

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2012

Editor: Bill Jacobs

COUNCIL NEWS

IT improvements at the VBA

Thanks to the extensive efforts by our councillor Rob Stewart we now have new TV monitors installed at the club to provide display of results, time remaining in the session and other useful information during sessions. This will enhance the experience of players contesting state and club events. The VBA council wishes to express its gratitude to the Bridge Foundation's Trustees Ian McCance and Diana Jacobs for approving the funding for this project.

Additionally, the council has agreed to establish and trial a video link via Skype for council meetings to facilitate participation by our regional representatives on the council.

Website Data Improvements

Rob Stewart has been working hard with Laurie Kelso, Cathie Lachman and the other directors to get our new scoring system up and running. The system utilising Compuscore is not only designed to provide better data for players, but thanks to the wonderful efforts of Blaine Howe it has allowed us to make many changes to our website to improve the information provided to club members, as well as improved information for players contesting state events. Now there is extensive information available to players on how they went in each session. We are in the final stages of implementing this change and we trust you will let us know how you like it.

Upcoming State Events at the VBA

The following events at the VBA are open to all Victorian Bridge players:

Open Teams Pennant will commence on Wednesday September 19th for 7 weeks (19 Sept, 3, 10, 17, 31 October and 7, 14 November). This culminates in the Semi-Finals and Final on November 24 and 25.

Teams are up to 6 players, and this most distinguished State Teams event of the year serves as an avenue to qualify for the Victorian Open Team at the ANC in Adelaide 2013. This year's Open Teams will also offer Gold Points to players.

Master Teams will commence on Monday 24 September for 3 consecutive weeks. This is a graded red point event.

Enter online at the VBA website www.vba.asn.au.

September Congresses

September brings us football finals and three great congress events. Why not "spring into action in Spring" and give one of these popular congresses a go. Places fill up quickly so enter early to be sure you don't miss out!

Echuca - September 8 & 9

Ballarat - September 15 & 16

Macedon Ranges - September 30

Entry to most congresses can be made online at www.bridgeunlimited.com. Visit the VBA website for more details on these events under "Affiliated Home".

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 regarding the event are available on both the ABF and the VBA websites.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a team event, everyone is vulnerable and you hold:

♠ KQ10984 ♥ A5 ♦ 642 ♣ 74

Partner is the dealer and opens 1♣, you respond 1♠, and your partner bids 2♥:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

What is partner showing you? And what should you bid now?

Partner's 2♥ is known as a *reverse* bid. A reverse bid is a bid in a new suit that forces the partnership to a high level. Specifically, if a return to opener's first suit takes you to the 3-level, then opener has reversed, and is showing extra values over and above minimum opening bid values: approximately 16 or more points.

It is called a reverse because, in the most typical reverse auction, 1X-1Y-2Z, "Z" is a higher suit than "X" and therefore the suits are being bid in an unnatural, or reverse, order.

Responder's reaction to a reverse will depend on his high-card strength. With about 6 to 8 points, it is not yet certain that the partnership belongs in game, and a bid at the minimum level is in order:

- repeat your suit with a 6-card or decent 5-card suit of your own, or
- bid 2NT with a stopper in the fourth suit, and no good fit for either or partner's suits, or
- make a minimum bid in one of partner's suits

All these bids can be passed by partner if he is in the minimum range for his reverse: about 16-17 points.

One thing you are *not* allowed to do is to pass partner's reverse bid. Partner could

have strength up to about 21 points, and with your minimum 6 points, that would be sufficient for game. *Reverse bids are forcing.*

With 9 or more points, your side should have sufficient strength for at least a game contract. Your options for responding to a reverse bid with 9+ points are:

- jump rebid your suit with 6+ cards, or
- jump to 3NT with a stopper in the fourth suit and no good fit for either or partner's suits, or
- jump in one of partner's suits with a good fit there, or
- bid the fourth suit ("fourth-suit forcing") to indicate that you have enough strength for game, but don't yet know which denomination to select

With your current hand:

♠ KQ10984 ♥ A5 ♦ 642 ♣ 74

after partner has opened 1♣ and reversed with 2♥ over your 1♠ response, you have just enough strength to commit to the game level. And your spade suit is a good one, so you should jump to 3♠ over partner's 2♥ bid.

Partner raises this to 4♠, so the auction has been:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The ♦K is led, and you see:

♠ J3
♥ K1082
♦ AJ
♣ AQJ83

N
S

♠ KQ10984
♥ A5
♦ 642
♣ 74

Plan the play in 4♠

Start by counting your losers. Looking at your hand, you have a loser in spades, two in diamonds and one in clubs, should the club king be offside.

The second diamond loser can be avoided by trumping the third round of diamonds, but perhaps the opponents can prevent that ruff by playing two rounds of trumps. For example, if you win $\heartsuit A$ and return a diamond, the opponents can play $\spadesuit A$ and another spade. Then if the club finesse loses, they will have a good diamond to cash.

Is there a way to avoid that scenario?

Yes there is. Let them win $\heartsuit K$ at trick 1. Then if the defence plays two rounds of trumps, you can draw trumps and take the club finesse, with $\heartsuit A$ standing sentinel to guard the suit.

If instead the opponents play a second diamond, you can come to $\heartsuit A$ and ruff the third round of diamonds, avoiding your second diamond loser that way.

The full deal:

\spadesuit J3		\spadesuit 75
\heartsuit K1082		\heartsuit Q93
\diamondsuit AJ		\diamondsuit 9875
\clubsuit AQJ83		\clubsuit K1062
\spadesuit A62	N W E S	\spadesuit 75
\heartsuit J764		\heartsuit Q93
\diamondsuit KQ103		\diamondsuit 9875
\clubsuit 95		\clubsuit K1062
	\spadesuit KQ10984	
	\heartsuit A5	
	\diamondsuit 642	
	\clubsuit 74	

If you take $\heartsuit A$ at trick 1, you will have no way to make, if the defenders play well.

Points to remember:

- Be on the lookout for reverse auctions: auctions where partner bids two suits, and your return to his first suit would take you to the 3-level. Here are some examples of reverse bids:

Opener	Responder
1 \heartsuit	1NT
2 \spadesuit	

Opener	Responder
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit
3 \clubsuit	

Opener	(1 \heartsuit)	Responder	Pass	(Pass)
1 \clubsuit				
2 \heartsuit				

In each case, returning to opener's first suit involves bidding it at the 3-level. Because the auction is forced relatively high, opener is required to have extra strength.

- After a one-over-one response, and a reverse bid from opener, responder must not pass. With 6-8 points, make a simple minimum bid in one of the three suits shown (or bids 2NT). With 9 or more points, make a jump bid, or bid the fourth suit: these rebids force the partnership to game.
- Holdup plays in suit contracts are not as common as in notrumps. But they can occur. This suit is a typical example:

xxx

Axx

When this suit is led, it is often a good idea to not take your ace until the second round. Then if the suit divides 5-2, and the player with the doubleton subsequently gets on lead, he won't be able to cash a trick in this suit.

RECENT RESULTS

Rothfield Teams

- 1 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, L. Gold, S. Hinge, P. Hollands, M. Henbest
- 2 G. Kilvington, I. McCance, F. Beale, R. van Riel
- 3 H. Snashall, J. Magee, T. Strong, C. Haugh

Ros Blutstein Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Sharp – D. Sharp
- 2 J. Fleiszig – G. Fleiszig
- 3 E. Linton – E. Matheson

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dir: South ♠ A
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10965
 ♦ J9876
 ♣ Q103

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KQ62
 ♥ AQ3
 ♦ 10
 ♣ K8653

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

* 15-17 HCP

Partner starts ♠J and thanks to "Stayman-as-a-raise-of-notrump" the hand is an open book. Partner has 5+ spades, and, clearly, has precious little else. It is likely that those diamonds will run, but you will have no trouble with discards, since you need to hold only one (low) spade, ♥A and guard clubs as best you can. If declarer's clubs are as good as ♣AJx he can make 9 tricks without hearts, so partner must hold on to clubs if he has ♣J.

So what will your strategy be? Now, and when the diamonds are run?

Problem 2:

Dir: East ♠ AK6
 Vul: All ♥ Q76
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ J974

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9842
 ♥ A543
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AKQ6

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

* natural, non forcing

Partner leads ♣2. This is consistent with low from 3 small, which is your method. It is most unlikely to be a singleton, and if he had 4 there doesn't seem much hope. So you

must hope declarer's shape is 5422 and play for 2 club tricks, one heart and one from... Where? What is your strategy?

Solutions on page 7.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Two for the price of one, this month.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	2NT

Problem 1:

Dealer: S ♠ KQ105
 Vul: All ♥ J102
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ AQ4

	N	
	S	

♠ AJ9
 ♥ AQ4
 ♦ K6432
 ♣ KJ

Problem 2:

Dealer: S ♠ KJ105
 Vul: All ♥ Q2
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ AQ43

	N	
	S	

♠ AQ9
 ♥ A64
 ♦ K6432
 ♣ KJ

In both problems, ♣10 is led to 6NT.

Solutions on page 8.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Club Master	Sue McCarthy
Local Master	Steven Shochet
Bronze Life Master	Irene Hamilton

GADGET CITY Bill Jacobs

Blackout

This month's "For Starters" covered the most common reverse auction: partner opens with 1 of a minor, you bid 1 of a major, then partner bids a new higher suit at the 2-level.

The methods suggested in that article for responder's next bid are simple and easy to learn, which is good for starters. A minimum bid shows about 6-8 points and is non-forcing, and jump bids (or a bid of the 4th suit) are game-forcing.

"Simple and easy to learn" is not always sufficient. The problem with that scheme is that it can pre-empt your auction when responder holds various good hands. For example, suppose you are dealt

♠ KQxx ♥ Ax ♦ Qxxx ♣ xxx

and the auction proceeds:

Partner	You
1♦	1♠
2♥	?

You would like to show partner your fine diamond support, but a non-forcing 3♦ doesn't do sufficient justice to the hand; conversely a jump to 4♦ leaves 3NT behind.

The Blackout gadget allows you to keep the bidding low with good hands, while still allowing for a partscore contract when responder has a bad hand.

Playing Blackout, one single bid, the blackout bid, is made with all responder's hands in the 6-8 point range. All other bids are natural and game forcing. As practised by the leading Victorian pairs, the blackout bid is either 4th suit or 2NT, whichever is the lower.

Here are the four relevant auctions and the associated blackout bid:

Auction	Blackout bid
1♣ - 1♥ - 2♦	2♠
1♣ - 1♠ - 2♦	2♥
1♣ - 1♠ - 2♥	2NT
1♦ - 1♠ - 2♥	2NT

After the blackout bid, opener makes a descriptive non-forcing bid with minimum reversing values. (With nothing special to show, opener rebids his minor.) Responder can then correct the partscore if desired. With a powerful hand that wants to proceed to game even after responder's blackout, opener jumps or bids (or rebids) the 4th suit.

The payoff is that all of responder's other bids are game forcing. These include simple non-jump bids in any of the three suits already shown. With the example hand above, responder can rebid 3♦, showing diamond support and forcing to game. Opener can continue to describe his hand at a relatively low level.

Like many gadgets, Blackout has its upsides and downsides. The downside is that the blackout bid usually takes you past 2 of responder's major. However the upside of being able to bid the strong hands slower more than compensates.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Mildura Congress

The Mildura U3A Bridge Club members hope you will attend our Congress on the weekend of **October 27 & 28**.

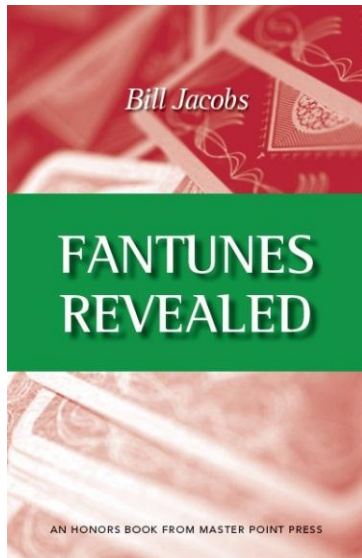
"Ah!" you will say, "we'd love to come, but it's too far." Then come for a week and enjoy the delights of Mildura and district. The weather in late October is mild and sunny, the air is perfumed with orange blossom, the Murray River is a must-see, and the restaurants will satisfy even the most fastidious gourmet. You can fly – we have several flights in and out each day, you can travel by bus and train, or you can drive and see the country-side at its best. We have a vast array of accommodation.

The Congress will be held in the historic Mildura Club with morning tea and lunch provided on both days. Entry forms have been sent to your Club Secretary, or you enter on-line. For further information, phone 03 5024 8404.

Hope to see you there!

BOOK REVIEW

This book is a detailed exposition of the bidding system used by Italian stars Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes. This pair has been remarkably successful at the highest level: they are still at it, last July winning the Spingold teams in the USA.



Jacobs sets out the bidding machinery in comprehensive detail. This last adjective is well-merited - 95 auctions are indexed in the last pages. Players thinking of trying a new and successful system can start right here. Although auctions can become complicated, beginners can ease themselves in. Jacobs uses sign-posts to show where a treatment is optional.

Other readers may be primarily interested in the structure of bidding systems. Jacobs certainly is. The foundations of Fantunes are (1) Natural opening bids of 1 in a suit are unlimited and forcing, though 1♣ contains some balanced hands as well as clubs. This does away with the need in most natural systems to dedicate a special opening bid, 2♣, to showing a very strong hand.

The strong natural openings give an edge over this artificial 2♣ and also the opening strong 1♣ of systems such as Precision in that if intervening opponents begin a competitive auction, the Fantuner has announced his suit.

This deal is the first in the book, from the very top level, the World Mind Sports Games 2008. (See top of next column)

After the unlimited opening, Nunes' raise showed support and 3-6 HCP. Fantoni splintered and Nunes could cue-bid, having shown a very weak raise. Nunes slammed.

Dlr: North ♠ J832
 Vul: E/W ♥ 8654
 ♦ K87
 ♣ 96

♠ AQ95	N	♠ K10764
♥ Q7	W	♥ 103
♦ Q65	E	♦ J1032
♣ J1085	S	♣ 73

♠ -
 ♥ AKJ92
 ♦ A94
 ♣ AKQ42

West	North Fantoni	East	South Nunes
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table the English auction began the same, North dredging up a raise opposite a non-forcing opener. His partner also splintered 3♠, but North, having already overstretched, signed off in 4♥.

(2) the second Fantunes specialty is that opening 2-bids are natural (again) and show a 5+-suit in the range 10-13 HCP, and unbalanced. Jacobs is convinced that they give Fantunes a remarkable edge, since they lay claim to the 2-level yet are semi-constructive. The weak opening 1NT assists.

Here is a 2-bid in action, against distinguished opposition:

Dlr: South ♠ Q873
 Vul: All ♥ A43
 ♦ J
 ♣ QJ864

♠ AKJ104	N	♠ 965
♥ 102	W	♥ Q765
♦ Q982	E	♦ A10654
♣ K10	S	♣ 2

♠ 2
 ♥ KJ98
 ♦ K73
 ♣ A9753

West Hamman	North Nunes	East Zia	South Fantoni
			2♣
2♠	3♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	D'ble	All Pass	

Nunes with a 10-card fit committed to the 4-level, and Zia, perhaps hoping for a misguided sacrifice, competed to 4♠, which cost 500 against 130 for 4♣. The opening bid had obliterated the one-level, leaving East-West with little room to manoeuvre. At the other table South opened 1♣, West overcalled 1♠ and North bid 1NT. North-South played in the club partial.

Jacobs' enthusiasm for Fantunes' opening bids is supported by his statistical tables on pp. 140-1, which show analyses of deals played by Nunes - Fantoni on BBO's Vugraph sessions. They opened the bidding in the range 1♣ to 2♠ on 2,723 hands, and gained an average of 0.67 IMPs per deal. Jacobs adjusts this tidily for superior card play, to arrive at an estimate of 0.29 attributable to superior bidding.

It was fitting that I should write this review. In the 1960s, when Italian teams dominated, Fred Altman and I taught ourselves Blue Club from a little book on the Italian systems by Edgar Kaplan. This took us all the way to an Olympiad, where we had the privilege of meeting, and beating, Italy, who won the championship. Fantunes is a better system than Blue Club, and Jacobs' book is more extensive.

Fantunes is the future - follow the star. I regret that a failing memory means that I am left behind.

Fantunes Revealed is available from <http://www.bridgeshop.com.au/>, \$16.99 digital or \$22.95 softcover.

... Ian McCance



SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Correction: The solution I gave for last month's second problem was second-best. Ben Thompson points out that if East cashes ♠A before exiting a club, declarer is trapped in dummy and must fail.

Problem 1

Dlr: South ♠ A
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10965
 ♦ J9876
 ♣ Q103

♠ J10973	N W E S	♠ KQ62
♥ J74		♥ AQ3
♦ 532		♦ 10
♣ J7		♣ K8653
		♠ 854

♥ K82
 ♦ AKQ4
 ♣ A94

You should start, logically enough, by playing ♠K to trick 1, passing on the good news. Declarer plays ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q; partner had 3. What did you discard?

Playing ♠Q would serve to clarify, though you could leave that a while, trick 1 told enough. The faster you get ♥Q on to the table the better. To blazes with count/attitude, this is bridge. Partner has to be told to cling to clubs.

Problem 2

Dlr: North ♠ AK6
 Vul: All ♥ Q76
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ J974

♠ 10	N W E S	♠ 9842
♥ 92		♥ A543
♦ K1087643		♦ 9
♣ 852		♣ AKQ6
		♠ QJ532

♥ KJ108
 ♦ A5
 ♣ 103

There is no winning defence, but you can make it very hard for declarer. Don't win ♣Q. ♣K is probably best, to suggest ♣Q in West. You must switch at once to that diamond. That's where the setting trick must lie. If he runs it he's dead - partner will win ♦K and give you a diamond ruff for 2 down. The winning play for declarer is to win ♦A and play ♣10. You would win and having no more diamonds would return a trump. South can play ♠Q, then to ♠K and trump-finesse clubs for a discard. If you show him ♣AKQ at trick 1 he can rise on ♦9 and go for the discard. If he's good enough. If you cash 2 clubs you make it much easier. Now the winning play is much more obvious (and appealing).

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

There are 12 easy tricks if diamonds divide 3-2. If they don't, the heart suit will need to deliver the extra tricks required.

On both deals, you should start diamonds by leading a low card, just in case the next hand has the singleton ace. And on both deals, diamonds must be managed in such a way that the heart suit fallback can be retained.

Problem 1.

♠ 6432 ♥ 9753 ♦ 5 ♣ 10985	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"></td><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 87 ♥ K86 ♦ A1098 ♣ 7632	♠ KQ105 ♥ J102 ♦ QJ7 ♣ AQ4 ♠ AJ9 ♥ AQ4 ♦ K6432 ♣ KJ
N									
W	E								
	S								

If the diamonds don't come in, the ♥K will need to be onside. If you win the club lead in hand and play a low diamond to the queen, what will you do if East wins ♦A and returns a heart? You haven't yet discovered the diamond break, so cannot know whether to finesse the heart.

Instead cross to dummy's ♠K and play a low diamond towards your king. You will discover the diamond layout in time to decide whether you need the heart finesse.

Problem 2.


♠ 643 ♥ K86 ♦ A1098 ♣ 1098	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"></td><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 872 ♥ J10953 ♦ 5 ♣ 7652	♠ KJ105 ♥ Q2 ♦ QJ7 ♣ AQ43 ♠ AQ9 ♥ A64 ♦ K6432 ♣ KJ
N									
W	E								
	S								

Win the club in hand and play a diamond to the queen, the play that is ill-advised in Problem 1. If East wins ♦A and returns a heart, win ♥A and ♦J. If the diamonds are 4-1, cash your black suit winners, hoping that the defender with the long diamonds also has ♥K, in which case he will be squeezed.

If the ♦Q wins, return to your other club winner and play a second low diamond from hand. In the above layout, West must let the ♦J win, as East shows out. Now cash all your black suit winners, coming down to:

♠ - ♥ K? ♦ A? ♣ -	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"></td><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ - ♥ Q2 ♦ 7 ♣ - ♠ - ♥ A6 ♦ K ♣ -	
N									
W	E								
	S								

If West's extra card is a diamond, then drop his singleton ♥K. If the extra card is a heart, play a diamond, forcing him to lead away from ♥K.



WARRNAMBOOL

Congress 2012

At Old Collegians Hall, Caramut Rd
Warrnambool

October 6 Pairs
October 7 Teams

Director: Graham Hill

\$35pp each day - generous catering
included

*We aim to run a friendly Congress,
where players of all levels can enjoy the
game in a competitive but supportive
environment. Enjoy country hospitality.*

