

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2010

Editor: Bill Jacobs

JESSEL ROTHFIELD APPOINTED TO ABF COMMITTEE OF HONOUR



In a ceremony at the recent Victor Champion Cup, Jessel Rothfield was deservedly appointed to the ABF's Committee of Honour.

Here is his acceptance speech:

Friends, Romans, bridge players, and especially the Australian Bridge Federation.

Thank you for honouring me today with this magnificent award.

In my 92 years on this planet, and 50 of them playing bridge, I thought I would share with you what I have learned on and off the table:

- *A game of bridge is like riding a horse – it's dangerous at both ends and bloody uncomfortable in the middle.*
- *Bridge, however, is a very lonely game, and it poses a dilemma: it's full of conflict, misery and unhappiness ... but it ends all too soon.*

So finally, in the words of Woody Allen, I don't want to achieve immortality through my bridge ... I want to achieve it through not dying!

Thank-you, ladies and gentlemen.

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP - 2010

This year's congress broke all attendance records for the event. The growth in numbers is summarized here:

	2008	2009	2010
Women's pairs	32	34	44
Senior's pairs	32	34	46
Restricted pairs	22	28	38
Restricted teams	6	8	10
Victor Champion Cup	70	72	84

The VCC is easily Australia's third biggest national congress, surpassed only by the Gold Coast Congress and Summer Nationals in Canberra.

The credit for this recent spectacular growth goes to convenor Sue Smith (pictured right), assisted by Christina MacQuarrie, Christine Parkin and Mary Bertuna. A fine promotional and



advertising campaign combined with an excellent centralized venue would appear to be the main factors. Another attraction of the event is the "no night time play" policy, which is popular with locals and visitors alike.

Sue is not planning to convene the event next year: Mary Bertuna will be the convenor – Sue will be a hard act to follow!

We did have a couple of minor quibbles though. First, the lack of posted datums for the teams events on the weekend was puzzling. The datums were available on the internet, if you were savvy enough to be able to find them, but this was of little use to most of the players.

More importantly, the broadcasting on Bridge Base Online of one match from each of the last 5 rounds of the VCC represents a serious security hole in the event. With 94 tables in play, it was quite impossible to police the situation. There was nothing to stop a dishonest player from leaving the playing arena for a bathroom break and either looking at the hands on a mobile phone, or contacting an accomplice who was watching the BBO broadcast.

There's no reason to believe this actually happened, but the ABF must bite the bullet and not broadcast its events on BBO where there are many tables playing the hands.

Now on to the winners and gridders.

Roy Gordon and Vic Warbey from Yarra Valley won the Restricted Pairs, with Dorothy and Geoff Read from Geelong second.

The Women's Swiss Pairs saw all Victorians on the podium: Cathie Lachman and Helen Snashall were comfortable winners, with Paula Schroor – Sally Murray White and Felicity Beale – Diana Smart tied for second. (Sorry Diana, we still think of you as Victorian.)



Helen Snashall and Cathie Lachman

The big winners in the McCance Seniors event were the seeding committee. They picked the trifecta, with the pairs seeded 1st 2nd and 3rd finishing in that order. The event was won by Margaret Bourke and Ron Klinger from Martin Bloom and Ted Chadwick.

The Charlie Snashall Restricted Swiss Teams was won in fine style by Irene Hamilton, Dorothy Hayes, Dianna Middleton and John Adams. Second were Brian and Margaret Morgan, Chandradee Chakravorty and Kevin Sertori.

The main event, the Victor Champion Cup, was won by Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold, Simon Hinge and Kim Morrison. Theirs was a huge score, 203 VPs, an average of over 20 VPs per match in a strong field. In second place were Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Ben Thompson and Bill Jacobs.



Jamie Ebery, Simon Hinge, Leigh Gold and Kim Morrison with VBA President Jeannette Collins



Bridge Holiday August 7th - 14th

Sunshine Coast

With Jeff Fust and Leeron Branicki
7 nights from \$1145 per person
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Yarrowonga Congress

Fri, Aug 20:	Walk-in pairs
Sat, Aug 21, 12 pm:	Swiss pairs
Sun, Aug 22, 9:30 am:	Swiss teams
Venue:	Club Mulwala
Director:	Martin Willcox

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: N ♠ 98754
 Vul: Nil ♥ A10742
 ♦ Q
 ♣ J9

♠ A106
 ♥ K3
 ♦ 10965
 ♣ A873

West	North	East	South
	2♥ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 hearts and another
- 2 pass or correct
- 3 spades

You start ♦10 to ♦Q, ♦K, ♦A. Declarer tackles hearts, ♥8 to ♥A and ♥6 then small heart to ♥5, ♥9 and your ♥K. Partner should have ♦J, so you can force dummy, ♦5, trumped. Then a low heart to ♥Q and declarer's ♠J. How are you going to defend?

Problem 2:

Dealer: E ♠ Q765
 Vul: N/S ♥ J76
 ♦ 75
 ♣ K762

♠ AJ942
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ Q842
 ♣ 108

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣*
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All pass	

- * strong club

You lead ♠A and follow ♠4 to partner's ♠10, trumped. Declarer leads ♦J, you play small in case of collision and partner wins ♦A. He returns ♣7. South wins ♣A and plays ♦K (partner follows) then ♦9. What do you do next?

Solutions on page 5.

VICTORIAN TEAMS: 2010 ANC

Good luck to all our state representatives for the upcoming ANC in Hobart:

Open: Ben Kingham, Jeremy Rosen, Justin Stark, David Morgan, Jill Magee, Terry Strong, Martin Willcox (NPC)

Women: Margaret Tildesley, Jean Eddie, Franci Halmos, Jean Hall, Cathie Lachman, Helen Snashall, Laurie Kelso (NPC)

Seniors: Michael Dilks, Robert Gallus, Stan Klofa, Alex Czapnik, John Pettitt, Arie Meydan, Laurie Kelso (NPC)

Youth: Justin Howard, Pascale Gardiner, Peter Hollands, Max Henbest, Lucy Henbest, Angus Munro, Laurie Kelso (NPC)

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Endra Che-Kahn
Local Master	Peter Buchan Diana Sher
**Local Master	Pamela Craig Bianca Gold
Regional Master	Esther Goldschlager Mary Williams
*Regional Master	Mary Lipp
*State Master	Ken Anderson Alkmini Segal
National Master	Diana Middleton
*National Master	Jeffrey Lacey
Bronze Life Master	Debra Crafti

Vale Danny Kahan

Danny Kahan passed away in June, at the age of 74. Danny was a home club member of the VBA since 1966! He played in many competitions and duplicate sessions at the VBA during his bridge-playing career. He regularly played with Ken Lee, Eva Samuel and Guta Wikinski in Canberra and one year won the Veteran Teams.

Our sympathy is with Eve, his partner of 20 years.

PANACHE - III
Ben Thompson

How did you go on this hand from the Victor Champion Cup?

Dealer: N	♠ AKQ4
Vul: nil	♥ 65
	♦ Q853
	♣ A104
	♠ 10753
	♥ J97
	♦ J7
	♣ K965

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♠	All Pass	

West bangs out ♥K against your tenuous 3♠ contract. Take a moment to forgive partner for punishing you for your crappy 1♠ response, then concentrate on making your contract. You have four top red losers and a likely ♣ loser. West continues by cashing the red AK's, dropping his partner's ♥Q, and then puts a 3rd ♥ on the table.

Well, that was helpful of him to set up your ♥J but surely East is going to ruff the 3rd ♥ if you try to pitch the ♣ loser from the board. Is there any hope? Sure there is. Ruffing with the ♠4 isn't going to cut it, so you would have to ruff high. If you do that, you'll need doubleton ♠J out there. That's step one.

Then you have to deal with the ♣ loser. What if someone has a singleton ♣ honour? Or QJ doubleton? Either way, that's going to be West. If he plays the Q (or J) under the A, how do you know which one to play for? If he has just the Q, he has to play it (*restricted choice*), but if he has both, he has a choice of equals and will only play the Q around half the time.

So you would cash ♣A and finesse the 9. OK, that's step 2. How about the little ♣ in your hand? That can be either ruffed or pitched (on the ♦Q).

What if this doesn't work – how much extra will it cost? Not much – you just lose a ♣ trick you could have avoided.

Notice we haven't played to trick 5 yet. We've spotted a layout where we can make, and figured out that it won't be too costly to play for it. *Now* we're ready to play.

You ruff the 3rd ♥ with ♠A as East pitches a ♦, cash the ♠KQ and happily see the ♠J fall from West. You try cashing ♦Q, but East ruffs. No big. You over-ruff (which draws the last trump) and play a ♣ to the Q (thank you) and A. You finesse with panache on the way back and wind up cross-ruffing the last 2 tricks for contract.

West started with ♠J9 ♥AK10432 ♦AK106 ♣Q (and East with ♠862 ♥Q8 ♦942 ♣J8732).

Expert aside: You can also make if West is 2632 with doubleton ♠J by squeezing East in the minors. They would almost certainly have defended differently but our line handles this layout too. Notice that East made a subtle mistake in discarding the ♦ - he let us find out that West is exactly 2641, and that the ♣ finesse on the way back would work for sure.

The takeaways

- 1) Don't give up! Try to think of a layout where you can make (but check the cost if the layout you want isn't there, particularly if you're doubled).
- 2) Restricted choice applies in lots of situations. All it really says is a card is more likely to be played from a holding where the choice of plays was restricted (basically because there wasn't a different equal card to play).

WANTED!
Bridge Mentor/Teacher for New Youth Club

The Victorian Youth Club is seeking the services of a suitable teacher/mentor to undertake the teaching of novice, intermediate and advanced youth players. We are look for someone who is professional, patient and enthusiastic to run constructive lessons and supervised play on Tuesday evenings at Waverley Bridge Club

Enquiries to: vicyouthbridge@gmail.com or contact Lucy on 0423-950-218

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: N	♠ 98754		
Vul: Nil	♥ A10742		
	♦ Q		
	♣ J9		
♠ A106		♠ 2	
♥ K3		♥ QJ65	
♦ 10965		♦ KJ43	
♣ A873		♣ Q1052	
	♠ KQJ3		
	♥ 98		
	♦ A872		
	♣ K64		

It might help to consider declarer's hand shape. She has two hearts so presumably 443 outside. It may be that her spades are quite good and you can't rely on much from partner in that department. It follows that you should not overtrump. If you discard on this heart you will take the setting trick with ♠10.

Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ Q765		
Vul: N/S	♥ J76		
	♦ 75		
	♣ K762		
♠ AJ942		♠ K103	
♥ Q3		♥ 109542	
♦ Q842		♦ A3	
♣ 108		♣ 743	
	♠ 8		
	♥ AK8		
	♦ KJ1096		
	♣ AQJ9		

This strange auction has led to a contract that is 5-2. If you win ♦Q play another spade, that will kill partner's ♠K and set up dummy's ♠Q, but you will be left with the remaining trump, the setting trick.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Women's Butler Final

- 1 M. Tildesley – J. Eddie
- 2 J. Hall – F. Halmos
- 3 H. Snashall – C. Lachman

VBA Open Pairs

Championship

- 1 T. Chira – D. Hohor
- 2 R. Gallus - S. Weisz
- 3 H. Stewart – M. Allison

Plate

- 1 S. Klofa – R. Stewart
- 2 T. Bloom – S. Kudelka
- 3 P. Martin – J. Lawrence

Consolation

- 1 A. Halmos – A. Branicki
- 2 E. Linton – E. Matheson
- 3 J. Eddie – A. Roland

Fred Hapgood Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Szabo-Bencze – S. Gerdan
- 2 M. Chrapot – M. Tencer
- 3 E. Samuel – J. Fust

Victorian Board-a-Match Teams

- 1= T. Chira, D. Hohor, B. Kingham, J. Rosen, S. Ozenir
- 1= J. Ebery, L. Gold, S. Hinge, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson
- 3 R. Szabo-Bencze, S. Gerdan, J. Thompson, E. Caplan

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

BRIDGE SETUP – WERRIBEE AREA

Are you an entrepreneur?

Applications are invited from individuals or groups to set up a bridge club in the Werribee Area.

There is potential to form a home club in this area but a suitable person with the expertise, time and energy to lead the establishment is required.

If you think you can do this and eventually reap the rewards, please write to:

Bridge Set Up
 66 Edwards Road,
 Werribee, Vic 3030

CASES FOR ACES - III
Bill Jacobs

Last month I gave 8 auctions, all "ending" at 4NT, and posed the question: "what is 4NT?"

The quiz operates at two levels. If you and your partner agreed on all or most of the questions, then your partnership is well tuned, and your Disastrous Misunderstanding index will be low.

Then there is the question of what 4NT *should* mean in these auctions. For example, if your partnership agreed "Blackwood" on all 8 auctions, then you will suffer no misunderstandings, but your results might not be much good – because on some of these auctions, a Blackwood interpretation makes no sense.

There's no known formula that I know of that can definitively decide "Should it be Blackwood?" on all 4NT bids. There are too many scenarios. But let me recommend a few rules of thumb that might help:

- 1) If responder can't name trumps, it's not Blackwood.
- 2) If the previous bid is a natural notrump bid, 4NT is quantitative, not Blackwood.
- 3) If the previous bid has revealed (extra) length in a suit, then it's Blackwood, expecting that suit to be trumps.

The three rules overlap. Checking that you are not off two aces works best when you are heading to six of a suit. Conversely, if you are thinking of 6NT, the ace-check is a popgun. Sure, it's a *necessary* condition for 6NT that you are not missing two aces, but it's nowhere near a *sufficient* condition.

Rule 1) implies that if you use key-card Blackwood of some form (that is, responses that tell about the king and maybe queen of trumps), you consign ordinary Blackwood to the dustbin.

Armed with these rules, let's consider the 8 auctions.

1. 2♠* 2NT
 3♣ 4NT

* spades and a minor

My answer: Blackwood with clubs as trumps.

Reasoning: Rule 3). Responder has gone to the trouble of discovering opener's minor. It's the last shown suit. If responder wanted to use key-card Blackwood with spades as trumps, he must bid 4NT over 2♠.

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

My answer: Minor suit takeout.

Reasoning: Rule 1). A minor two-suiter can be bid no other way. If you instead overcall in a minor, you risk playing there when you belong in the other minor.

You might argue: suppose I hold

♠ AKQJxxx ♥ x ♦ KQJ ♣ AK

I just want to know about those two aces!

My response is that such hands are extremely rare. Certainly rare compared to any old decent hand that's long in both minors.

And you are not completely dead if you don't have Blackwood here. For example, you can double and see how the auction develops. Even if partner simply volunteers a minor, you can perhaps then bid 4NT (ostensibly setting partner's minor) and play 5♠, 6♠ or 7♠ depending on the response.

3. 2NT 3♥*
 3♠ 4NT
 * transfer

My answer: As per your partnership notes.

Reasoning: None of the rules fit. You just have to agree with your partner what 4NT means after a transfer. Whilst you are at it, agree what 4NT means after a response to Stayman (both 2♦ and 2-major!).

4. 1♠ 2♣
 2♥ 3♦
 3♥ 4NT

My answer: Blackwood, with hearts as trumps.

Reasoning: Rule 3). 3♥ ostensibly revealed 5 hearts (that's not certain actually: how would you bid ♠ AJxxx ♥ AKJx ♦ xx ♣ xx?). But a rule's a rule, and you have to run with it.

5. 1NT 2♥*
 2♠ 3♣
 3NT 4♣
 4NT

* transfer

My answer: Yuck, but technically Blackwood with clubs as trumps.

Reasoning: Rule 3). Responder is looking for big things and showing at least 5-5 in the black suits. Extra length has now been revealed in clubs.

But it's also a "yuck" answer because opener could have a terrible hand, stuffed in the red suits, with two weak spades and three weak clubs. He wants to play 4NT rather than 4♠ or 5♣, but the rules won't let him. The counter argument to this particular application of Blackwood is that with a good hand with clubs, opener could cue-bid in a red suit.

6. (3♥) D'ble (Pass) 4♣
 (Pass) 4NT

My answer: Blackwood with clubs as trumps.

Reasoning: Rule 3). Doubler *might* bid to a contract other than in clubs after your response: let him play that contract.

7. 1♣ 1♠
 1NT* 2♦
 2NT** 4NT

* 15-18

** 15-16, not four hearts, not three spades

My answer: Quantitative invitation to slam.

Reasoning: Rule 2). This is the most important auction of the eight.

Once every year or so, opponents conduct the following auction against me, including body language. They bid a few suits, then someone bids notrumps – 1NT, 2NT or 3NT. Partner then bids 4NT.

Responder stares at this bid for a moment, shrugs his shoulders and shows the number of aces. His partner then also shrugs his shoulders and bids 6NT.

Sometimes 6NT makes, sometimes it goes down. But what has actually happened is always the same. The 4NT'er has a hand that is on the margin of slam-going: the point count has revealed that his side has around 31-33 points.

The other player doesn't know what 4NT means, so he makes a safety bid of responding with the number of aces.

Now the 4NT'er still has no idea about slam, but he's discovered he's not off two aces, and he has nowhere else to go anyway, so he just bids 6NT.

So *please* add Rule 2) to your partnership agreements.

You might ask: "what's the point of asking for min-or-max when opener has shown a tight 2-point range in this auction?"

The answer is that a two point range can contain a huge actual range of playing strengths. I would accept the invitation in the auction above with:

♠ AJ ♥ Kxx ♦ xxx ♣ AQJ10x

but reject with:

♠ Ax ♥ KQJ ♦ Jxxx ♣ AJxx

Put those hands together with responder's

♠ KQ109x ♥ Axx ♦ AK ♣ xxx

to see why. The 16 point hand is far far weaker than the 15 point hand.

8. (1♥) 2♣ (3♥) 3NT
 (4♥) 4NT

My answer: To play 4NT.

Reasoning: Rule "common sense" applies. The 2♣ bidder cannot possibly be Blackwooding on this auction. He has extra playing strength, and wants to make 4NT:

♠ Ax ♥ x ♦ Jxx ♣ AKJxxxx

... to be continued

CARD PLAYING BY DEDUCTION Jeff Fust

As dealer, with no one vulnerable, you pick up the following hand:

♠ AJ10964 ♥ 96 ♦ AK4 ♣ 75

and find yourself playing 2♠ after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dealer: W	♠ K53
Vul: Nil	♥ J765
	♦ 932
	♣ Q64
	♠ AJ10964
	♥ 93
	♦ AK4
	♣ 75

The opening lead is ♦J. You have two heart losers, one diamond loser and two club losers. To make the contract you will have to avoid a trump loser.

What is your plan to make the contract?

How would you tackle trumps?

You can play the king and ace, hoping trumps break 2-2.

Alternatively, you can finesse against the ♠Q with either opponent.

Ordinarily, each line would offer about a 50% chance of success.

Before committing to either line, you could "read the opponents' cards" as such:

Q1) *Who has the ♦Q?*

A1) East has it because the ♦J lead denied the ♦Q.

Q2) *Who has the ♥A and ♥K?*

A2) It is not clear who has them, however West doesn't have both the ♥A and ♥K because he would have led one.

Therefore, East has either the ♥A or ♥K or both.

Q3) *Who has the ♣A and ♣K?*

A3) For the same reasons as above, East has one or both of the ♣A and ♣K.

Q4) *What is East's range of high-card points?*

A4) The 1NT response (Standard American) promised between 6 and 9 HCP.

Conclusion: East's high cards include the ♦Q, only one of the ♥A and ♥K and only one of the ♣A and ♣K. Another high heart or club would give East at least 12 HCP, too many to respond 1NT and leaving West with a hand not good enough to open. Similarly, East also can't have the ♠Q or ♥Q as she would then have at least 10 HCP, also too strong to respond 1NT. West must have both the ♠Q and ♥Q.

The full hand:

	♠ K53	
	♥ J765	
	♦ 932	
	♣ Q64	
♠ Q52		♠ 7
♥ AQ843		♥ K2
♦ J10		♦ Q8765
♣ KJ5		♣ A10832
	♠ AJ10964	
	♥ 93	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ 75	

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