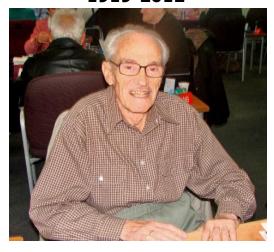
Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2012 Editor: Bill Jacobs

Vale Victor Muntz 1919-2012



See page 4 for daughter Kitty Muntz's reflections on Victor's life.

COUNCIL NEWS

New Council Member

The VBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Ben Thompson to the council following the resignation of Tim Blizard. Ben brings extensive strategic planning expertise to the council and has already been active in running a strategy day in July. The council also thanks its outgoing member Tim Blizard who has been instrumental in many of the IT changes implemented at the VBA in recent months.

Teams Travel Subsidy

Following a review of the travel subsidy policy, the VBA has approved a revised policy which is available in the document library on the VBA website. The VBA will continue to subsidise players representing Victoria at the ANC for air fares priced at the beginning of June. Per diem and other subsidies will be decided annually and announced in the first week of March. We feel the new policy will enable potential players to understand their likely financial commitment prior to the completion of the majority of playoff events.

New Barista

Renata is our lovely new barista. She makes a great coffee, and also soups, sandwiches and cakes. She's currently at the VBA for all sessions except Tuesday night and Saturday. Say hello and try out her excellent homemade fare for lunch, dinner or a snack while you're dummy!

Marketing and Development Officer

The VBA is creating a new part-time Marketing and Development Officer role, with primary focus on the development, promotion and marketing of bridge in Victoria. This role will also be responsible for marketing, promotions and development of the VBA club and its activities.

Please contact <u>secretary@vba.asn.au</u> for more details. Applications close 5pm Friday 19th October.

Victorian Individual

The Victorian Individual is a "VBA Honour Board" event open to all Victorian players: it will be played on Wednesday October 24th.

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

October Congresses

October is full of Gold Point events interstate with the Australian Swiss Pairs and Senior Swiss Pairs in Launceston, and Spring Nationals in Sydney at Canterbury Racecourse. Closer to home there are three great congress events in quite diverse locations for your enjoyment:

Albury - October 13 & 14 Bairnsdale - October 20 & 21 Mildura - October 27 & 28

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

FOR STARTERS Bill Jacobs

Playing a pairs game for matchpoints, no-one is vulnerable and you pick up as East:

Partner is the dealer and, as partners do from time to time, makes a bid you really don't want to hear: 3*. RHO passes, and it's your bid.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
3♣	Pass	?	

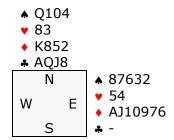
It's tempting to remove yourself from 3♣, which is likely to be a frightful contract. But you haven't been doubled yet, and if you bid 3♦ for example, that is a forcing bid. Partner might repeat the clubs, and now you are just one level deeper into the soup.

It's better to take your lumps in 3* at 50 points per undertrick. If LHO doubles and RHO passes, THEN you can consider removing to 3*.

You pass 3* and the bidding concludes:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
3♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ◆3, and this is what you see:



Declarer plays low from dummy, and you?

What is the diamond layout? Since ◆3 is the lowest outstanding card, partner can't have started with a doubleton: he would have led the higher one. So that ◆3 is either a singleton or low from Q43. If the former,

you should play the ◆A and give partner a ruff; if the latter, declarer is void in diamonds, and you should avoid playing ◆A as it will be ruffed, and ◆K established.

You can't be 100% sure, but partner is rather more likely to lead a singleton diamond than low from Qxx, which would be a speculative choice. And there is more to gain should partner have the singleton: you can give him a ruff and receive a club ruff in return.

You play ◆A, and are gratified to see declarer's ◆4. What is your next card?

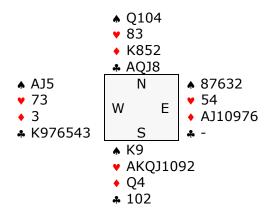
You are about to give partner a diamond ruff. It would be nice to then see a club returned so you can ruff that. You can nudge partner towards this defence by returning your *lowest* diamond as a suit-preference signal: a low card for a low suit, in this case clubs.

You return the ◆6, and partner trumps it, as declarer follows suit with his ◆Q. Now partner obediently returns ◆9, dummy plays low, you ruff and declarer follows with ◆2.

You need one more trick to defeat 4♥. What is your next card.

You could play another diamond – declarer is out of diamonds, but perhaps partner can overtrump. Alternatively, maybe partner has a trick in spades.

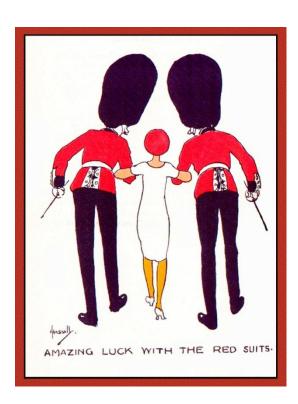
Partner's *9 is a vital clue. He has issued a suit-preference signal of his own, playing a high club to ask for a high suit. The full deal:



You play a spade. Partner takes A and returns another club for you to ruff: the first 5 tricks for the good guys, and 2-down. You defend so well!

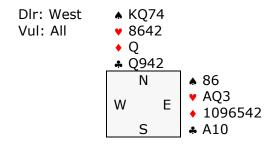
Points to remember:

- No double, no trouble! In the face of a misfit, an excellent rule-of-thumb is: stop bidding ASAP.
- There was a second compelling reason to play A at trick 1 – did you spot it at the time? Suppose declarer has a void diamond and ruffs your ace. What good is the established king in dummy? Not much – declarer will have plenty of spades, and no losers in clubs: a single discard is not going to help him.
- The McKenney suit preference signal: playing a high card to indicate a preference for a high suit, and vice versa, is one of the most useful yet under-utilized signals in the game. This was a fun hand for it, where both defenders were able to make use of the signal when leading a suit for partner to ruff. There are several other applications of the signal, which we will see in coming months.



SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:



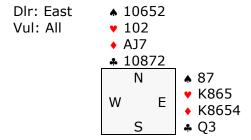
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* 15-17 HCP

Partner leads ♠3 which runs to declarer's ♠10. Next comes ♥9, and partner's ♥10 holds the trick. He tries ♦8, which is won by dummy's ♦Q, and a low heart follows.

How will you defend?

Problem 2:



West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 🛦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4 🛦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner leads ♣5 to your ♣Q and declarer's ♣A. ♠A, ♠K pull down partner's ♠Q. Declarer plays ◆10, partner covering with ◆Q. After ◆A comes ◆7 and you win ◆K, declarer dropping ◆9.

Now you have a decision to make – which card to return?

Solutions on page 7.

REMEMBERING VICTOR MUNTZ Kitty Muntz

Victor was born in Lodz, Poland 17/10/1919 to secular Jewish parents. He had one brother Paul, 5 years his senior. From age 7 he was allowed to stay up late to watch his father and friends play bridge at the kitchen table. By age 12 he had his own weekly after-school bridge game. In his final year of high school he met his future wife, Jane.

World War 2 broke out with the German invasion of Poland. Not long after, Victor's grandfather was shot dead in the street for failing to step aside for a German Nazi. At that time Victor had completed only 2 years of his electrical engineering course. He went to Lvov in east Poland to finish his studies. Jane joined him a bit later in 1939 and they were married at the registry office in 1940. This allowed them to save money by getting a room in the married students' quarters. In June 1941 Victor was sent to Russia for his final year work experience. (Jane stayed behind, was in the Warsaw ghetto for a while but got out on forged papers with a new non-Jewish identity; she spent most of the war working as a nanny to a German family).

Victor was in Krasnodar for a few months, doing work experience. The Germans got near so he left for Tomsk. He got a train there with people of German background being shipped to Siberia. He reached Tomsk in late 1941. In Tomsk Victor joined the Polytechnika, the twin university of Warsaw university.

In late 1943 the Polish army was organised in Russia. Victor, Paul and their friend Rudolph joined. They were picked up off the train and sent back - their employer could not afford to lose 3 engineers. In late 1944 Victor joined the army again. He was in the tank corps, a small unit of 63 tanks. He worked with radio signals. He ended up in Warsaw in late Jan 1945 and went AWOL to go to Lodz to find his parents. He found an empty flat with only a few photos. He later found out that his parents had been shipped to Auschwitz on the last transport in August 1944. He rejoined his army unit and wrote to Jane, whose address he had from his uncle Herman in Sweden. He was very relieved to find she was alive.

Upon the end of the war in 1945, Victor and Jane were in a displaced persons camp in Germany for a few months. They then moved to Munich and Victor worked for In 1947 Norway announced it Siemens. would accept several hundred displaced persons, to replace the Norwegian Jews lost in the war, and Victor and Jane headed off to Norway. They lived in Oslo happily for about 2 years. Oslo at the time had a population of half a million and 144(!) bridge clubs, organized by bridge ability. Victor had a regular (Hungarian) partner and they played quite a high level of bridge at one of these clubs. When Victor discovered Norway shared a small border with Russia he decided he did not want to stay. By then friends in Melbourne were able to sponsor them, and in August 1949 they travelled by boat here (Captain's table – only a few passengers).

Victor got a job with the SEC but it did not last long as the recession years started. The Snowy Mountain scheme was desperate for engineers and Victor worked for them in NSW for some time, until a stomach bleed emergency brought him back to Melbourne. He eventually rejoined the SEC and worked for them for over 25 years – in the Meters and Tests section in Richmond. He shunned various promotions because they would lead to more administrative work and less handson engineering work.



Victor, Jane and Kitty, Sorrento, 1951

From 1950 to 1971 Victor played regular rubber bridge with Harry Silver, Alan and John Selwyn, and others. When the others were playing for 1 pound per 100 points, Victor could not afford that, so he paid half and the others covered the remaining half. He had an agreement with Jane that any winnings could be used to fund his growing

stamp collection. Over the years he poured \$15,000 into stamps, all funded from bridge winnings. These rubber bridge games were quite fast – they played on Saturday afternoons, typically getting through 20 rubbers. In 1971 he started playing at the VBA with Harry Silver, who also introduced Victor to Precision.

When Victor retired aged 62, Jane was very concerned that he would have time on his hands and drive her crazy. She didn't have to worry; he threw himself into his stamp collection, more bridge, and his work as the VBA's masterpoint secretary, a role he only relinquished in 2000 at age 80. Shortly after his retirement his grandsons were born and he had time to enjoy their company.

Jane died in 1999, and many people thought Victor would not manage. He proved them wrong. He quickly bought a lovely well-located apartment in South Yarra, and got into a regular routine with meals out, walks with friends, etc. He had a lovely friendship with old-time family friend Eva Rapp, spending 2 days a week with her – they would go for walks, eat lunch out, and just spend time together. It was very hard for him when she passed away in May last year.

"When you're on a good thing stick with it" – this expression couldn't apply to anyone more than Victor. He was such a creature of habit. Every day he would have the same food for breakfast and lunch, and run his day almost like clockwork with meal times and activities. For 10 years he ordered takeaway veal scallopini once a week at La Porchetta in South Yarra. One day Kitty collected the order for him and discovered that the La Porchetta staff call him "Mr Veal Scallopini". They must have been very shocked when he suddenly switched to grilled chicken breast after 10 years.

His routine organization bordered on obsessive. Not so long ago he ran his life based on a 12-day cycle. Why 12? Well 12 has factors of 2, 3, 4 and 6. So for example he would wash his hair every 4 days, change his pyjamas every 6 days, etc. It did not seem to faze him that a week has 7 days and 7 does not go into 12. Years ago Kitty went to the bridge summer festival in Canberra with him. They were going to be away one day longer than when he would usually

change his pyjamas. This was a big dilemma for him – should he wear the pyjamas for one day longer than normal, or should he pack a second pair of pyjamas?

Victor was descended from a long line of engineers and mathematicians. His uncle Herman was a noted mathematician (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herman_muntz), who worked closely with Albert Einstein in 1927.

Because of his impatient nature he could sometimes come across as grumpy and hence uncaring, but underneath that sometimes gruff exterior was in fact a very caring person. With his logical mind and high intelligence he could work things out faster than most, and had difficulty understanding why others could not keep up. Some people would also consider him unsocial, and it is true he was not exactly a party animal. He could however socialize well when necessary, such as at an afternoon tea party organised to celebrate his 90th birthday.

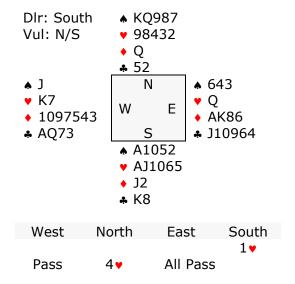
Victor had two heart valve replacements (aortic and mitral), both tissue valves from pigs. He used to joke that he was non-kosher. The first was done in 1992, and the second in 2004. These valves have an average life of 15 years, so the first one was 5 years past its "best before" date. He died a death most people would envy – he had been reading The Age online, had his breakfast and gone back to bed for a rest; that's where Kitty found him the next day. He lived independently right to the end.

Victor's bridge achievements were many:

- He won the Victorian Pennant Teams in 1974, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1989, 1992 and 1993
- He won the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs in 1991 (with Eva Caplan) and 1995 (with Jenny Han).
- He won the Victorian Mixed Pairs in 1994 (with Eva Caplan).
- He played on the Victorian Open Teams at the ANC in 1972 (1st), 1973, 1974, 1981, 1983, 1992 (2nd), 1994 (2nd) and 1995.
- He played on the Victorian Senior Teams at the ANC in 1996 (1st); 1997 (1st), 1998 (2nd), 1999 (1st); 2002, 2003, 2004 (1st), 2005 and 2007.

PANACHE - XXI Ben Thompson

Panache has been missing for a few months while I've been busy with a few things – and people have been gently prodding me for a new one. Patience and its rewards is this month's theme!



This hand is from the final of the Victorian Open Pairs last month. What do you lead against 4 ? Our opponent, one of Victoria's impressive band of rising young stars, selected the active AJ lead, obviously hoping to score both of his hearts plus a club or two.

Bill won *****K on the board, and played a trump to his ace. When he played *****A next, West ruffed with his big trump and was at the crossroads. Should he switch to a diamond, hoping partner has the ace and can put a club through, or should he cash *****A and hope partner has the king? Switching to a diamond might mean no more tricks if declarer has the *****A, whereas cashing *****A means you definitely get at least one more trick, and that's how our West went.

West could have saved himself the pressure guess (and collected an average on the board) with a bit of patience.

If he had patiently pitched on the AA (and the next one, and maybe even the fourth one if he's really patient), his partner would have been able to signal for him. East should play his spades from the top to signal for a

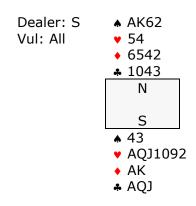
diamond switch, and from the bottom to signal for a club switch.¹

Expert aside: Patience crops up in lots of other guises in bridge. For example, declarer holds A10x opposite Qxx. If he plays the suit himself, he may only take 1 trick. If the defenders play it first, declarer is guaranteed 2 tricks. The opening lead on this hand is another example. A passive diamond lead would have worked immediately. On a lot of hands, particularly against notrump contracts, passive leads are attractive so that you have time to figure out where you tricks are coming from before committing yourself. And patience is important in the bidding too. A lot of successful slam bidding comes down to giving partner a chance to get his hand off his chest - if he has a good one.

The takeaway

Don't commit yourself before you have to. With a bit of patience, you can often gather more information and make a better decision a little bit later.

THE TWELFTH TRICK



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

West leads ♠Q. Plan the play.

Solutions on page 8.

¹ There's another McKenney signal at work ... BJ

Kooyong Bridge Club Red Point Swiss Pairs congress

November 18th at 10 am

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong



\$60 per person, includes: table fees, 2-course silver service

lunch plus tea and coffee all day. Drinks available at bar prices. Cash prizes.

For more details, contact Leeron Branicki on 9592 5894 or leeron.branicki@gmail.com.



Waverley Bridge Club Annual Congress

Friday November 2 - Sunday November 4

All novice players please note:

There will be two events restricted to players with fewer than 20 MP. This will give all novice players a chance to enjoy Congress play without the stress of having to compete against the 'big guys'.

Friday 7.30 pm: Matchpoint Welcome Pairs, entry fee \$20 per pair

Saturday, 10 am: Swiss Pairs (Open and Restricted), entry fee \$70 per pair

Sunday, 10 am: Swiss Teams (Open and Restricted), entry fee \$140 per team

A great pasta and dessert lunch will be available for purchase for \$10 – all you can eat, provided by Victorian Youth Bridge as a fundraising effort for their club.

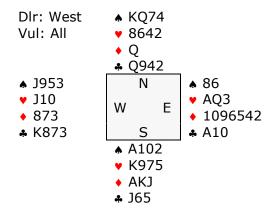
Plenty of snacks will be served. Generous cash and other prizes will be awarded.

To enter:

www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au/events, or email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au, or phone 9807 6502, or get an entry form from your club

SETTING TRICK - SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

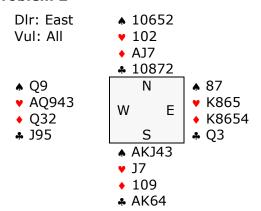
Problem 1



Have you been thinking about the hearts? Declarer must hold •K, else he would be seeking tricks elsewhere, and can't hold •J – he would not have led away from •KJ.

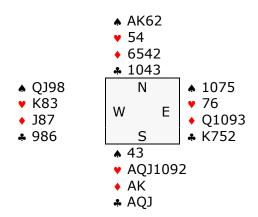
Partner gave up on spades and led an unpromising ◆8 – South could well have 7 tricks in these two suits. So it is futile to rise ◆A. You must follow (smoothly) with ◆Q and hope declarer reads some sort of "restricted choice" situation and plays low.

Problem 2



Where could there be 3 more tricks for the defence? Partner could have *K(J) OR *A, but can't have both. If declarer has *K it will be wrong to return a club, since a heart would go away on *J. If declarer has *A then 4* is cold: if *Axx then a heart ruff will be trick 10. If *Ax, the defence can't take 2 club tricks without setting up *10 or conceding a ruff-discard. The latter is far from obvious, but the recommended heart switch will still prevail.

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs



With precisely two entries to dummy you have to decide what two finesses to take.

Suppose you start with the heart finesse. If it wins, you can return to dummy and repeat the finesse for a happy ending, unless East happens to have four trumps. If the heart finesse loses, you are in poor shape: you can finesse once in clubs, but unless East happened to start with an unlikely doubleton king in clubs, you will be down.

It's better to take the club finesse first. If it wins, you can repeat it for an almost certain make. And if it loses, you still have good chances: you can take a heart finesse and still make if East has VKx, a reasonable possibility.

If West is clever enough to duck the club king at trick 2 (holding *xxx in hearts so that a followup heart finesse would work), more power to her!!

RECENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Pairs

Final

- 1 W. Jacobs B. Thompson
- 2 N. Ewart B. Howe
- 3 P. Moritz J. Fust

Plate

- 1 T. Kay K. Muntz
- 2 K. Frazer B. Geyer
- 3 J. Atkinson E. Matheson

Consolation

- 1 S. Pick G. Pick
- 2 J. Savage C. Arul
- 3 R. Berlinski K. Trolland

Restricted

- 1 J. Codognotto J. Rose
- 2 M. Glenn C. Chakravorty
- 3 F. Engelman M. Shub

VBA GNOT Heat

- 1 E. Samuel, J. Fust, J. Magee, T. Strong
- 2 S. Arber, H. de Jong, M. Chrapot,
 - R. Greenfield
- 3 B. Lindsay, M. Yuill, M. Allison, H. Stewart

Metropolitan GNOT Final

- 1 E. Samuel, J. Fust, J. Magee, T. Strong
- M. Henbest, B. Kingham, L. Ginnan, M. Whibley
- 3 P. Hollands, G. Kilvington, S. Hinge,
 - A. Munro, E. Moskovsky, T. Johannsen
- 4 N. Ewart, B. Howe, C. Hughes,
 - H. Blakeman

Gippsland GNOT Final

- 1 J. Barbour, J. Kuiper, J. Sutton, C. Hope
- 2 D. Tylee, M. Hecker, R. Hecker,
 - H. McAdam

Good luck to the above six teams in their quest for GNOT gold at Tweed Heads.

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 the ABF and the VBA websites.