

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2010

Editor: Bill Jacobs



## 2010 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

**VENUE: New Melbourne Convention Centre**

**10<sup>th</sup> June — 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**10 am start each day, no night play**

<u>McCance Seniors</u> , <u>VCC Womens</u> & <u>VCC Restricted Swiss Pairs</u>	10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> June
<u>Victor Champion Cup</u> & <u>Charlie Snashall Trophy Restricted Swiss Teams</u>	12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June

Tournament Organiser: Sue Smith (03) 9886 8809 or 0429 056 445  
Email: [vcc2010@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vcc2010@optusnet.com.au) Website: [www.vba.asn.au/vcc2010](http://www.vba.asn.au/vcc2010)

**Gold Points and Playoff Points**

### WINNING THE VCC RESTRICTED TEAMS Christina MacQuarrie

The VCC is an exciting event to participate in, no matter what level you play at. This event attracts a lot of top players from Victoria, interstate and a few from overseas. The advantage to restricted players is that they can absorb the atmosphere from this large group of players without having to confront the better players at the table, which would be too, too terrible a thought.

For the last three years, I have played in the Restricted Teams and last year our team won the inaugural Charlie Snashall Cup, which is the new name for this event. It was a complete thrill for the four of us and we enjoyed every minute of it, and were extremely pleased to be the first ones to have our names engraved on the cup. This contrasted greatly with the first year we played where we did not fare so well, but were delighted to find that we received .75 of a gold point every time we won a session, and you have 10 chances!

I write this article having just returned from playing in the Summer Festival in Canberra for 12 days – where the phrase “bop until you drop” has been replaced with “deal until you keel”. It is indeed a marathon event,

especially if you choose to play every day. However I feel able to now compete in an open field without fear and trepidation after having had experience playing in events such as the VCC where restricted players merge in with the pack, while still remaining separate.

*SO COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO!*



Congratulations to past VBA President, Richard Rozen, OAM, who was earlier in the year chosen by Victoria's Australia Day Committee to be an Australia Day Ambassador.



Richard presented the Citizen of the Year Award to this year's honouree in Girgarre – a small country town near Shepparton. The town has a population of 250, and 126 attended the ceremony!

As a holocaust survivor who has achieved so much in Australia, Richard had a riveting and inspirational story to tell the people of Girgarre.

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

Playing in a pairs event – matchpoint scoring – you hold, with no-one vulnerable:

♠ A85 ♥ J952 ♦ K93 ♣ 654

You play Standard: 5-card majors, strong 1NT opening. Partner deals and opens 1♠, RHO overcalls with 2♣.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♠	2♣	?

You have too much strength to pass – your options are a simple raise to 2♠, or you could make a negative double, strongly suggesting hearts. What do you bid?

There are layouts where you belong in hearts rather than spades. Give partner this:

♠ KQJxx ♥ KQxx ♦ Axx ♣ x

In this scenario, hearts is worth an extra trick, because the spades can be used to discard a diamond loser from your hand. This is why 4-4 fits are often superior to 5-3 fits: in the 4-4 fit, the 5-card suit can be used for discards.

But before you rush into committing a negative double, consider this: suppose you double, LHO raises to 3♣, and this is passed back to you. What are you to do now? You haven't yet shown your spade support, and really have to bid 3♠ – and this is a big overstatement of your moderate hand.

You should bid 2♠ now, a fairly accurate description. This doesn't totally preclude a final heart contract – maybe partner can bid hearts next as a long suit trial, and you can raise hearts. However, the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	?

What now?

See the article "Bridge Aphorisms" on page 4. Your partner probably has exactly 5 spades, you have 3. That's an 8-card fit – the

Principle of Total Trumps tells you to go no further than the 2-level.

You pass out 3♣ and now have to make an opening lead.

This is your typical opening lead guess. Anything could be right – or wrong. But partner has bid spades, so leading the spade ace is more likely to be right than wrong. And at least this gives you a look at dummy.

Yes, occasionally, declarer shows up with ♠Kx, but that sort of misfortune could happen in any suit, other than in clubs. So if you want to play totally safe and passive, go ahead and lead a trump, but it's just not me.

You lead ♠A, and see:

♠ 76  
♥ A87  
♦ QJ1042  
♣ J97

♠ A85  
♥ J952  
♦ K93  
♣ 654

Partner puts ♠2 on this (suggesting an odd number of spades), and declarer follows with ♠3.

Has the appearance of dummy enlightend you? How do you continue?

One possibility is to try to give partner a diamond ruff. This will work if he ♦Ax.

Conversely, a diamond switch will work poorly if declarer has the diamond shortage, or has ♦A.

The better option is to go after heart tricks for your side, whilst you still have diamonds under control. You should switch to the ♥2 which, runs to partner's ♥Q and declarer's ♥K.

Declarer now plays the diamond 6. What do you with that?

Play low. Partner has the diamond ace, and you want him to continue hearts, potentially trapping declarer's ♥10.

How do you "know" partner has ♦A? Because if declarer had it, it would be a mighty strange play for him to lead a low one here, rather than finesse diamonds from dummy.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 76		
	♥ A87		
	♦ QJ1042		
	♣ J97		
♠ A85		♠ KQJ92	
♥ J952		♥ Q64	
♦ K93		♦ A85	
♣ 654		♣ 82	
	♠ 1053		
	♥ K103		
	♦ 76		
	♣ AKQ103		

Partner wins the diamond ace and returns a heart. This sets up your fifth defensive trick in hearts, to go with the two in spades and two in diamonds.

Look what happens if you had pushed on to 3♣. The play in 3♣ and 3♠ is symmetrical. In 3♠, the defence has to attack diamonds before declarer can generate a pitch in hearts (whereas you had to attack hearts before declarer could generate a pitch in diamonds).

*Points to remember:*

- Everyone has heard of the term "Plan the play". "Plan the bidding" is rarer, but applies here. When thinking about a negative double over 2♣, you ask: "how is the auction likely to proceed?" It's far from certain that it will go 3♣-pass-pass, but it's a frequent scenario, and one you should plan for.
- This bulletin emphasises the Principle of Total Trumps. You might not have used it here ... simply reasoning: "I have a flat hand and only three spades – I'm not going to bid my hand twice". That's fine reasoning – an application of the Principle without consciously counting the trumps and comparing it to the bidding level.

- Your play at trick 2 came with no guarantee of success. The trick is to hypothesize something specific rather than switch blindly. Of the following hypotheses:

- a) play a heart to build tricks there before the diamonds come in
- b) play a diamond to give partner a ruff
- c) play a spade – maybe partner can guide the defence
- d) play a club – because I don't know what to do

only "plan" d) is without merit.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

IMPs ♠ Q7  
 Dealer: N ♥ AK8532  
 Vul: nil ♦ A53  
 ♣ 76


♠ AKJ64  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ KJ2  
 ♣ AQ93

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

The lead is ♠10.

Plan the play. Solution on page 6.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣




**Autumn Series 2010**  
**BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS**  
 at the VBA, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee

**When?** Thursdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March  
**Cost?** \$72 per module (registration only) or \$20 pay as you learn  
 All modules are 4 weeks  
 Students \$10 per lesson and under 30s \$15 per lesson

Module 1:	Essential card play technique (beginner)
Module 2:	Introduction to bidding (beginner)
Module 3:	Focus on Declarer Play (novice)
Module 4:	Extending the Bidding Language (novice)
Module 5:	Focus on Defence (improver)
Module 6:	Competitive Bidding (improver)

**Teacher:** Jeff Fust  
**Phone:** 9530-9006



E-Mail: clachman@vba.asn.au

**BRIDGE APHORISMS – VI**  
**THE 5 LEVEL BELONGS TO THE OPPONENTS**  
**WHEN IN DOUBT, BID ONE MORE**

Last month we looked at this hand:

♠ K108543 ♥ 9 ♦ K64 ♣ 1076

Partner deals, with no-one vulnerable, and the auction is as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♠	2♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	??

and had to decide whether to bid on over 5♥.

There's no certain answer, but since the two clichés in the title of this article advise opposites, perhaps we should turn to science instead.

*The Principle of Total Trumps* is a useful simplification of the *Law of Total Tricks*. The principle states:

**"Bid to the level equal to the total number of trumps that your side holds."**

So if your side has an 8 card fit, you compete to the two-level (8-trick contract), with a 9 card fit, compete to the 3-level, and so on.

On the problem deal, you estimate that your partner has 5 or maybe 6 spades. With only 4 spades he would surely have doubled 5♥ to shut you up. And with 7 spades, he would apply the principle himself and bid 5♠.

So it's at least an 11 card fit, and the principle suggests you proceed to 5♠. You are hoping that the full deal looks like this:

	♠ K108543	
	♥ 9	
	♦ K64	
	♣ 1076	
♠ Q2		♠ -
♥ QJ10862		♥ AK73
♦ A107		♦ QJ985
♣ K4		♣ 9832
	♠ AJ976	
	♥ 54	
	♦ 32	
	♣ AQJ5	

Here 5♥ is making with 5♠ down just one. Notice that if West's ♣K is moved to the East hand, the result is flipped: 5♠ is making and 5♥ is down one.

Of course there are no guarantees. The full deal *could* be:

	♠ K108543	
	♥ 9	
	♦ K64	
	♣ 1076	
♠ 9		♠ 2
♥ AQ10862		♥ KJ73
♦ Q1075		♦ J983
♣ K4		♣ AQ95
	♠ AQJ76	
	♥ 54	
	♦ A2	
	♣ J832	

with both 5♥ and 5♠ two down.

I like the Principle of Total Trumps. It articulates a solid concept: the more trumps you have, the more tricks you are likely to have, and conversely the fewer defensive tricks you have against the opponents. I also like that it can advise you to either bid or defend, depending on the calculation, whereas T5LBTTO and WIDB1M are one-dimensional mantras.

Experienced players regularly apply the Principle at all bidding levels from 2 to 5. See "For Starters" for another example.

Let's also apply the Law of Total Tricks to this problem. You estimate 11 spades for your side, and guess to give partner a doubleton heart, meaning they have a 10 card heart fit. That's 21 total trumps, 21 total tricks.

That means that if 5♥ is making (11 tricks), then 5♠ is only one down (10 tricks), with other splits of the total tricks also indicating you should bid on. On this deal, the Principle is consistent with the Law. It usually is.

Perhaps the Law is less popular than the Principle because it involves more arithmetic - it's more work.

Don't underestimate the frequency or importance of applying the Principle of Total Trumps. It comes up several times every

session you play, although it's often applied subconsciously.

Here's a prime example from the recent Butler trials where "subconscious" apparently wasn't good enough.

Dealer: W	♠ Q9843		
Vul: All	♥ J2		
	♦ 9754		
	♣ 43		
♠ 52		♠ J	
♥ AKQ6		♥ 10843	
♦ KQ63		♦ AJ102	
♣ 965		♣ KQ102	
	♠ AK1075		
	♥ 975		
	♦ 8		
	♣ AJ87		

The datum was -500. Of the 34 tables that played this deal, 25 of them were in 4♥ making 620. Since N/S are just one down in 4♠, -620 is a N/S disaster.

How did it happen? In most cases, South would have overcalled in spades, and then North didn't bid enough. One typical auction:

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♥	??		

When South overcalls in spades, North can apply the Law of Total Trumps. South has 5 (or more) spades – N/S has 10 (or more) trumps.

North needs to bid 4♠ on that auction. Nothing else cuts the mustard. The hand looks so horrible, you are vulnerable, with visions of down 800, but the Principle of Total Trumps is not to be denied.

If the auction is a bit lower, for example:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	??		

then it's fair (but not necessarily correct) for North to bend the rules a little and just jump to 3♠. That probably gets the job done, as South will likely be emboldened to try 4♠ over 4♥. But the Norths who wimped out by passing or making a non-jump raise paid the penalty of ignoring the Principle.

### SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

#### Problem 1:

Dealer: E	♠ Q86532		
Vul: N/S	♥ 942		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A85		
		♠ K4	
		♥ 86	
		♦ A10754	
		♣ 9732	

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

Partner leads ♦Q, which you win and pause to consider your defence. What will be your play to trick 2, and what will be your aim subsequently?

#### Problem 2:

Dealer: N	♠ A1085
Vul: N/S	♥ Q7
	♦ KQ873
	♣ 86
	♠ Q642
	♥ K2
	♦ 964
	♣ 10954

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

You lead ♣4 and partner wins ♣Q, and plays ♣A. Declarer follows ♣3 then ♣J. Your ♥K will be the third trick, but what are the prospects for a fourth?

Solutions on page 8.

The next Charity Butler Pairs event commences on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00 am in aid of St Vincent's Cancer Care Centre.

The entry fee is \$10 for all players.

This is a Red Point State Event.

**DISASTERVILLE – EPISODE II**  
**Bill Jacobs**

Perth, 1989. The semi-final of the Venice Cup (Women’s World Championship) – Germany versus the Netherlands. In the final session, with Germany leading by 25 imps:

Dealer: S	♠ -		
Vul: nil	♥ Q1076542		
	♦ A1076		
	♣ 103		
♠ K9852		♠ AQ107	
♥ 6		♥ J	
♥ 983		♦ KJ	
♣ A862		♣ KQ9754	
	♠ J643		
	♥ AK93		
	♦ Q542		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
Schippers	Von Arnim	Van der Pas	Auken
			Pass
Pass	3♥	D’ble	4♣
D’ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer took three tricks – two more than she theoretically deserved – for -1400, and there went the match.

The auction looks like a misprint, but it wasn’t. The German N/S played that 3♥ was a preempt in *either* hearts or clubs!

They had agreed that after 3♥-Pass, a conversion to 4♣ would require a re-conversion back to 4♥, should opener actually have hearts. But after East’s double, things were less clear: South thought the meaning of 4♣ would be unchanged (pass or correct) - whereas North felt that 4♣ must show a suit of clubs, because South could equally pass 3♥ doubled, expecting a conversion to 4♣ if that was the suit held.

Just like in Episode I, there is a lesson to be learned from this. In this case: don’t play tricky multi-way gadgets unless you have fully discussed the continuations with your partner.

Otherwise, there may be consequences!

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**  
**Bill Jacobs**

IMPs	♠ Q7		
Dealer: N	♥ AK8532		
Vul: nil	♦ A53		
	♣ 76		
♠ 10983		♠ 52	
♥ 104		♥ QJ96	
♦ Q104		♦ 9876	
♣ KJ82		♣ 1054	
	♠ AKJ64		
	♥ 7		
	♦ KJ2		
	♣ AQ93		

You could consider finesses in the minors but they are red herrings. There are 12 tricks available without a minor suit finesse, assuming both majors divide no worse than 4-2: five spades, four hearts, two diamonds and one club.

Win the spade in hand and make the key play: a low heart from each hand. You will win the return and use dummy’s ♠Q to trump a heart. Now draw the rest of the trumps and return to dummy with the ♦A to enjoy the fruits of your labour: four heart tricks.



**FORTHCOMING STATE EVENTS AT THE VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

The VBA invites all Victorian players to enter the following State events commencing in April 2010



**The Fred Altman Open Swiss Pairs**  
**or**  
**The Victorian Restricted Swiss Pairs**

Two **State Red Point** 4-week **Swiss Pairs** events held on Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m.

NOTE: 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

**Dr Nicholas Beaumont  
1943 – 2010**



The Victorian bridge community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Nick in February.

Nick was the long-serving president of the Federation of Affiliated Bridge Clubs of Victoria (FABCV) and was actively working towards the on-going improvement of administration of bridge in this state.

Our thoughts are with his wife Carole and son Adrian.

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

Graduate Master	Albert Aron Michael Dunhill Robert Geschke Sue McCarthy Jill Stone
Club Master	John Allard Helena Higginbottom Kerri King Elizabeth Lyons Adina Morris
Local Master	Allan Johnston Allan Martin Laszlo Szigeti Dubravka Zec
*Local Master	Stas Hempel Timothy Kilham Saul Vardi
**Local Master	Timothy Blizard Lucy Henbest John Spender Mary Williams
Regional Master	Rosemary O'Connor Valerie Trice
*Regional Master	Genie Harband Jean Pearce
State Master	Flossie Aizen Denis Goldman Kay Leeton

	Nafty Van Der Hoek
National Master	Frances Engleman
*National Master	Greg Lewin Nathan Luft Michael Miller
Life Master	John Hare Neil Pearce Frieda Shapiro
Bronze Life Master	John Bettett Ben Kingham
Gold Life Master	Andrew Hegedus Phyllis Moritz
Grand Master	Willie Jago



**RECENT RESULTS**

**Ramsden Handicap Swiss Pairs**

- 1 E. Windmiller – J. Savage
- 2 M. Whibley – J. Howard
- 3 D. Zec – C. Arul

**Open Butler Interstate – Stage I**

N/S

- 1 J. Thompson – A. Macready-Bryan
- 2 W. Jacobs – B. Thompson
- 3 C. Arul – A. Kaszubski

E/W

- 1 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 2 P. Schroor – D. Sheather
- 3 M. Dilks – H. Blakeman

**'WELCOME TO WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB'  
SWISS PAIRS**

Club members from all Victorian Clubs!  
Enter the belated celebration to mark the open of the new Waverley Bridge Club rooms

Sunday March 14, 2010 , 10 am – 6 pm, Swiss Pairs

Entry fee: \$35 payable on the day

A light lunch will be provided with plenty of snacks

Cash prizes in 3 grades

Venue: Electra Community Centre  
Rear 21A Electra Ave  
Ashwood 3147

Enter on [www.bridgeunlimited.com](http://www.bridgeunlimited.com) or ring Mary on 9807 6502 or 9583 5092

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

#### Problem 1

Dealer: E	♠ Q86532		
Vul: N/S	♥ 942		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A85		
♠ A1097		♠ K4	
♥ Q103		♥ 86	
♦ QJ6		♦ A10754	
♣ K64		♣ 9732	
	♠ J		
	♥ AKJ75		
	♦ K832		
	♣ QJ10		

You should be looking for 4 tricks; the next three (after your ♦A) are fairly deep predictions – 1 trump (perhaps) and necessarily one trick in the black suits, ♠A would be best. The last will be your ♦10 if you can stop declarer from trumping his last diamond. So return a trump, and when declarer wins, trumps a diamond, then leads a spade from dummy, be ready to rise ♠K and lead another trump.

#### Problem 2

Dealer: N	♠ A1085		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q7		
	♦ KQ873		
	♣ 86		
♠ Q642		♠ KJ9	
♥ K2		♥ 853	
♦ 964		♦ 52	
♣ 10954		♣ AKQ72	
	♠ 73		
	♥ AJ10964		
	♦ AJ10		
	♣ J3		

If partner has ♦A it surely will score, but if he hasn't there will be diamond tricks aplenty for declarer. You can help partner here by following ♣10, indicating the location of you only defensive value. Suit preference is rarely a command, and here just a helpful nudge.

Have to tried the new menu at the Bridge Players Café?

Yummy – and good service too.

### SYSTEM CORNER: MUPPET AND PUPPET Bill Jacobs

Back in the April '09 bulletin, I described Muppet Stayman – a variation on Puppet Stayman with these responses after 2NT-3♣:

- 3♦: some 4-card major
- 3♥: no 4 or 5 card major
- 3♠: 5 spades
- 3NT: 5 hearts (partner can bid 4♦ to transfer back into 4♥).

After 3♥ (no major), responder rebids:

- 3♠: puppet to 3NT (a puppet within Puppet)
- 3NT: shows 5 spades, 4 hearts: opener can choose the contract

Noelle Kebby then wrote to me as follows:

*We found your Puppet in Puppet in an old newsletter and decided to use it in a congress last weekend – partner showed 22-23, and I held:*

♠ AK654 ♥ 10973 ♦ K6 ♣ 73

*I used the convention and partner bid 3♥ - I bid 3NT and she bid 4♠ so we were able to bid the slam but we realised later that 3NT can't be right with a slam-going hand as she can pass with three hearts and two spades - unlikely but not impossible. What do you suggest with this particular hand?*

What an excellent question!

The solution, I believe, is to have firm principles on what various notrump bids mean in a notrump auction where no suit has yet been shown. My recommendation is:

- 4NT: quantitative
- 5NT: pick a slam, partner

So after the auction 2NT-3♣-3♥, ...

- 3NT: 5 spades, 4 hearts, game values
- 4NT: 5 spades, 4 hearts, slam invitational
- 5NT: 5 spades, 4 hearts, pick a slam

Similarly, after the secondary puppet 2NT-3♣-3♥-3♠-3NT, ...

- 4NT: invitational, I was checking for majors
- 5NT: pick a slam – I was checking for majors, but perhaps you have a long minor