ10765
♦ AKJ
♣ Q5

Partner has shown touching faith in your declarer play. OK, let's plan the play.

First ... what does LHO have in spades?

Holding the king-queen in spades, LHO would have led the king. So he doesn't have that – he probably holds something like K109xx(x).

What does LHO have in clubs?

Not the ace-king. Anyone holding ♣AK would have led one, rather than attacking the broken spade suit. LHO probably has clubs headed by something like the ace-jack.

What does LHO have in hearts and diamonds?

Let's see – we've already deduced that LHO has at most the spade king and the club ace-jack. That's 8 points. To bring him up to even a minimum opening bid, he must have both red queens!

Conversely, RHO, who passed 1♠ has, we deduce, the spade queen and club king. With another high card, he would have bid in response to his partner's opening.

How do you play 4♥?

	♠ A653	
	♥ K43	
	♦ 1042	
	♣ 1087	
♠ K10987		♠ Q2
♥ Q92		♥ 8
♣ Q3		♦ 98765
♠ AJ6		♣ K9642
	♠ J4	
	♥ AJ10765	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ Q5	

With every opposing high card placed, you can perform some magic. Cash the heart ace and finesse LHO for the heart queen you know he has. Then drop the other queen you also know he has!

If you do this, LHO will glare at you, and push his chair back. But you've only mentally peeked, you haven't physically peeked.

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Sale Bridge Club

The history of the Sale Bridge Club goes back to April 1972. The club had its beginnings and early development at the time of the early growth of the Oil and Gas Industry in Sale.

A number of executives coming to Sale from other countries – mainly America and Canada – were experienced and regular bridge players and willingly shared their experience to teach the game locally.

As numbers grew, the regular bridge sessions moved from homes to larger venues to include lunch and eventually to the present venue of "The Bridge Shed" located at the Sale Showgrounds. The comfortably fitted out clubroom has also doubled in size and the club is again looking at further expansion.



Clubrooms at the Sale Showgrounds

Regular sessions are now conducted three times weekly with a nationwide competition conducted once a month. We cater for a wide range of players, from beginners to improvers to experienced.

The club, through its President Elizabeth Morrish, also conducts regular bridge lessons to teach and encourage new players to experience the enjoyment of playing bridge.

The Monday session commences at 10 am and finishes at 2 p.m. It is mainly for the newer players to get experience and confidence. Numbers at the Monday

sessions have continued to grow with between 8 – 10 tables.

Wednesday is the main session of the week – commencing at 10.30 and concluding at 3 p.m. It regularly attracts 11-12 tables. Friday night sessions are also conducted. These commence at 7.15 sharp and finish at around 10.15.



Club champions: Jeanne Anderson & Corrie Van Lier

Current membership of the club is 70 members and the membership subscription is \$20.



Club members: Glenys Lohr, Heather Knorr, Jeannie Anderson, Corrie Van Lier, Mary Howson, Josie Howard

The Sale Bridge Club is preparing for its 2009 two day Congress on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May. The venue is the Sale Greyhound Club Convention Centre where the Club has successfully conducted the event for the previous two years.

The opening day – the Swiss Pairs event – will commence at 12.30 pm with play to start at 1 pm. Two sessions will be run on opening day afternoon and evening.

Day Two will commence at 9 am with play to start at 9.30 am.

Further details of the Congress will be available on the Bridge Unlimited website; and through contact with Sale Bridge Club – PO Box 682, Sale 3850.

Venue:	The Bridge Shed Sale Showgrounds
Duplicates:	10:00 am Mondays 10:30 am Wednesdays 7:15 pm Fridays
Contacts:	03 5144 4488 (on bridge days) salebridgeclub@vicaustralis.com.au
Congress:	23-24 May at Sale Greyhound Club Convention Centre Sat: Swiss Pairs, 12:30 pm Sun: Swiss Teams, 9:00 am Entries: PO Box 682, Sale 3850 or www.bridgeunlimited.com



THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ Q87632
 Dealer: W ♥ K93
 Vul: Nil ♦ J
 ♣ AK4
 ♠ A5
 ♥ A4
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ Q8763

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the club 5. Having read the April edition of the VBA Newsletter, you see that you could win this in hand and play a low spade up, making if both black suits are 3-2.

But then you look deeper into the hand, and find an improved line. What is it? Solution on page 6.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: W ♠ A9
 Vul: Both ♥ K9
 ♦ K10653
 ♣ AK52
 ♠ K10654 ♠ 832
 ♥ 54 ♥ A7632
 ♦ 84 ♦ AQ9
 ♣ QJ76 ♣ 109
 ♠ QJ7
 ♥ QJ108
 ♦ J72
 ♣ 843

Partner has no further interest in hearts, declarer is developing diamonds and those clubs look pretty good. So all the defence can hope for is something good in spades. If you don't cover the spade (encourage if you can), partner still has two entries to continue them and ♠A was doubleton.

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ 653
 Vul: E/W ♥ J102
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ KQ97
 ♠ Q94 ♠ KJ87
 ♥ A85 ♥ Q76
 ♦ 654 ♦ A10832
 ♣ 6532 ♣ 4
 ♠ A102
 ♥ K943
 ♦ J9
 ♣ AJ108

Things don't seem to be going well and there is little point in continuing clubs. So is it spades or diamonds? With something in spades and nothing in diamonds I thought a spade stood out, but then on Vugraph, I could see all hands. A top player from Japan disagreed: his diamond switch failed.

You play natural count, though it's arguable whether you would with the way these hearts are placed. Should partner have followed ♥7 then ♥6 to suggest spades? Attack is the best form of defence!

[from the final of 2009 NEC Cup]

THE UNLOVABLE 2NT
Bill Jacobs

It's everyone's unfavourite contract, 2NT, often the result of a game-try gone wrong or some other unpleasant auction. Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge have such a pathological hatred of it that all their 2NT bids are forcing – it will be a cold day in hell when they declare 2NT.

It's a bit unfair. 2NT *might* be the appropriate place to play. It most commonly arises when you open 1NT, partner invites, perhaps via Stayman, and you reject – voila, 2NT. You can minimize the frequency of this outcome using a simple rule:

Invite heavy – accept light

"Invite heavy" means that you have solid values for your invitational auctions. Opposite a 15-17 point 1NT, and holding a balanced hand, you bid as follows:

- 8 or fewer points: pass
- 9 points: invite
- 10 points: bid game

You can adjust for different notrump ranges. Opposite a 12-14 1NT, you pass with 11 points, and invite with 12 points.

"Accept light" means that you accept all invitations except when you have the minimum point count. On a 15-17 range, accept with all 16 and 17 counts.

If you do the math, you will find that the only point count combination where you declare 2NT is 15 opposite 9. (For a weak notrump, it's 12 opposite 12.) That's the way to keep your 2NT contracts to a minimum.

Last month we listed the a-priori probabilities for some common point ranges. For example, for 15-17:

15 points:	43%
16 points:	33%
17 points:	24%

The concept of having solid values for your invitations ("invite heavy") meshes well with this table. If you only "accept heavy" then you will be accepting just 24% of the time.

Let me finish with the deal that prompted this article, from the recent Australian Playoffs:

Dealer: W	♠ Q109	
Vul: N/S	♥ 7	
	♦ 952	
	♣ Q87652	
♠ K74		♠ J852
♥ QJ1082		♥ 9653
♦ K103		♦ Q6
♣ K4		♣ J109
	♠ A63	
	♥ AK4	
	♦ AJ874	
	♣ A10	

West	Me	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	??		

* 19-21 points – another example where a bid in the passout seat has a different meaning to a direct overcall

With a combined count of 23-25 points, the odds favour passing 2NT. However I tried 3NT on the dubious theory that if the clubs come in we might make 3NT; whilst if they don't we probably don't make 2NT.

Wrong! 2NT makes when the black kings are in their expected location with the opening bidder. And 3NT had virtually no play.

From now on, I'm going to have a bit more respect for 2NT contracts.



THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

	♠ Q87632	
	♥ K93	
	♦ J	
	♣ AK4	
♠ J1094		♠ K
♥ J87		♥ Q10652
♦ 9432		♦ Q1085
♣ 95		♣ J102
	♠ A5	
	♥ A4	
	♦ AK76	
	♣ Q8763	

The basic concept of withholding the spade ace on the first round (to avoid a possible trump promotion on the third round of spades) is a sound one.

However the first round of spades can be started from either hand. If you win the club opening lead in dummy and lead a spade, planning to duck it, you hit the jackpot of East plays a singleton king. Now you can switch lines by winning the spade ace, and taking a diamond ruff for your twelfth trick.

Thanks to Rob van Riel for spotting this 2.8% improvement. If anyone can find an even better line than this ... well, I don't want to hear about it.

ANOTHER 2NT CONTRACT

Blaine Howe was playing a casual game with Simon Hinge in the Wednesday daytime red-point Swiss Pairs. This hand was dealt:

Dealer: N	♠ Q1075		
Vul: Both	♥ K543		
	♦ J2		
	♣ 652		
♠ K862		♠ A943	
♥ -		♥ QJ9	
♦ KQ10743		♦ A85	
♣ A93		♣ KJ4	
	♠ J		
	♥ A108762		
	♦ 96		
	♣ Q1087		

Simon	North	Blaine	South
		1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass (!)	Pass

Poor Blaine. I could have told him that whatever 2NT was intended to mean, it shouldn't be passed! But there they were marooned in 2NT making 10 tricks, with game laydown in diamonds, spades or notrumps.

Result? +2 imps, since whilst half the field bid game, the other half tried a slam, and it cannot be made.

Blaine was able to view all the details of this splendid pickup on the VBA website which listed the scores at all 12 tables.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Dealer: W	♠ 52		
Vul: Nil	♥ Q54		
	♦ QJ9864		
	♣ J2		
♠ 9863		♠ AKQ	
♥ J763		♥ AK	
♦ 107532		♦ AK	
♣ -		♣ AKQ873	
	♠ J1074		
	♥ 10982		
	♦ -		
	♣ 109654		

The datum was 0. Looking at the East hand you would have to say that was disappointing!

Most of the 31 East-Wests went down in various contracts. But three pairs bid and made 7NT. Interesting to reflect how that happened.

SYSTEM CORNER Bill Jacobs

Here's a simple auction for you:

1NT	2♦
2♥	2♠
??	

2♦ is a transfer to hearts, then 2♠ is natural and presumably forcing.

What should opener's rebids mean? In particular, 2NT?

In deference to the "We'd Sooner Die Than Play 2NT" crowd, how about using 2NT by opener as a relay bid, to elicit more information from responder:

- 3♣: clubs, either 4-5-1-3 or 4-5-0-4
- 3♦: diamonds, either 4-5-3-1 or 4-5-4-0
- 3♥: 6 hearts, 4 spades, 2-1 in the minors
- 3♠: 6 hearts, 5 spades
- 3NT: 4-5-2-2 shape (not a slam try)
- 4♣: 4-6-0-3 shape
- 4♦: 4-6-3-0 shape

Essentially, responder's third bid further describes his shape in a generally natural way. Opener should now have a good view of what denomination to play.

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Pennant

- 1 S. Ozenir, M. Dilks, H. Blakeman, B. Wein, D. Morgan
- 2 E. Caplan, J. Alexander, R. Kaplan, J. Thompson
- =3 S. Hinge, C. Chua, B. Howe, N. Ewart
- =3 G. Gaspar, B. Tencer, P. Schroor, D. Sheather

Victorian Open Team Playoff

- 1 *Pennant:* S. Ozenir, M. Dilks, H. Blakeman, B. Wein, D. Morgan, S. Hinge
- 2 *Butler:* F. Beale, D. Smart, L. Gold, P. Hollands, T. Chira, D. Hohor

Masters Teams

Section A Final

- 1 E. Hardy, L. Gold, J. Fust, D. Davis
- 2 S. Gerdan, M. Balint, R. Szabo-Bencze, M. Gurfinkel

Section A Plate

- 1 B. Tencer, G. Gaspar, M. Tencer, M. Chrapot
- 2 S. Klofa, R. Livingston, R. Gallus, R. Stewart
- 3 A. Branicki, G. Pick, T. Chira, E. Samuel

Section B

- 1 J. Selwyn, F. Halmos, D. Selwyn, M. Granovsky
- 2 M. Yuill, D. Keenan, J. Hall, B. Dembo
- 3 W. Pattison, A. Blecher, B. Bennett, N. McNamamny

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 W. Jacobs – B. Thompson
- 2 K. Chan – B. Kingham
- 3 R. van Riel – W. Scott

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Allison – C. Whiddon
- 2 M. Bertuna – B. Briggs
- 3 S. Ginsbourg – W. Sizeland

Glen Eira Community Chest Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Hinge – B. Howe
- 2 R. Drew – D. Smith
- 3 P. Grodski – R. Kaplan

VBA ANZAC Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 B. Howe, N. Ewart
- 2 S. Klofa, J. Collins
- 3 A. Mill, J. Howard

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Grigg, J. Fust, K. Chan, T. Lee
- 2= A. Branicki, L. Branicki, A. Mill, J. Howard
- 2= A. Krolikowski, R. Stewart, J. Magee, T. Strong



June Grigg, winner of the ANZAC Congress Swiss Teams



MORE GOLD COAST RESULTS

Some strong Victorian results in the restricted categories at the Gold Coast Congress:

Restricted Teams (70 teams):

Mary Allison, Christina Macquarrie, Christine Parkin and Catherine Whiddon: 5th.

Restricted Pairs (180 pairs):

John Bristow and Jeff Lacey: C Final 1st
Mary Allison and Catherine Whiddon: A Final 3rd

Ivy Dahler Restricted Swiss Pairs (68 pairs):

Mary Allison and Catherine Whiddon: 1st



Mary Allison and Catherine Whiddon receive their Ivy Dahler Restricted Swiss Pairs trophy from ABF President Keith McDonald