

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

DARWIN ANC SUCCESSES

Our congratulations go to the Victorian Seniors team, who won their division at the recent ANC in Darwin. The team was Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Sam Arber, Henri de Jong, Bob Gallus and Steven Weisz, with Laurie Kelso as non-playing captain.

In a relatively strong field, the team had to fight all the way to qualify for the final: once in the final, they clearly outplayed ACT to win in comfort: see Henri de Jong's article on page 2 of this bulletin.

Our Open team of Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson, Simon Hinge, Leigh Gold, Peter Hollands and Max Henbest also did well: they qualified for the final, but then couldn't overcome a strong squad from South Australia, and had to settle for a silver medal.

Over the past 5 years, Victoria has now had wins in all 4 divisions of the ANC (Open, Women, Seniors, Youth), an exceptional outcome that supports the view that Victoria has both strong players and a strong selection process.

COUNCIL NEWS

Attention Bridge Directors

The VBA, in conjunction with the Australian Bridge Directors Association, will be hosting a weekend of Seminar & Workshops at its Poath Road premises on October 13 and 14.

Featuring Sean Mullamphy, Arie Guersen, Matthew McManus and Laurie Kelso, the program will comprise a mix of formal presentations and workshop discussions.

At \$55 including lunch for the two days (\$30 for one day only), this event is a great way to improve your knowledge on the Laws of Bridge and their application.

More details will be made available soon on the VBA and ABF websites.

Seeking a web story writer/editor

The VBA is looking for someone to help out with getting stories for the website. This doesn't mean you have to write everything yourself, but just find people who are going to congresses and other events to provide some information and photos.

Interested? Contact the VBA on 9530 9006.

Youth Player Congress Support

In line with the ABF policy, the VBA is recommending to clubs holding congress events they consider offering youth players a 50% discount. For several years the VBA has offered youth players this discount at its major event, the VCC, and we are now asking clubs if they will give this initiative support at their congress events.

VBA Web Site

The site is continually being enhanced by our webmaster Blaine Howe. A feedback button is available for you to comment and/or request new features.

The latest innovation is a page that shows all masterpoint promotions, for any member of a Victorian affiliated club, since the start of the year. Click on "Masterpoint Promotions", in the index panel on the left hand side of the home page, to view this page.

Breaking News

Gold Point Status!

The ABF has authorised gold point status for these upcoming events:

State Open Pairs: starts August 8
Pennant Open Teams : starts Sept 19

Enter via the website www.vba.asn.au or phone 9530 9006

SENIOR MOMENTS IN THE 2012 ANC Henri de Jong

With our defences (pills, powders, puffers and potions) well organised, the Victorian Seniors team comprising Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Sam Arber, Henri de Jong, Robert Gallus, Steven Weisz and NPC Laurie Kelso set forth to Darwin. It soon became clear that our defences were way over the top as Darwin welcomed us with gorgeous weather 18-30^c every day.

Over a period of six days we played a total of 340 boards; 14x20 boards in qualifying and 6x10 boards in the final. The three teams battling it out for the first two places were ACT, Victoria and SA. In the end ACT and Victoria finished first and second respectively. With all six Victorians playing well, we won four of the final six segments to win by 39 imps.

The team was well balanced and our capable captain, Laurie Kelso, judiciously selected the best pair for each match.

Now to some hands.

Ironically the team did not reach perfectly reasonable 3NT contracts on Board 1 and Board 340. In between those boards, we were better.

Session 1, board 9:

♠ 4	♠ N	♠ J96532
♥ QJ3	W	♥ 862
♦ AJ10753	E	♦ 984
♣ KQ7	S	♣ 8
	♠ AQ107	
	♥ AK94	
	♦ Q6	
	♣ 942	

We fell into the 3NT trap (rather than the superior 5♣), going down on a diamond lead, when declarer played on clubs. Suppose however that the bidding helps you to find the spade finesse, after you win the diamond. Then four rounds of spades puts pressure on West, who can let go a club, but then must discard two diamonds.

Now after declarer plays on clubs, West can cash ♦A then play a *low* diamond to East's 9, abandoning his last diamond. East cashes two spade tricks to scuttle the contract.

Session 5, board 6:

♠ 9	♠ N	♠ AQ82
♥ A98	W	♥ 104
♦ 7	E	♦ AQ102
♣ KQ987653	S	♣ AJ2

In the bidding, our pair set clubs as trumps, expertly located the ♣Q with Roman Key Card Blackwood, and bid the grand slam. Sadly two finesses were required, only one of them worked, and 17 imps disappeared in the out column.

Session 9, board 18:

Dir: East	♠ KQJ8	
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ95	
	♦ 87	
	♣ AKQ	
♠ 75	♠ N	♠ 109432
♥ Q1063	W	♥ K874
♦ K102	E	♦ 654
♣ 10984	S	♣ 6
	♠ A6	
	♥ 2	
	♦ AQJ93	
	♣ J7532	

Our opponents bid to 6NT by North, and we missed the killing heart lead. The -1440 didn't combine well with our teammates' +170 (a small accident in 3♣). In fact, 6NT was bid 14 times across the field, and defeated only *once*. Don't they say you should attack against slams?

There were good boards too. An example:

Session 10, board 1:

Dir: South	♠ K4	
Vul: nil	♥ KQ654	
	♦ AQ3	
	♣ KJ6	
♠ 98653	♠ N	♠ AQJ10
♥ 108	W	♥ J92
♦ 98762	E	♦ J54
♣ 8	S	♣ 752
	♠ 72	
	♥ A73	
	♦ K10	
	♣ AQ10943	

After 1♣ - 1♥, we were able to play 6♥, the shorter combined trump fit, but the one that protected the ♠K. As four pairs discovered after going down in 6♣, this was necessary. Our opposition bid only to game.

With no-one vulnerable, your RHO deals and opens 1♠. What would you do with:

♠ A2 ♥ K962 ♦ KJ542 ♣ J5

Our player decided to double, hoping this might get us to a winning heart contract. But partner had:

♠ 8643 ♥ J85 ♦ A86 ♣ 1084

and responded 2♣ (perhaps 2♦ would have been wiser – it certainly would have been more successful). 2♣ was left to play, down four, an embarrassing result. Fortunately, our teammates played 2♠ the other way, making 170, and this adventure only cost 1 imp.

What do you open with this hand, vulnerable against not, after RHO has dealt and passed?

♠ AKQ10853 ♥ KQ1082 ♦ 9 ♣ -

Not wanting to risk a final contract of 1♠, our player decided to start with 2♣. Alas, next hand interfered with 3♦, and although partner held a nice hand:

♠ 4 ♥ AJ95 ♦ K1076 ♣ K642

it was just too hard to reach the solid 6♥ contract. It's easier after a 1♠ opening: after 3♦, negative double, a jump to 5♥ would give a good picture of the actual hand.

Final, board 48:

Dlr: North	♠ KQJ		
Vul: nil	♥ J42		
	♦ A43		
	♣ AJ107		
♠ 983		♠ 76	
♥ AK95		♥ 103	
♦ KJ107		♦ 8652	
♣ 63		♣ Q8542	
	♠ A10542		
	♥ Q876		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ K9		

We played 4♠ as South, and the defence took ♥A, ♥K and a heart ruff. A diamond was played next, and we had to take the rest.

When two rounds of spades from dummy revealed the spade layout, our declarer took the only line to make the contract: he played a club to the 9!

Despite some blemishes, the team performed solidly. After a long and demanding selection process, it was especially satisfying to win this prestigious event.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Alison Roseby
Local Master	Anne Josephine Bell
*Local Master	Ming Zhang
Regional Master	Anna Geppart
*Regional Master	Sonia Grinberg Aron Grinberg Bella Szmerling
State Master	John McCrae
Life Master	Jacqueline Morrison John Yang

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT RESULTS

Fred Haggood Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

- 1 P. Moritz – L. Meyer
- 2 E. Samuel – R. Livingston
- 3 P. Marley – R. Drew

Elizabeth Sawicki Eclectic Pairs

- 1 M. Tauman – B. van Eijk
- 2 A. Branicki – M. Gurfinkiel
- 3 T. Cowie – J. Masters

Congratulations to **Helen Cantwell** and **Dot Lawrence**, from Paynesville Bridge Club, who ran 3rd in the world-wide Bill Hughes Simultaneous Pairs event, scoring 68.45%.

To get a feel for what third place means, there were 920 pairs entered.

GADGET CITY
Bill Jacobs

Suppose you hold:

♠ K3 ♥ Q865 ♦ J652 ♣ 987

Your LHO deals and the auction proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	1♠	D'ble	?

RHO's double is negative, indicating hearts. What meaning do you attach to a redouble?

It is a bit of an idle bid. With real support for your partner's spades, you can make an appropriate raise. With a strong hand, which you will rarely have on this auction, you can pass and await developments.

One idea is to make a redouble show exactly honour-doubleton (Ax, Kx or Qx) in partner's suit. This might allow partner to compete effectively in the bidding with a 6-card suit (or 5 strong ones), and also assist him on opening lead and defence.

I call this the "Redouble of a Negative Double to Show Honour Doubleton in Partner's Suit" convention.

On this board, the auction continued:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	1♠	D'ble	Red'ble
1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

And this was the full deal:

♠ 76 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ A1087 ♣ J32	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</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		♠ K3 ♥ Q865 ♦ J652 ♣ 987
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ QJ1052 ♥ 1042 ♦ Q93 ♣ A5	♠ A984 ♥ 73 ♦ K4 ♣ KQ1064										

Guided by the gadget, West led the spade **five**. This prevented spades from being blocked. On the normal queen lead, declarer

can either win immediately, or duck two rounds of the suit, thereby making 3NT.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dir: West ♠ 64
 Vul: All ♥ AK95
 ♦ KQ8742
 ♣ 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A10752
 ♥ Q108
 ♦ 103
 ♣ 1032

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

You lead ♠5 to ♠Q and ♠K. Declarer plays to ♥A then low to ♦J holding, and another diamond to ♦Q and partner's ♦A. Partner plays ♠3, covered with ♠J and you win ♠A.

How to proceed?

Problem 2:

Dir: North ♠ 1063
 Vul: E/W ♥ A1075
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ AKJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A754
 ♥ J92
 ♦ 10
 ♣ Q8632

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Partner starts ♦Q, won in dummy. Next comes a spade to ♠9 then ♠Q, which you allow to hold (partner follows once with ♠8 then discards a diamond). Declarer's next card is ♣5 to ♣J, partners ♣7 maybe odd.

You win and contemplate your next move.

Solutions on page 8.

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

Sale Bridge Club

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, the Sale Bridge Club discovered that there exists *another* Sale Bridge Club also in the town of Sale in Cheshire England. We were able to set up an Interclub Event with them using the dealing machines and ECats. The UK club played the hands on Tuesday evening (our time) July 10th and we played them the following morning. It was a pretty even competition with the two clubs alternating scores for the first few positions. We all really enjoyed this new dimension to Interclub Events and it will now become a regular feature of our calendars.

As it happens, 2012 was a brilliant year to start this association because the UK Sale Club are celebrating their 60th anniversary and we are celebrating our 40th.

Waverley Bridge Club

Beginners Courses start again in September. The course runs for 8 weeks and each class is run twice:

Tuesday 1.45 – 3.45 pm, from Sept 4

Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30 pm from Sept 5

A workbook and one supervised session are included in the course fee of \$90.

The club also offers three supervised sessions each week: Monday 1:30 pm, Thursday 7:30 pm and Friday 10 am. This is an excellent way to ease into duplicate play. There is no need to bring a partner.

There is also a popular lesson for improvers on Wednesday afternoons where hands on a theme are played, then each hand is thoroughly analysed after it has been played.

For the more advanced players, don't miss Bill Jacobs' talk on "*5 secrets of winning bridge*", to be held on Thursday August 23rd at 1:30 pm. Price is \$16 for club members, \$18 for non-members.

Ring Mary on 9807 6502 or email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au for more information on any of these events.

August Congresses

August is a busy month for Congresses with pairs events on every Saturday and teams events every Sunday. Some are filling fast so enter early to ensure you don't miss out.

Knox - August 4 & 5

Kew - August 11 & 12

Yarrawonga - August 18 & 19

Traralgon - August 25 & 26

Entry to most congresses can be done online at www.bridgeunlimited.com. The VBA website has more details under "Affiliated Home".

THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

Courtesy of Grant Kilvington, this phenomenon may strike a chord with many bridge players:

The **Dunning-Kruger effect** is a cognitive bias in which unskilled individuals suffer from illusory superiority, mistakenly rating their ability much higher than average. This bias is attributed to a metacognitive inability of the unskilled to recognize their mistakes.

Actual competence may weaken self-confidence, as competent individuals may falsely assume that others have an equivalent understanding. As Kruger and Dunning conclude, "the mis-calibration of the incompetent stems from an error about the self, whereas the mis-calibration of the highly competent stems from an error about others".

It's the final of the playoff to choose the team to represent Victoria in the ANC. At the start of the final set your team holds a narrow lead, and you've had a few good boards since. You hold, vulnerable versus not:

♠ AJ107 ♥ K9 ♦ 9 ♣ A109863

Your right-hand opponent opens 1♥ and you . . . ?

For more, see page 7.

Michael Dilks sadly passed away in 2011. The delay in publishing this tribute by David Morgan is entirely the fault of the editor.

MICHAEL DILKS AND I*
David Morgan

A few months after I moved down to Melbourne in 2004 I played for the first time at the VBA. On the noticeboard someone had placed a card indicating he was seeking a partner.

I was struck by this for two reasons. One, because people usually ask someone they already know to play with them. Two, because of the name of the person: Michael Dilks. As a collector of bridge books and magazines I knew that a Michael Dilks had been on the fringe of England's top echelon of players in the 1970s. Could this be the same person, I wondered?

It was.

Soon Michael and I were playing in the same circles. Subsequently we became teammates and then partners. We had what Michael, in his English way, described as a season together. That was a revelation to me, for Michael thought about the game differently from anyone else I'd played with. A number of his tips are worth serious consideration and are shared below.

We didn't do as well together as either of us hoped and so Michael moved on, playing with Hayden Blakeman. They were successful and invited me to join them in a team that went on to win the Pennant and then the playoff to choose the team to represent Victoria in the Australian Open Interstate Championship in 2009. In 2007, 2008 and 2010, Michael represented the state in the seniors team at the ANC, playing with Bob Gallus.

Although he'd had a long sabbatical from the game – 18 years – he was still sharp, albeit not as sharp as he had been. That frustrated him.

* Readers of *The Bridge World* from the early 1960s will recall a series of articles by Barbara Kachmar about America's leading players entitled "X and I".

But his experience at the top level in England, where he won the Gold Cup, Britain's main teams championship in 1975 and represented England twice in subsequent years, was fascinating to anyone who was interested. He had tales to tell of England's top players, including the scandal when Terence Reese and his partner, Boris Schapiro, had been accused of cheating in the 1965 world championships.

As one of England's top partnerships, Michael and Richard Butland appeared in the bidding challenge run in *Bridge Magazine*, the UK's leading bridge journal (in which two pairs bid ten deals and were awarded scores based on the contracts they reached). The then editor, Phillip Alder, tells of one amusing experience:

On one deal [Michael and Richard] had a clear misunderstanding, getting to a no-play contract. Not wishing to make people look silly, I told them that we would go through each bid until they found the disagreement. This we did. They continued, now on the same page, and reached another no-play contract for a "second" zero!

Michael was different. Nicola Smith (then Gardiner), his favourite partner from England, who went on to become one of the world's best female players, said this of him:

He had this belief that anything was always possible in life...whatever field you wanted to go into was possible.... I remember him in his thirties going on a ski holiday, and asking him whether he skied. He replied that skiing like everything was a Mind Set and that he would be fine....he had read all the techniques in a book!!!! Suffice it to say he survived the holiday without any broken bones....

Michael stood out in others ways, as well. He was always rugged up, even in summer; he always had a story to tell; and he could always be heard from a distance, with a high-pitched laugh that was his alone.

Those of us who played with or against him will remember Michael Dilks as a tenacious and sometimes demanding partner, a tough and wily opponent, a gregarious teammate. He will be missed.

Michael's tips

Let the opponents help you

Michael was a strong believer in giving the opponents a chance to go wrong or to provide information, especially when he was declaring the contract. To use a cricket metaphor – mine, not one that would have been on the tip of Michael's tongue as he didn't show much interest in that game – he played with soft hands while I, to his frustration, played too often with firm ones. Michael believed that, unless you have to make early, committal decision on a line of play, look to retain options. Allow the opponents to make a mistake or help you choose how best to play the hand by telling you about their suit lengths and where their strengths and weaknesses are. Remember, they can't see your hand.

Show secondary values

Except above game, Michael strongly believed that cue bids after a suit had been agreed should show kings, sometimes queens, rather than aces. So after 1♠-3♠ (showing a limit raise) opener should bid 4♦ rather than 4♣ with ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦KQxx ♣Axx. The idea is to help partner work out how well the hands fit: is his shortness opposite secondary honours?

Bid spades

Spades outranks the other suits so the hand with long spades should be looking to bid them. Michael used to say that when he played with Nicola Smith if they passed instead of overcalling (when sitting over declarer) when they were not vulnerable, they denied five spades. In other words they overcalled whenever they had five or more spades! When vulnerable they required a few values but a one-spade overcall could still be as few as six points. A sound opening bid (say a good 13-count) was too strong to overcall: these hands doubled first. A raise to 2♠ was often tactical, designed to take away the opponents' bidding space: it could be Qxx and out to tell partner it was safe to lead the suit or a balanced 13 count.

Michael also liked to overcall 1♠ on more hands with four-card suits than many other

players. One key hand from the 2009 playoffs was:

Dlr: North ♠ K983
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ862
 ♦ A2
 ♣ 5

♠ Q652	N	♠ AJ107
♥ 4	W	♥ K9
♦ 876543	E	♦ 9
♣ K7	S	♣ A109863

♠ 4
 ♥ 10753
 ♦ KQJ10
 ♣ QJ42

West Dilks	North Beale	East Blakeman	South Smart
	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Hayden Blakeman followed Michael's advice. He bid 1♠ and was raised. Felicity Beale bid 5♥ "knowing" that her partner was void in spades. Alas, not this time! One off. At the other table the routine 2♣ was bid instead. After South jumped to 4♥ the spade fit was not found. 10 tricks meant 10 IMPs to Michael's team and an unassailable lead.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: West ♠ QJ43
 Vul: All ♥ KQJ2
 ♦ 53
 ♣ AJ6

	N
	S

♠ A10
 ♥ 54
 ♦ AKQJ10976
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
1♣	D'ble	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♣K is led. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

	♠ QJ43										
	♥ KQJ2										
	♦ 53										
	♣ AJ6										
♠ K98	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ 7652
N											
W	E										
	S										
♥ A97		♥ 10863									
♦ 82		♦ 4									
♣ KQ1094		♣ 8753									
	♠ A10										
	♥ 54										
	♦ AKQJ10976										
	♣ 2										

On the assumption that West has all the missing key cards, including ♠K and ♥A, the contract is cold, without guesswork, as long as you do the right thing.

Win ♣A, and start an avalanche of diamonds: you don't have to look at West's discards, other than to check that ♠K, ♣Q or ♥A have not appeared.

After 7 rounds of diamonds, you are here:

♠ -									
♥ KQJ									
♦ -									
♣ J6									
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			S				
N									
S									
♠ A10									
♥ 54									
♦ 6									
♣ -									

Play a heart, West must duck. Ruff a club.

If ♣J is high, then play a heart: West will have to either concede to dummy, or lead into your ♠A10.

If ♣J is not high: cash ♠A dropping West's ♠K, which by now has become a singleton.

New Duplicate Session

We are introducing a new Friday morning session, commencing 31st August.

Watch this space for more details.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: West		♠ 64									
Vul: All		♥ AK95									
		♦ KQ8742									
		♣ 7									
♠ A10752	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ Q983
N											
W	E										
	S										
♥ Q108		♥ 72									
♦ 103		♦ A96									
♣ 1032		♣ QJ65									
		♠ KJ									
		♥ J643									
		♦ J5									
		♣ AK984									

Careful now. Partner started with 2 or 4 spades; the missing cards are ♠8 and ♠9 so partner has both or none. Both is more likely, from a "Restricted Choice" point of view - if declarer started with ♠KJ98 his second card could have been ♠J OR a lower one. So play ♠2 now to avoid a blockage. Could you have judged better if partner had returned ♠9?

Problem 2

Dir: North		♠ 1063									
Vul: All		♥ A1075									
		♦ AK3									
		♣ AKJ									
♠ 8	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ A754
N											
W	E										
	S										
♥ K63		♥ J92									
♦ QJ9764		♦ 10									
♣ 1097		♣ Q8632									
		♠ KQJ92									
		♥ Q84									
		♦ 852									
		♣ 54									

Declarer has 4 tricks in spades, and that splendid dummy will provide 5 more. Therefore if he holds ♥K that makes 10. So partner has to have ♥K and the suit is "frozen" - not to be attacked.

If you return a club declarer, is left to his own devices and may break the frozen suit to his detriment. (The alternative, and winning play, is a strip-squeeze on partner, probably a less likely line than playing you for ♥K. You wouldn't want to deprive declarer of the chance to find it?)