

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

VALE ANDREW HALMOS



The Victorian bridge community was saddened by the passing of Andrew Halmos, who died suddenly in Canberra during the Summer Festival.

Andrew joined the VBA in 1971 and served the club with distinction for long periods as an administrator, including a long term as vice-president of the club. Notably, he was the convenor of the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships in Melbourne in 2006 (coincident with the Commonwealth Games). He worked extremely hard to make that international event an outstanding success. He was also a driving force behind the VBA's re-location to its new premises in Murrumbena.

More recently, Andrew has been involved in the running of the Theodor Herzl Bridge Club, one of the largest affiliated clubs in the state.

He won the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs in 2004, but as a bridge player, he will be most remembered as a smiling face: a most cordial partner or opponent who exuded a warmth that always made for an enjoyable game.

He said several times that one of his great joys in bridge was getting to play for a time with Wally Scott, who was recognised as one of the most ethical (and well-mannered) players in the state.

Andrew was not playing as he usually would at the Summer Festival. He was demonstrating his usual generosity showing a cousin visiting from Hungary the sights while supporting his wife who was playing in the teams.

Our thoughts are with his wife Franci and his three daughters.



VBA COUNCIL - 2012

An Annual General Meeting with more than the usual level of interest and participation resulted in the election of the following office-bearers for 2012:

President:	Jeannette Collins
Vice Presidents:	Simon Hinge Stan Klofa
Secretary:	Kim Frazer
Treasurer:	Neil Ewart
Councillors:	Tim Blizard Henri de Jong Robert Ellery Phillip Fent Anton Stavik Rob Stewart Jenny Thompson Steven Weisz

Congratulations and good-luck to the incoming council.

Interested members can read the minutes of council meetings on the VBA website. Click on "VBA" then select "Document Library", then "Minutes" to access them.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a Swiss Teams event, you pick up:

♠ 53 ♥ 94 ♦ AKQ875 ♣ 876

Everyone is vulnerable, partner deals and opens 1♣. With the opponents silent, you respond 1♦, partner rebids 1NT and you have to decide what to do:

West	North <i>You</i>	East	South <i>Partner</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	?		1NT

1NT shows a minimum balanced opening hand, let's say about 12-14 points.

Well?

You have 9 points, which added to partner's 12-14, gives a partnership total of 21 to 23.

Normally that's insufficient for a game contract, but this is no ordinary 9-point hand. This is also a 6-trick hand. Given that partner's 1NT response indicates at least two diamonds, you can expect to take 6 diamond tricks in a notrump contract: so all partner needs to do is furnish 3 more in order to make 3NT, and that is quite likely given that he has opening values.

Therefore, you should raise 1NT to 3NT. This bid is not without risk. For example, it's entirely possible that the defenders can run off 5 top tricks in a major. But also, maybe they can't. You pay your money and you take your choice.

Conversely, suppose you as responder held:

♠ Axx ♥ Axx ♦ Axxx ♣ xxx

That's a 12-point hand, much stronger than your actual hand in high card points. But it's also a 3-trick hand: the three aces. So in another very real sense, the hand with three aces is only half as strong as the one with the 6-card suit headed by the AKQ. Personally, with the 3-ace hand, I would just raise 1NT to 2NT, inviting partner to go on with a maximum.

Anyway, you bid 3NT over 1NT. Now it's up to your partner to make it. Let's help her.

♠ 53
♥ 94
♦ AKQ875
♣ 876

N
S

♠ AKJ
♥ A52
♦ 63
♣ J10532

The lead is ♠4, RHO plays ♠10 and you win with the jack. That's a good start, but what do you do next?

What you should do next is count your tricks: you have three spades, ♥A, and with any luck, six diamonds, for a total of 10. It seems like you will make an overtrick in your 22-point game!

What could go wrong?

The only thing that could go wrong is that an opponent has 4 diamonds. Since this will happen around one-third of the time, it's worth considering if there's anything you can do about that.

So what do you do?

The fact that your trick count came to 10 gives you the clue. You only need 9 tricks to make 3NT, so it's worth investing in a little insurance. Play a diamond from your hand, and whatever LHO plays, play low from dummy!

The defence will win this trick, but they cannot do anything to hurt you. They can take at most three top clubs, for four tricks, but then you will get in again, play a second diamond and take *five* diamonds, one club and three spades for a total of 9 tricks.

Paying an insurance premium of one overtrick was well worthwhile, as this was the full deal:

Dlr: South ♠ 53
 Vul: All ♥ 94
 ♦ AKQ875
 ♣ 876

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q9742 ♠ 1086
 ♥ J1075 ♥ KQ86
 ♦ 9 ♦ J1042
 ♣ AQ9 ♣ K4

♠ AKJ
 ♥ A52
 ♦ 63
 ♣ J10532

If you had played the diamonds from the top, you would have been restricted to 7 tricks for two down.

Points to remember:

- Sometimes it's a case of "points shmoints". Visualizing your hand as 6 tricks, rather than 9 points, was the key to the bidding.
- When playing for imps (teams or Swiss pairs events), overtricks mean little. It's worth sacrificing an overtrick in order to safely make your contract.



New Unmixed Pairs event

This year, an Unmixed Pairs will run concurrently with the Thwaites Mixed Pairs in March, thereby allowing any pair, mixed or otherwise, to play on these four nights.

This event immediately precedes the Women's Victorian Team playoff, and therefore will provide a good practice opportunity for contending women's pairs.

Play this suit!

K8732

 A10

You are playing in notrumps and need to develop this suit for 4 winners. There are no entry problems. How do you go about it?

Solution on page 7.

ABOUT THE VBA MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

This important sub-committee takes overall responsibility for the running of all bridge events conducted under the auspices of the VBA: both Victorian State and VBA Club events. It is in place to ensure the integrity of all the bridge played at these events, and that the interests of natural justice are maintained.

Its specific tasks are many and varied:

- Create the rules and regulations for all State and Club events
- Maintain the substitution policy, and sign off on appropriate substitution requests
- Maintain and apply the eligibility policy, which determines player eligibility for Victorian state representation
- Determine the format and scoring of all State and Club events
- Create and maintain policy regarding security, including hand records, dealing, boards, screens and vu-graph events
- Construct the Victorian bridge calendar



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Nina Zurek
Club Master	Barbara Appel
Local Master	Renate Slee
Regional Master	Pamela Craig
State Master	Helen Abeles
National Master	Ken Anderson Patrick Zhang
*National Master	Ian Bram Herman Louie Lucy Henbest
Grand Master	David Flynn
Silver Grand Master	Sam Arber
Gold Grand Master	Leigh Gold

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: S ♠ AKJ10982
 Vul: N/S ♥ 5
 IMPs ♦ Q108
 ♣ A9

N
S

♠ 5
 ♥ J10832
 ♦ AKJ75
 ♣ J10

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

West leads ♣K. There will be no problem if both spades and diamonds break 3-2, but can you cater for a bad break somewhere?

Solution on page 8.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dlr: North ♠ -
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ853
 ♦ KQJ84
 ♣ K63

N
W E
S

♠ KQJ98
 ♥ 109
 ♦ A976
 ♣ 82

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♥*	3♦	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* spade support, 8+ points

Partner leads ♠A, trumped in dummy, and the next card is ♦K, which you win, partner's signal *odd*.

How to continue?

Problem 2:

Dlr: West ♠ QJ2
 Vul: All ♥ A52
 ♦ 832
 ♣ 9642

N
W E
S

♠ 9654
 ♥ 10873
 ♦ K9
 ♣ 875

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT**
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

* artificial, strong
 ** 18-20, balanced

You lead ♥3 and partner's ♥J wins trick 1. He continues ♥Q, won in dummy, and a low diamond comes to ♦J and your ♦K, partner showing *even*. Perhaps unwisely, you continue another heart, and partner discards a spade. South cashes his other heart, dummy a club, partner another spade. Now comes three rounds of spades ending in dummy: partner follows with his last spade, and parts with two clubs: ♣3, ♣10.

Then, rather to your surprise, dummy's low diamond runs to your ♦9. With four tricks to go, you are on-lead in this position:

Dlr: West ♠ -
 Vul: All ♥ -
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 964

N
W E
S

♠ 9
 ♥ -
 ♦ -
 ♣ 875

It looks as if both partner and declarer have two cards left in each minor. Do you have an option?

Solutions on page 6.



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan

"As long as the king is in the same place at the other table, you don't have to worry. It's when the king jumps from the West hand to the East hand that you must be concerned."



2012 Directors' Course

A 1 day Directors Course conducted by
Dr. Laurie Kelso, Victorian Chief Tournament Director

Will be held on

Saturday, 18th February

At the Victorian Bridge Association
131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

(suitable for people wanting to learn how to direct)

10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (1/2 hr lunch break)

COST : \$40.00

****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

VICTORIANS AT THE SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Summer Festival in Canberra is Australia's largest event, in terms of table numbers, and is indeed one of the biggest bridge events in the world. Victorians had some notable success this year.

The Festival kicked off, as it always does, with the Youth Week. Peter Hollands and Justin Howard (the old firm) qualified for the Australian Youth Team squad.



In the annual Youth awards, Laura Ginnan (pictured right) won the prestigious Helman – Klinger Achievement Award.

In the Grand National Pairs, third place went to Jacqui Morton and Myrna Saunders.

Next to the Seniors teams, and Rob van Riel, whom the editor has great difficulty considering a senior, won the National Seniors teams. Blaine Howe and Chris Hughes played for the runners-up.



Seniors team winners (l-r): Rob van Riel, David Hoffman, Kathy Boardman, Richard Brightling

And in the Women's teams, Felicity Beale, playing with Diana Smart, won for the umpteenth time, although they did have to survive a sudden death playoff in the semi-final, with the match originally ending in an exact tie.



Womens team winners (l-r): Diana Smart, Felicity Beale, Greer Tucker, Margaret Bourke, Therese Tully, Sue Lusk

The National Restricted Swiss Pairs was taken out by Geoffrey Schaller (pictured right with partner Vicky Wiley).



Chelliah Arul, George Lovrecz, David Sharman and Kae French ran second in the National Life Master teams.

Then it was on to the main open event: the South West Pacific Teams and National Open Teams. This event has been modified this year, qualifying only 8 teams (rather than the previous 20) directly to a simple knockout final. So it was a lot tougher to qualify.

Two Victorian partnerships qualified: Bill Jacobs – Ben Thompson and Blaine Howe – Neil Ewart. Blaine and Neil were knocked out in the quarter-final, but Bill and Ben made it through to the final, only to lose narrowly.

Congratulations to all successful players.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: North	♠ -												
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ853												
	♦ KQJ84												
	♣ K63												
♠ A1054	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQJ98		
	N												
W		E											
	S												
♥ K764		♥ 109											
♦ 1053		♦ A976											
♣ A7		♣ 82											
	♠ 7632												
	♥ A2												
	♦ 2												
	♣ QJ10954												

Declarer looks to have several spades, probably at least four, since partner would have bid higher in spades with 5-card support. Also he is likely to hold a picture in hearts, but probably not ♥AK, which he might have started.

You can't stop declarer from taking two diamonds, on which any heart loser can go, but you control the fourth round. So return a trump to cut down on spade ruffs. That, and only that, leads to +50.

Problem 2

Dir: West	♠ QJ2												
Vul: All	♥ A52												
	♦ 832												
	♣ 9642												
♠ 9654	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 1083		
	N												
W		E											
	S												
♥ 10873		♥ QJ											
♦ K9		♦ Q1065											
♣ 875		♣ KQ103											
	♠ AK7												
	♥ K964												
	♦ AJ74												
	♣ AJ												

It's time to "defog" – a term of Eric Rodwell's. Partner has ♦Q10, else you would not be on lead. The missing clubs are the four top ones, and declarer doesn't have ♣AQ or he would have finessed for the contract. With all this to guide you, you should NOT cash the long spade, for fear of damaging partner's hand – a suicide squeeze. If you simply exit a club, partner takes two more tricks.

Coming up at Waverley Bridge Club

New Improvers Hand Analysis Session

Wednesday afternoons, 1:30 – 4:00 pm,
starting February 1.

8-10 hands will be played and a complete discussion about the bidding and play will follow, led by Laura Ginnan and Mary Elson. Note: this is not a supervised session: all hands will be discussed *after* they have been played.

There is no need to book, and you can come with or without a partner. Try to arrive 10-15 minutes early.

This session will suit improvers and intermediate players (experienced supervised and improving duplicate players).

Entry fee: \$8 for WBC members, \$10 for non-members.

Grand National Restricted Pairs Heat

Do you have fewer than 300 MP?

The Waverley heat of the GNRP (a gold point event) will be held on Saturday March 10 and Sunday March 11, 10 am until 5 pm.

Entry fee: \$45 payable on March 10. You can enter via www.bridgeunlimited.com.

Bring your lunch. Drinks and snacks will be available after play on both days.

This is your chance to win a subsidy to represent your State at the Summer Festival in Canberra in 2013.

*Waverley Bridge Club
Electra Community Centre
21b Electra Ave
Ashwood 3147*

*Phone Mary on 9807 6502 for all information
on these and other Waverley Bridge Club
events*




Come & join us at the

2012 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP BRIDGE FESTIVAL

An ABF Gold Point and Playoff Qualifying Points
Event

7TH JUNE – 11TH JUNE 2012

JUNE 7 – 8 SWISS PAIRS EVENTS
WOMENS, SENIORS, OPEN, RESTRICTED, AND <50 MP

JUNE 9 – 11 TEAMS EVENTS
OPEN & RESTRICTED
Venue: Bayview Eden
6 Queens Road, South Melbourne Victoria

Details and enter via the website:
www.vba.asn.au/vcc2012

VCC returns to Bayview for 2012

In 2012 Victoria’s premier bridge event, the Victor Champion Cup, is returning to the Bayview on Eden in South Melbourne. As tournament organiser, I’d like to acknowledge the time and effort that Geoff Schaller put in to arrange this venue which I hope will provide an enjoyable environment for players this year.

New in 2012 is a swiss pairs event for restricted players with fewer than 50 Masterpoints. We hope this new event will encourage players who haven’t had much tournament experience to take the opportunity to be a part of Victoria’s biggest bridge event. One of these pairs will win the coveted ABF medallions on offer.

In addition to our new event, all the old favourites in the pairs and teams events are once again on the program, including for the second time the Open Pairs event that was

introduced in 2011 and highly appreciated by the players who didn’t fall into one of the other three pairs categories – women, seniors or restricted.

For more details on the VCC and to enter, visit our website www.vba.asn.au/vcc2012. Additionally we are producing an emailed bulletin that will have further details on activities at the tournament as they become available. You can register to receive this by emailing me at vcc@abf.com.au.

This is Victoria’s most prestigious event so I hope you will join us there for a great festival of bridge.

Kim Frazer, Tournament Organiser

RECENT RESULTS

VBA Mixed Pairs

- 1 D. Selwyn – M. Granovski
- 2 M. Tencer – M. Chrapot
- 3 M. McManamny – R. Mills

VBA Unmixed Pairs

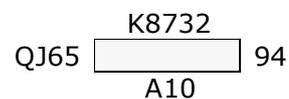
- 1 S. Arber – H. Silver
- 2 H. Abeles – A. Levin
- 3 R. Gallus – S. Weisz

Christmas Teams

- 1 N. Ewart, J. Rosen, B. Howe, C. Hughes
- 2 S. Hinge, L. Gold, P. Hollands, M. Henbest
- 3 L. Ginnan, L. Henbest, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, B. Wein



Play this suit: Solution



Cash the ace, and if all follow low, run the 10 next. You will get your four tricks only if the suit divides 3-3, or East has 9x.

East can throw a very large spanner in the works by following to the ace with the 9. Now you have the option of playing to the king next, hoping East started with J9 or Q9 doubleton. What the “correct” play is in that situation depends on what you think about the East player.

PINNACLE OF ETHICS
Bill Jacobs

Bridge is an imperfect game. As we sit opposite our partner at the table, the Laws of Bridge tell us that we must base our actions on nothing more than partner's bids and plays. Extraneous information, such as hesitations, facial expressions or other body language must be totally ignored. (We are allowed to take note of *opponents'* mannerisms, but not partner's.)

As we become more acquainted with the game, we learn just how much information is unwittingly transmitted from partner's behaviour, and it becomes increasingly onerous to ignore it. This is what the term "active ethics" is all about.

I can offer no finer example of ethical behavior than the following deal from the final set of the recent National Open Teams quarter-final in Canberra.

Dealer: S		♠ 843					
Vul: nil		♥ K1043					
		♦ J1097					
		♣ K5					
♠ 5			♠ 76				
♥ AQJ952			♥ 87				
♦ 54			♦ AQ63				
♣ J962			♣ AQ1087				
		♠ AKQJ1092					
		♥ 6					
		♦ K82					
		♣ 43					

West Gumby	North	East Lazer	South
			1♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Pauline Gumby led ♣6 ... her partnership leads third-highest from a four card suit.

Warren Lazer won the ♣Q and cashed ♣A, Gumby following with ♣2. On this trick, Lazer sensed that Gumby had selected ♣2 holding other cards in the suit and therefore that she had not led from an original ♣62 doubleton holding: whilst there had been no actual hesitation from Gumby, their long standing partnership gave him a feel for such things.

This information was unauthorized for him to use, and he knew this. So instead of cashing the two red aces to beat the contract, Lazer cashed ♦A before leading a third club: a valid defence based on the cards played, hoping that partner had indeed started with a doubleton club and a spade higher than dummy's ♠8.

Declarer threw his losing heart whilst ruffing in dummy, and subsequently finessed in diamonds for his contract. That was a loss of 10 imps, and Lazer's team eventually lost the match by just 7 imps.

We can all aspire to this level of ethics.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

Dealer: S		♠ AKJ10982			
Vul: N/S		♥ 5			
IMPs		♦ Q108			
		♣ A9			
♠ 764			♠ Q3		
♥ Q964			♥ AK7		
♦ 4			♦ 9632		
♣ KQ873			♣ 6542		
		♠ 5			
		♥ J10832			
		♦ AKJ75			
		♣ J10			

If someone has four spades to the queen, you are essentially doomed. You would have to ruff spades twice and that limits you to 11 tricks: 5 diamonds, 5 spades and ♣A.

So at trick 2, cash ♠A and if all follow low, make the key play of ♠K. If all follow low to that, then ruff a spade high, and hope to draw trumps ending in dummy.

If ♠Q appears on the second round, there is now no need to ruff a spade. Play to your ♦A, then back to ♦10. If all follow, then draw the last trump and take your well-earned overtrick.

If West shows out on the second diamond, as in the diagram, you are still ok. You just play spades through East ... eventually, he must ruff, and you can overruff and draw East's last trump with ♦Q to enjoy the remainder of the spades. You will take 5 diamonds, 6 spades and ♣A.