

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

COUNCIL NEWS

Review of Congress Allocation Policy

At its June meeting, the council agreed that the policy for allocation of congresses to clubs would be reviewed. The increase in the number of clubs in the state applying for congress dates means the calendar is now quite busy. Clubs who wish to make any submissions for consideration towards the revamp of the policy are invited to forward these to Cathie Lachman at info@vba.asn.au.

A request for applications from clubs for 2013 congress dates will also be sent out in July.

Club Data on the Web

We are continuing in our efforts to ensure club data on the web is accurate and current. We urge clubs to check their own data after AGMs and when other information changes to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available for visitors to the web. Any changes to data should be notified to Cathie Lachman at info@vba.asn.au

Congress Support

As part of the VBA's support for promotion of club congresses, we remind clubs that they are welcome to place one half page ad per annum in the VBA Bulletin at no charge. Ads should be forwarded to the VBA at info@vba.asn.au. Other advertising in the VBA Bulletin may be purchased at reasonable rates. Contact Cathie at the VBA for more details.

STATE TEAMS FOR DARWIN ANC

We wish all our teams good luck for Darwin:

Open: Bill Jacobs (c), Ben Thompson, Simon Hinge, Leigh Gold, Peter Hollands, Max Henbest

Women: Lucy Henbest, Laura Ginnan, Gabby Wilson, Lesley Clark-Samuels, Jill Magee, Helen Snashall, Laurie Kelso (npc)

Seniors: Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Sam Arber, Henri de Jong, Bob Gallus, Stephen Weisz, Laurie Kelso (npc)

Youth: Ella Pattison, Angus Munro, Nathan Howard, Peter Bolling, Ellena Moskovsky, Jamie Thompson, Grant Kilvington (npc)

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This biennial event will be held late July in Taicang China. Australia/New Zealand is sending a team for each of the three divisions, and half of its participants are from Victoria. What an impressive statistic that is! Our representatives are:

Under 26: Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Liam Milne, David Thompson (npc)

Under 21: Ellena Moskovsky, Jamie Thompson

Girls: Pascale Gardiner, Laura Ginnan, Lucy Henbest, Ella Pattison

DO YOU OR DON'T YOU?

In an important teams match, you are the dealer at favourable vulnerability with:

♠ K87652 ♥ J ♦ QJ106 ♣ 107

You open 2♠ and the auction explodes:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
		2♠	2NT
3♠	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♣	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	?	

Do you or don't you? See page 6 for the answer.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a team event, no one is vulnerable and you hold:

♠ KQ ♥ 1084 ♦ Q96 ♣ Q9842

Partner is the dealer and opens 2♥, a weak two bid showing 6-10 points and a 6-card suit. Next hand passes, and it is your bid.

From your side's perspective, you are perfectly happy to play 2♥, so you could pass here. But what can the opponents make? You don't know, but it is entirely possible that they can make a lot of tricks in spades, maybe as many as 10 tricks.

In that case, it might be worth extending the pre-emptive effect of partner's bidding by raising to 3♥. This is not inviting partner to bid more. The best way to respond to weak two openings is via the acronym RONF: Raise Only Non Force. This means that 2NT is a strong bid investigating game, new suits are natural and forcing on opener, and raises are the non-forcing options.

You decide to up the ante to 3♥, but this does not silence the opponents and the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♥	Pass	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Partner leads ♥A, and you see:

Dir: West	♠ 9862									
Vul: Nil	♥ 53									
	♦ K832									
	♣ AJ5									
	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S	
N										
W		E								
	S									
	♠ KQ									
	♥ 1084									
	♦ Q96									
	♣ Q9842									

Partner follows up with ♥K, on which declarer plays ♥Q. Next she leads ♣3, ♣5 is played from dummy, and you have to decide what card to insert.

If partner has ♣K, you better play the ♣Q, as that is the setting trick against 4♠: you have a certain trump trick.

But will partner have ♣K? You can be sure that partner started with ♥AKJxxx: add the ♣K and she has 11 good points and would almost certainly have opened 1♥ and not 2♥. Moreover, if she did have ♣K, she would not want to lead away from that card at trick 3.

You insert ♣8, and are pleased to see declarer win ♣K. Declarer continues with a club to the ace, and a third club, which he ruffs, partner following with ♠10.

Next declarer plays ace and a small spade, partner following ♠3, ♠10, and you win your spade trick.

What do you do?

What you do is count out declarer's shape. He is known to have 5 spades and 2 clubs. Partner has 6 hearts, which leaves 2 hearts for declarer. Declarer's shape is 5242.

So what do you do?

Don't touch the diamond suit. Instead give declarer a useless ruff and discard by leading a heart or a club. With a 4-4 diamond fit, declarer can discard a diamond from one of his hands, but you will still take any diamond trick that you might deserve. You hope that partner can contribute ♦J, or if not, that declarer mis-guesses the suit.

The full deal:

	♠ 9862									
	♥ 53									
	♦ K832									
	♣ AJ5									
♠ 103	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W		E		S	
N										
W		E								
	S									
♥ AKJ976	♠ KQ									
♦ J4	♥ 1084									
♣ 1073	♦ Q96									
	♣ Q9842									
	♠ AJ754									
	♥ Q2									
	♦ A1075									
	♣ K6									

Declarer can ruff your exit and discard a diamond, but a diamond loser is inevitable, and the contract must go down one.

If you had switched to a diamond, whichever one you chose, declarer can avoid the loss of a trick in that suit with good play.

Points to remember:

- The pre-emptive raise from 2♥ to 3♥ is like an insurance premium. If you are making 8 tricks in hearts, then you are converting +110 into -50 by raising to 3♥, assuming that the opponents were going to pass you out in 2♥. The premium is 4imps: the imp score for a swing of 160.

What you are insuring against is allowing your opponents all the room in the world to investigate their own contract. Take this deal for example: the 3♠ and 4♠ bids were perfectly reasonable, but 4♠ was too high: it is a contract with very little chance of success. Suppose however that you had passed 2♥. Now your LHO bids 2♠, your RHO gives an invitational raise to 3♠, which your LHO passes, having nothing extra for his 2♠ overcall. And there your opponents are, in the right contract ... for them.

- The adage "third hand high" doesn't always work. On this deal, it was a matter of working out that partner could not have ♣K: something you could deduce in two separate ways – from partner's bidding and partner's play. If you had played ♣Q, declarer could have cashed three club tricks, discarding a diamond: *then* when you are chucked in with a trump, there is no escape.
- Deliberately giving away a ruff and discard by leading a suit where both declarer and dummy are void can be right in two situations: one is when it eats away at declarer's trump control; the other is in this deal, where a discard is of no value. To work this out, you have to count out declarer's shape: an excellent habit to get into!



BOOK REVIEW

Free Range Bridge is no ordinary bridge book. It is written by Mary Lynch from Frankston, and is targeted specifically at women players.

Free Range Bridge Not For Chickens



by **Mary Lynch**
illustrations by Sergio Vuolo

WOMEN ONLY

Free Range Bridge is a bit like a follow-up to Joyce Nicholson's "Why Women Lose at Bridge". It briefly discusses the challenges for women, both physiological and sociological, but then moves directly into solution mode: exploring strategies that women can use to improve their game. It is a particularly practical work. Written in feisty language as one Australian woman talks directly to another (the reader), it is a very easy-to-read book.

Given that about 70% of all duplicate bridge players are women, there's a ready-made reader base!

The price is \$16, including delivery in Australia. You can send a cheque or money order, along with contact details, to Mary Lynch, 675 Nepean Hwy, Frankston Vic, 3199, or email marylynch@dodo.com.au to arrange a direct deposit.

... Bill Jacobs

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dir: South ♠ AK543
 Vul: All ♥ K
 ♦ 1074
 ♣ AK107

♠ Q8752
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A9863
 ♣ J9

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♠	D'ble	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You decide to attack by leading partner's shortage, so ♠5. Dummy wins, partner contributing ♠J. Dummy's ♥K holds the next trick, and ♦4 comes next, partner's ♦5 and you win cheaply. What do you make of all this? You play standard count, and partner would probably play ♠J from ♠J10, but declarer hasn't continued spades. A lot of diamonds are missing, ♦KQJ, yet partner played none of them. Did he start with only 3 diamonds? Perhaps no, he wants you to be on lead. So you out with ♠Q. Declarer retains ♠K, playing low from dummy as partner discards ♣5. How will you proceed?

Problem 2:

Dir: South ♠ AJ53
 Vul: Nil ♥ A1062
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ J72

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K7
 ♥ KJ97
 ♦ 10632
 ♣ A104

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

- 1 playing Standard American
- 2 game-forcing enquiry
- 3 not 3 hearts, not 4 spades

Partner leads ♠6 and dummy follows low. You win ♠K and pause to consider. Partner can have remarkably little, max 4-5 HCP. Where could they be of any help? How to continue?

Solutions on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 J. Thompson, B. Thompson, E. Caplan, W. Jacobs, S. Hinge
- 2 H. de Jong, S. Arber, M. Chrapot, M. Tencer
- 3 P. Moritz, L. Meyer, A. Macready-Bryan, A. Mill, A. Hegedus

VBA Master Pairs

Section A

- 1 R. Gallus – S. Weisz
- 2 S. Klofa – R. Stewart
- 3 A. Branicki – M. Gurfinkiel

Section B

- 1 D. Selwyn – M. Granovski
- 2 E. Linton – E. Matheson
- 3 P. Nolan – M. Porter

Board-a-Match teams

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, S. Hinge, L. Gold
- 2 G. Kilvington, I. McCance, P. Hollands, M. Henbest
- 3 J. Thompson, V. Goldberg, E. Caplan, J. Alexander

June Swiss Pairs

- 1 N. Ewart - B. Howe
- 2 M. Chrapot – M. Tencer
- 3 K. Frazer – K. Muntz

FABCV Croft teams

- 1 T. Gariepy, N. Szuveges, S. Hughes, M. Halfpenny
- 2 P. Hollands, M. Henbest, E. Pattison, P. Gardiner, P. Bolling, N. Howard
- 3 C. Arul, G. Lovrecz, C. Chakravorty, J. Wierucki,

PANACHE - XX
Ben Thompson

Ron Klinger greeted me at the recent Victor Champion Cup with "have you read *Winning Notrump Leads* yet?" Before I could answer, he said "actually, wait here". A few minutes later he was back. "You're very lucky; this is the last copy Paul Lavings had. It'll change your life". OK, thanks Ron.

Dir: North	♠ 9864		
Vul: E/W	♥ K964		
	♦ K2		
	♣ 874		
♠ 105	N	♠ AK32	
♥ 1087	W E	♥ AJ32	
♦ Q109643	S	♦ 8	
♣ 106		♣ KJ95	
	♠ QJ7		
	♥ Q5		
	♦ AJ75		
	♣ AQ32		

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This hand is from the 5th match in the main event. For many of us, that 1♣ opening could be a 3-carder. Most of us shrug our shoulders, figure our side's best chance to score a lot of tricks is the diamond suit, and put a hopeful ♦10 on the table.

Put that diamond back in your hand, says The Book. It turns out that leading a 6-card suit (except a really solid one) is frequently a terrible idea against notrump contracts at all levels. A big part of the reason is that partner often has only 1 or even 0 of them. That means you'll struggle to set the suit up, and even if you do, pard is going to have problems getting back to your hand. And more often than you would like, you actually give away the contract-going trick by breaking open your 6-card suit.

Incidentally, when your suit is shorter, partner's support tends to be longer, which is better for you in terms of setting up and actually enjoying your suit. It seems weird, but you would usually rather have a 5-card suit than a similar 6-card suit on opening lead against notrumps.

At our table, West did lead a diamond, straight into Bill's ♦J. Not only did the lead blow a trick, it also gave Bill the timing to set up the spade suit and wind up with an easy 8 tricks.

Meanwhile, at the other table, Ron knew the story, resisted temptation (unlike Oscar Wilde), and put ♣10 on the table. Now the defence was working on the right suit, hadn't given away a trick declarer couldn't get for himself, and wound up taking 1NT one off. Yes, declarer actually could have made 1NT, but he had to make all the running himself and got the ending wrong. It happens.

It doesn't seem like much, but that was 5 imps. If you win 5 imps on every board, you'll win every match a maximum. Don't tune out just because it's a partscore!

Expert aside: After computer-analysing a **lot** of hands, the book's broad conclusion is that you usually beat 3NT by setting up your side's 5-card suit. If you don't have an attractive lead of your own, try hitting partner's 5-card suit instead, particularly a major after auctions like 1NT-3NT. You'll look like a genius, and partner will love you.

The takeaway

The opening lead is the single most important card you play on defence. *Winning Notrump Leads* by Taf Anthias and the ubiquitous David Bird has a lot of excellent advice, backed up by solid evidence and analysis, on making better opening leads against notrump contracts. And Ron was right!

Vale Willie Jago

Willie Jago passed away last month after a long battle with cancer. He had recently celebrated his 72nd birthday.

Willie was well known in the bridge community for many years, was a published author of bridge books, and a regular player at the VBA since 1993.

Our thoughts are with Pearl, his wife.

**GADGET CITY
Bill Jacobs**

Intermission

No new gadget this month, just some marketing for last month's device.

The following E/W cards were held on Board 93 of the 96-board final to qualify the USA Women's Team for the upcoming Olympiad. With the match desperately close:

♠ AQ1096	W E	♠ K73
♥ KQ74		♥ 832
♦ A2		♦ KJ4
♣ AK		♣ 10765

Sprung	Glasson
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠
4♣	4♦
4NT	5♦
6♠	Pass

6♠ was a very poor contract, needing ♥A onside plus other good fortune, such as ♦Q onside and spades 3-2: I make it at best a 20% chance, and it did indeed go down one. With game reached at the other table, this board was decisive, as the Sprung/Glasson team lost the match by just 6 imps. There went the trip to France.

Let's pick over the corpse of the auction and perform the necessary post-mortem.

Mainly the cause of death was a failure to read the VBA Bulletin!

The 2♦ response looks like it was the infamous "negative or waiting": the March 2008 Bulletin describes a far superior set of responses to 2♣. I think it caused some problems in this auction, because it may have been unclear to West how strong East might be for the subsequent raise to 3♠. 3♠ is a stronger bid than 4♠ in this auction, the principle of "fast arrival" being in play. East's flat 7-count was probably the least she could hold for 3♠, but with "2♦ negative or waiting" in play, there was no real upper limit to her overall strength.

West therefore had to co-operate in a slam venture, but she did more than co-operate:

she took over, blasting to slam when she discovered the two kings in partner's hand.

What West really needed to do was offer a courtesy try, but not take control. Sound familiar? West's hand is tailor-made for a 3NT "non-serious slam try", as described in last month's bulletin. It says to partner, "if you wanna, I wanna". You do not need 3NT in this auction as a natural bid. East certainly did not wanna, with her flat 7-count, so the auction could have been:

Sprung	Glasson
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠
3NT	4♠
Pass	

And off to Lille they go.



**DO YOU OR DON'T YOU?
SOLUTION**

Dlr: East	♠ -	
Vul: N/S	♥ A7	
	♦ K52	
	♣ AKQ86543	
♠ 1094	N W E S	♠ K87652
♥ K98654		♥ J
♦ 94		♦ QJ106
♣ 92		♣ 107
		♠ AQJ3
		♥ Q1032
		♦ A973
		♣ J

West	North	East	South
		2♠	2NT
3♠	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♣	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	D'ble	7NT
D'ble	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the semi-final of the Venice Cup, the World Championship for women, American Margie Gwozdzinsky doubled 7♦, and the runout to 7NT made on a diamond lead when East was squeezed in diamonds and spades.

With N/S making 6♣ at the other table, the double converted a 17 imp gain into a 15 imp loss. The swing of 32 imps on a single bid might be the largest in history.

2012 VCC BRIDGE FESTIVAL Kim Frazer

The Victor Champion Cup was a huge success with entries up on last year. In all 168 pairs and 85 teams contested the events held from June 7th – 11th at the Bayview Eden in South Melbourne.

Players were overwhelmingly positive about the venue. In particular the restricted players were very happy about being involved in the main playing area. Our first floor "Bridge Players Café" proved a hit with the quality and variety of food. Even the inclement Melbourne weather couldn't detract from the overall enjoyment of players attending the event. After all, bridge is indoors so who cares if it's raining?

Our new event the <50MP Swiss Pairs drew a small but enthusiastic contingent who promised to spread the word in their clubs about how much they enjoyed the event.

I congratulate all our winners who held off all challengers to win their respective events.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the event and for those of you who didn't come this year, please give this event consideration in your calendar for 2013.

Sara Tishler Womens Swiss Pairs

- 1 Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk
- 2 Nevena Djurovic – Elizabeth Havas
- 3 Alida Clark – Marnie Leybourne

McCance Seniors Swiss Pairs

- 1 Martin Bloom – Nigel Rosendorff
- 2 Blaine Howe – Bernard Waters
- 3 Clive Hope – Jack Kuiper

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

- 1 Bruce Neill – David Wiltshire
- 2 John Bailey – Douglas Newlands
- =3 Cevat Emul – Serhat Ozenir
- =3 Hugh Grosvenor – Anne Paton

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 John Yang – Victor Zhang
- 2 Richard Bodell – Chris Fader
- 3 Inpa Inpanathan – Chula Naranong

<50MP Swiss Pairs

- 1 Lanny Chan – Ross Waddell
- =2 Dell MacNeil – Libby Persson
- =2 Sarah Carradine – Michael Young

Victor Champion Cup Swiss Teams

- 1 Ashley Bach, George Bilski, Barry Noble, Ishmael Del'monte, Nabil Edgtton
- 2 Adam Edgtton, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Liam Milne
- 3 Bill Jacobs, Ron Klinger, Matthew Mullamphy, Ben Thompson

Charlie Snashall Trophy Restricted Swiss Teams

- 1 David Wei, John Yang, Ming Zhang, Victor Zhang
- 2 Sue Brink, Chandradeep Chakravorty, Kevin Sertori, Mike Walden
- 3 Patricia Afflick, Richard Bodell, Chris Fader, Richard Prickett

President's Cup for Top Victorian Team

Eva Caplan, Rachel Frenkel, Henry Sawicki, Jenny Thompson, Andrew Mcready Bryan



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dealer: N	♠ Q3
Vul: All	♥ AKQJ
IMPs	♦ KQJ42
	♣ AK
	N
	S
	♠ AK
	♥ 105
	♦ 98
	♣ 10987543

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

♠J is led. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

♠ J1094	♠ Q3	♠ 87652			
♥ 876	♥ AKQJ	♥ 9432			
♦ 653	♦ KQJ42	♦ A107			
♣ Q62	♣ AK	♣ J			
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N					
W E					
S					
♠ AK					
♥ 105					
♦ 98					
♣ 10987543					

Line 1: Play diamonds from the top, hoping for a 3-3 break. Chance of success: 36%.

Line 2: Play ♣AK, hoping for a 2-2 break. Chance of success: 41%.

Line 3: Run ♦9 at trick 2, hoping ♦10 is on-side, and the suit breaks no worse than 4-2. Chance of success: 42%.

The correct line? Ignore all those numbers, and start with line 2, cashing ♣AK. Then if someone shows out on the second round, play on diamonds. If diamonds are 3-3, and ♦A is with the club shortage, then you will still make your contract. If clubs prove to be 4-0, you can revert to diamonds after the first round of clubs, avoiding the risk of a winning club being cashed. For the numerically inclined, chance of success: 52%.

Moral: two chances are better than one.



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Uri Abraham
Club Master	Anne Bell Beryl Hare
State Master	Eduardo Weisinger
*National Master	Ken Anderson
Grand Master	Phyllis Moritz

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

♠ Q8752	♠ AK543	♠ J			
♥ 4	♥ K	♥ A853			
♦ A9863	♦ 1074	♦ KQJ5			
♣ J9	♣ AK107	♣ Q543			
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N					
W E					
S					
♠ 109					
♥ QJ109762					
♦ 2					
♣ 862					

Declarer needs ♠K for his tenth trick. He will play low again if you continue them. You were right about diamonds – partner has played low from ♦KQJ. You must now assault declarer’s entries to dummy by leading a club. Which one? Only ♣9 will do, so that partner, holding ♣Q, will be able to exit in clubs.

You and your partner will have done well to beat 4♥. You found the only lead, as well as ♣9. Partner does better to win the first heart and attack clubs at once, but that’s hard.

Problem 2

Dir: North	♠ AJ53	♠ K7			
Vul: All	♥ A1062	♥ KJ97			
	♦ Q7	♦ 10632			
	♣ J72	♣ A104			
♠ Q10864	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>		N	W E	S
N					
W E					
S					
♥ Q43	♠ 92				
♦ 854	♥ 85				
♣ 95	♦ AKJ9				
	♣ KQ863				

The one card that might help is ♥Q, and that’s what you should play for. If you return ♥7 and if declarer allows this to hold (declarer can’t be sure who has ♣A), you have a setting trick.

[Your author got this one right. ♥Q was allowed to hold, and partner dutifully continued ♥4.]