

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP WRAPUP

Plaudits to Sue Smith for a splendid VCC Congress on the Queen's Birthday weekend. Attendances were up in every division – an exceptional result, given that the VCC is the only national (playoff points) tournament that has to compete with another gold-point congress, in this case the Barrier Reef Congress in Cairns.

The changed session times to avoid night-time play were well received by everyone.

And Victorians performed extremely well. First up was Shirley Collins and Maggie Callander, who took out the Women's Swiss Pairs in a close tussle with Helen Snashall – Cathie Lachman (second) and Cathy Chua – Janina Fleiszig (third).



Shirley Collins and Maggie Callander

"Close" was not an apt adjective for the McCance Seniors Pairs outcome. Paula Schroor and Bobby Richman annihilated the field. 2nd place was daylight.



Paula Schroor, Bob Richman and Jeannette Collins

Ron Casey and John Kelly narrowly took out the Restricted Pairs, from Frank Font – Ian Bram and Warren Easley – James Simpson. Ron and John then teamed up with Christina Macquarrie, and Ken Trolland to win the Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams. Second were Brian and Margaret Morgan, Kevin Sertori and Chandradee Chakravorty.



Ken Trolland, John Kelly, Christina Macquarrie and Ron Casey, with Jeannette Collins

In the Victor Champion Cup, Ben Thompson and Bill Jacobs were on the 2nd placed team.

STATE GOVERNANCE UPDATE

The May newsletter outlined a project to review and democratize the administration of bridge in Victoria – a role currently the responsibility of the VBA.

The VBA and FABCV have been closely cooperating in this review, and have agreed that an Interim Committee will be created that is charged with determining the best model for running bridge in Victoria into the future.

The method to populate this committee is still being considered, but a fundamental principle is that it must both draw on existing expertise and also be broadly representative of all the Affiliated Bridge clubs in the state.

When the Interim Committee has done its work, it is expected that its recommended model will be endorsed by the players of Victoria and subsequently implemented.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

The Pitiful Crutch

Consider this uncontested auction:

1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
??	

What does the 2♦ bid mean?

2♦ is the fourth-bid suit. Having bid hearts, spades and clubs, it's unlikely – although not impossible – that you will want to end up playing in a diamond contract.

The bid of the fourth suit is artificial saying: "partner, please describe your hand further". Some play it as forcing the auction to at least game; others do not – it's a matter of partnership agreement.

As opener, what do you bid over 2♦ with the following hands?

- 1) ♠ 10 ♥ KJ1094 ♦ KQ5 ♣ A1042
 - 2) ♠ 10 ♥ KJ1094 ♦ Q5 ♣ AK1042
 - 3) ♠ 10 ♥ KQJ1094 ♦ Q5 ♣ A1042
 - 4) ♠ A109 ♥ KQ1094 ♦ 5 ♣ AK104
 - 5) ♠ A9 ♥ KJ1094 ♦ J5 ♣ A1042
-

- 1) Show your diamond stopper with 2NT.
- 2) Show your fifth club with 3♣.
- 3) Show your sixth heart with 2♥.
- 4) Show your extra values and three card spade support by jumping to 3♠.
- 5) This is the hand that doesn't really have anything to show – no diamond stopper, and no extra length in any suit. I recommend a 2♠ rebid with the ace-doubleton. This should not guarantee 3-card support, because with a minimum opener and three spades, you might have raised 1♠ directly to 2♠.

Let's continue with hand 1). You rebid 2NT, and partner bids 3NT:

You	Partner
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2NT	3NT
Pass	

The lead is the diamond two:

♠ K8532
♥ A6
♦ A76
♣ QJ3

♠ 10
♥ KJ1094
♦ KQ5
♣ A1042

Plan the play.

Counting your tricks – if the clubs are good for four tricks, then you have nine: 4 clubs, 2 hearts and 3 diamonds. But you don't have to try that immediately – you could play on hearts first and leave the clubs in reserve.

What about the defenders' tricks? Spades is your only exposure ... you'd prefer not to let LHO into the lead.

So I would suggest winning the diamond lead in hand and running the heart jack. If it loses, the opponents cannot play spades without giving you your ninth trick.

Adopting this approach, you win ♦K and trick 1, and play ♥J. Everyone follows low to this.

What next?

If the ♥Q is dropping on the next two tricks, there are your 9 tricks: 5 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club. But if you continue playing hearts and LHO started with ♥Qxxx, you might be in trouble.

The right play is to play a heart to the ace, and if ♥Q doesn't appear, take the club finesse. All follow low on the second round of hearts, and the club finesse loses to West's king. West switches cleverly to ♠J.

What now?

Dummy's spade 8 is a beautiful card. You are making 3NT easily as long as the defenders cannot take four fast spade tricks right now.

You must duck the spade jack, and whatever spade West plays next, you will cover it. There is no layout of spades that will allow the defence to take four tricks.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ K8532	
	♥ A6	
	♦ A76	
	♣ QJ3	
♠ J94		♠ AQ76
♥ Q873		♥ 52
♦ J942		♦ 1083
♣ K5		♣ 9876
	♠ 10	
	♥ KJ1094	
	♦ KQ5	
	♣ A1042	

Points to remember:

- After three suits have been bid, the fourth suit is artificial, asking opener to describe his hand further. Terence Reese, regarded as the world's leading player in the 1960s, described "fourth-suit-forcing" as the Pitiful Crutch. But tournament players have been successfully relying on the crutch for 50 years. So should you.
- Identify the danger suit, and play the hand to protect yourself in that suit.
- Did you work out at the start of the hand that if you only let West in once, the defence cannot generate four fast spade tricks? That fact is the key to the play at tricks 2, 4 and 5.

You won't find that spade layout in the Bridge Encyclopaedia or standard texts on suit combinations. It is by no means easy to visualize how the suit can be protected.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: E ♠ KQ7
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10865
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ AJ2

♠ J982
 ♥ AK2
 ♦ J743
 ♣ K5

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♦	D'ble	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All pass	

You lead ♦3 to ♦Q, ♦K and South's ♦A. Now comes ♥3 which you win with ♥K and play?

Problem 2:

Dealer: N ♠ 973
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ108
 ♦ 1097
 ♣ A95

♠ KQJ65
 ♥ 765
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ KQ7

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	D'ble	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	All pass	

You start with ♠K and partner plays ♠10 and declarer wins ♠A. She plays ♥K then ♥A, ♥Q to discard a spade. Now comes dummy's ♦10, run to your ♦Q. How will you defend?

Solutions on page 5.



RECENT RESULTS

Board-a-Match Teams

- 1 J. Ebery, L. Gold, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, S. Hinge
- 2 E. Hardy, J. Fust, J. Grigg, R. Ellery
- 3= T. Chira, D. Hohor, B. Kingham, J. Rosen
- 3= G. Kilvington, I. McCance, W. Scott, G. Chettle

BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

Theodor Herzl Bridge Club

The Theodor Herzl Social Club was created just over 40 years ago to provide a social environment for a community that was getting older. It was to provide a place of socializing, playing card games (bridge and red aces in particular), have functions, a small restaurant, and all surplus monies were to go to charities. Recently, a function was held for the bushfire survivors and about \$10,000 was donated.

The club has approximately 400 members and is growing.



The club holds bridge duplicate sessions on Monday and Wednesday 12:00 with lunch provided. On Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday the duplicate has the facility of dinner at 6:00 pm, with bridge starting at 7:30pm (7:00 for

Sunday). Monday evening is beginners' classes and supervised play with Andrew Mill.

Recently, red point events have been created on Thursday nights with Laurie Kelso as director. A whole series of events have been planned to enhance bridge in Victoria and attract younger players to the club.

The Theodor Herzl club has a website (www.thscbc.org.au) and an e-mail address of info@thscbc.org.au. Entries as well as information and results are available on the website. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Venue: 222 Balaclava Road
Caulfield North

Phone: Judy Ivanyi 9572-2871

Duplicates: 12:00 pm Monday, Wednesday
7:30 pm Tuesday, Thursday
7:00 pm Sunday
7:30 pm Monday (Beginners / Supervised)

Congress: **Sunday Jul 19: Swiss Teams**
Sunday Aug 30: Swiss Pairs
10 am start both days
(Enter via web site)



Thursday evening at the Theodor Herzl club

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ KQ7	
Vul: Both	♥ Q10865	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ AJ2	
♠ J982		♠ 1054
♥ AK2		♥ 4
♦ J743		♦ K1098
♣ K5		♣ Q8643
	♠ A63	
	♥ J973	
	♦ A65	
	♣ 1097	

You apparently have 3 tricks in the reds and need 2 more. Should you play partner for ♣Q, playing ♣K now and going for a ruff of clubs, or go passive and hope declarer has a 3433 hand-shape and partner has ♠A? If the latter is correct you can combine the two chances by playing ♣K now. If declarer has ♠Q your ♣K was never a trick.

Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ 973	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ108	
	♦ 1097	
	♣ A95	
♠ KQJ65		♠ 108
♥ 765		♥ J943
♦ AQ		♦ 642
♣ KQ7		♣ 10832
	♠ A42	
	♥ K2	
	♦ KJ853	
	♣ J64	

You will come to one spade, 2 diamonds and need 2 more tricks, which must come from clubs. There is no need to broach them, and it may be dangerous to do so. So cash that ♦A because you don't want the lead after your third spade is ruffed.

Phillip Island Bridge Congress

Sat July 25th (Pairs) / Sun July 26th (Teams)
Newhaven Hall, Phillip Island
Meals between sessions included!
Enter via www.bridgeunlimited.com

THE TWELFTH TRICK

IMPs ♠ A7652
Dealer: S ♥ Q873
Vul: Nil ♦ -
 ♣ AK76

♠ 1043
♥ AK1062
♦ AJ9
♣ 42

West	North	East	South
			1♥
5♦	6♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead is ♦K. You decide to ruff that, and play a trump to the ace, all following low.

Take it from there. Solution on page 6.

BRIDGE APHORISMS

It's a difficult game, and we need all the help we can get. Here are some bridge aphorisms (or truisms, or maxims, or rules-of-thumb):

Trust partner

When in doubt, lead trumps

Cover an honour with an honour

If 3NT is a possible contract, bid it

Fourth highest of your longest and strongest

When in doubt, bid one more

The queen sits over the jack

The 5-level belongs to the opponents

8 ever, 9 never

6-5, come alive

Lead through strength; lead up to weakness

Rate each of these on a scale from 1 (absolute rubbish) to 10 (I obey this rule religiously). Send your answers and any comments to me at bill.jacobs@quest.com or via the VBA. More in future months.

SYSTEM CORNER
Bill Jacobs

♠ 75
♥ AJ6
♦ KQ1093
♣ 1087

♠ A10632
♥ 75
♦ A5
♣ J432

West	North	East	South
			1NT*
Pass	3NT	All pass	

* 15-17

You lead the ♠3 to 3NT – five, jack, king. Declarer plays the diamond jack, which you duck, and you win the second round of diamonds with the ace.

What do you play now? Have a think about that before reading on.

Here are two possible hands for declarer:

- 1) ♠ KQx ♥ KQxx ♦ Jxx ♣ KQx
- 2) ♠ Kxx ♥ KQxx ♦ Jxx ♣ AKx

On 1), you must switch to a club, so that partner can play a spade through declarer's remaining honour. On 2), you need to continue spades.

How to decide? A gentleman named "Smith" created a convention to help. Playing the Smith Echo against notrumps, partner of opening leader makes a high-low signal on the suit declarer plays next to say: "I like your lead".

In this example, partner plays high-low in diamonds to indicate that he liked your spade lead – which can only mean that he has the queen to go with the jack – or perhaps Jxxx. You would continue with a spade at trick 3. If partner plays low-high, you would switch.

Smith Echoes must necessarily play second fiddle in some situations where it is essential to give count (for example, declarer attacks dummy's long suit, with dummy lacking entries). However, it remains a vital part of any serious defensive armoury.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

IMPs	♠ A7652
Dealer: S	♥ Q873
Vul: Nil	♦ -
	♣ AK76
♠ Q9	♠ KJ8
♥ 4	♥ J95
♦ KQ1087652	♦ 43
♣ Q8	♣ J10953
	♠ 1043
	♥ AK1062
	♦ AJ9
	♣ 42

With a trump or two, West would probably have tried a singleton lead if he had one. If he has a side *void*, your prospects are somewhere between dim and non-existent. So the odds are heavily in favour of West having a singleton heart, and East guarding both black suits.

Ruff your remaining small diamond with the *queen*, and play dummy's last heart back to your hand, finessing the ten whilst holding your breath.

When West discards, draw the last trump and play the diamond ace to reach:

	♠ A76
	♥ -
	♦ -
	♣ AK76
♠ Q9	♠ KJ8
♥ -	♥ -
♦ Q108	♦ -
♣ Q8	♣ J1095
	♠ 1043
	♥ 62
	♦
	♣ 42

The lead of the penultimate heart (discarding a spade from dummy) squeezes East. If he throws a club, the clubs set up; if he throws a spade, the spades set up.

When you write it up in your memoirs, the correct terminology is "ruffing squeeze without the count".

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

NASTY LEADS
Bill Jacobs

Everyone is vulnerable, and you hear:

LHO	RHO
4♠	4NT
5♦*	7NT

* one ace

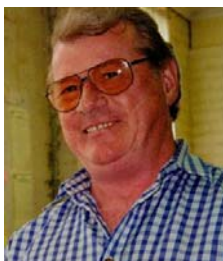
You hold: ♠ K7 ♥ J10975 ♦ 975 ♣ 1074

What do you lead?

The full deal:

Dealer: W	♠ AQJ109842	
Vul: all	♥ K	
	♦ 84	
	♣ 83	
♠ K7		♠ 6
♥ J10975		♥ Q432
♦ 975		♦ J1063
♣ 1074		♣ KQ96
	♠ 53	
	♥ A86	
	♦ AKQ2	
	♣ AJ52	

Wally Scott (pictured right) held this hand in the Fred Hapgood Matchpoint Swiss Pairs. He chose the diabolical ♠7 lead.



Can you blame declarer for rising with ♠A at trick 1?

Here's another nasty lead from the recent NEC Cup tournament in Yokahama:

IMPs	♠ AQ82	
Dealer: S	♥ AQ643	
Vul: Nil	♦ AKQ5	
	♣ -	
♠ KJ7		♠ 109
♥ 5		♥ J102
♦ 64		♦ J8732
♣ KJ109872		♣ Q63
	♠ 6543	
	♥ K987	
	♦ 109	
	♣ A54	

As you can see, 6♥ is cold, and 7♥ is cold off.

Both Wests opened 3♣. For Australia, Rob Fruewirth (playing with Ishmael Del Monte) correctly reached 6♥ by South, whilst their Japanese counterparts overreached to 7♥.

How many imps do you think Australia won for that?

In 6♥, Fruewirth received the lead of ♠7. He took that at face value (it looked like a singleton) and went up with the ace. Drawing trumps gave him pause for thought – would West lead a singleton spade holding a singleton trump? Well, he could be 1147 shape, so Rob continued with Plan A and finessed the diamond 10. Down one.

At the other table, Ron Klinger led a club to 7♥. Declarer needed both the spade and diamond finesses, but when he ran the diamond ten, East, Matt Mullamphy, thought declarer had called for the ace from dummy, and followed low! Making 7♥.

In Alice Through the Looking Glass, Alice discovers that in order to go somewhere, she needs to head off in the opposite direction. This deal seemed similar: the no-play 7♥ made; the cold 6♥ went down.

Meanwhile, the moral of these two deals seems to be: when in doubt, lead ♠7.

ANOTHER YOUTHFUL VICTORY

Congratulations to Peter Hollands and Justin Howard, who were members of the Australian team that have recently won the Under 26 Pacific Asia Bridge Championships in Macau. Cathy Mill was, of course, team captain, coach and chaperone.

That's back-to-back wins by our Youth team in the Far-East championships.



Peter Hollands and Justin Howard

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Corey Rose
Local Master	Patricia Grieves
*Local Master	Pamela Craig Paul Kron Mary Williams
**Local Master	Esther Goldschlager Bert Parsons
State Master	Leon Cohen Bella Edelman
Life Master	Gay Collins Ben Kingham
Bronze Life Master	Leon Rogers
Silver Life Master	Teresa Kay
Grand Master	Franci Halmos

NEWS FROM THE KATTERY BRIDGE CLUB

Kattery Congress:

Saturday August 8th:

- Swiss Pairs
1:30 pm and 6:00 pm

Sunday August 9th:

- Swiss Teams
9:30 am and 1:30 pm

Venue: Theodor Herzl Social Club
222 Balaclava Rd, Caulfield



Bellinzona Hepburn Springs:

Spoil yourself for four days. Join Brigitte and Keith for four days of wonderful bridge, fantastic workshops, superb meals, great company, peace and tranquillity.

*Tuesday afternoon September 1st to
Friday lunchtime September 4th*

Set in the tranquil township of Hepburn Springs, The Bellinzona is one of Victoria's favourite retreats. Spoil yourself with as much bridge as you want, or enjoy a day spa, one of the many mineral springs or the stunning public gardens.

Morning sessions start at 10 am, giving you plenty of time for a lie-in, followed by a fully cooked traditional country breakfast. Our workshops are in the afternoon, a leisurely 3-course dinner, followed by bridge at 8 pm. All meals are in the beautiful Heritage

restaurant. Everything is on the one floor, so no walking up or down stairs.

For more information or bookings for the Kattery Congress or the Bellinzona retreat, contact Keith on 0428-130-844, go to <http://www.kattery.com.au/> or email keithkat@kattery.com.au.

BAIRNSDALE BIRTHDAY



Glenda Moulton celebrated her 98th birthday at the Bairnsdale Bridge Club on Saturday 13th June - Glenda provided a sumptuous afternoon tea for all the players and teamed up with her more youthful 91 year old partner, Kay Bignell, to finish with a creditable 45%.



DEFENCE MASTERCLASSES

Learn How Experts Think and Play

Jeff Fust "Good Defence is the Key to Success at Bridge."

Saturday 11th July 10am - 4pm

The Five Lines of Defence

Gain a deep understanding of the themes common to every hand. Learning the blueprint for defence makes it much more interesting.

It is not necessary to attend both sessions

Saturday 18th July 10am - 4pm

Becoming a Bridge Detective

Deductions from the Bidding and Cardplay.
Counting Tricks and Distribution.
Locating the Missing High Cards.
Signalling - Attitude, Count, Suit Preference.

Cost : \$30 payable on the day (includes booklet and notes).

Bookings : If you want reserve your place, Email jefffust@yahoo.com

Where : VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Rd, Hughesdale.

Lunch : Soup, Sandwiches, Mains, Deserts and Drinks are available.