

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2010

Editor: Bill Jacobs

Barry Stokes
1944 – 2010



Barry Stokes passed away in May. Barry was a huge contributor to bridge as past president of the Bairnsdale Bridge Club, past president of the Eastern Bridge Region Association and a VBA Councillor.

During Barry's time on the VBA Council, he would always catch the train from Bairnsdale, attend the Council meeting and then be billeted with either Cathie Lachman or Jeannette Collins. He always had a bottle of red as payment.

Last year, Jeannette, Cathie, Stan Klofa and Simon Hinge played in the Bairnsdale Congress, and they had dinner with Barry on Saturday night. He was so proud of the meal that he had organized at the local pub, so he went around to every diner to seek their satisfaction. The meal was superb!

Barry's passion for the game and interest in bridge administration will be missed.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ 54
Vul: Both ♥ A1096
 ♦ AQ64
 ♣ A82

 ♠ 6
 ♥ QJ7542
 ♦ K82
 ♣ KQ10

West	North	East	South
			Pass
3♠	D'ble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♠Q, which holds and continues with ♠K, won by South with the ace. Now comes ♦5 to the ♦3, ♦Q and you win. How are you going to be able to beat 3NT?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ J632
Vul: Both ♥ K1093
 ♦ -
 ♣ AQJ86

 ♠ AQ1084
 ♥ AJ64
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 942

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♠7 and you insert ♠10, won by ♠K. Declarer leads ♥Q, which you let win. Next comes a heart to ♥9 and you win this of course, and have to decide what to do. Partner has signalled odd in hearts.

Solutions on page 7.

Need more GOLD points?

Then come to the Victor Champion Cup Bridge Festival – June 10-14, Melbourne

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Sorry, I don't have a very good hand for you this month:

♠ 762 ♥ 532 ♦ J754 ♣ Q63

Everyone is vulnerable, the scoring is imps, and LHO deals and kicks things off with 1NT, which shows 12-14 points. Partner doubles that, and RHO passes.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1NT*	D'ble	Pass	?

* 12-14 points, balanced

It's your call.

What a miserable situation. We'll assume that partner's double simply shows strength. It varies from person to person, but "strength" generally would mean at least about 16 points if balanced, perhaps a bit less with a strong suit to lead.

So your side may well have a minority of the points.

I'm going to strongly recommend a concept to you that might not have universal acceptance in the bridge community:

*If partner doubles 1NT, pass it with **any** balanced hand (lacking a 5-card suit).*

Why? Well, if you bid something (by definition a 4-card suit or shorter), you put your side into a situation where you will have no idea what your best fit is, even assuming you have one. In short, it will be all guesswork.

But if you pass 1NT doubled, three good things could happen:

1. 1NT might go down – after all, partner does have a good hand.
2. 1NT might make, but the resulting -180, -280 or -380 might be a smaller minus than you get from bidding.
3. The 1NT opener might remove 1NT doubled himself.

So it's not all doom and gloom!

It takes discipline to pass 1NT doubled with your pathetic hand, but it is the correct call. Even without the queen and jack, you should pass! It's a matter of estimating the *combined* assets of your side.

1NT doubled is passed out, partner leads the ♣A, and this is what you see:

♠ 9843	
♥ A1076	
♦ A1032	
♣ 8	
	♠ 762
	♥ 532
	♦ J754
	♣ Q63

What club do you play to trick 1?

Ace leads to notrump contracts are not normal and therefore carry a special significance. They indicate a long strong suit, and require partner to play any honour card he might have – if no honour is held, you give the count: low from an odd number, high from an even number.

In this case, partner will probably have long clubs headed by the ♣AKJ10 – the more the merrier. You tell him the good news by dumping ♣Q at trick 1.

Happy days. Partner continues with the king, jack and ten of clubs ... you have to start making discards. What will they be?

Your first two discards should be the two major suit deuces – informing partner than he can expect no help there.

Here is the full deal:

	♠ 9843	
	♥ A1076	
	♦ A1032	
	♣ 8	
♠ AJ5		♠ 762
♥ Q4		♥ 532
♦ 98		♦ J754
♣ AKJ1074		♣ Q63
	♠ KQ10	
	♥ KJ98	
	♦ KQ6	
	♣ 952	

After cashing his six clubs, and seeing your discards, partner wisely puts the spade ace on the table. Down one, for +200 to your side.

Your side was outgunned in high cards, 22 to 18, but the long running club suit made all the difference.

See the effect if you put a foot wrong here.

Suppose you pull 1NT doubled to 2♦. Partner might decide to let you play there – won't that be a joyful contract to play.

Even if partner finds the "winning" 3♣ bid, it's going to go down at least one trick: -100 when you could have had +200 in 1NT. And that's not to mention the risk that your opponents will bid to a making 4♥ contract!

And if you don't play ♣Q at trick one, partner will expect declarer to have that card, and would have every right to switch to another suit, hoping to get you in to play a club through declarer's ♣Q. 1NT doubled will make.

Points to remember:

- With a balanced hand, pass partner's double of 1NT, if you have 0 points or 37. It's your best bet.

The corollary is that if you *do* make a bid, partner will know that you have at least 5 of the suit. That gives your auction a more solid footing.

If the opponents try to play 1NT *redoubled*, then the game does change somewhat, at least playing for imps. Then all bets are off, and you are probably best off trying to wriggle to an acceptable contract at the 2-level.

- Ace leads to notrump contracts demand that partner unblock any honour held, otherwise give the count.

What if opening leader wants to lead from AKx (on this auction or any other), hoping to hit partner's long suit? Then he must lead the *king* to prevent partner from disastrously unblocking an honour.

DISASTERVILLE – EPISODE III
Bill Jacobs

This disaster holds the record for the largest penalty ever taken in a Bermuda Bowl match.

It occurred in the semi-finals in 1987.

Dealer: S	♠ 106	
Vul: all	♥ 765	
	♦ AK73	
	♣ A764	
♠ J		♠ AK854
♥ 3		♥ QJ102
♥ J109864		♦ Q5
♣ KQ852		♣ 103
	♠ Q9732	
	♥ AK984	
	♦ 2	
	♣ J9	

This is not a particularly swifty layout. 4♥ by N/S will probably fail, maybe doubled, on the bad breaks. That's what happened in the USA – Taipei semi-final: Taipei were in 4♥ doubled down one, whilst USA rested in 2♥ in the other room, for 9 imps.

In the England – Sweden match, Jeremy Flint made a peaceful 3♦ as West. But the Open Room had fireworks:

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Forrester	Lindkvist	Armstrong
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	2NT ¹
3NT ³	D'ble	Pass ⁴	Pass
Re'dble ⁵	Pass	Pass ⁶	Pass

- 1 Two suiter without clubs, 7-10 points
- 2 Pass or correct
- 3 Minors
- 4 No preference
- 5 Please, make a preference!
- 6 No I won't

In 3NT, Fallenius took four tricks – a penalty of 2800 points, and a 21 imp loss.

Predictably, this was a devastating blow to the morale, and Sweden eventually lost the match by 47 imps.

The moral? Not much – but if partner does insist that you take preference, then maybe you should do so. On this layout, 4♦ takes 8 or 9 tricks.

PANACHE - II
Ben Thompson

Sometimes how you play depends on the scoring. IMPs is about **safely** making your contract while matchpoints is often about **maximising** your tricks.

Dealer: N		♠ AQ76			
Vul: N/S		♥ QJ			
		♦ QJ74			
		♣ Q52			
♠ 42				♠ K1083	
♥ 9				♥ 10652	
♦ 6532				♦ K10	
♣ AJ10764				♣ K98	
		♠ J95			
		♥ AK8743			
		♦ A98			
		♣ 3			

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lefty leads ♠4 to 4♥. How do you play? You can make 11 tricks thanks to the diamond finesse (and if they're careless, you may even be able to make 12 tricks with the ♦10 dropping).

But hang on, what's the scoring method? I haven't said yet. If you're playing matchpoints, you should most definitely take the spade finesse at trick one (the 4 could easily be low from an honour) and the diamond finesse later on, even with trumps outstanding. Try to **maximise** your tricks.

This hand is from the first night of the Victorian Mixed Teams. That is, IMPs. At IMPs, the spade finesse is dangerous. Suppose lefty started with one small spade. How would you feel about losing to ♠K, followed by a spade ruff, a club to righty and another spade ruff? About 12 imps in the soup is the answer.

The **safe** way to play is to take no finesses. Zip, zero, nada. If you can get rid of their trumps, you have a maximum of 3 losers. Win ♠A at trick one. Cash two trumps. Play a low diamond to the ace. Draw trumps and now play on spades or diamonds. The baddies get just two kings and a club trick.

Bill and I play weak 1NT, so I got transferred into 4♥ from North. I got a trump lead and I still refused the diamond finesse. Why? Sometimes people don't lead their singletons. I didn't want to lose to ♦K, and then lose a diamond ruff, a club and another diamond ruff. So I cashed two trumps, crossed to the ♦A and drew trumps.

Did you make 10 tricks, or did you make more? If you made more, my advice is just to point to the scoreboard. But if you made a safe 10 tricks, give yourself a little pat on the back.

Expert matchpoint aside: ask yourself how well you've done to get to your contract. If you're in a contract that nobody else will be in, you should often play safely to make it (overtricks won't be worth many extra matchpoints whereas going down will cost you plenty).

The takeaway

At IMPs, **safely** refuse a finesse with trumps out if you can make your contract without it. At matchpoints in a normal contract, take that finesse with panache and try to **maximise** your tricks.



[Bayside Bridge Club Congress](#)

Saturday 26th June, 10am – 4.30pm

Cost: \$35 - table fees, delicious lunch, coffee, tea & cakes all day.

Where: Beaumaris Bowls Club, Martin Street Beaumaris. **Mel Ref 86 E8**

Lots of prizes - Director Laurie Kelso - Plenty of Parking - Bar open - Red Points

Convenor and contact for entry:
Jan Clyne - 95929273 - janclyne@iinet.net.au

We would love to see you, come and enjoy a fun day with great bridge - Jan Clyne

INTERVIEW WITH ZIA

Here is another of the ACBL's Hall of Fame interviews, this one with Zia Mahmood, perhaps the world's most charismatic player:



Of all of the things that you could have done, why did you choose bridge?

It was a strange story. I was once a CPA, which is rather boring, and I started playing bridge and got totally transfixed and intoxicated by it. But I come from the East and it is a very superstitious climate where I am, so I figured that before I changed my job and left my family, and wandered around the world to play bridge – before I made this decision – I had to have a sign, because I believe in fate, and so if I get this sign, I will become a bridge player as opposed to whatever I was doing.

So I waited for some time, and no sign came, and I was beginning to have second thoughts about moving to bridge. Finally one night, when I was asleep in my house in Pakistan, there was a voice that called me in the middle of the night, and I was happy about this, for I was waiting to get a message from fate to tell me what to do.

What did she say?

Well, not “she”, but it called my voice at about 3 in the morning, saying “Zia, Zia, Zia”, and I woke up and said: “yes voice of fate, tell me what I should do”. And the voice said “this is not the voice of fate, you bloody idiot, this is your brother Ali, and I’m locked out and don’t have my key. Open the damned door”.

So at that moment, I knew that bridge was for me. It wasn't the voice of Destiny but it was a clear message. I just needed any excuse to go and spend the rest of my life playing bridge, and I love every moment of it.

And so successfully too. What characteristic is it that makes you probably the best bridge player in the world?

It's partly something that you're gifted with, but it's also partly a desire to be as good as you can. And all players in any field who excel are people who are so involved in the game that they try to pursue their own excellence. And for me, playing bridge – yes, I want to be the best in the world – but I really want to be the best that I can be myself. And I must confess that bridge is a game where you, or I, can on occasion be as bad as any beginner, and I can be as good as any player. So my own standard can vary as with the moods of the day. It's something that's not constant.

Bridge Holiday August 7th - 14th

Sunshine Coast
www.bridgemind.com

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Imps ♠ A109864
 Dealer: W ♥ Q843
 Vul: Both ♦ -
 ♣ K62

 ♠ Q5
 ♥ -
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ QJ1097543

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

* weak two

Against 6♣, you are favoured with the diamond ten lead.

Plan the play. Solution overleaf.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Imps	♠ A109864	
Dealer: W	♥ Q843	
Vul: Both	♦ -	
	♣ K62	
♠ K32		♠ J7
♥ KJ10762		♥ A95
♦ 10986		♦ Q75432
♣ -		♣ A8
	♠ Q5	
	♥ -	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ QJ1097543	

Things look grim. A club loser cannot be avoided, and a spade loser is difficult to avoid, unless ♠K happens to drop singleton.

Could there be a squeeze? Maybe, if West holds ♠K, he can be squeezed in the majors. To effect this squeeze, you will need to eliminate East's hearts, as East probably holds a top honour there.

Treat that diamond lead up to ♦AKJ as a Greek gift: ruff it. Then ruff three hearts, using more diamond ruffs as entries to dummy. This will leave:

Imps	♠ A109864	
Dealer: W	♥ Q	
Vul: Both	♦ -	
	♣ -	
♠ K32		♠ J7
♥ KJ10		♥ -
♣ 9		♦ Q75
♣ -		♣ A8
	♠ Q5	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ QJ1097	

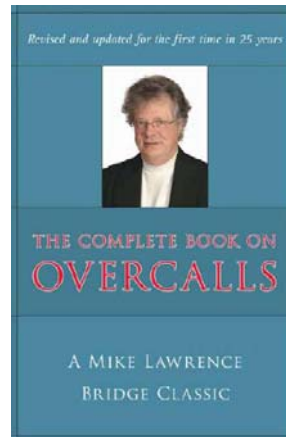
Now play a trump. East cannot attack spades – he can only return a minor. Play out the rest of the trumps: West cannot hold two spades and ♥K in the two-card ending. You can discard from dummy accordingly.

Note that this line still lets you make the contract if ♠K is singleton – with either East or West.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

BOOK REVIEW

The Complete Book of Overcalls by Mike Lawrence is an update to the original version written in 1979.



If you play bridge mainly for pleasure and relaxation, don't buy this book. It's essentially a textbook for those who seriously want to improve their game. If that's you, then *do* buy this book.

A healthy percentage of one's bridge life is spent in auctions where your side has overcalled. But there is not much literature devoted to overcalling. Lawrence deals with the issues thoroughly (there are thousands of example hands – well, it *seems* like thousands), not just regarding the original overcall, but the ensuing auction. He spruiks his own pet theory – the benefits of the overcall in a 4-card suit - in an even-handed but convincing manner.

All the factors in decision-making are considered: vulnerability, imps versus matchpoints, suit quality, opponents' strength, degree of fit, preemptive effect – the list goes on.

Conventions are given their run: Michaels cue bids, responsive doubles, Snapdragon doubles, cue raises and so on, but the emphasis is on developing your bidding judgment. No one could read this book and fail to improve.

Here's one hand as an example:

♠ 8 ♥ 65432 ♦ AQ32 ♣ AK4

You are vulnerable against not vulnerable playing imps, and RHO deals and opens 1♣. Do you bid?

Lawrence spends considerable time explaining that a 1♥ overcall is the correct choice. To find out why, buy the book.

... BJ

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: S	♠ 54
Vul: Both	♥ A1096
	♦ AQ64
	♣ A82
♠ QJ109873	♠ 6
♥ K3	♥ QJ7542
♦ 103	♦ K82
♣ 76	♣ KQ10
	♠ AK2
	♥ 8
	♦ J975
	♣ J9543

Partner's length is in spades, presumably seven since ♠Q held trick 1. He can't also have long clubs, so starting them is an illusion. However you squirm, it is inescapable that partner must be played for ♥K. So out with a low heart.

Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ J632
Vul: Both	♥ K1093
	♦ -
	♣ AQJ86
♠ 75	♠ AQ1084
♥ 872	♥ AJ64
♦ KQJ1094	♦ 6
♣ 107	♣ 942
	♠ K9
	♥ Q5
	♦ A87532
	♣ K53

What is declarer up to? Familiar territory - clubs must be solid, he is building a 9th somewhere else. Five clubs, one in spades and soon two in hearts?

So if he has ♦A that will come to 9. He can't have ♦AK because the ♥Q would have made it 9 already.

Once you have worked this out you know a switch to ♦6 will break 3NT. Either:

(a) partner has ♦A. He will win and whether he has ♠5 or not will be able to reach your hand in hearts for 5 tricks. Or ...

(b) declarer has ♦A. If he wins how can that help? You don't have another and he can win, cross to dummy in clubs and drive out your ♥A. Look again. The play of ♦A will squeeze dummy, dropping declarer back to 8 tricks and you will be able to endplay dummy for the setting trick.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Master Teams

Section A

- 1 K. Muntz, J. Gaspar, E. Caplan, S. Gerdan
- 2 R. Gallus, S. Weisz, A. Mill, A. Hegedus
- 3 L. Gold, D. Davis, E. Hardy, J. Fust

Section B

- 1 J. Crafti, D. Crafti, D. Carter, G. Carter
- 2 C. Arul, A. Kaszubski, K. Sertori, C. Chakravorty
- 3 C. Hagan, L. Szabo, G. Hill, J. Tunks

Section C

- 1 A. Segal, P. Kriksciunas, S. Ginsbourg, M. Slonim
- 2 R. Rosenberg, B. Rosenberg, H. Cohen, J. Rose
- 3 R. Bailey, J. Stewart, K. Anderson, L. Anderson

Seniors Butler Final

- 1 A. Glasson – K. Radcliffe
- 2 M. Dilks – R. Gallus
- 3 S. Klofa – A. Czapnik

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 S. Arber, M. Chrapot, M. Tencer, L. Meyer
- 2 G. Gaspar, J. Alexander, B. Tencer, E. Samuel
- 3 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, J. Thompson, E. Caplan, S. Hinge

Autumn Nationals - Adelaide

Justin Howard won the final (by a mile) of the main event, the Autumn National Open Teams, partnering Michael Whibley and with Paul Gosney and Nabil Edgtton as team-mates.

This was Juzz's first open national title – it is unlikely to be his last.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Simon Morley
Silver Life Master	Ben Kingham

CASES FOR ACES - II
Bill Jacobs

As mentioned in last month's article, Blackwood is the slam-bidding tool choice for many players: *"I think there's a slam, therefore I am bidding 4NT"*. Shades of Descarte there.

But should 4NT always be Blackwood? Take the following quiz, and check your answers with your partner's. If they differ a lot, then I see slam disasters in your future.

The question in each case is: "What is 4NT?"

1. 2♠* 2NT
 3♣ 4NT
 * spades and a minor

2. (2♦)* Pass (2♥)** 4NT
 * multi: weak two in a major or 20-22
 ** pass or correct

3. 2NT 3♥*
 3♠ 4NT
 * transfer

4. 1♠ 2♣
 2♥ 3♦
 3♥ 4NT

5. 1NT 2♥*
 2♠ 3♣
 3NT 4♣
 4NT
 * transfer

6. (3♥) D'ble (Pass) 4♣
 (Pass) 4NT

7. 1♣ 1♠
 1NT* 2♦
 2NT** 4NT
 * 15-18
 ** 15-16, not four hearts, not three spades

8. (1♥) 2♣ (3♥) 3NT
 (4♥) 4NT

... to be continued

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Ron Klinger

Australia's best loved and respected player, teacher and author



Bobby Richman

Australia's number one ranked player with over 10,000 masterpoints (Emerald Grand Master)



COME AND MEET THEM

**Where: Dendy Park Bridge Club
Breen Drive Brighton**

When: Wednesday 9th June at 10am – 4pm

- 10:00 am Duplicate session
One lucky player will be drawn to play with Bobby Richman!! His or her partner will play with George or Boris.
- 12.30 pm Light lunch will be provided
- 1.30 pm Bobby Richman will share his secret:
How to become a better player
- 2:00 pm Ron Klinger will run a workshop on:
Opening Leads and Defence

Cost: \$40 Duplicate, Lunch & Workshop
 \$25 Afternoon Workshop only

Please book early as seats are limited!

Phone: George Gaspar 0417 052 246
 Boris Tencer 0414 353 996



MASTERCLASS

Sunday 11th July

10:30am - 3:30pm

Jeff Fust

It is not necessary to bring a partner

How to read your opponent's cards

Cost : \$30 payable on the day (includes notes).
Where : VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Rd, Murrumbena.
Lunch : Soup, Sandwiches, Mains, Deserts and Drinks are available.