

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

PayPal Available for VCC

Thanks to the terrific work by Blaine Howe and Neil Ewart, we now have PayPal operating for the VCC entries. Our first entries have been processed using the facility and we have had only minor queries regarding its use. We are continuing to work on improving the VCC entry site to ensure instructions are clear for members.

We plan to expand the PayPal payment facility over the coming months by enabling this for other regular VBA Events that can be pre-entered via the VBA website. Implementation of this facility will reduce the time spent by our staff on credit card and money handling.

Get our Calendar Electronically

The VBA electronic calendar is now available. Now you can look up directions to a congress event on your smart phone by simply clicking on the calendar link. The online VBA Google Calendar is called VBAssn@gmail.com. For those tech-savvy users, simply add this calendar to your iPhone or other smartphone, sync it and away you go. For those who have never added a calendar to their smart phone before, visit our website www.vba.asn.au to download detailed instructions available on our home page.

Bridgemates are Go

The VBA now has its bridgemates up and running for all sessions. Whilst we have been using these for some time for state events, there were some training and computer issues to resolve before these could be implemented for regular duplicate days. The units were first used in duplicate sessions during April, and from all accounts the sessions have been trouble free and the units well received by players. Thanks to Laurie Kelso for conducting the training for all directors and Rob Stewart for setting up the computers and software.

Less than 40 days to the VCC

Victoria's premier bridge event, the Victor Champion Cup, is on next month over the Queen's Birthday weekend. Entries have started coming in on our newly created website, and we are looking forward to a great 5 days of bridge at the Bayview Eden on Queens Road. With Gold Points on offer for all events, together with great opportunities for players of all classes to compete, we encourage players to support our home Gold Point event.

To enter, or for more details on the program, visit our website www.vba.asn.au/vcc.



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/vcc

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a matchpoint duplicate, you pick up, with no one vulnerable:

♠ K94 ♥ A762 ♦ 75 ♣ 9742

Partner deals and opens 1♣, next hand overcalls 1♠, and it is your bid.

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | ? |

If RHO had passed, you would have responded 1♥, but the 1♠ overcall has prevented that.

In this scenario, where partner's 1-minor opening has been overcalled with 1♠, a *double* by you is a substitute for a 1♥ response. This is not like other negative, or takeout, doubles, where the double suggests support for *all* the unbid suits. Specifically after a 1♠ overcall of 1-of-a-minor, the double simply shows hearts, without reference to the other suits.

In this example, your double does not show anything in diamonds ... basically, partner should rebid as though the auction has gone 1♣ - 1♥.

You double, and the auction continues:

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|-----|---------|------|-------|
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | D'ble |
| 2♠ | Pass | Pass | ? |

With only 7 high-card points, you could pass out 2♠. Alternatively, you could bid 3♣, supporting partner's clubs.

Which is it to be?

Partner's 1♣ opening promised no more than 3 clubs, so on the surface it seems risky to bid 3♣ now. But can partner have only 3 clubs? A short-club opening is only needed when partner has a 4-card major, and that doesn't seem to be the case here. He certainly doesn't have 4 spades on this

bidding, and with 4 hearts, he would likely have supported your hearts when he had the chance.

Therefore partner should have at least 4 clubs, and it would be pusillanimous to sell out to 2♠.

You push on with 3♣, but RHO is not finished:

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|------|---------|------|----------|
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | D'ble |
| 2♠ | Pass | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | Pass | 3♠ | All Pass |

You have forced them up to the three-level, and now have to make a lead.

I suggest a minor suit lead. Leading a heart from Axxx is unwise, and a trump lead will simply do declarer's work for him. A club lead, partner's suit, or a diamond lead, hoping to develop a diamond ruff, are both promising options.

If you choose a club, you should lead a *high* spot card. This suggests you don't have an honour in that suit, and partner will not be misled into thinking you have led from top of a doubleton, because you showed longer clubs with your 3♣ bid. Leading the second-highest spot from a long honourless suit is the recommended approach.

You lead the club seven, and see this:

| | |
|--------|---------|
| ♠ K94 | ♠ J763 |
| ♥ A762 | ♥ QJ109 |
| ♦ 75 | ♦ 1094 |
| ♣ 9742 | ♣ Q3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

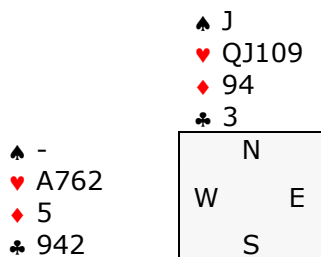
Declarer plays ♣Q, covered with ♣K and won with ♣A. He now plays ♠A, dropping partner's ♠Q and a second spade, to your ♠K, partner discarding a club.

Your play.

If partner has a club winner, it will keep. So will your heart tricks. Diamonds is the suit to attack now ... there is a real chance that partner has $\heartsuit AK$, in which case, you can get a ruff with your remaining spade.

You switch to $\heartsuit 7$ (top from the doubleton), to dummy's $\heartsuit 10$, partner's $\heartsuit K$, and declarer's $\heartsuit A$. Disappointing ... no diamond ruff.

Declarer draws your last trump with his $\heartsuit 10$, and plays a low heart in this position:

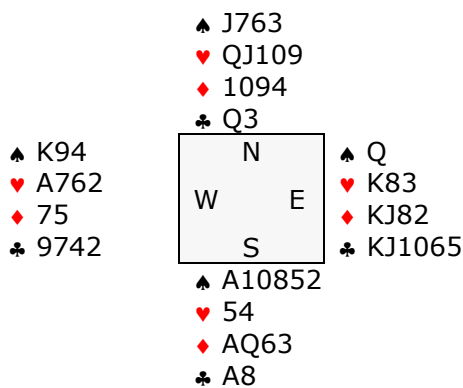


Any ideas?

Partner's $\heartsuit K$ indicates that he doesn't have $\heartsuit Q$... with $\heartsuit KQ$, he would have played the lower honour on the first round of diamonds. Therefore, he must have the $\heartsuit K$ to make up his opening bid.

Assuming he also has a club winner, you can see four tricks: a club, a spade and two hearts. The fifth and setting trick will need to come from diamonds, and this is still possible should partner have the $\heartsuit J8$ remaining. You must hop up with $\heartsuit A$, and play a diamond in order to trap dummy's $\heartsuit 9$.

This is necessary, as the full deal is:



Your diamond continuation develops a diamond trick for your side, and you defeat

$3\heartsuit$, winning two hearts and a trick in each other suit. What hard work that was!

Points to remember:

- After your minor suit opening is overcalled with $1\heartsuit$, a double from you simply says that you would have responded $1\heartsuit$. It makes no reference to any other suit. (If you have 5+ hearts, and 10+ points, you can bid $2\heartsuit$ directly as an alternative ... the double is needed when you have only four hearts, or less than 10 points.)
- The play of the hand is often a race. Declarer races to establish his winners, while the defenders race to establish theirs. This deal was a classic race, where the defence had to take every opportunity to develop two minor suit tricks, to go with their three major suit tricks.

In fact you were on lead three times on that deal: once on opening lead, and twice more when in with $\heartsuit K$ and $\heartsuit A$. You had to use the three leads to lead a minor (in any order). If you don't, declarer makes $3\heartsuit$.

\heartsuit \heartsuit \heartsuit \heartsuit

RECENT RESULTS

VBA Simultaneous Pairs

N/S

- 1 J. Masters – T. Cowie
- 2 S. Arber – H. Silver
- 3 S. Tishler – A. Segal

E/W

- 1 A. Paul – J. Hare
- 2 M. Chrapot – L. Meyer
- 3 M. Yuill – B. Lindsay

ANZAC Day Swiss Pairs

Section A

- 1 S. Tishler – A. Segal
- 2 N. Ewart – B. Howe
- 3 E. Caplan – R. Kaplan

Section B

- 1 A. Murray – H. Stewart
- 2 J. Griffith – M. Ohlson
- 3 B. Morgan – M. Morgan

BRIDGE AGAINST THE MAGOOS
Bill Jacobs

Mr Magoo was a cartoon character from the 1950s whose extreme near-sightedness would accidentally be of benefit in the various situations in which he found himself.



If he, and his equally sight-challenged wife Mrs Magoo, played bridge ...

I always have trouble against this husband-wife partnership. They have no idea what good bridge is, but it seems not to matter: again and again, they stitch me right up – the worse they play, the better their results.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ AQ ♥ AQ1042 ♦ 653 ♣ AQ9 | N W E S | ♠ KJ95 ♥ 975 ♦ 84 ♣ 10876 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ 108732 ♥ KJ8 ♦ AQ ♣ 532 | N W E S | ♠ 64 ♥ 63 ♦ KJ10972 ♣ KJ4 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|

| West Mrs Magoo | North | East Mr Magoo | South Me |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------|
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Our auction was normal but unfortunate, exposing North's ♠AQ to the lead. A spade was indeed led, but when Mr Magoo played the jack on dummy's queen, it seemed that there was no harm done in wrong-siding 3NT. I suppose jacks and kings must look alike to Mr Magoo.

Now I just needed to find the diamond queen onside, and got a second piece of good news when Mrs Magoo took the diamond jack with the ace.

I happily won the second spade and repeated the diamond finesse, nearly falling off my

chair when Mrs Magoo found her queen. Three more spade tricks put paid to 3NT.

At the end of the deal, I peered into Mrs Magoo's hand (*my* eyesight is perfect) and saw the ♥KJ8. It was as I feared. If *either* Mr Magoo had played ♠K on ♠Q, or Mrs Magoo had played ♦Q on ♦J, I would have been left with no option other than to hope for the heart miracle that was there in the cards - taking one spade, three clubs and five heart tricks.

Only the combined Magoo myopia could beat me in 3NT.

I thought that never ever could I be fixed like that again, when on the very next deal ...

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ AK ♥ 6 ♦ KJ98753 ♣ 542 | N W E S | ♠ J932 ♥ 752 ♦ AQ ♣ Q763 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ♠ Q8654 ♥ 984 ♦ 1062 ♣ K10 | N W E S | ♠ 107 ♥ AKQJ103 ♦ 4 ♣ AJ98 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|

I declared 6♥ and Mrs Magoo led ♥9. I won that, led a diamond up, and after some thought, decided to play the ♦K.

Mr Magoo smoothly followed with ♦Q!!

Do you blame me for deducing that diamonds must be breaking 4-1, and therefore I lacked the entries to dummy to establish the suit?

Of course you don't, and so you also don't blame me for switching to clubs, hoping that I could take three tricks in that suit (easy enough if East has ♣10 and at least one of the higher honours).

The rest was just too predictable. When I played a club to the nine, Mrs Magoo won with the king, and she also took the club ten later. If she had won the first club with the ten, I would have had no option but to revert to diamonds, ruffing out the ♦A and claiming my contract.

I need to find an easier game.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dlr: South ♠ KJ107642
 Vul: nil ♥ 762
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 6

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ A85
 ♥ J1085
 ♦ K87
 ♣ A94

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 4♥ | Pass | 1NT* |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 4♠ |

* 15-17

You lead ♥J and partner's ♥4 is ambiguous. Declarer wins ♥A and plays ♠3 and dummy's ♠10 wins. Next comes ♦9 which runs to your ♦K, partner's card showing an even number.

You have to decide what comes next.

Problem 2:

Dlr: East ♠ AK1043
 Vul: All ♥ AQ
 ♦ 86532
 ♣ 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ QJ985
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A7
 ♣ A1062

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 3♠ | 3♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 3NT |

You lead ♥7, won in dummy by ♥A, partner following ♥J. Declarer starts on diamonds, ♦2 to partner's ♦9, ♦J and you win ♦A. What next?

Solutions on page 8.



Autumn Nationals - Adelaide

Congratulations to Laura Ginnan and Lucy Henbest, who tied for first place in the Women's Pairs in Adelaide.



Laura Ginnan (left) and Lucy Henbest (right)

Leigh Gold (partnering Richard Jedrychowski from Sydney) was runner-up in the Open Pairs.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: S ♠ K10872
 Vul: All ♥ 5
 IMPs ♦ AJ98742
 ♣ -

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | N | |
| | S | |

♠ AJ943
 ♥ A8
 ♦ Q1063
 ♣ J5

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| 2♠* | 4♥ | 6♥ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | Pass |

* Michaels: hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

♥K is led, won by your ace.

What now? Solution on page 8.



George does it again

Congratulations to George Gaspar who, partnered with Bob Richman, has qualified for the Australian Seniors Team, to compete later this year in the World Mind Sports Games, in Lille, France.

PANACHE - XIX
Ben Thompson

Sometimes you have to be a little sneaky at bridge. How do you sniff out sneakiness?

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------------|---------|
| Dir: South | ♠ 93 | | |
| Vul: N/S | ♥ J543 | | |
| | ♦ KQ62 | | |
| | ♣ QJ6 | | |
| ♠ KQ8 | | N W E S | ♠ 2 |
| ♥ Q10 | | | ♥ A9762 |
| ♦ 10975 | | | ♦ J843 |
| ♣ A942 | | | ♣ 863 |
| | ♠ AJ107654 | | |
| | ♥ K8 | | |
| | ♦ A | | |
| | ♣ K105 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 4♠ |

4♠ is a little agricultural, but there's a vulnerable game bonus at stake, so why not give it a swing? West leads the ♦10, and you see that dummy has a maximum (nice work, partner) but the diamonds are blocked (try harder next time, partner).

If you only have one spade loser, you're a decent chance to make by playing ♠A and another one. If lefty is winning tricks, he can't ever play a red suit. The only problem you'll ever have is if righty wins a trick and puts a low heart through to make you guess them on the spot.

However, if you have 2 spade losers (and you do), you've got 4 top losers. To imagine how to make 4♠, put yourself in the defenders' shoes. They don't necessarily know what their tricks are, and it's not necessarily clear to them how they should be cashing them (cashing and/or underleading aces is fraught with danger).

You need to finagle your way to dummy to cash your diamond winners. Usually, the earlier you finagle, the harder it is for the defence to figure out what's going on. It probably won't hurt if you only have one spade loser, so try a low club at trick 2. If you score dummy's ♣Q, ka-ching with the ♦KQ!

Now let's think about it from West's point of view. First of all, don't follow with a low club quickly. You can always afford to think this kind of situation through. What's going on?

What's the diamond layout? Your partnership should signal count in this situation and West should know East has an even number of diamonds by his play at trick 1. So declarer started with either singleton ♦A, or ♦Axx.

Next question - why is declarer playing a club instead of, say, a trump? It looks like he's trying to get to dummy, for whatever reason. But if he started with ♦Axx, why didn't he just win ♦K in dummy at trick 1? Because that wasn't his holding.

For sure declarer wants to pitch some losers on ♦KQ. Don't let him - win ♣A. If you're still signalling count, you know declarer has odd clubs and probably even hearts (because declarer probably has 7 spades). Declarer is unlikely to have a hand where switching to a heart costs (only ♥AKx and 2 or 3 small clubs, and he might have just started with trumps on that sort of hand), so put one of your hearts on the table.

13 of the 25 declarers in 4♠ made it, even against some very good players. That's a lot of successful finagling.

Expert aside: Declarer against me played ♠A and another spade. Partner carefully pitched ♣8, reverse attitude, showing that he disliked clubs. That made it simple for me to shift to a heart, simpler than if declarer had tried a low club at trick 2.

The takeaway

The earlier you try something sneaky, the more likely you are to get away with it. If declarer gives you a chance to signal before he finagles, think about what partner's problem might be and try to help him out.



Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan

"The Closed Room is playing faster than the Open Room. They have easier hands in there."

"It is well known that in third seat, you must have 13 cards to open the bidding."

GADGET CITY
Bill Jacobs

Transfers over 1♣

This is the latest transfer craze, and for good reason. After partner opens 1♣, you make a simple switch of suit responses:

- 1♦ = hearts
- 1♥ = spades
- 1♠ = diamonds

After the 1♦ and 1♥ responses, opener has a new option: to accept the transfer, thereby keeping the bidding at a lower level.

To see how useful this is, consider the following two hands for opener:

- A. ♠ xxx ♥ xx ♦ AKx ♣ AJxxx
- B. ♠ J10x ♥ A ♦ AKxx ♣ K10xxx

You open 1♣, and partner bids a natural 1♠.

With hand A, you have only unpleasant alternatives: rebid 1NT with two-small in an unbid suit, or 2♣ with a short weak suit, or 2♠ with rotten 'support'.

With hand B, you also have only unpleasant alternatives: rebid 2♣ with an even worse suit, reverse into 2♦ with inadequate values, or again make a single raise, this time with a hand that's too good.

This rebid dilemma is quite common – indeed, hand B is straight from Session 2 of the Fred Altman Swiss Pairs / Women's Stage 1, which was played just as I was writing this article.

Now try playing transfer responses: partner responds 1♥, showing spades. On both hands A and B, you can accept the transfer, bidding 1♠, promising at least 3-card support. Partner bids naturally from there, and you will be able to explore the various strains at a low level.

You can choose what meanings to assign to the 1♠, 2♠ and 3♠ bids after the 1♥ transfer response: as long as 1♠ takes in hands that include 3-card support, you will be way ahead of the non-transferrers.

One possible scheme of rebids is, after for example 1♣ - 1♥ (showing spades), is:

- 1♠ = 3-card spade support, forcing, or a very strong hand with 4 spades
- 2♠ = 4 spades, minimum opening
- 3♠ = 4 spades, 16-18 points, invitational

Are there any downsides to these transfer responses? Precious few, if you ask me.

The diamond suit takes a back seat ... rather than being the first suit shown in up-the-line bidding, it is the last suit. With 4-4 in diamonds and a major, you start by showing the major. With 5 or more diamonds, and a 4-card major, you show the major first, unless you are strong enough to bid twice, in which case you can respond 1♠, showing diamonds, then bid your major later. This is analogous to having 5 clubs and a 4-card major when partner opens 1♦. You respond in the major, unless you are strong enough to respond 2♣ and show the major later.

The transfer response into a major gives your opponents an extra bid with which to enter the auction: that's no big deal. Conversely, the 1♠ response, showing diamonds, might make it harder for the opponents to show a major suit, compared to the natural auction 1♣ - 1♦.

Many players are now so in love with transfer responses that they strive to open 1♣ whenever they can, including with all 4432 or 4333 shapes. Some even go so far as to open 1♣ with a 4441 and a singleton club. This means that a 1♦ opening guarantees a 5-card diamond suit.

Perhaps that is taking matters too far: what you gain in definition for your 1♦ opening must be balanced by the cost of having your 1♣ opening not promise any length whatsoever in clubs. The middle position is to have 1♣ promise at least a doubleton club, and for 1♦ to promise either 5+ diamonds or exactly 4441 shape.

Transfer responses to 1NT revolutionized notrump bidding in the 1970s. It became so standard that they are now taught at even the novice level.

We are in the midst of a similar revolution with responses to 1♣.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: South ♠ KJ107642
 Vul: nil ♥ 762
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 6

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| ♠ A85 | N | ♠ 9 |
| ♥ J1085 | W E | ♥ K43 |
| ♦ K87 | S | ♦ Q632 |
| ♣ A94 | | ♣ KJ872 |

♠ Q3
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ AJ104
 ♣ Q1053

You have taken one trick and can see two more. Is there a hurry for ♣A? Where is your fourth trick coming from? That ♦9 has all the hallmarks of a finesse. If so, it can be repeated with success, *provided South can cross to dummy*. At the moment, you are in control of that. So keep it so and play ♥5 hoping to establish the setting trick in hearts.

Problem 2

Dir: East ♠ AK1043
 Vul: All ♥ AQ
 ♦ 86532
 ♣ 3

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| ♠ QJ985 | N | ♠ 76 |
| ♥ 73 | W E | ♥ J1098542 |
| ♦ A7 | S | ♦ K9 |
| ♣ A1062 | | ♣ J8 |

♠ 2
 ♥ K6
 ♦ QJ104
 ♣ KQ9754

What to make of ♥J? Surely partner can't possibly want a spade? Declarer must have ♥K, so partner needs 7 hearts and an outside card for his vulnerable 3♥. Where is that card? The answer must be "diamonds". Just continue ♥3 and wait.

This deal was played in the 2012 Vanderbilt teams in USA, and as it went West (confused?) returned a low spade at trick 3. The declarer, Eric Rodwell, who has been in a desperate contract before, finessed ♠10! and made his contract. As our editor sagely observed, the experts make you pay for your mistakes.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ♠ Q65 ♥ KQJ97 ♦ - ♣ K9643 | N W E S | ♠ - ♥ 106432 ♦ K5 ♣ AQ10872 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|

♠ K10872
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AJ98742
 ♣ -
 ♠ AJ943
 ♥ A8
 ♦ Q1063
 ♣ J5

If spades are 3-0, the only threat to the contract, you wouldn't want to cash a spade honour from the wrong hand.

To avoid this, consider the bizarre alternative of playing first on your side suit of diamonds. Lead a diamond at trick two, and if LHO follows low, finesse with the jack.

If RHO wins ♦K, then play him for three spades – LHO can no longer have all three spades, as he has promised at least 10-cards in the other two suits.

If RHO ruffs the diamond (LHO having started with ♦Kx), your problems are over.

And if LHO shows out on the diamond play, as in the diagram, win ♦A, then play him for all three spades. You will go down if LHO happens to have started with 13 cards in two suits, but he would surely have bid 7♥ with such a hand.

Going to Darwin?

Here's a tip. If you are planning on playing in the Australian National Championships in Darwin, do not delay in booking your accommodation.

Darwin in July is a popular destination, and finding suitable accommodation will not be easy. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be.