

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

### Making Paying easier

The VBA will be implementing an online payment facility over the coming months. The system will be trialled and tested with the VCC, with all events coming soon thereafter. The hard work to organise this has been done by VBA Treasurer **Neil Ewart**.

All online payments will be via PayPal. Paypal is one of the largest online payment facilities in the world and their security is at the highest level, so you can be comfortable that your credit card details will be 100% secure. *No credit card details will be kept on any VBA system.*

### Making Playing easier

In the near future, there will be information on the VBA website explaining how you can load the VBA Calendar on to your Smartphone (Android or iPhone) that will synchronize with your personal calendar data.

The VBA electronic Calendar will have full details of all VBA Events, all Victorian Congresses and all ABF Events. It will have hyperlinks to relevant websites, and Congress locations will be able to be brought up in Google (and other Map/Navigation tools) on your phones. The results will also have a hyperlink.

### 2011 McCutcheon Masterpoint Awards

Congratulations to **Max Henbest** (Youth Player) on winning the National Master section of the 2011 McCutcheon awards.

Max has just iced the cake by qualifying for the Victorian Open State team. By our calculations (admittedly dodgy), he is, at age 20, our youngest ever state representative at open level.

### VBA launches revamped web site

Visitors to the VBA website will have noticed many changes over the past couple of months. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of **Blaine Howe**, the website has been remodelled to a new-look format that we hope members will like.

Two of the key changes are firstly a new main menu called "Affiliated Home" which hosts information about all our clubs, contact details, maps and congress information; and secondly a front page that provides an opportunity for clubs to promote their upcoming events.

Of course Blaine can't do it all alone, and so we are asking clubs to help by providing promotional material for upcoming congresses and stories and photos after the event has been held. The website is there for the use and benefit of all clubs, and so if there is something missing, or you have a suggestion, or an update to any of the information contained therein, please email Kim Frazer at [secretary@vba.asn.au](mailto:secretary@vba.asn.au).

### New Masterpoint Secretary

The VBA is pleased to announce that **Colin Campbell** has been appointed as the State Masterpoint Secretary for Victoria. The VBA thanks the outgoing Masterpoint Secretary, **Sue Kelso**, for her outstanding work over the past ten years, and for her assistance to Colin during the transition.

### BBO Operator Extraordinaire

Whilst in the mode of thanking people for hard work, we must not forget **Traian Chira**, who has organised and run Bridge Base Online (BBO) Vu-graph presentations of major Victorian events over the last several years, most recently, the Open Team Playoff.

No other Australian state provides this level of global exposure of state events.

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

Playing in the Thwaites Mixed Pairs, a matchpoint event, you hold, with both sides vulnerable:

♠ Q983 ♥ A3 ♦ 10863 ♣ Q62

Dealer on your right opens 1♦, you pass, LHO responds 1NT and partner doubles. RHO bids 2♦ and you have to decide what to do on this auction:

West	North <i>Partner</i>	East	South <i>You</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	D'ble	2♦	?

What does partner's double mean, and what should you bid?

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When the opponents open the bidding and give a 1NT response, a double by the next player is *takeout* of the opened suit, in this case diamonds.

So partner should have support for all the non-diamond suits, and you have a very respectable 2♠ bid. Yes, it's only a 4-card suit, but when partner has made a takeout double, this 2♠ bid is essentially supporting partner's spades.

Digressing for a moment, suppose partner and RHO had passed 1NT. What would *your* double mean in this auction?

West	North <i>Partner</i>	East	South <i>You</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	D'ble?

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This is an entirely different scenario: your double is a penalty double, showing that you have a good hand with *diamonds*. The difference between this double and partner's double of 1NT is that you didn't double 1♦ when you could have. So you can't have a takeout double of diamonds ... instead this double must show that you have long strong diamonds, and no bid available directly over 1♦.

For example:

♠ Ax ♥ xxx ♦ AKJ10xx ♣ xx

If you double 1NT with that hand, and partner leads a diamond (the suit you have shown), you could win a juicy penalty.

Anyway, back to the actual hand. You bid 2♠ and that concludes the auction. The opening lead is ♦2, and you see:

♠ KJ4
♥ K865
♦ 54
♣ AKJ3
N
S
♠ Q983
♥ A3
♦ 10863
♣ Q62

RHO wins ♦J, and switches to ♥2.

Can you work out the opponents' distribution, and where the missing high cards are placed?

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Amazingly, even though only one trick is completed, you have a good idea of the opposition cards.

LHO's 1NT response indicated he didn't have a 4-card major to show. And the 2♦ bid, combined with the ♦2 lead, clearly indicates that RHO has 6 diamonds, and LHO only 1. This means that LHO's distribution must be 3316, and RHO has 3460 shape. Yes, clubs divide 6-0.

As to the high cards, RHO has all the top diamonds, so LHO must have ♠A in order to have enough points to respond. Probably RHO has one of the ♥QJ, and LHO the other.

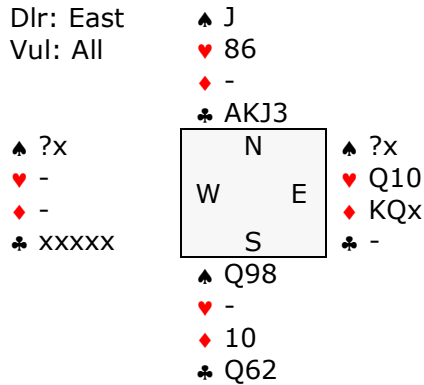
So what do you do with this heart switch?

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You want to ruff at least one diamond in dummy, and you know you have no communications in clubs due to the 6-0 break. So you should win this heart in *dummy* and play a second diamond. That

means you can later win ♥A in your hand in order to ruff a diamond.

RHO wins the second diamond as LHO discards a heart. A second heart is won with your ♥A as LHO follows with ♥J. You play a diamond, LHO discards a club and you ruff in dummy. Since you know a club lead will be ruffed, you play ♠K ... LHO wins and returns a spade in this position:



I've filled in the hands for you, because you know what they are! The only card you don't know about is ♠10.

Anyway, LHO has returned a second spade and RHO has played low on dummy's ♠J. What do you do?

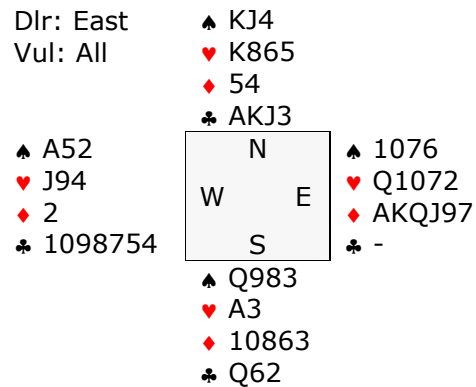
If RHO has ♠10, you can let the ♠J win, ruff a heart, draw the last trump, discarding dummy's last heart, and take the rest: a magnificent 10 tricks.

BUT, if LHO has ♠10, he will overruff the heart, give RHO a club ruff, and RHO will cash a diamond for a less-than-magnificent 7 tricks!

A safer play is to *overtake* ♠J with ♠Q and play a third spade. That will remove all the opposition trumps. If RHO has ♠10, he can cash a diamond now, and you will take 8 tricks. If LHO has ♠10, the defenders can't take a diamond, and you will finish with 9 tricks.

Curiously, you could win 7, 8, 9 or 10 tricks from here, depending on your play, and the location of ♠10.

The full deal:



So 10 tricks were available, but if you played as recommended and took 8 tricks, you would still receive 70% of the matchpoints on the deal.

*Points to remember:*

- After 1X-1NT, 4<sup>th</sup> hand's double is takeout of "X". But after 1X-1NT-Pass, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand's re-opening double is essentially a penalty double, showing length and strength in "X".
- It's not often you can play a hand double-dummy after the first trick, but this was such a deal. It's a great feeling! Let's review again the logic involved:
  - West denied a 4-card major with 1NT
  - East has 6 diamonds, and West 1
  - There are 6 missing clubs
  - 3316 is West's only possible shape
 Reviewing the bidding and making such deductions is the mark of an advancing player.



**Victorian Youth Team Selection**

If you were born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 1986, you are eligible to compete for a place on the Victorian Youth team.

The selected team will go to Darwin from July 8-13 and defend Victoria's title.

The qualifying event will be played at the VBA on the weekend of May 26-27, starting at 10 am. (Play on Sunday will be dependent on entries.)



Come & join us at the

## 2012 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP BRIDGE FESTIVAL

An ABF Gold Point and Playoff Qualifying Points  
Event

7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 11<sup>TH</sup> 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/vcc](http://www.vba.asn.au/vcc)

### Revamped Entry Website Launched for Victor Champion Cup

Organising a major tournament often throws up unexpected challenges. In March this year, we became aware of security problems with the entry payment system which has been used extensively for major bridge events around the country for the past few years. So we have bitten the bullet and created our own.

A huge thank you to Blaine Howe for the extensive work he has done in a short

timeframe in creating a new website entry system for the VCC. See [www.vba.asn.au/vcc/](http://www.vba.asn.au/vcc/). Now players will be able to enter and pay online using the secure PAYPAL system or via direct payment to our bank account. Thanks also to our wonderful treasurer Neil Ewart for organising our PAYPAL account and establishing the systems to enable direct payments. We expect that the PAYPAL payments system will be up and running by the time this bulletin goes to press, or shortly thereafter.

We are endeavoring to create an electronic history of the VCC over the years featuring all the historical results together with profiles on some of the characters in the event. Our first profile on Victor Champion is based on the work by Cathy Chua and Keith Ogborn and is now available on the site. If you can help us with the VCC history project, please email me: [secretary@vba.asn.au](mailto:secretary@vba.asn.au).

Once again this year we are offering Victorian pairs and teams from country areas a subsidy off the entry fee. To be eligible players must have their home club 80km outside the Melbourne GPO. For pairs this will amount to a \$20 discount and for teams a \$60 discount. Subsidies will be provided to eligible players and teams at the event.

*Kim Frazer, Tournament Organiser*

### RECENT RESULTS

#### Thwaites Mixed Pairs

##### Championship

- 1 E. Samuel – J. Fust
- 2 C. Lachman – E. Weisinger
- 3 L. Henbest – B. Kingham

##### Plate

- 1 F. Beale – R. van Riel
- 2 M. Tencer – M. Chrapot
- 3 H. Snashall – C. Haugh

##### Consolation

- 1 H. Stewart – A. Murray
- 2 M. Glenn – C. Chakravorty
- 3 K. Muntz – R. Stewart

#### Unmixed Pairs

- 1 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 2 M. Yuill – M. Allison
- 3 J. Hare – K. Fong

**Ailsa Tandy Eclectic Pairs - Monday**

- 1 M. Tauman – B. van Eijk
- 2 A. Branicki – M. Gurfinkel
- 3 F. Shapiro – J. Shapiro

**Ailsa Tandy Eclectic Pairs - Wednesday**

- 1 V. Daly – M. Adams
- 2 H. Flanders – H. Snashall
- 3 J. Atkinson – E. Matheson

**Open Interstate Butler – Stage 3**

- 1 F. Beale – R. van Riel
- 2 S. Arber – H. de Jong
- 3 J. Magee – T. Strong

**Victorian Open Team Playoff**

- 1 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, L. Gold, S. Hinge, P. Hollands, M. Henbest
- 2 F. Beale, R. van Riel, S. Arber, H. de Jong, J. Magee, T. Strong

**Team of 3**

- 1 A. Segal, M. Tildesley, E. Samuel, R. Kaplan
- 2 D. Middleton, L. Attwood, P. Knightly, W. Jacobs
- 3 S. Wanz, S. Mould, J. Pike, J. Alexander



Team of 3 winners (l-r): Margaret Tildesley, Rena Kaplan, Eva Samuel and Alkmini Segal

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

Graduate Master	Rhonda Zylbersztajn
Club Master	Michael Small
Local Master	Peter Robert
**Local Master	Gerald Snowden
*National Master	Lindy Anderson Alkmini Segal
Life Master	Greg Lewin

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**

**Problem 1:**

Dir: East      ♠ Q  
 Vul: E/W      ♥ 10942  
                   ♦ J10872  
                   ♣ AK8

♠ 5              N  
 ♥ Q865        W              E  
 ♦ K95                              S  
 ♣ Q10643

West	North	East	South
Pass		2♠*	Pass
Pass	D'ble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

\* Weak two

You lead your spade and partner wins ♠A and continues ♠J, won by declarer's ♠K. Declarer starts diamonds, ♦A then ♦Q. You hold off and take the third round, partner throwing a spade.

Now you have to lead from a round suit. What is your next card?

**Problem 2:**

Dir: North      ♠ AQ9  
 Vul: All        ♥ A982  
                   ♦ A83  
                   ♣ 954

♠ 43              N  
 ♥ K1075        W              E  
 ♦ KQ96                              S  
 ♣ AKQ

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

\* Majors, 4+/4+

Full of hope, you start with top clubs, winning tricks 1 and 2. Declarer's second card is ♣J and partner has signalled *odd*. Should you continue clubs and force declarer, or is it better to switch to ♦K?

Solutions on page 8.



**PANACHE - XVIII**  
**Ben Thompson**

I woke up early the morning of my stepson Rob's wedding and snuck a peek at a few boards of the Vanderbilt semi-final and luckily saw this spectacular hand for the eventual winners unfold live.

Dir: North	♠ K5		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q973		
	♦ KJ1087		
	♣ J9		
♠ 9		N	♠ Q6
♥ A52		W      E	♥ KJ10864
♦ 32		S	♦ Q954
♣ KQ108753			♣ 6
	♠ AJ1087432		
	♥ -		
	♦ A6		
	♣ A42		

West	North Cheek	East	South Grue
	Pass	2♥	4♦
4♥	4NT	Pass	5NT
7♣	Pass!	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Joe Grue (aka Joe Boo) was on the youthful USA2 team that impressively won the silver medal at last year's world championship. He's well-known as an unorthodox bidder who backs it up with rapid and exceptional card play. Curtis Cheek is his regular partner, although not in the worlds last year.

Many experts play 4♣ and 4♦ over a weak 2 opening as Leaping Michaels – showing 5-5 in that suit and the other major. Grue-Cheek play 4♦ as a strong 4♠ bid, which lets them use 4♥ next as a mild slam try. Here, Cheek loved his ♠Kx and diamond trick source and just wheeled out keycard Blackwood. Grue's 5NT showed 3 keycards plus a void (obviously in hearts).

West decided he was going to sacrifice over 6♠, so he went big now to put the pressure on. Cheek found a pass, which looks plain but is actually an expert special, confirming his side holds all the keycards and expressing interest in 7♠. Grue accepted the invite, perhaps because 7♣ doubled might have been very cheap.

Now the spotlight was on him to make 7♠. Let's think it through with him. Clearly you're going to need 4 diamond tricks to make the grand slam.

Grue took advantage of West's 7♣ bid. He was very confident that he had 3 hearts and 7 clubs from the bidding and initial play (East didn't ruff the club lead). That left only 3 cards in spades and diamonds. Therefore, the real choices are to cater for West having a spade void (draw trumps starting with ♠K, then play for ♦Q with West), or handle West's likely diamond shortage (cash ♠A, ♦AK, then run ♦J, playing for West to have one spade and two diamonds; if he has singleton ♦Q, you can shift to drawing trumps when ♦A drops it).

A West diamond shortage is nearly 5 times more likely than a spade void with the ♦Q, so Grue followed the 2<sup>nd</sup> line (while the commentators were still debating the auction) and claimed before East followed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond.

At the other table, South just overcalled 4♠, and the competitive auction petered out in 6♠. In the other semi-final, one NS pair defended 5♥ doubled for just 500 ... and gained 12 imps when the world champion South in their other room, on an uninformative auction, tried ducking a club at trick 2 in 6♠, losing ♣Q and a club ruff next. Declarer should really have played ♣A before ducking one, but he paid a huge 26 imp net price for his relatively small sin.

Expert aside: West's 7♣ was a better choice than 6♣. 6♣ would have let Cheek bid 6♦, confirming all the keycards, and telling Grue about his potential trick source to help him evaluate his hand. In principle, once you've decided where you're going, stop fooling around and just get there.

### The takeaway

Be very very careful about taking a revealing sacrifice. You may jockey the opponents into a poor contract that you've just told them how to make. As declarer, make the opponents pay when they roadmap the hand for you.

**GADGET CITY**  
**Bill Jacobs**

*In this series, we present some bidding ideas that you may not be familiar with, but have merit. Most of these gadgets can be applied to natural systems.*

**Long and Short Suit Game Tries**

You open 1♠ and partner raises to 2♠. What would you bid with either of these hands:

- A. ♠ AKxxx ♥ Qxxx ♦ Ax ♣ Kx
- B. ♠ KJxxxx ♥ AJ10x ♦ Kx ♣ x

On hand A, a long-suit game try in hearts might be helpful. You want partner to have fillers in hearts, or perhaps shortage there with four trumps.

For hand B, you would like to make a short suit try in clubs, so that partner will downgrade any secondary values in that suit: the king or the queen.

Can you have your cake and eat it? Yes, if you are prepared to forego a natural 2NT rebid. Opener's rebids are:

- 3♣/3♦/3♥: long-suit game try
- 2NT: short suit game try – responder bids 3♣, and now opener bids his short suit (3♠ is a short suit try in clubs)

So simple!

What about the auction 1♥ - 2♥? In this case, the rebids are a little trickier:

- 2♠: short suit game try – responder bids 2NT, and now opener bids his short suit (3♥ is a short suit try in spades)
- 2NT: long-suit game try in spades
- 3♣: long-suit game try in clubs
- 3♦: long suit game try in diamonds

Essentially, after both 1♥ and 1♠ are raised, the next step bid introduces a short suit game try; other bids are long-suit tries.

The only downside of this gadget is that you lose the natural 2NT rebid by opener. If you play 4-card Acol (where the opening bid only

promises 4-cards in the suit), then 2NT needs to be reserved as a natural bid, and you cannot play the long and short suit tries.

But if you play 5-card majors, the natural 2NT bid is not really required. With some 5332 hand and invitational values, you can make a long-suit try, or re-raise the agreed major to the 3-level as a general invitation.

You should still be able to reach 3NT on the occasions where that is the right contract – all you have lost is the ability to declare in 2NT, and reaching 2NT after 1♥ or 1♠ has been raised to two is hardly a mission priority!

**Like to play Pairs events for IMPs?  
Then April is your month ...**

*Fred Altman Swiss Pairs, and  
Women's State Team Selection (Stage 1)*  
Four Wednesday evenings: April 4, 11, 18, May 2

*ANZAC Day Swiss Pairs*  
Wednesday April 25, starting at 10 am

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

Dealer: N ♠ 8  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 1098753  
 IMPs ♦ A9843  
 ♣ 5

N
S

♠ AK53  
 ♥ AK42  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ AKJ

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

West leads ♠J and you win ♠A. When you cash ♥A, East discards a spade.

What now? Solution over page.

### THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

Dealer: N	♠ 8		
Vul: N/S	♥ 1098753		
IMPs	♦ A9843		
	♣ 5		
♠ J109		♠ Q7642	
♥ QJ6		♥ -	
♦ K102		♦ J65	
♣ 9643		♣ Q10872	
	♠ AK53		
	♥ AK42		
	♦ Q7		
	♣ AKJ		

With a certain trump loser, you need to avoid a diamond loser. It's a bit much to ask for the ♦K to drop singleton, so maybe an endplay is in order?

You can certainly endplay West with a trump, and hope that he also has ♦K, but you will need a trump in both your hands at this point, in case West has a black card to play.

To retain a trump in dummy at the point of the endplay, you can only afford to ruff two black cards ... two spades. So you need to take an apparently practice finesse in clubs.

The correct sequence of plays after a round of trumps is: second top heart, spade ruff, club to the **jack**, club ace and king, spade king, spade ruff, and finally a heart to endplay West.

If the club jack loses to the queen, you will have to suffer through partner's exposition of elementary card combinations, but that's life.

### Vale Derrick Davis

Derrick, a long-time member of the VBA, passed away last month following a long illness. He was 71 years old.

Derrick donated many clocks to affiliated clubs especially the VBA and the (then) Borin Bridge Centre and they still proudly sit on the walls of these clubs. He also sponsored many events with his clocks as he was the owner of Cobb & Co clocks. Of the many bridge players' weddings he attended they always received a clock from Derrick.

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

#### Problem 1

Dlr: East	♠ Q		
Vul: E/W	♥ 10942		
	♦ J10872		
	♣ AK8		
♠ 5		♠ AJ109843	
♥ Q865		♥ K73	
♦ K95		♦ 64	
♣ Q10643		♣ 9	
	♠ K762		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ AQ3		
	♣ J752		

How can you tell? Declarer has 7 tricks, 1+?+4+2, 8 if he has ♥A. Partner's other high card, if any, has to be in hearts. So play partner for ♥A or ♥K by continuing ♥Q. Any other card is fatal. A low heart kills partner's ♥K and declarer, having started with ♥AJ, can establish dummy's hearts.

Would it have helped if partner's discard on the third diamond had been ♠10?<sup>1</sup>

#### Problem 2

Dlr: West	♠ AQ9		
Vul: N/S	♥ A982		
	♦ A83		
	♣ 954		
♠ 43		♠ J52	
♥ K1075		♥ 3	
♦ KQ96		♦ 10752	
♣ AKQ		♣ 108632	
	♠ K10876		
	♥ QJ64		
	♦ J4		
	♣ J7		

♦K is not only better, it's essential. If you continue clubs, declarer will ruff, play to a spade, then a low heart to ♥Q. After you win and play ♦K, declarer will win ♦A, play to ♥J then draw trumps by finessing. It doesn't help to allow ♥Q to win. Moral: safety first!

<sup>1</sup> Absolutely! ♠10 tells me two things: spades are solid and East has a suit preference for a high suit, in this case hearts.

Defence is hard enough as it is: any little nugget from partner will always be appreciated ... BJ