

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

March 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

IL PALCO IMPROVVISATO Ben Thompson

I had the opportunity in February to get out and about to several different clubs and tournaments, meet a lot of people, and talk about bridge. I'm very pleased to be able to say that my simple message about Being Nice is really resonating with a lot of people. I particularly want to thank the Waverley and Moonee Valley bridge clubs for giving me the opportunity to get up and talk when I had a game at their clubs, and similarly Yarra Valley at their Congress. I was absolutely delighted to meet Dr Peter Wilkinson at Moonee Valley. He played on the Victorian Open Team in 1962, coming up against a legendary NSW team that was in the middle of winning the Interstate Championships five times in a row.



Just talking about Being Nice a few times won't make it happen of course, and once I even heard an argument break out literally moments after I'd spoken about it! Being Nice is something we can and should all work together to make an everyday reality, but we have to keep working at it.

Nice means different things to different people and understanding what Nice means in an unfamiliar game can be tricky. For example, in a relaxed socially-oriented game, bridge tactics like sacrificing or even penalty doubles might be perceived as unfriendly and Not Nice. And in a social game, quick play is the order of the not-too-serious day, whereas pushing your opponents to play quickly in a competitive game comes across as coffee-housing and definitely Not Nice.

Misunderstandings are commonplace. Please bend over backwards to be nice to new players in your game, but equally try not to take anything too personally when you're in a new game for you.

One of the great things about bridge is that you can enjoy it in lots of different ways and at lots of different levels. We should be big enough and confident enough as an organised bridge movement to embrace bridge and bridge players however people play it.

For example, Gwen Hindhaugh and the (not-yet-affiliated) Camperdown Bridge Club in Western Victoria host a popular Western Friendly Teams event in May every year, where the emphasis is on Friendly. That's the kind of occasion I'm keen to embrace as a conceptual meeting place for the competitive bridge world and the social bridge world.

In that spirit, we're introducing a new State-wide teams event this year – the Victoria Cup (see page 9). Most of it will be played online to make participation easy. There will be several divisions, including one for players with under 10 masterpoints where the emphasis is definitely on friendly and fun, and an open division where Being Nice is still important but sacrificing and penalty doubles are ok!

Victorian Bridge Association

invites you to the

2013 Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs Championship

to be held

Thursday 25th April at 10.00 a.m.

A Red Master Point Event

Tournament Director: Laurie Kelso

Convenor Kim Frazer

Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

In a matchpoint duplicate, you pick up this pleasant hand:

♠ 543 ♥ KQJ1052 ♦ A5 ♣ AK

With no-one vulnerable, RHO is the dealer, and the bidding proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♠	Pass	3♠	1♥
			?

That's a little annoying. RHO is making life difficult for you. What do you bid?

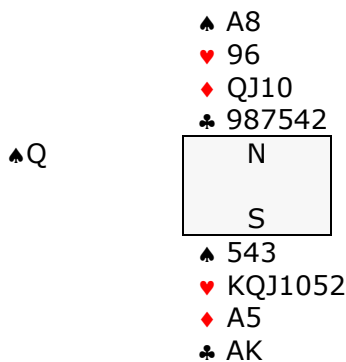
You have 8 tricks in your hand: partner will have to provide 2 more to give you game in hearts.

Partner is going to have *something* in the way of high cards. RHO is a passed hand, LHO has made a weak jump overcall. You have no idea if those cards will be in the right places, but with your 3 spades, you can certainly hope that partner's spades are short so that he might provide a spade ruff.

You try 4♥ and everyone passes.

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

The lead is ♠Q, and you see:



How do you go about the play?

Partner has come through with some useful cards. With 8 tricks in your hand, plus partner's ♠A, you have 9, and there are several prospects for the 10th: a spade ruff in dummy, or perhaps a second trick in diamonds.

Getting a spade ruff is not that simple. If you attack it like a bull-at-a-gate, winning ♠A and playing another one, the defenders will see what you are up to and switch to ace and another trump. There goes your spade ruff, and worse, your third little spade is exposed as a loser should you give up the lead.

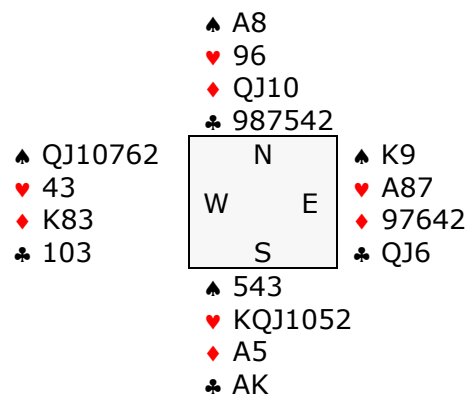
You need to make a more subtle play. Let the opponents win the first trick. Then if they stop the spade ruff by playing trumps, at least the ♠A is still standing sentinel to control the suit.

You play low from dummy at trick 1. RHO overtakes with ♠K and plays ♥A, and another heart.

Where to from here?

The spade ruff is gone, so you need to look to diamonds for your 10th trick. You could win the heart in dummy and take the diamond finesse, but that is a needless risk. You can afford to lose a diamond trick (it will only be your third loser) as long as you set up a diamond trick on which you can dispose of your third spade.

So win the second heart in your hand, draw the remaining trumps, and play ♦A and another diamond. The ♠A remains as the entry to your established diamond. The full deal:



Points to remember:

- In the auction, the fact that both opponents were known to have limited values (East by his initial pass, West by his weak jump overcall) allowed you to infer that partner must have some values. This helped with your bid.

This is not an infrequent scenario. Suppose you hear the opponents have this auction:

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1♣      1♠
2♠      3♠
4♠
    
```

Both opponents are limited: one by the 2♠ rebid, the other by the invitational 3♠ bid. If you have ♠QJ109 and nothing else, you should probably double, because partner almost certainly has at least 11 points, and you can expect some of them to turn into tricks.

But if the auction is:

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1♣      1♠
2♠      4♠
    
```

you cannot infer values with partner. The 4♠ bidder could have a strong hand, say 15 or 16 points.

- You may not have seen that trick 1 duck before: you can add it to your playbook.

More important was that there was no need to finesse East for the diamond king. In fact it was positively dangerous to so: if you had, West would have won ♦K and played a second spade, preventing you from enjoying dummy's third diamond.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

Graduate Master	Brian Lovelock
Local Master	Paul Hobson
*Local Master	Denys Harraway
**Local Master	Mira Pfau
National Master	Lillian Pearce
Gold Life Master	Alister Murray

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dlr: East ♠ AK82
 Vul: All ♥ 8
 ♦ J85
 ♣ AK965

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 974
 ♥ AKQ3
 ♦ A10943
 ♣ 7

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

The lead is ♦6, dummy's ♦J and you win ♦A. Where are the setting tricks coming from?

Problem 2:

Dlr: West ♠ KQ1063
 Vul: E/W ♥ K974
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9
 ♥ AQ632
 ♦ K6
 ♣ AK753

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥*	2♥	4♥
5♥	D'ble	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* shows spades

Partner leads ♥J and declarer trumps it. He crosses to ♠K, partner discarding ♥5. Next, dummy's club is led. You win this trick and contemplate your continuation.

What to do? Solutions on page 7.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

FACEBOOK

Did you know the VBA now has a Facebook page?

Keep up-to-date on what is happening in the state by friending Victorian Bridge.



BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

A curious bird – the coup coup

This deal is from a deal played on Jack5, a computer program I have been using in an attempt to sort out my many emerging problems. (Dr Parkinson is not a good partner.)

First, about Jack.

Jack5 has won computer World Championships, so I am surprised at how bad it is. Zia Mahmood was rubbished by computer bridge gurus for withdrawing an offer of \$1M if any program could beat a team of experts. For my money he could have left the offer open, but then I haven't got \$1M.

Bidding: I have engaged an option that gives me advice, and its judgement of levels is wild. Constructive bidding is wooden. It uses jumps to show extra strength, not destination. For example a jump to 4♠, having already bid them, is not terminal - you are (apparently) invited to bid on - to goodness knows where. The suit could be as bad as ♠Qxxxxx. It is similarly cavalier with 4th suit, wheeling it out in situations where it holds good stoppers in that suit and any sensible reply (holding, say, xx) carries you past 3NT. Cue-bid support is a signal that Blackwood is imminent: the weak hand is often expected to use it! For example my partner opened 2♣ holding ♠AKQx ♥AKxx ♦x ♣AKxx. I found a positive 2♥ and it rebid 4♣, cue. I counter-cued 4♦ and it rebid 4♥. There we rested for 13 tricks.

Its defence is unpredictable: it seems chronically unwilling to return the suit partner has led to notrump. Once I led a spade from ♠Qxxxx; Jack holding ♠AKx took trick 1 (dummy ♠xxx) and promptly switched. In ensuing discarding I was (apparently) supposed to keep my spades. It switches at random, often to dangerous suits, and will switch lowest from 3 small which isn't sensible.

The advice I receive on play seems heavily oriented to match-points - I get much criticism for playing for the safe contract.

Back to my avian friend. You are South.

Dlr: West ♠ J93
Vul: Nil ♥ A8542
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ K95

N
S

♠ 54
♥ KQ7
♦ AK9876
♣ A7

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	D'ble	Pass	3♦
3♠	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead is ♣Q. You win ♣A and lead to ♦Q as West discards. Ouch. You now seem to have 3 losers, 2 spades and at least one trump. Test your play.

Despair not. On ♦2 East plays ♦10 and you win ♦K. East has 3 hearts, as is necessary. After ♥K, ♥Q and ♥A you are in dummy and can continue hearts. East must ruff, else off goes a spade; so over-ruff then cross to that prudently preserved ♣K to repeat the trump coup.

Variations:

1) East doesn't split his tops on ♦2. Win cheaply and cross to ♣K to lead a heart to the same effect as previously.

2) East discards ♣10. Discard a spade and continue a heart, ruffed, over-ruffed and exit a spade to lose only a spade and a trump.

Dlr: West ♠ J93
Vul: Nil ♥ A8542
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ K95

N	E
W	S

♠ AQ1062 ♠ K87
♥ 109 ♥ J63
♦ - ♦ J10543
♣ QJ8643 ♣ 102

♠ 54
♥ KQ7
♦ AK9876
♣ A7

PANACHE - XXV
Ben Thompson

I recently played a Tuesday afternoon duplicate at Moonee Valley with Judy Larsen, the club President. Thanks to Mary Querfield for giving up her regular partner for the afternoon, and thanks Judy for a very pleasant game in very pleasant surroundings!

Dir: North	♠ AKQ9				
Vul: Nil	♥ K75				
	♦ KQJ				
	♣ A95				
♠ J102		N		♠ 874	
♥ Q108		W	E	♥ 2	
♦ 95				♦ A108732	
♣ 107432		S		♣ K86	
				♠ 653	
				♥ AJ9643	
				♦ 64	
				♣ QJ	

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Judy and I agreed to play very basic Acol. It took us until the second round to establish that we weren't playing transfers. In the second-last round, I managed to snaffle the declarership thanks to our agreement. Our club holding would have been protected if Judy had played the hand, but it's far better to agree on a simple method than to have an accident with a more complicated method.

Ian Williams, editor of the excellent Moonee Valley newsletter, put me under immediate pressure by leading ♣7. It's matchpoint pairs, so every trick matters and I went straight into the huddle.

Without a club lead, I could have just knocked out the ♦A and gotten around to pitching a club when I felt like it. I really needed to make sure I didn't lose a club trick so I could get back to square with the pairs who either played from the North hand or escaped the club lead.

I'd never played against Ian before, so I didn't know anything about his style or habits. Could he be leading "low from an honour" from ♣K107?

Before anyone plays any cards, the club finesse is 50% and spades breaking 3-3 is 36%, so you would normally take the club finesse, but after the lead, I figured Ian's ♣7 was the more likely "highish from a bunch of small ones" so playing for the friendly spade break suddenly became much more attractive.

Now that I had a plan, I hopped ♣A, pulled a couple of trumps, looked suitably disappointed when Peter Fleming showed out, and started playing spades from the top. Ian tried to deflect me with ♠J on the 2nd round, but I had no other path to 11 tricks so I just kept on going, got lucky with the 3-3 spade break, and wound up with a 70% score on the board (10 tricks would have been only 20%).

A lot of players would have led ♠J or maybe even an aggressive diamond with the West hand. Well done Ian on finding the best lead; you deserved a better result.

Expert aside: Transfers do two good things – they give you more room to describe your hand, and they (more often than not) get the hand played from the "right" (safe) side. The stronger the NT opening is, the more likely it is that a finessing position needs to be protected by playing from the strong hand.

The takeaway

The opening lead often gives you a lot of information. Use it and make a plan **before** you even play the first card from dummy.

And when you have to put down a 22-point dummy, start playing transfers ASAP. ☺

RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Yarra Valley Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Thompson – B. Thompson
- 2 B. Turner – N. Grigg
- 3 D. Scott – I. Stirling

Swiss Teams

- 1 L. Anderson, J. Howard, L. Ginnan, P. Hollands
- 2 H. Josling, S. Curtis, G. Nunn, R. Lucas
- 3 M. Elson, D. Jacobs, L. Szabo, C. Arul

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Now THIS is a hand record!

Chris Raisin at the **Eastern Contract Bridge Centre** in Box Hill provides the most amazing hand record we have ever seen. After every session, he carefully gathers all the bidding slips and types the auctions into his computer. Then he gets Jack (a world champion computer bridge program) to bid and play every hand.



And then he produces ECBC's unique hand record. It has four sections: (1) the hands with double dummy analysis like we're all used to, (2) the session results, (3) the auction and opening lead at every table, and (4) Jack's bidding and play.

How long does all that take? Not as long as you might think – maybe 45 minutes for a 7-8 table duplicate. Click on *Handouts* on one of the results pages at www.ecbc.net.au to check it out.

Regional Championships

The Western Region and the Eastern Region both held their championships over the February 16-17 weekend. The Northern region will be holding theirs on April 13-14. The pairs championships qualify one pair from each region in each of the Open, Women and Senior categories for the Butler Interstate Teams Selection finals at the VBA, and the teams championships send two teams from each region for the regional play-off in the Pennant (the state team's championship).

Gary Ridgway and Arthur Robbins won the Western Regions pairs championship on their home ground, and can choose whether to take a spot in the Open Butler or the Senior Butler. Last year they went Seniors, made the Victorian team and won the Interstate championship in Darwin. Gabby Wilson and

Lesley Clark-Samuels came second, grabbing the Women's spot – which they also translated last year into a spot on the Victorian Women's team.

The Blinman team (Pamela Blinman, Denise Clarke, Mick Clarke and Gordon Myers) took out the team's championship with 6 straight wins, completing the double for Geelong. Blinman-Clarke bid nicely to be the only pair in slam with these cards:

Dealer: West, Vul: N/S

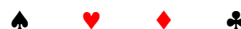
♠ A653	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ107
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ -	♥ 763										
♦ AQ108754	♦ K6										
♣ 52	♣ AJ97										

Pamela opened 1♦ with the West cards. North put in a weak 2♥, Denise doubled, and South raised to 3♥. Pamela jumped to 4♠ and Denise correctly decided from the auction that Pamela had to be short in hearts. She simply wheeled out Blackwood and bid the slam, laydown for 13 when everything broke.

In the East, Glenis Lohr and Rob Graham from Traralgon were undefeated in taking out the pairs over Kaye Douglas and John Sutton from Phillip Island. In an exciting finish Joan Courtemanche, Jean Macleod, Judy Banks and Anna Kearon from Bairnsdale scored 46 VPs in the last two rounds to sneak home in the teams by 1 VP.



From the teams: Roger Gillard (Geel), Chris Hynd (Ballarat), Gary Ridgway and trying to stay off-camera, Carol Woodley



AUSTRALIAN SENIORS PLAYOFF

Two Victorians featured heavily in the recent Australian Seniors Team playoff in Sydney. George Gaspar (playing with Bob Richman) and Chris Hughes (playing with Avi Kanetkar) were on opposing teams in the final of this event.

In a wildly see-sawing match – you had to be watching it on BBO to believe it – it was Chris’s team that came out on top. Here is a fine play from him, late in the spine-tingling final set:

Dir: West ♠ Q4
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ8752
 ♦ -
 ♣ A7432

♠ AJ9632	N	♠ K5
♥ 10963	W E	♥ J4
♦ 4	S	♦ AKQJ9863
♣ J10		♣ 9

♠ 1087
 ♥ A
 ♦ 10752
 ♣ KQ865

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Kanetkar	Haughie	Hughes
Pass	1♥	3♦	Pass
3♠	4♣	4♦	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Hughes thought for some time over 5♦, and finally sensibly passed the decision to his partner (he may have considered this to be a forcing pass) – and North passed out 5♦.

He led ♥A, and it’s easy to see how 5♦ might make. After a switch to ♣K and a club, declarer can ruff, draw trumps and, aided by the bidding, play spades from the top. But Chris avoided this trap: he switched to the club **queen**, misleading his partner into winning ♣A and going back to hearts. Two down was worth 5 imps to the winners, as East bid and made 3♦ at the other table.

Ultimately both Chris and George were winners: because of other players’ Open team qualification, Chris’s team will represent the country in the Far East Championships in Hong Kong, while George will go to the World Championships in Bali. Congratulations to both of them.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: East ♠ AK82
 Vul: All ♥ 8
 ♦ J85
 ♣ AK965

♠ J1063	N	♠ 974
♥ 10542	W E	♥ AKQ3
♦ 62	S	♦ A10943
♣ 842		♣ 7

♠ Q5
 ♥ J976
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ QJ103

What high cards can partner hold? Likely none. Declarer should have a stopper in hearts, but perhaps not both of ♥J and ♥10 and your best chance is to return ♥3 and hope.

When this deal was played in the Swedish Premier League, ♥3 proved the winning line when declarer played low. At the other table East cashed ♥Q first and declarer knew to rise ♥J.

Problem 2

Dir: West ♠ KQ1063
 Vul: E/W ♥ K974
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 2

♠ -	N	♠ 9
♥ J1085	W E	♥ AQ632
♦ Q10972	S	♦ K6
♣ J964		♣ AK753

♠ AJ87542
 ♥ -
 ♦ J43
 ♣ Q108

Finding an exit card is a problem. Obviously not a heart, and a club might promote ♣Q. So a diamond looks safest. But North-South have a 12-card fit, and therefore, as is often the case, a cross-ruff is looming. Declarer will be able to eliminate hearts and clubs then exit with a second round of diamonds, which could leave you on lead to concede a ruff-discard. You can hope to foil this by choosing not a low diamond, but the unblocking ♦K for your exit card.

COMING EVENTS

Four Play

The VBA is happy to announce our new session "Four Play" which will commence in early April. If you love to play and love to learn this is for you! The time of the session is not yet finalised, please see the VBA site in the upcoming weeks for session times.

The session format for is unlike anything else offered. During this session you will play 4 x 4 board rounds with Butler scoring! This means that you have a way to practise and improve your IMPs strategy. Along with the great format, you will have access to top Victorian player Jeff Fust who will be running the session.

Jeff Fust is an outstanding leader in the Australian bridge teaching community. Unlike many experts, Jeff understands what it takes to teach bridge. He does this not by giving you rules and formulae for the game, but by teaching you to think through the problems on each hand. Jeff always makes sure that you are having fun in the process.

Jeff will provide one teaching hand during each match that will be pulled a part and analysed in between matches. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the days hands and strategy with Jeff at the end of the session.

The cost of the session will be \$20. As a special introductory offer VBA members will only pay \$10 if they attend either or both of the first two sessions.

2013 Victor Champion Cup

Entries are now open for the Victor Champion Cup (VCC). The VCC offers an opportunity for players of all skill levels to come enjoy a Gold Point festival right here in Victoria.

The VCC will run from June 6-10 at the Bayview Eden Hotel in Melbourne.

For further details please see a brochure in your club or alternatively see <http://vba.asn.au/vcc/>.

Crash Course

40 people from their twenties to their eighties came to the VBA on Saturday February 16 for our one-day bridge basic crash course. They travelled anywhere from 400 metres up to 400 kilometres (really!) to take part.

The VBA will be running another Crash Course on Sunday April 14 and would like to invite anyone who wants to get a taste of the game along for a fun day out.

If your club is interested in running a similar shorter course we would also like to encourage you to come along on the day to see how the format works and get an idea of how you might like to go about it.



April 14
10 a.m - 4 p.m

1 Day Bridge Basics Crash Course

Do your friends play?
Have you always wanted to learn?
Are you up for a new challenge?
Do you want a day of fun?
Do you want to meet new people?
Did you learn years ago but haven't played since?

Come along to the Victorian Bridge Associations 1 Day Bridge Crash Course. During this course you will have a fun day out, learn the basics of the world's greatest card game and meet new people.



Course Cost \$40
including lunch, course notes and booklet and 1 voucher to a supervised play session (the next step).

The Course will be held on Sunday April 14 from 10 a.m in our clubrooms at 131 Poath Road Murrumbena 3163.



For further information or to sign up please call the VBA on 9530 9006 or email lauraginnan@vba.asn.au



Teacher Training Program 2013

The VBA is happy to announce that Joan Butts, the ABF National Training Coordinator will be returning to Melbourne on April 6 and 7 to deliver a Teacher Training Program. Joan ran a very successful program in 2011 and we are encouraging all potential, casual or experienced teachers to attend this course in 2013. Joan offers a valuable insight into the

mind of the beginning player and suggests a variety of techniques that cater for different teaching styles and group compositions. Attendance to this program is free and the VBA will be providing a \$80 subsidy for teachers who reside over 70KM from the Melbourne GPO.

See the advertisement on page 12 for more details.

Youth Training Weekend

The Victorian Youth Bridge Club will be holding a training weekend on April 27 and 28 for Victorian players who are under 40 years of age.

Andrew Mill has kindly volunteered his expertise to run a training day on the Saturday which will be presented to three different skill ranges. The Sunday will see youth players team up with Victorian open level players in a Swiss Teams Pro Am event.

The Youth club will be providing the training weekend and lunch on the day for free to attendees. The club would like to thank its supporters who took part in the Fundraising Lunch which was held during the Waverley Bridge Club Congress last year. Without these funds we would not be able to run events like this.

Directors' Course

A two day directors' course for players who would like to become directors will be held at Waverley Bridge Club.

Date: April 20, 21
 Time: 10 am – 4 pm both days
 Address: Electra Community Centre
 21A Electra Ave
 Ashwood 3147
 Melways 61 A11

The course will be run by Laurie Kelso, and the cost is \$60.

Please contact Mary Elson on 9807 6502 or email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au to book in.

Victoria Cup

The Victoria Cup is a brand new state-wide, red point event starting in July 2013. Teams can have 4, 5 or 6 players from anywhere in the state and you don't even need to be an ABF member!

Depending on entries, there will be 3 or 4 divisions so that you can play in a division to suit your skill level. The divisions will include under 10 master points, under 50 master points, and Open.

The Victoria Cup will be broken into 3 stages and will involve online play so that you can easily play with and against other players from all over Victoria.

The finals will be held at the VBA on December 14 and 15, and country players will have their travel to the finals subsidised.

Start to get your team together and keep an eye out in next month's bulletin and on the VBA website for further details.

COUNCIL NEWS

VBA Council Regional Representatives

The VBA is pleased to welcome Jan Hackett and Pam Dingwall to the VBA Council. Jan has once again taken up the role as Northern Region Representative whilst Pam is the newly elected Eastern Region President and has advised she will take up the position on ERBA's behalf.

New Webmaster

At its February meeting, the VBA appointed Ruth Thomson as the new VBA webmaster (or should that be "webmistress"?). We congratulate Ruth on her appointment and trust that with her support the VBA website will continue to be a useful resource of all things bridge for Victorian clubs.

RECENT VBA RESULTS

Ramsden Handicap

- 1 J. Masters – T. Cowie
- 2 S. Gerdan – M. Balint
- 3 B. Lindsay – G. Lovrecz

YOUTH IN CANBERRA
Laura Ginnan

Each year a couple of car loads of Victorian Youth players head up to Canberra to take on the National Youth Championships in the week prior to the NOT. This year the Victorian contingent proved to be quite the force!

To start with Peter Hollands and Justin Howard need to be congratulated on their fine efforts, a clean sweep of the Youth Pairs, Youth Teams and Youth Butler. Congratulations also go to Max Henbest, Nathan Howard and Ellena Moskovsky who have also qualified for the Australian Under 25 team that will be representing Australia at the PABF's in Wuhan China later this year.

Here's a deal that shows off the expertise of our youth players. Peter Hollands was playing in the Youth Test Match between Australia and New Zealand.

Peter held as South, at favourable vulnerability:

♠ A1098 ♥ A32 ♦ 863 ♣ Q74

and this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Brown	Burrowes	Coutts	Hollands
	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣**	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	

* splinter raise
** cue-bid

What do you lead?

Actually this hand isn't as simple as it seems. Peter managed to find a bid of 4♠ in the pass-out seat!

Pete says: "I asked if the splinter promised at least 4 hearts and it did, so my partner had at most a singleton heart. The cue bid of 4♣ suggested that he didn't have spade wastage so I could count that my 4 spades are likely to be good (due to the good pips) plus ♥A and two heart ruffs in partners hand. This adds up to 7 tricks for down 3 which at favourable would be -500."

The auction continued:

West	North	East	South
Brown	Burrowes	Coutts	Hollands
	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣**	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠(!)
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	5♠	D'ble	All Pass

As it turned out, 4♠ was actually a making contract, as this was the full deal:

Dir: North	♠ Q76532	
Vul: E/W	♥ -	
	♦ J7542	
	♣ A6	
♠ K		♠ J4
♥ KQ974		♥ J10865
♦ Q9		♦ AK10
♣ J10832		♣ K95

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A1098
♥ A32
♦ 863
♣ Q74

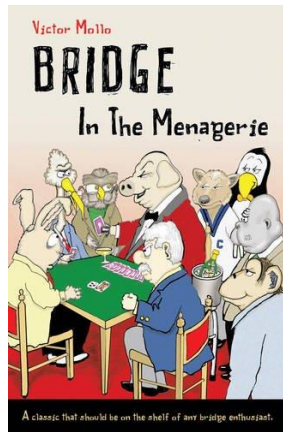
If you're so used to seeing names such as Howard and Hollands and are starting to wonder when these players are going to become too old to represent the youth, don't worry as there are some up-and-coming youngsters in the mix. This year three players from Victoria aged from 9-11 attended the Youth Championships. Aiden Roberston, Liam Robertson and Finn Rennie attend the Juniors session on a Tuesday afternoon at the Waverley Bridge Club and enjoyed the competition of the Youth Championships. Liam and Aiden were paired with Barbara Travis and Howard Melbourne in the Youth Consolation pairs. There was a healthy family rivalry at the table - sibling and spousal!



(l-r) Liam and Aiden Robertson, Howard Melbourne, Barbara Travis

BOOK REVIEW¹
VICTOR MOLLO'S MENAGERIE SERIES
Kim Frazer

Players looking for a bit of light reading may find this series from Victor Mollo entertaining, although you will either like or dislike them - there seems to be no in between. The series focuses on players - amongst them the Hideous Hog, Peregrine the Penguin, Rueful Rabbit, Papa, Timothy the Toucan, Oscar the Owl, Secretary Bird and so on. Generally the action is set at the club or the club's bar with discussion on a hand. The protagonists like the Hog fancy themselves as masters of the game and are constantly outsmarted by the perceived weaker players such as the Rabbit who through luck or good fortune end up making the impossible contracts. The hands discussed are often those rare ones that come up about once a year. Slams abound but there are many tricky 3NT and other game hands shown.



Here's a taste, the Rueful Rabbit and Timothy Toucan at work:

RR ♠ AJ ♥ AKJxx ♦ AQJ ♣ A109	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px; height: 50px;">W</td> <td style="width: 50px; height: 50px;">E</td> </tr> </table>	W	E	TT ♠ Kxxxx ♥ xx ♦ K10x ♣ KQJ
W	E			
2♣ 3♥ 5♣ 6♦ 7♣		2♠ 4NT 5NT 6NT Pass		

The bidding ends up in 7♣ as the Toucan decided to bid 6NT and let the Rabbit decide and the Rabbit decided to bid 7♣ and let the Toucan decide.

¹ This begins an occasional series of book reviews by Kim Frazer, originally published in the Moonee Valley Bridge Club newsletter.

"His nostrils acquirer, beads of perspiration running down his forehead, the RR tried to look supremely unconcerned....."

The Rabbit had heard of a technique where you take as many winners as you can and then cross-ruff for the rest. He hopes to only go one off and thus be equal with the rest of the room who will also be in unmakeable slams. So he began by taking his three diamond tricks. Next two spade tricks, followed by two heart tricks. As all his trumps were high, he simply cross ruffs the remaining three losing spades and three losing hearts. How lucky he was that the major suits divided 4-2; whilst the minor suits were 3-4 with the opponents.

So instead of going down in 6♥ like the rest of the room, the RR has snatched victory from the jaws of defeat once more. The recriminations by the opponents begin - "why didn't you lead a trump?"

The books are good fun. Light-hearted and many of us will recognise characters from our own club amongst those portrayed in the book. At about 150 pages long, these are an entertaining read and our library has several of the books available.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: North	♠ 10		
Vul: All	♥ A4		
	♦ AK9765		
	♣ 7642		
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 50px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 50px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	S
N			
S			
	♠ AKQJ94		
	♥ J52		
	♦ 32		
	♣ AK		

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♥K. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs

♠ 75	♠ 10	♠ 8632
♥ KQ76	♥ A4	♥ 10983
♦ Q1084	♦ AK9765	♦ J
♣ J93	♣ 7642	♣ Q1085

♠ AKQJ94	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 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	♠ 8632
N					
W E					
S					
♥ J52		♥ 10983			
♦ 32		♦ J			
♣ AK		♣ Q1085			

If you've already read this month's "For Starters", there is no excuse for getting this wrong. To protect your possible heart ruff and retain the ♥A as an entry to the diamonds, play low at trick 1! West will need to switch to a trump. Now there is no hurry to play on diamonds: instead play out all but

one of your spades and ♣AK to reach this position (West has been forced to bare ♥K to retain his 4 diamonds):

♠ -	♠ -
♥ A	♥ A
♦ AK97	♦ AK97
♣ -	♣ -

♠ -	♠ -	♠ -
♥ Q	♥ Q	♥ -
♦ Q1084	♦ Q1084	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -	♣ -

♠ 4	♠ -
♥ J5	♥ -
♦ 32	♦ -
♣ -	♣ -

You cash ♦AK and discover the break. So then play ♥A and that ♥J becomes your twelfth trick.

If you play the diamonds prematurely, this sweet little position won't eventuate.



Australian Bridge Federation Inc.

FREE Teacher Training Program

Melbourne

6 – 7 April 2013



ABF National Teaching
Coordinator- Joan Butts

EDUCATION PROGRAM – BRIDGE TEACHERS

Saturday 6 April 2013	
When	Topic
10.00 – 1.00	Teaching Methodology Generating STEAM – a focus on five essentials for professionally delivered bridge lessons
1.00 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 3.00	Practical Teaching Tools (1) Up-to-date methods that assure successful lessons for players from beginners to advanced
3.00 – 4.00	Practical Teaching Tools (2)
Sunday 7 April 2013	
When	Topic
10.00 – 12.00	Workshop Joan Butts Competitive Bidding
12.00 – 1.00	Discussion Group with Teachers

If you are a bridge teacher, or would like to become one, you are invited to attend this free workshop, sponsored by the ABF.

The workshop will follow a modern, easy approach to teaching bridge.

Plenty of time allocated for questions and answers .

You will receive a Teacher Training Certificate at the end of the course.

Where:

Victorian Bridge Association
131 Poath Road
Murrumbena

To Register:

Contact: Laura Ginnan