

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2009

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## BACK TO BACK

Congratulations to our Victorian Youth Team, who won the ANC for the second consecutive year: Max Henbest, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Nathan Howard, Angus Munro, Jeremy Rosen. They easily won the round-robin qualifying, and then disposed of a very strong NSW team by 40 imps in the final.

The Seniors team - Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Dina Drury, Colin Manley, Richard Greenfield, Ken Pearson – were always in contention to make the final, but eventually ran third – a strong effort.

Neither the Open nor the Womens team were able to generate momentum, and would have been disappointed in their final placings.

Finally Simon Hinge – David Morgan took out the ANC Open Pairs, whilst Peter Hollands – Justin Howard won the ANC Youth Pairs.



## Competitive Bidding MASTERCLASSES

Learn How Experts Think and Play

**Saturday August 29th 11am – 4:30pm**

### Finding Your Fit

Open or Pass? (pointers for point counters)  
Overcalls: The 3 objectives.  
Third Hand Openings  
Doubles.  
The Safety Zone.

It is not necessary to have a partner or attend both sessions

**Saturday September 5th 11am – 4:30pm**

### Winning the Battle

The Law of Total Tricks.  
Pre-emptive raises and Cue raises.  
Hand evaluation.  
Fit Showing jumps. The importance of a double fit.  
Declare or Defend?

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

**Bookings** : If you want to reserve your place, Email [jeffafust@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffafust@yahoo.com)

**Where** : VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena.

**Lunch** : (40 mins) Soups, Sandwiches, Deserts and Drinks are available.

## HOW TO PLAY TRUMPS

Match wits with Victorian representatives in national and international competition:

IMPs                    ♠ K765  
Dealer: E             ♥ AKQ62  
Vul: Nil                ♦ 86  
                             ♣ A8

♠ 10842  
♥ 853  
♦ AJ53  
♣ K5

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

♣Q is led. You win ♣K and decide to duck a spade: ♠2, ♠3, ♠7, ♠Q. East returns a low diamond – you win the ace and play a second spade: ♠8, ♠9 ... what's your play?

IMPs                    ♠ K86  
Dealer: W             ♥ A8643  
Vul: All                ♦ 10932  
                             ♣ 5

♠ AJ954  
♥ 9  
♦ AQ764  
♣ AQ

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

♣10 is led, to the ♣K and ♣A. What now?

Both pairs pushed the boat out in the bidding. If you overbid, then you have to overplay ...

Full hands on page 8.

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

With everyone vulnerable at IMPs, you hold:

♠ 5 ♥ A1064 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ KJ2

Your right-hand opponent deals and opens 3♠. A double here is for takeout, showing at least opening bid values, and support for the other three suits. Do you double?

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This sort of decision requires a cost-benefit analysis. The cost occurs if partner has a weak hand, and you get doubled and murdered in your resulting 4-level contract.

The benefit occurs if partner has some values (but not enough to act alone), and you can make a game. For example:

♠ Jxx ♥ KQxx ♦ Qx ♣ Axxx

The expert consensus is that if you have a decent hand with shortage in their suit, then you should enter the auction, despite the obvious risks. So double 3♠ with the given hand.

Suppose instead that your partner is the dealer, passes in first seat, and RHO opens 3♠ in second seat? Would you still double in this scenario?

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Partner's passed hand status changes the odds. Now you are less likely to have a game your way, and more likely to get penalised; so you should pass 3♠.

Anyway, the auction proceeds as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
		3♠	D'ble
4NT	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥**	Pass	6♠***	All Pass

- \* one key card (out of 4 aces and ♠K)
- \*\* ask for spade queen
- \*\*\* shows spade queen, no side king

You are on lead with:

♠ 5 ♥ A1064 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ KJ2

What's your poison?

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Unpleasant. Leading from any of the side suits could be essential – or the only lead to give away the contract. Leading a singleton trump would not be a recommendation you would find in any reputable textbook. However, it's quite a safe lead on this auction, particularly with declarer having shown the trump queen – you don't have to worry about a trump lead picking off your partner's queen.

You lead a trump, and see:

♠ K7  
♥ KJ752  
♦ A  
♣ A8764

♠ 5  
♥ A1064  
♦ KJ1043  
♣ KJ2

What are thoughts right now?

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You may be preening yourself on finding a lead that reduces dummy's ruffing power.

But they are the wrong thoughts. What you *should (must!)* be thinking is what you will do if declarer wins the spade in hand and plays a heart up.

Sure enough, after only a couple of seconds, declarer calls low from dummy, wins partner's ♠8 with ♠Q, and plays ♥3.

You now have four choices:

- 1) play the ace quickly
- 2) play the ace slowly
- 3) play low quickly
- 4) play low slowly

Which is it to be?

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You will be faced with this sort of decision many times over a lifetime. For example, dummy leads a side singleton, you have the ace, and you need to decide whether to duck it. We will practise here.

If you take your time before playing to the trick, then declarer will know you have the ace, and this can help him if he has a guess to make. Conversely, if you do the wrong thing quickly, that's not much use either.

There is usually only one definitively wrong play, and that is to play the ace quickly. If you are going to go up with the ace, then you might as well take your time about it!

In general in these situations, you should either have steeled yourself to play low in tempo, or you should sit back and think, revealing the location of the ace, but also giving yourself the best chance to make the right technical play.

So let's take our time. If you win ♥A, declarer will be able to win your continuation, cash ♥K, ruff a heart, and whatever the heart layout, the heart suit will be established. Declarer will surely have 7 spade tricks, 3 hearts and two aces for 12 tricks.<sup>1</sup>

So you should play low on the heart – quickly or slowly. The full deal:

	♠ K7	
	♥ KJ752	
	♦ A	
	♣ A8764	
♠ 5		♠ 864
♥ A1064		♥ Q9
♦ KJ1043		♦ 8765
♣ KJ2		♣ Q1053
	♠ AQJ10932	
	♥ 83	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ 9	

Even if declarer guesses to put up ♥K, he is doomed. Partner can win the second heart with the queen and play another trump, leaving declarer a trick short.

*Points to remember:*

- Opening bid values combined with a shortage in the opponent's suit are generally a good indicator that you should come into the auction.
- Put not your faith in books! The lead of a singleton trump is usually a no-no. But most rules have exceptions, and the combination of the auction and your hand did point to the normally distasteful lead.

<sup>1</sup> The only setup where you need to play ♥A would be if declarer started with ♥Qxx. But with that holding he would have drawn trumps and established the hearts.

- Be prepared for this “should I take my ace?” decision. More often than not, the right play is to follow low smoothly; however if you haven't prepared yourself for that, then you should take your time.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dealer: N      ♠ AKJ3  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ A65  
                   ♦ AQ93  
                   ♣ 62

♠ 10876  
 ♥ J98732  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ 109

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	4♠	All pass	

Partner starts with ♣A and switches to ♦7, which runs to declarer's ♦10. Declarer takes ♠AK (partner follows low, then discards ♦4), then plays a club, covering ♣9 with ♣Q and partner's ♣K wins. He plays another diamond, ♦6, which you trump. What next?

**Problem 2:**

Dealer: E      ♠ J93  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ 109  
                   ♦ K8  
                   ♣ KQ8743

♠ A862  
 ♥ J62  
 ♦ A109642  
 ♣ -

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

\* 12-14 HCP

Partner leads ♥4 and you cover dummy's ♥10. Declarer takes ♥K and returns ♥3, ♥5 from partner, ♥9 winning. Now comes ♠3 and it's your play.

Solutions on page 5.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## BRIDGE ACROSS VICTORIA

### Yarrowonga Bridge Club

The Yarrowonga Bridge Club began in 1981 after bridge lessons were offered by the newly formed Yarrowonga Adult Education (YAE). Jan Hackett organized the venue and located a willing teacher. Twenty very keen people turned up to learn this exciting new game from a slightly nervous first time bridge teacher, Maggie Brown from Wangaratta.

After the initial eight weeks of lessons (old style Goren), the club formed and met once a week in the Yarrowonga Primary School.

However, this was not enough for some. Games went on in many homes all over town during the week.

Mrs Aline Cooper, later to become the club's first life member, was instrumental in encouraging fellow players. Then aged 75, she opened her home on Tuesday afternoons to anyone who wanted a game. Her afternoon teas were legendary with special cloths being laid over the card tables and the tea trolley put to full use.

She was adamant about certain "rules" and was especially stern with anyone who led away from an ace on the opening lead. Although she passed away several years ago, even now if anybody underleads an ace, he or she is sure to be told, "Mrs Cooper would NOT approve" – often by one of Aline's two daughters who play with the club, and still support their mother's views!

For the first year, the club ran in conjunction with the Wangaratta duplicate group, hence the Ovens & Murray name for that club. But Yarrowonga then decided to become a club on its own. After moving to several different locations, it found a permanent home at the Yarrowonga and Border Golf Club where duplicate bridge is played on Thursday nights and informal sessions are sometimes held on Monday afternoons.

The golf club has been exceptionally good to the bridge group. One evening when the power went out, the staff produced candles for each table to allow people to continue the

game! None of the players went home, and there were quite a few laughs before the lights came back on.



No lights? No problem!

Five of the original twenty learners still play at the club while new members have joined over the years. There are about forty active players with an average of twenty-four competing each week. Barbara Pigdon, Jan and Tom Hackett, Bill Pheasant and David Ware have also been made life members to acknowledge their contributions over, in most cases, the entire 28 years of the club's existence.



The Yarrowonga club has always been active in the Northern Region Bridge Association and has frequently hosted the pairs or teams event. Players in the club also participate in the Vic Sim Pairs competition, the Australia-Wide events and Bridge for Brain Research night. Some members have travelled to support congresses around the state and in southern New South Wales. A few have enjoyed games in Melbourne, Canberra and on the Gold Coast. Tom and Jan Hackett have

been proud to represent the club and the region in the GNOT and state events.

Yarrowonga's congress is held in August each year – see details below.

Lessons are offered from time to time with sessions scheduled for both beginners and improvers.

Contact:	PO Box 13 (of course!) Yarrowonga, 3730 Jan Hackett: 5744-1017 <a href="mailto:Hackett5@bigpond.net.au">Hackett5@bigpond.net.au</a>
Venue:	Yarrowonga and Border Golf Club, Mulwala, NSW
Duplicates:	1:30 pm Monday (some days – call first) 7:15 pm Thursday
Congress:	Fri Aug 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:30 pm: Pairs Sat Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> 12:30 pm: Pairs Sun Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup> 9:30 am: Teams Venue: Club Mulwala, Melbourne St, Mulwala. Enter via Contact above, or at <a href="http://www.bridgeunlimited.com">www.bridgeunlimited.com</a>

## Directors' Course 2009



A 2 day Directors Course conducted by  
Dr. Laurie Kelso, Victorian Chief Tournament Director  
Will be held on

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August & continuing on  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

At the Victorian Bridge Association  
131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

### AN INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

(suitable for people wanting to learn how to direct)

**11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (1/2 hr lunch break)**

**COST: \$40.00 per day**

*\*\*Affiliated Clubs are invited to send one  
ABF registered member free of charge\*\**

All enquiries and registrations to Cathie  
(T) 03-9530-9006, (F) 03-9530-9212

or e-mail [clachman@vba.asn.au](mailto:clachman@vba.asn.au)

## SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

### Problem 1

Dealer: N	♠ AKJ3	
Vul: N/S	♥ A65	
	♦ AQ93	
	♣ 62	
♠ 5		♠ 10876
♥ K4		♥ J98732
♦ J7642		♦ 8
♣ AKJ73		♣ 109
	♠ Q942	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ K105	
	♣ Q854	

When you have three tricks in the bag, there can be no question of developing another – development implies setting up a trick to cash when you get in later. But the task here is to make sure of *one* down. If there is a trick to come in hearts, let it come. Just exit with the spade.

### Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ J93	
Vul: N/S	♥ 109	
	♦ K8	
	♣ KQ8743	
♠ Q104		♠ A862
♥ A854		♥ J62
♦ QJ7		♦ A109642
♣ 1092		♣ -
	♠ K75	
	♥ KQ73	
	♦ 53	
	♣ AJ65	

Put that way, it looks like a suggestion that you might rise ♠A and indeed you should<sup>1</sup>. This is not so much The Setting Trick but playing a low spade is the Non-Setting Non-Trick. If you play low ♠K will be declarer's third and you can see a 6-suit that declarer has been trying to pretend isn't there. Pop ♠A and play to partner's almost certain ♥A. He may not have ♦QJx, but ♦Qxx would be enough to give the defence a chance.

[From the Rothfield teams 2009, courtesy of David Morgan.]

<sup>1</sup> Extra credit if you took ♠A **slowly**. And on second thoughts, ought not partner play ♥A at trick 2? ... BJ

**BRIDGE APHORISMS – I**  
**TRUST PARTNER**

Thanks to the 15 readers who responded to last month's quiz. Here are the datums!

<i>Trust partner</i>	7.9
<i>Fourth highest of your longest and strongest</i>	7.4
<i>The 5-level belongs to the opponents</i>	6.8
<i>Lead through strength; lead up to weakness</i>	6.7
<i>6-5, come alive</i>	6.5
<i>If 3NT is a possible contract, bid it</i>	6.3
<i>Cover an honour with an honour</i>	5.5
<i>8 ever, 9 never</i>	5.2
<i>When in doubt, bid one more</i>	5.1
<i>When in doubt, lead trumps</i>	2.2
<i>The queen sits over the jack</i>	0.7

Without doubt, the best aphorism here is to Trust Partner. Actually, it would have scored even higher except for one Cathy Chua, who rated it at a "minus 1". There's a story somewhere in that.

Some survey comments:

*If you can't trust partner, you're going to have a tough time. ... Ben Thompson*

*Should always be at back of mind, despite evidence to the contrary! ... Ian McCance*

*When counting your losers, don't include your partner ... Jeff Fust*

*Depends on the partner ... Kitty Muntz*

They don't sound very confident, do they? It seems that we are prepared to trust partner – until events prove otherwise.

Unless you are in a partnership with your spouse, or are playing in a professional-client arrangement, in all probability your partner plays to a similar standard to you. That's why you've formed a partnership: if it was clearly unequal in quality, then the partnership wouldn't last.

In that scenario, failing to trust your partner reflects on your own game, because it means you wouldn't trust yourself. Let's revisit a hand shown last month:

- ♠ 75
  - ♥ AJ6
  - ♦ KQ1093
  - ♣ 1087
- ♠ A10632
  - ♥ 75
  - ♦ A5
  - ♣ J432

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

Partner has played high-low in diamonds, which is a Smith Echo, indicating that he likes your spade lead. So you should continue spades, but how? The most likely scenario is that partner started with ♠QJx, in which case you can play ♠2 over to him, and run the spades from there.

But what if the layout is:

	♠ 75
	♥ AJ6
	♦ KQ1093
	♣ 1087
♠ A10632	♠ J984
♥ 75	♥ 10942
♦ A5	♦ 764
♣ J432	♣ K9
	♠ KQ
	♥ KQ83
	♦ J82
	♣ AQ65

In this scenario, you must cash ♠A next and run the spades that way.

You should indeed cash ♠A, because if partner has started with ♠QJx, you can trust him to play the ♠Q under your ace, allowing you to run the suit. And he will need to trust that you know what you are doing and unblock the queen, hoping/expecting that you started with ♠A10xxx(x).

Trusting partner in the bidding is equally important. You hold:

	♠ AJ3	♥ 843	♦ J62	♣ A874
LHO	Partner	RHO	You	
	1♠	Pass	2♠	
3♣	3♠	Pass	?	

You have a tip-top maximum for your 2♠ bid – two aces, no wasted values in clubs, all very nice. So should you bid 4♠ on this auction?

No! If partner were interested in game he had game tries available: 3♦ or 3♥. His 3♠ had no invitational connotations at all. You should trust him to know how to bid, and pass 3♠ expecting him to hold about:

♠ KQxxxx ♥ AKx ♦ xxx ♣ x

If you bid 4♠, then after partner has gone down one, he will think: "It seems I had the choice of going down in 4♠ or letting them make 3♣, but no way to make 3♠. Perhaps Jeff Fust was wrong: I *should* have included partner as one of my losers."

#### RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Ann Pauligk
Club Master	Lucy Henbest
Local Master	Belinda Briggs
*Local Master	Jeff Batten
**Local Master	Rosemary O'Connor
*National Master	Larry Attwood Carmy Karliner
Grand Master	Jenny Atkinson Michael Balint

#### RECENT RESULTS

##### Fred Hapgood Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Gaspar – M. Chrapot
- 2 S. Klofa - R. Livingston
- 3 E. Samuel – J. Fust

##### Rothfield Teams

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, B. Howe, N. Ewart
- 2 K. Chan, M. Willcox, D. Beckett, R. Gallus, J. Stark
- 3 D. Hohor, T. Chira, B. Kingham, J. Rosen

#### STATE GOVERNANCE UPDATE - II

As reported in the July newsletter, the VBA and FABCV are in the process of establishing an Interim Committee charged with determining the best model for running bridge in Victoria into the future.

A draft Terms of Reference for this committee has been written and is close to finalization. When done, it will be posted onto the VBA's and FABCV's web sites – you can expect to see it in the next few weeks.

The formation of the Interim Committee is now being considered. There are two primary goals in establishing the membership of the committee. Firstly, it must include people with existing expertise and experience in state bridge administration; secondly, we must ensure that most players in the state are broadly represented on the committee.

To that end, a committee of approximately 9 people is envisaged, and this membership will, at a minimum, include representation from the VBA, FABCV, and each of the state regions.

Members and guests can look forward to new table cloths with compliments of the VBA Foundation. They are a suede-like fabric which is liquid proof and pen marks are easily removed. They will enhance the club rooms and look very smart.

#### Funny Post Mortems

During a pairs tournament, an experienced pair played against two little-old-ladies (LOLs). In a competitive auction, the LOLs ended in 3♥, which was doubled.

The contract was made, which obviously pleased the ladies, and they happily chattered away about the hand at great length.

Finally an opponent exclaimed: "Gee, have you never made a doubled contract before?"

The reply came: "No, never!"

**VICTORIANS ABROAD**  
**Bill Jacobs**

How did you go with the declarer play problems from page 1?

The first was from the Australian Women's team match against New Zealand at the PABF championships in Macau, broadcast on Bridge Base Online.

IMPs	♠ K765		
Dealer: E	♥ AKQ62		
Vul: Nil	♦ 86		
	♣ A8		
♠ J93		♠ AQ	
♥ 9		♥ J1074	
♦ Q94		♦ K1072	
♣ QJ10963		♣ 742	
	♠ 10842		
	♥ 853		
	♦ AJ53		
	♣ K5		

West	North	East	South
	Helen		Cathie
	Snashall		Lachman
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠(!)	All Pass	

The 4♠ bid was true to Helen's style. She doesn't believe in pathetic partscore bidding (the other table played in 3♥). And with Cathie at the helm, right she was.

After the first round of spades was ducked to East's queen, Cathie had a critical guess on the second round. After long thought, she came up with the winning play, to duck the second round.

This looks like a restricted choice position in rather unusual guise. Once West had played ♠9 on the second round, there were only two possible holdings to allow 4♠ to make: East with ♠AQ doubleton, and East with ♠QJ doubleton. But Cathie's play of ducking two rounds would also have worked if East had started with ♠AJ doubleton, and therefore the odds were 2-to-1 to play as she did.

The second deal was from the ANC qualifying rounds, the Victorian Youth facing off against their main rivals, NSW:

IMPs	♠ K86		
Dealer: W	♥ A8643		
Vul: All	♦ 10932		
	♣ 5		
♠ Q732		♠ 10	
♥ KJ10		♥ Q752	
♦ KJ		♦ 85	
♣ 10763		♣ KJ9842	
	♠ AJ954		
	♥ 9		
	♦ AQ764		
	♣ AQ		

West	North	East	South
	Justin		Peter
	Howard		Hollands
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
1NT	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The bidding tipped Peter off to the winning play. After taking the club ace, he advanced the spade jack – low, low, 10. What a delight to behold. He next finessed the spade eight, cashed spade king, diamond to the ace, last trump drawn, and then continued diamonds to make the contract.

Maybe there's a lesson in the auction: what exactly does East's 1♣ opening achieve?

**UPCOMING STATE EVENT AT THE  
VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

The VBA invites all Victorian players to enter the following  
State event commencing on Wednesday  
12<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 at 7.30 p.m.



A 6 session Matchpoint Pairs event (3 week qualifying and 3 week barometer final) for Open and Restricted players

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](http://www.vba.asn.au) or phone 9530-9006