

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2011

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VBA SURVEY OUTCOMES

Thank you to all who answered our brief survey of players' opinions, conducted by the VBA Council. The rate of response was high and the overall impression is that our members really care about the club. As usual with such surveys, much of the data confirmed our suspicions, but there were several "gems" of totally unexpected results as well as individual suggestions which brought to our attention matters we did not even think to include in the survey. Here are some highlights.

The demographic questions confirmed a few points: most players come from the local population up to 10km from the club. This has implications for advertising and publicity. The average player age is high and most have played the game for over 12 years. We need to recruit middle-aged and younger players at an earlier stage of their bridge life to play in our duplicates and competitions.

Only 10 said that they play bridge online, which is a huge surprise. It simply may mean that people who start playing online do not come to the club any more. However, I do not think the survey was distributed to all daytime sessions and it is those who do not want to drive at night who usually play daytime in the club and at night online. We need to monitor this point in the future.

Questions about the facilities brought many complaints regarding ventilation and air-conditioning. It is one of the weaknesses of the building. The A/C system has had all components repaired or replaced and still does not function reliably. It is a big investment for the club to replace the whole system. New table cloths are being introduced. The premises are seen by some as homely and some as cold and un-inviting, and of course, the parking situation came up again and again. If only we could organize people to give lifts to others as one person per car is not good for parking and definitely not good for the planet ...

Our administration and directing staff was praised by most respondents. We may safely say that we are one of the best in town in that respect. Equally, there was overall satisfaction with the timing and organization of the duplicate sessions and competitions, although many would love to finish earlier in the evening. Perhaps if there are two sections, one could be started a little earlier?

There was a desire for more varied events, including stratified and specialized for less experienced players, and for red-point daytime competitions. These will be discussed by Council and we will try to satisfy your requests.

The members of our Council are not well-known to the players. Whilst they are at the AGM once a year, not all members attend, and committee members are sometimes co-opted later. We plan to put up a photo-board with names and responsibilities, and we will also get committee members to wear name-tags when playing. There were many requests for the top players to play in duplicate sessions and help to develop middle rank players by coaching and advice. These ideas will be followed up and there are already talks starting with Val Daly to organize an easier transition from supervised play to the rough and tumble of duplicate.

The cafeteria was criticised by many and we are currently investigating again the licensing situation to be able to provide a full meal for people who come from work. It was noted that the atmosphere in the café contributes to the club's social cohesion and gives some members an excuse to bring friends and family members who could stay to watch few hands after dinner and perhaps enrol in the classes.

In conclusion, we laid some groundwork of communications via this survey, but it will have to be repeated to gauge trends and measure the success of our attempts to remedy problems and maintain our high profile in the organization of the game.

... Anton Stavik

THE SET THAT TORQUEMADA DEALT Bill Jacobs

This is the story of the third set of the recent ANC Open Interstate final between Victoria and the ACT. After the first 20 boards, Victoria had wiped out ACT's 12 imp carryover, and had a healthy 25 imp lead.

ACT needed to start winning some imps. Richard and Hills and Hashmat Ali for the ACT faced Simon Hinge and Peter Hollands in the Closed Room. In the Open Room, Bill Jacobs and Ben Thompson were up against Griff Ware and Mark Abraham. Griff and Mark's system includes lots of transfers: Griff was wearing his witty "I ♦ Transfers" t-shirt.

Now read on ...

Board 21.

Hills – Ali bid a good 4♠ for +450 whilst Bill and Ben struggled home in a slightly inferior 3NT for +400. 2 imps to the ACT – their high-water mark.

Board 22.

Dealer: E	♠ KQ9				
Vul: E/W	♥ A10963				
	♦ AK94				
	♣ K				
♠ 72				♠ 10653	
♥ KQ874				♥ -	
♦ 107				♦ 632	
♣ 10862				♣ AJ9753	
	♠ AJ84				
	♥ J52				
	♦ QJ85				
	♣ Q4				

For ACT, Griff Ware opened that revolting South hand 1♣. Mark Abraham responded with a transfer 1♦ (of course!), South bid 1♥, and ... well you don't want to know the rest. North wouldn't let go until the 5-level, and the unfortunate trump break put paid to the resulting 5♥ contract.

Ultra-light opening bids are all very well, but if partner is not ready for them, such outcomes will occur. It's a hidden cost.

Peter Hollands passed the South hand, and so there was no danger of getting too high.

Simon Hinge declared 4♥ from North and the club ace was led and clubs continued.

Simon won ♣Q, pitching a diamond, and played a heart to the nine, getting the news. Then a spade to the jack and another heart, West splitting, and ♥A won. Simon played two more top spades, West ruffing and pumping with a third club in this position:

Dealer: E	♠ -				
Vul: E/W	♥ 1063				
	♦ AK9				
	♣ -				
♠ -				♠ 10	
♥ K8				♥ -	
♦ 107				♦ 632	
♣ 108				♣ 97	
	♠ A				
	♥ J				
	♦ QJ85				
	♣ -				

Declarer had to play precisely from here and he did. He ruffed in the North hand, a top diamond was cashed, then a diamond played to the queen. Finally the spade ace cooked West's goose – 11 imps to Victoria.

Board 23.

Dealer: S	♠ AJ75				
Vul: All	♥ Q106				
	♦ 1073				
	♣ Q106				
♠ K843				♠ 2	
♥ AK943				♥ J8752	
♦ 8				♦ A96	
♣ K53				♣ J987	
	♠ Q1096				
	♥ -				
	♦ KQJ542				
	♣ A42				

At both tables, South opened 1♦, West bid 1♥ and North made some sort of spade-showing double: Abraham's double was naturally a transfer.

Now Ali bid a full-blooded 4♥ as East, and Hollands bid the obvious 4♠, ending the auction. ♥K was led and Peter had no problems. He ruffed and drew four rounds of trumps. When the ♦A was knocked out, dummy's ♥Q controlled the heart suit, and declarer eventually came home with 11 tricks.

I bid a wimpish 3♥ in the other room, and this paid off in a strange way. South liked his hand and bid 4♥ - I'd like to say it was also a transfer, but probably it was a slam try in spades. Anyway, North was endplayed into 4♠, and I led a low heart as East ... a much more threatening defence than a high heart from West.

The contract could now only be made with a series of unlikely plays (starting by ruffing *high* in dummy!), and not surprisingly, these were not found. Two down, and another 13 imps to Victoria.

Then the roof started to cave in:

Board 24

Dealer: W	♠ KJ10743		
Vul: Nil	♥ 104		
	♦ J10		
	♣ K97		
♠ AQ982		♠ 65	
♥ AKJ6		♥ 2	
♦ 5		♦ A873	
♣ 652		♣ AQJ843	
	♠ -		
	♥ Q98753		
	♦ KQ9642		
	♣ 10		

West	North	East	South
Hills	Hinge	Ali	Hollands
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♦	4♣
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Peter Hollands bid his hand upside down. First he bid his void, then his singleton! But wisely, he never got around to bidding one of the 6-card suits. 5♣ was makeable, but not when South got a ruff with his ♣10.

Meanwhile, in the other room ...

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Abrahams	Jacobs	Ware
1♠	Pass	2♣	4NT
Pass	5♣	D'ble	5♦
D'ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ware's creativity showed in another way ... bidding notrumps with that South hand. This took him a wee bit high however, and the resulting 5♦ contract was doubled and

massacred. Down 1400, and 17 imps more to Victoria.

And the deluge continued ...

Board 25

Dealer: N	♠ K876		
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ876		
	♦ J7		
	♣ 94		
♠ Q543		♠ A	
♥ Q102		♥ 943	
♦ AK4		♦ Q108532	
♣ 1075		♣ AKQ	
	♠ J1092		
	♥ K5		
	♦ 96		
	♣ J8632		

Hills - Ali had a normal auction to 3NT by West, North led a normal low heart, and 3NT went a normal down 1.

The other room was abnormal:

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Abrahams	Jacobs	Ware
	Pass	1♦	2♠*
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

* 4 spades and longer clubs

We were also going to end up in 3NT by West until South came charging in and diverted our auction. There was no reason for Ware to find the winning ♥K lead against 3NT, and 10 tricks were quickly wrapped up after the ♠J lead, for 12 imps.

You could argue that this was unlucky for ACT, but it wasn't really. The intervention by South was pointless. Opposite a passed partner, there was almost no way N/S could sensibly compete for the final contract, nor have an effective sacrifice. So all the 2♠ bid did was describe South's hand for the benefit of his opponents. Indeed, even if West had ended up in 3NT, it is quite likely that North would shunned a heart lead and led a spade, his partner's suit.

Psychologically, South probably felt the need to retrieve some imps after the 1400 point penalty he had just suffered.

Anyway, perhaps ACT could recover on ...

Board 26

Dealer: E	♠ -		
Vul: All	♥ AKQ74		
	♦ 953		
	♣ KQ765		
♠ AKJ10982		♠ 5	
♥ 5		♥ J10832	
♦ Q108		♦ AKJ75	
♣ A9		♣ J10	
	♠ Q7643		
	♥ 96		
	♦ 42		
	♣ 9432		

The 6♦ contract reached by Hills – Ali is decent enough, but it can't stand any bad breaks. This was not the set to be betting on good breaks – against the beastly 5-0 spades, 10 tricks were the limit.

Ben and I never even sniffed at slam, after I opened a Fantunes 2♥, showing 10-13 points. We played 4♠ in peace, for 13 imps.

For a change Board 27 was a flattish game, and ACT only lost 1 imp for an overtrick.

Board 28

Dealer: W	♠ KJ102		
Vul: N/S	♥ K9742		
	♦ 7		
	♣ KQ3		
♠ 983		♠ A65	
♥ QJ85		♥ -	
♦ K43		♦ QJ109652	
♣ J108		♣ A65	
	♠ Q74		
	♥ A1063		
	♦ A8		
	♣ 9742		

Open Room

West Thompson	North Abrahams	East Jacobs	South Ware
Pass	1♥	2♦	2NT*
Pass	4♥	All pass	

Closed Room

West Hills	North Hinge	East Ali	South Hollands
Pass	1♥	2♦	3♦*
D'ble	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* invitational+ raise of hearts

Another unfortunate hand for ACT, with the pushy but playable 4♥ contract destroyed by the 4-0 trump break.

But was it truly unfortunate? West's double of 3♦ in the closed room falls squarely into my category of "Pointless Doubles" (see June Newsletter). What was West doing encouraging partner to bid more diamonds, when he has ♥QJxx? Note that Ben Thompson kept quiet over the 2NT raise in the open room.

The effect of the double was that North was able to pass, showing some interest in game (a 3♥ bid would have been terminal), and South judged his hand to be a minimum and signed off. On another day, that might have been a losing choice, but the point is that West's double gave N/S a whole extra round of bidding with which to make their decision.

Board 29 saw another overtrick imp to Victoria, and finally:

Board 30

Dealer: E	♠ A763		
Vul: Nil	♥ 9		
	♦ KJ4		
	♣ AKQJ9		
♠ QJ842		♠ 5	
♥ Q1065		♥ AK82	
♦ 963		♦ A1072	
♣ 5		♣ 6432	
	♠ K109		
	♥ J743		
	♦ Q85		
	♣ 1087		

Open Room

West Thompson	North Abrahams	East Jacobs	South Ware
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
3♥	D'ble	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All pass	

Closed Room

West Hills	North Hinge	East Ali	South Hollands
1♠	2♣	1♦	Pass
		All Pass	

In the Open Room, North's 5♣ was pretty optimistic, opposite a partner who hadn't promised a single thing. But his opponents'

bidding (two passed hands, then an overcall and preemptive raise) played a part in leading him astray.

It was the opposite in the Closed Room: E/W opened and responded. So N/S were clearly in "win the partscore" mode.

There was not much to the play - 5♣ was miles too high, but the byplay was humorous. In the Open Room, I started with two rounds of hearts. Mark Abrahams ruffed and played a top club. When we both followed, Mark said: "that's good - at least trumps aren't 5-0". Knowing the 4-1 break, I could only smile.

So that was another 5 imps, for an 81-2 scoreline on the set. If you look through the boards, you will see that ACT bid to high contracts where a key suit broke: 5-0, 4-1, 5-0, 4-0 and 4-1.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Rodney Carr
Local Master	Mary Warnock
*Local Master	Christopher Salter
**Local Master	Timothy Kilham Allan Martin
Life Master	Ken Trolland
Gold Life Master	Meredith Lambert

Tasmanian Nationals

Spoil yourself! Take a break! Come to the Holiday Isle and play in the:

Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs
Thu/Fri 22nd and 23rd September

Australian Swiss Pairs Championship
Sat/Sun 24th and 25th September

All Masterpoints are Gold

Venue: Wrest Point Hotel-Casino, Hobart

For more information, go to www.tasbridge.com.au or contact Barry Kelly on (03) 6228 5247

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ A103
 Vul: E/W ♥ A10
 ♦ AKQ1064
 ♣ J6

♠ K6542
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ J953
 ♣ K8

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥**

* Multi
 ** Minimum weak two in hearts, 5-7 points

You lead a spade and dummy's ♠A is played, declarer dropping ♠Q. The next card is ♣J (partner's card likely even), and you win ♣K. You continue ♠K, ruffed, and a trump to the ace and a trump is played: you win and then?

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ 1064
 Vul: nil ♥ A
 ♦ J752
 ♣ AKQ109

♠ A2
 ♥ KJ862
 ♦ Q1083
 ♣ 32

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

* shows hearts

Partner starts ♦A which holds, next ♦K trumped by declarer. He leads a club to dummy's ♣A and discards a low heart on ♣K. Next comes ♣Q and you have to decide what to do about that.

Solutions on page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

COUNCIL NEWS

State Representation

The VBA Council on the 20th July 2011 implemented a residency requirement with respect to state representation.

The intent of these guidelines is to achieve as accurately as possible a representative state team, whilst allowing for the exigencies of domiciliary relocation due to educational or employment requirements.

Our objective is to uphold the fair and ethical spirit of the game, both within our state and beyond, as a member of the Australian Bridge Federation.

Paragraph 2 is designed to take into account those bridge players who live in close proximity to a Victorian border and are active players at a Victorian club.

These guidelines do not apply to youth players as the VBA recognises that special circumstances often exist requiring more flexibility.

Residential Qualifications (excluding youth players)

1. A bona fide Victorian resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the Selection Trials, of a club affiliated with the VBA.
2. A non-Victorian resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the VBA and whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the VBA for at least six months immediately prior to the Selection Trials.
3. A new Victorian resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the VBA, and who satisfies the Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the VBA for at least 6 months after the Selection Trials.



Tablecloths

The VBA Council would like to thank Anton Stavik for his very generous donation of new table cloths to the club and for his time and effort in designing and implementing a survey of members in order to better meet the needs of players.



Norma Borin Celebration of her life To be held at the VBA Sunday 2nd October, at 1:00 pm

Norma Borin passed away last December and left a small legacy to be enjoyed by all bridge players who knew and loved her.



Come along and enjoy a free game of matchpoint pairs followed by a sumptuous support and drinks, and remember Norma and her contribution to our game.

Register at the website: www.vba.asn.au

Closing date: Friday 30th September
This event is limited to 60 tables



Full Time at the ANC

We reported on the first week of the ANC in the August bulletin. The second week was equally successful, with the ANC Butler Pairs, ANC Swiss Pairs and an impromptu ANC Farewell Swiss Pairs.

The side-events were all well-attended, as was the Victory Dinner.

The ANC is one of the most complex Australian National congresses, with its multiple disparate events over a full two week period. It requires an enormous amount of unpaid labour. We thank Jeannette Collins and her team for all the hard work they have put in.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dealer: S	♠ A103				
Vul: E/W	♥ A10				
	♦ AKQ1064				
	♣ J6				
♠ K6542				♠ J987	
♥ KJ				♥ 762	
♦ J953				♦ 82	
♣ K8				♣ A953	
	♠ Q				
	♥ Q98543				
	♦ 7				
	♣ Q10742				

If you play a spade it will be trumped and declarer can draw trumps, discard (some) clubs on diamonds then drive out ♣A. If you play a club, partner can withhold ♣A but the play continues as before (or take ♣A for the defence's third and last trick). But if you play a diamond declarer will be unable to take more than one discard because of partner's likely remaining trump.

Problem 2

Dealer: E	♠ 1064				
Vul: N/S	♥ A				
	♦ J752				
	♣ AKQ109				
♠ K9				♠ A2	
♥ 109				♥ KJ862	
♦ AK64				♦ Q1083	
♣ J8765				♣ 32	
	♠ QJ8754				
	♥ Q7543				
	♦ 9				
	♣ 4				

The usual approach here, we suggest, is to ruff low: that kills a trick without apparent loss. But if we do that declarer can over-ruff and succeed by cross-ruffing hearts and clubs, both of which are kindly placed.

The far-sighted defence is to trump with ♠A. We can then continue trumps and partner can win ♠K (we can be almost sure he holds it) and lead another trump to kill the dummy. This deal was played in the US Spingold teams 2011 and essentially the same killing defence was found at both tables by Jeff Meckstroth and Geir Helgemo.

The declarers misplayed. One discard was sufficient. If the 3rd third club from dummy is low, to begin a cross-ruff, the defence can't prevail.

RECENT RESULTS

Ros Blutstein Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Gallus – S. Weisz
- 2 S. Arber – H. Silver
- 3 S. Klofa – P. Fent

Elizabeth Sawicki Eclectic Pairs

- 1 B. Rosenberg – B. Rosenberg
- 2 L. Pearce – K. Leeton
- 3 C. Arul – D. Zec

VBA GNOT Heat

- 1 J. Magee, T. Strong, R. Gallus, S. Weisz
- 2 M. Gurfinkel, A. Branicki, K. Muntz, C. Arul
- 3 M. Tencer, M. Chrapot, H. de Jong, S. Arber

CHANGES OF DATES

Please note the new dates due to late-breaking changes in the ABF calendar:

Victorian Individual: now on Wed October 19

Melbourne Metro GNOT finals: now on weekend of October 15-16.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: E	♠ AK106
Vul: N/S	♥ A952
IMPs	♦ A98
	♣ AJ
	♠ Q82
	♥ KJ4
	♦ KQJ105
	♣ 85

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	3♠ ³
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

- 1 no major
- 2 further enquiry
- 3 5 diamonds

West leads ♣K. Solution overleaf.

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

♠ AK106		
♥ A952		
♦ A98		
♣ AJ		
♠ J975		♠ 43
♥ Q8		♥ 10763
♦ 72		♦ 643
♣ KQ1093		♣ 7642
	♠ Q82	
	♥ KJ4	
	♦ KQJ105	
	♣ 85	

This deal was from the round-robin of the recent ANC. Ben Thompson played 6♦.

Ben found a nice play that preserved all his options in the majors, whilst giving himself the chance of an endplay. He won ♣A at trick 1 and played *two* rounds of trumps, before exiting with his club loser.

The partial elimination was neat: West won ♣Q and was stuck. He was forced to play a major suit card and deliver up the contract. (Alas, in the actual layout East had the ♥Q, so declarer was always slated to make. Such is life.)

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

COMING UP AT THE VBA ... VICTORIAN PENNANT

Dates: Wednesdays September 21, October 5, 12, 26, November 2, 9, 16, then the finals on November 19/20.

Format: Victoria's Open teams championship: if you win this, you not only get onto the honour board, but you also qualify for the playoff for Victoria's ANC Open team.

The top 5 teams from the qualifying rounds will play in a semi-final on Saturday 19th November. They will be joined by a Regional team that has qualified from a separate event, resulting in a 6-team semi-final. From that two teams will emerge to play the final on the following day.

Defending champs: Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold, Peter Hollands, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson

ABF NEWS : SPONSORSHIP

The ABF is currently looking to attract more sponsors for its major events. Like most large sporting organisations that depend on the income and support of their sponsors, the ABF is keen to increase its revenue base through additional sponsorship so as to provide improved and more cost-effective services and events for our members. However, unlike philanthropy (where no return is expected), sponsors quite understandably expect a return on their investment (ROI).

For ABF sponsors, their ROI will mainly result from increased awareness of their brand and therefore our members' propensity to purchase. Occasionally, an organisation's motives for sponsorship are altruistic so as to create goodwill – thus increasing their good reputation (brand management). However, sponsorship is more commonly used to derive a satisfactory ROI. Sponsors will be looking for commercial opportunities such as their logo at our congresses, banners or signs at events, information in our National ABF Newsletter, their logo on bidding slips etc.

The ABF is keen to develop long-term partnerships with our sponsors. To achieve this, the ABF will be looking to:

- promote a sponsor at every opportunity
- acknowledge a sponsor in relevant media coverage
- regularly communicate with our members to encourage support for our sponsors
- invite sponsors to events and to give prizes at awards nights (as appropriate)
- keep our sponsors informed about the ABF
- avoid any conflict of interest for our sponsors
- where we provide naming rights to a gold star sponsor, we will acknowledge them in all promotional material associated with that event (including making the media aware and adhere to the naming right)

Should any ABF member be interested in discussing sponsorship options for their organisation, please contact the ABF National Marketing Coordinator, Sandra Mulcahy, at marketing@abf.com.au or telephone 0417 920 816.