

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

DE ZEEPKIST Ben Thompson

Half a century ago, John Fitzgerald Kennedy said in his iconic inaugural speech "ask not what your country can do for you - ask



what you can do for your country". That simple but resonant phrase set off a powerful wave of volunteering in America.

Bridge, like most leisure activities, depends critically on volunteers. The VBA itself has a few paid staff but could not operate without its many dedicated volunteers. We have many other great examples of bridge volunteers in Victoria. Here are just a few.

The Bendigo club donates bridge materials to small nearby clubs like Castlemaine and Maldon. I played at Castlemaine last month with my wife Jenny and experienced for myself the great support Bendigo and its members provide. Bendigo deals Castlemaine's boards every week, which Bendigo members bring on the train on their way to support the session further by playing. Bendigo members also score for Castlemaine and the results are posted on Bendigo's website.

Table numbers have grown at Castlemaine, and Jenny and I were certainly impressed with the standard of bridge played.

Bendigo is not the only club that helps other clubs. Warrnambool, for example, provides similar help to the clubs in Port Fairy and Camperdown. Benalla members help the Euroa club. The Gippsland clubs are very organised at helping and supporting each other. Much of this happens because a few members of a large club live in a small town with a small club and just want to help.

Most clubs depend on small everyday acts of volunteerism that we never even think about. Setting up tables. Putting out the tea and bikkies. Packing away the bidding boxes at the end of the session. Small acts they may be, but most clubs can't operate without everyone pitching in.

Many clubs depend critically on bigger acts of volunteerism. Are the directors at your club volunteers? Most likely they are, and I really admire their selflessness and dedication in taking on such a big job.

We don't all pull in the same direction at the same time, but we're fortunate in bridge to have so many people so willing to devote their time to helping out with the game we all love. Share your stories, celebrate our stories, and ask yourself if a little of your experience could make a big difference at your club, or another club.



Editor – ABDA Bulletin

The Australian Bridge Directors Association is seeking an Editor for its quarterly Bulletin.

The Bulletin is an electronic and hard copy members-only publication of around 24 A4 pages covering matters of relevance and interest to Australasian Bridge Directors.

Non-members of ABDA may access to a previous sample version by emailing abda@abf.com.au.

A negotiated payment will be made for final copy of each Bulletin produced.

Contact Officer: Sean Mullamphy, email not@abf.com.au, phone + 61 (0) 401509616

Applications close on Friday 17th May 2013, and should be emailed to Sean at the above address, copy to abda@abf.com.au.

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

On negative inferences

This deal comes from Rob Klinger's blog on the World Mind Sports Games in Lille.

Dlr: West ♠ Q9
 Vul: all ♥ QJ10743
 ♦ K8
 ♣ Q107

♠ J1073	N	♠ AK54
♥ 9	W E	♥ K
♦ AQ96	S	♦ J102
♣ KJ85		♣ A6432

♠ 862
 ♥ A8652
 ♦ 7543
 ♣ 9

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	2♣	4♥
?			

West for India found 5♣, failing by one trick. At the other table Australia bid and made 4♠. Klinger's analysis: "West needs to double 4♥ for takeout and East would bid 4♠".

Opinions were divided about the status of Double here. On Vugraph, top US player Kit Woolsey took the view that double of 4♥ would have been for penalty. Many spectators supported this, believing that East's failure to double 1♥ had denied holding 4 spades. On the other hand, the Encyclopedia of Bridge states "players should avoid a negative double when a good natural bid is available", so the non-negative-Double would carry no negative inference. Klinger's view is consistent with this. (Admire the quadruple negative.)

The Indian West may have believed that after 3 suits have been bid, double is no longer for takeout. If West passes 4♥ with his minimum (his progression to the 5-level was rash) what of double from East? Or should East, having failed to double 1♥ introduce 4♠?

Thinking ahead, which we don't always do, East, with powerful spades and clubs less so, would have been better advised to double 1♥. It certainly would have made life simpler for his partner.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dlr: South ♠ A102
 Vul: all ♥ Q762
 ♦ A4
 ♣ QJ52

♠ J943	N
♥ K982	W E
♦ QJ52	S
♣ 4	

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♦#	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* no inference on South's length in clubs
 # fourth suit enquiry, game forcing

You start with ♦2 which turns out not to be promising as it runs to South's ♦9. Next comes a club to dummy's ♣Q. Partner wins ♣A and returns ♥J. What do you make of that? You could (a) run it to ♥Q; (b) take it and return ♥2 to show four; (c) take it and return ♥9.

Problem 2:

Dlr: South ♠ K63
 Vul: all ♥ A9
 ♦ 43
 ♣ KQ7432

♠ 109	N
♥ Q1064	W E
♦ QJ95	S
♣ AJ6	

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	All pass	

With diamonds to protect you begin with ♠10. Declarer wins ♠Q and produces ♦2. This looks to be what you expected; should you play a diamond higher than ♦5 and continue trumps?

Solutions on page 11.



Have You Arranged Your Travel Insurance – It's Not Too Late To Join the ABF Members Travel Insurance Scheme

While it can seem a bit pessimistic, making sure that your next trip is memorable for all the right reasons should be a result of planning for the worst and hoping for the best.

An important part of planning for the worst is in making sure that the 'what ifs' are taken care of, and in most cases this means travel insurance. Unfortunately, navigating the maze of different policies and options can be complex.

Travel insurance is something you will need on the road. You never know what could happen, and most health plans won't cover you overseas. No one ever planned to pop an eardrum while scuba diving, break a camera in Italy, break a leg hiking or that an immediate relative would die and they would have to fly back home.

Appropriate travel insurance is there when those events happen. While it is something you hope you never have to use, it is just not wise to travel without it. You would rather be safe than sorry and not stuck with an enormous hospital bill.

With the myriad of plans and insurers available, people can easily get confused about what they should get and why.

There are a lot of options out there. This is big business and every insurer has an offering, thus you face a huge number of choices that can be overwhelming. Whether it is medical expense coverage limits, evacuation, geographical coverage areas, illness and injury cover, lost or damaged possessions, cancellations, legal expenses or financial protection – finding the benefits you need, then trying to shoe horn them into your budget is a herculean task.

For this reason, the ABF's General Insurance Broker, TBIB, has developed a Corporate Travel Insurance for the financial members of ABF-affiliated clubs. TBIB were already the insurance brokers to the ABF and are specialists in Corporate Travel Insurance.

A Corporate Travel Insurance Policy is a travel insurance policy to which all members of an organization are eligible to join. Because of the collective nature of the participation, individuals can avail themselves of a broader range of covers and benefit levels – at a more competitive price – than individual or credit card based policies.

TBIB have found the right arrangement for the ABF and we are now in the second year of enjoying the benefits of the ABF Corporate Travel Insurance Policy for your members.

The TBIB policy is one of the most inclusive available. For eligible members, just some of the cover inclusions are:

- Covers all trips commenced during the

period of the policy including overseas and within Australia when you are more than 100km's from home.

- Pre-existing medical conditions are covered (unless you are travelling against medical advice and are fit for travel).
- No medical examinations required to get cover.
- Medical expenses are covered worldwide (except Australia) and are not limited to a maximum amount.

The cover limits for this policy are extremely generous, and from just doing a little bit of research, the premiums come in considerably cheaper than an individual policy with similar benefits – especially as you get older.

The members of the ABF do a bit of travelling, whether it is for our great game, or just time away with family.

Nothing ruins a holiday faster than an unplanned emergency. And while travel insurance can't prevent the emergencies, the right insurance can definitely alleviate a lot of the hassle.

It's important to do your homework before you go so you can rest easy knowing that you didn't trust your wellbeing to an inferior option.

For more information, go to www.tbib.com.au to view the PDS and additional information about the policy. Take the time to review all the information to ensure the product meets your needs.

Suit Combination of the month

2
□
AQ10943

What is the best play for 5 tricks in this suit?
Solution on page 10.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You hold:

♠ AKQ32 ♥ Q63 ♦ 75 ♣ 732

You are playing for IMPs, and no one is vulnerable. The auction begins:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

Now what?

Perhaps you have a game in spades. You could bid 4♠ here and not lose any sleep. But this perfectly ordinary hand for partner:

♠ Jxxx ♥ xxx ♦ AKQx ♣ Qx

gives you no chance in 4♠. In that construction, your ♥Q is a wasted card.

What you need is for partner to have honours in hearts, which will bolster the value of your ♥Q. You can ask partner about this by bidding 3♥ here: this is known as a *Help Suit Game Try*: asking for help in the heart department. In responding to the game try, partner should looking lovingly at any heart honours in his hand.

You bid 3♥, and the auction concludes:

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

The ♦Q is led, and you see:

♦Q

N

S

♠ J108
♥ KJ84
♦ AK42
♣ 96

♠ AKQ32
♥ Q63
♦ 75
♣ 732

After winning the diamond lead, what do you do next?

Start by counting your winners: 5 in spades, 2 in diamonds and 2 in hearts, after you knock out the ♥A.

The tenth trick could come from the long heart in dummy, should the suit divide favourably ... or you could try to ruff a club in the dummy. The latter plan is better, as it doesn't require any particularly friendly distribution.

If you are going to ruff a club, you cannot afford to play even a single round of trumps. If you do play a trump, the opponents can then continue trumps themselves whenever you play a club, and this will run dummy out of trumps.

So play a club at trick 2.

The full deal:

Dir: North
Vul: nil

♠ J108
♥ KJ84
♦ AK42
♣ 96

N

W E

S

♠ 974
♥ A9
♦ 863
♣ KJ1085

♠ 65
♥ 10752
♦ QJ109
♣ AQ4

♠ AKQ32
♥ Q63
♦ 75
♣ 732

On this layout, playing for good fortune in hearts will not work: your tenth trick must come from a club ruff.

Points to remember:

- Help Suit Game Tries are also sometimes called Long Suit Game Tries. They work best when you use them in a suit of 3 or more cards that has an unprotected honour in it, like the ace, king or queen. Then partner knows that any honours he has in that suit will work in tandem with your honour.

Try swapping partner's hearts and clubs in this deal, so he has

♠ J108 ♥ 96 ♦ AK42 ♣ KJ84

Now your ♥Q is opposite a small doubleton and has no value whatsoever. You are highly unlikely to make game on this layout: you will need both the ♣A and ♣Q to be onside.

- When planning the play in any contract, first count your tricks! Then look for a play that will increase this to the required tricks. On this deal, just a single round of trumps, "whilst you are thinking" would be fatal.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Youth Pro-Am: Blaine Howe Trophy

- 1 Megan Glenn, Marcus Brodmeyer, Rena Kaplan, George Gaspar, David Thompson
- 2 Thomas Johannsen, Christophe McNeil, Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins
- 3 Jane Rennie, Jamie Thompson, Terry Strong, Kevin Chan



Contestants at the Victorian Youth Pro-Am

Fred Altman Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Smart – I. McCance
- 2 R. Kaplan – G. Gaspar
- 3 D. Harley – S. Weisz

Victorian Open Team Playoff

- 1 C. Hughes, H. Blakeman, D. Hohor, T. Chira, N. Ewart, B. Kingham
- 2 T. Strong, J. Magee, J. Fust, E. Samuel, P. Schroor, D. Sheather

Victorian Womens' Team Selection

- 1 J. Collins – L. Ginnan
- 2 C. Lachman – H. Snashall
- 3 M. Obenchain – T. Gariepy

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Dealing with the 1♠ overcall

Partner	RHO	You
1♦	1♠	?

After partner's opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ is overcalled with 1♠, special attention needs to be paid to the heart suit, which you have been preempted out of showing at the 1-level.

An important tool is the *negative double*. Negative doubles apply after an overcall of partner's opening bid. Normally they imply length in both the unbid suits. However, in the explicit case of a 1♠ overcall of 1♣ or 1♦, it tends to act as a surrogate 1♥ response, saying, "partner, I would have responded 1♥ if I had the chance." This is useful when your hearts are either not long enough, or your hand is not strong enough, to bid 2♥ over the 1♠ overcall.

What is your response on each of the following, after 1♦ from partner, 1♠ overcall?

- (a) ♠ J42 ♥ Q643 ♦ J92 ♣ A95
- (b) ♠ J42 ♥ KQ1075 ♦ A4 ♣ A32
- (c) ♠ J42 ♥ KQ1072 ♦ 43 ♣ A32
- (d) ♠ J42 ♥ QJ10872 ♦ 43 ♣ 32
- (e) ♠ A42 ♥ KQ107 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AQ3
- (f) ♠ 4 ♥ KQJ10872 ♦ 43 ♣ Q32

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

Partner	RHO	You
1♦	1♠	?

(a) ♠ J42 ♥ Q643 ♦ J92 ♣ A95

Double. "Partner, I was going to respond 1♥". What's more, your rebid will be the same as if the auction had indeed started 1♦ - 1♥. If partner bids hearts, good; otherwise you will happily accept a notrump or diamond contract.

(b) ♠ J42 ♥ KQ1075 ♦ A4 ♣ A32

2♥. On this hand, there is no need to make a negative double. Show your good points and good suit via 2♥. If partner rebids in a minor, you can bid 3♠ next, to ask for a spade stopper for 3NT.

(c) ♠ J42 ♥ KQ1072 ♦ 43 ♣ A32

Double. This hand is the same shape as in (b), but not as strong. A direct 2♥ bid may get you too high. It is better to start with a negative double, and over partner's rebid, plan to bid 2♥ next. This auction shows a 5-card heart suit, and approximately invitational values.

(d) ♠ J42 ♥ QJ10872 ♦ 43 ♣ 32

Pass. This hand needs a long-term plan. If you bid now, the auction may well get out of hand. Best is to pass first, and hope to get a chance to bid your hearts later. Then partner will not get carried away, as your initial pass severely limits your hand.

(e) ♠ A42 ♥ KQ107 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AQ3

Double. There may well be a slam in the cards, but there is no rush. What would you have bid had RHO not intervened? 1♥. 6 or more points: on this hand, the emphasis is on "more". So it's back to the negative double saying "I would have responded 1♥." When you hear partner's rebid, you will have a better idea of where you are headed.

(f) ♠ 4 ♥ KQJ10872 ♦ 43 ♣ Q32

4♥. Bid what you think you can make. This might set your left-hand opponent a nasty problem if he has a few spades.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Jill Chambers	Royal South Yarra
Alan Everington	Ballarat
Norman Gledhill	Frankston
Patricia Gledhill	Frankston
Pat Joyce	Lakes Entrance
Dell Macneil	Waverley
William Rossiter-Nuttall	Rye Beach
Arvo Soosalu	Yarra Valley
Lyn Woods	Lakes Entrance

***State**

Jake Barnard	Peninsula
Ted Fielding	Rye Beach
Patricia Frost	Geelong
Paul Kron	VBA
Peter Lonie	Frankston
Frank McConvill	Rye Beach

National

Kathryn Attwood	VBA
Edward Hynes	Kings & Queens
Dorothy Love	Sale
Mabel Moir	Yarra Valley
Shirley Rogers	Dendy Park
Joan Siegert	Frankston
Ken Tierney	Traralgon
Ron Wilson	Paynesville

***National**

Bobbi Burton	Frankston
Jennifer Codognotto	Waverley
Pam Dingwall	Lakes Entrance
Julie Farmer	Lakes Entrance
Pamela Gibbs	Geelong
Frances Hanks	Moonee Valley
Mary Turnbull	Bairnsdale

****National**

Lindsay Coker	Yarra Valley
Marjorie Stewart	Yarra Valley

Life

Lindy Anderson	VBA
Pat Barker	Rye Beach
Susan Barlow	Rye Beach
Dawn Cameron	Traralgon
Noel Grigg	Whittlesea
Jenny Hoff	Waverley

Bronze Life

Larry Attwood	VBA
Valerie Kellerman	Yarra Valley

Silver Life

Susie Hall	VBA
Patricia Henderson	Waverley

Gold Life

Hedy Cohen	Dendy Park
Judith Crafti	Bayside
Dot Lawrence	Bairnsdale

PANACHE - XXVII
Ben Thompson

Bill Jacobs and I went to Japan last month to play in the NEC Cup with our regular teammates Ron Klinger and Matt Mullamphy. This year there was a very strong field, with 8 teams featuring world champions. In the Pairs, Dutch star Ricco van Prooijen made a beautiful play against me. Smoothly of course!

Dir: East	♠ J743																
Vul: N/S	♥ 87																
	♦ A10952																
	♣ 52																
♠ K92	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%;"></td><td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr> </table>		N					W		E					S		♠ AQ10
	N																
W		E															
	S																
♥ K1032		♥ Q965															
♦ Q6		♦ 83															
♣ A1097		♣ Q843															
	♠ 865																
	♥ AJ4																
	♦ KJ74																
	♣ KJ6																

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

Van Prooijen led ♥2 (that's not the beautiful play). I won my ace over East's queen and considered the lilies. Clearly van Prooijen was going to have an opening hand, since we only had 18 points and his partner hadn't opened. But not too strong (he would have doubled) or too shapely (he would have bid). So East was going to have a fair smattering of honours too.

In addition, we had 9 diamonds between us, so at least one of the dear oppos was going to be short in diamonds. That meant that when the people playing Standard (almost all of the field) opened my hand 1♦, E/W would have an easy path into the auction (via a takeout double) and to find 2♥, which rated to be makeable.

Good news for me, because that meant I could dribble one off in 1NT and still get a good score. But not 2 off – that would be a disaster -200. Easy, I thought, all I have to do is pick up the diamond suit for 5 tricks, and I'm up to 6 for a good score.

Here comes the beautiful play. I played a diamond up and van Prooijen played the queen just like he plays every other card. Smoothly. Hang on a sec, you say. He popped the queen, solving your problem and you call that beautiful!?!?

I sure do. It's a classic expert play with Jx or Qx (or even Kx) in front of a suit like that in a weak dummy. What you're playing for is declarer to have Hxx. It's a strange defensive Morton's fork. If declarer ducks, he has to lose a trick to East's Qxx or Kxx as well. If he takes your honour with the ace, it's even worse. East ducks the 10 next and you only make 2 tricks from the suit.

I didn't fool around. I grabbed my 6 tricks and my good score as quickly as I could, and then exited a spade. Van Prooijen's partner got the ending slightly wrong, so I eventually scored the ♣K in the endgame to make my contract and get out of town with a big score against one of the game's superstars.

Eric Rodwell writes about this sort of combination in The Rodwell Files, calling van Prooijen's kind of play the Left Jab. Sometimes sneaky people even try to play low to the 10 with Kx opposite A1098x. Think about how that might work!

Expert aside: If your world-class opponent plays low when you play a low jack towards dummy, should you win the ace and finesse the jack on the way back? If you think your opponent will routinely (and smoothly) play the queen with Qx, you should play their partner for the queen.

The takeaway

The Left Jab (flying an unsupported honour to mess up the oppo's attempt to set up a suit) is a very nifty expert play. Look out for the opportunity to fly Qx (or Jx or even Kx) in front of a good long suit with no side entry.

Travellers for Sale!

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NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Green Giants

How many green masterpoints do you have? Only 16 people have ever reached the gigantic total of 1,000 green masterpoints in the entire history of Australian bridge, and two of them are Victorians.

How long do you think it would take to win that many? You could ask Nicole McManamny of the Waverley Bridge Club (1,181 and counting) or Lilli Allgood of the VBA (1,034). Even at the rate these two grand dames play and win duplicate events, it would have taken them about 35 years each.

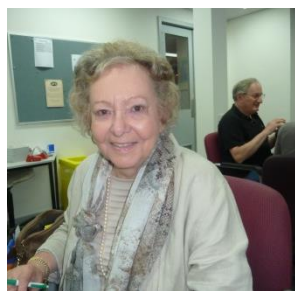
Wow! Or whew! Congratulations Nicole and Lilli on a monumental achievement!

The VBA suggested to the ABF that there should be some sort of special recognition for becoming effectively a green point grandmaster. The ABF Management Committee likes the idea and has asked David Anderson, the chair of the ABF Masterpoint committee, to consider it and come back to them.

Watch this space!



Lilli Allgood



Nicole McManamny

Lindsay Young Bridge

You would think when people go to the VBA website after a google search, they would have used a search term like "VBA results" or "Victorian Bridge Association". Nope, not even in the top 3!

Our number one search term over the last few months (generating about 1% of our traffic) has been "lindsay young bridge". So who is Lindsay Young, you might ask.

Lindsay is a serial bridge club starter, most recently the Mornington Bridge Club with Maggie Callander. On the side she has a husband, 2 cats, 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Something had to give, so Lindsay retired from work about 3 years ago.

Going back to the start, Lindsay learnt bridge as a child in England from her parents. She astutely preferred tennis, being good enough to play Junior Wimbledon for a few years before studying nursing.

Then she made the obvious career move of becoming a flight stewardess. For Pan-Am. In America. She married Bill, moved to Bath and played a lot of Bridge (lucky she didn't marry Charles and move to Coventry – she might have had to take up Chess). Curiously, they preferred 5♣ to 3NT but fast-forward 10 years, and Lindsay and Bill had moved to Gippsland and Lindsay was playing national events with her favourite partner, Wendy Pitt, who prefers 3NT to all other contracts.

While still living in the country, Lindsay qualified for the Caltex Victorian team with Simon Hinge and a callow Keith Kat. Since moving to Mt Eliza 25 years ago, Lindsay has been deeply involved with bridge on the peninsula. She and Bill have also become bridge tourists, playing in top-class events like the Transnational Teams at the World Championships in Estoril.

Lindsay has recently created a web site for Mornington Bridge Club, which is now the top search result for "lindsay young bridge", so we won't be "seeing" quite so much of her on the VBA web site. Thanks for the traffic!



Lindsay googling herself

East Gippsland Winter Pairs

Luba and John Winter (pictured right) were both avid bridge players who divided their time playing at all three East Gippsland clubs - Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Lakes Entrance.



Luba will be remembered by all who knew her as a warm and generous person who oozed sophistication and style - John shared Luba's generous spirit, had a wicked sense of humour and loved nothing more than entering into debates - he was more than willing to passionately argue either side of the topic and was quite capable of convincing adversaries that black was indeed white.

John and Luba were both well travelled - John's occupation taking them all over the world, but they eventually settled into retirement at Metung on the Gippsland Lakes.

Following their deaths, the Winter children decided to honour their parents' memories by subsidising the "Winter Pairs" with each club in East Gippsland taking it in turns to host the event. Coincidentally, both Luba and John were born on 3rd April so that date has been put aside in the calendar for this event.

In 2013 it was Paynesville's turn to host the event and 52 players from the three East Gippsland clubs attended as well as some players from Sale. The "Friends of East Timor" catered for the lunch which was chicken and ham platters as well as a dazzling array of mixed salads. The normal \$4.00 table was collected and donated to the "Friends" who made in the vicinity of \$1,000 on the day to go towards their charitable work of supporting a school through food, equipment and staff in East Timor. Over the past few years this local Bairnsdale group has also brought a number of East Timorese students to Australia to attend University with successful graduates returning to their home at the end of their studies.

A sparkling finish to the day was provided with bottles of champers and a variety of canapés.

The 2013 "Winter Pairs" champions were Hilary Hutchings and Richard Milner.



Northern Region Produces New and Familiar Winners

The Northern Region held its annual pairs and teams competition over the weekend of April 13 and 14. The overall winners of the Saturday twelve table round-robin pairs event were Val Sanderson and Richard Harman who play at the Wodonga and Albury clubs. This is a fairly recent partnership, and they combined to play two solid rounds to pip second place by only two points (740 to 738). They hope to represent the region in the open Butler pairs next year.



Richard and Val

The second place pair were not overly upset. Sisters Marion Bott and Helen Jones often do well in their local Yarrowonga club, but this is the first time they have finished this high in an outside event. They were thrilled with second and pleased to come so close to first. Both learned bridge quite a few years ago, but until recently they have played with different partners. Their mother, who was a founding member of the Yarrowonga club, would be very pleased to see her 'girls' doing so well



Helen and Marion

The teams the next day, a nine table American whist movement, was a clear win

for the Thompson team from Echuca (David, Jamie, regional stalwart Michael McQueen-Thomson and Rob Fruewirth). Second place went to Tom and Jan Hackett (Yarrowonga), Maggie Brown and John Nankervis (Ovens & Murray).



Michael, Jamie, Rob and David

We would, of course, like to thank Martin "How many teams do I actually have?" Willcox for coping with the up and down numbers and the usual director calls. Although there were a fairly large number of these, none had him diving for the rule book.

The two days were full of friendly and challenging bridge. The sessions were hosted by the Benalla club, and the region wishes to thank Jackie Rubira and her team for their contributions to a wonderful weekend.



Suit Combination of the month

2
 □
 AQ10943

Lead the 2 and take a finesse. But do you finesse for the jack or the king?

If the suit divides 3-3, it is a 50-50 guess. Your RHO might equally have Kxx or Jxx. And if RHO has a doubleton, it won't matter what you do. But if RHO has four cards, then you are better off playing to the *queen*.

This will pick up the suit for only one loser if LHO started with Jx, because the ace will subsequently drop the jack, and you will lose only to the king.

If LHO started with Kx, it does no good to finesse with the 10. LHO will win with the king giving you momentary pleasure, but RHO's jack will take a second trick.

COUNCIL NEWS

Victorian Representative to the ABF

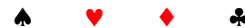
The VBA council is pleased to advise members that Brian Morgan of Rye Beach Bridge Club will take up a position as one of the two VBA representatives to the ABF council. Brian's term runs for two years and will commence from the AGM in May 2013. The VBA wishes to express its appreciation to the out-going representative Quentin van Abbe who advised he would not be standing for re-election.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VBA

Bridge for Brains, Monday 6th May, daytime and evening. Come along and support this worthy charity.

Victorian Senior Team Selection, Stage 1
 Tuesdays 7, 14 and 21 May: a 3 week State Event.

Victorian Board-A-Match commences on Wednesday 29th May: a 2 week State Event.



RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Whittlesea Congress

- 1 M. Tildesley – A. Talbot
- 2 I. Hamilton – M. Lambert
- 3 M. Obenchain – T. Gariepy

Frankston Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Zhang – J. Yang
- 2 P. Chang – S. Xie
- 3 S. Klofa – D. Harley

Swiss Teams

- 1 L. Robinson, D. Happell, J. Day, F. Kerlin
- 2 L. Gold, E. Hardy, L. Gold, M. Elson
- 3 C. Hughes, K. Bechet, H. Blakeman, C. Schwabegger

Victorian Daytime Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Harley – S. Klofa
- 2 T. Gariepy – M. Obenchain
- 3 C. Lachman – R. Drew

Bridge Fanatics Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Hegedus – A. Mill
- 2 L. Attwood – K. Attwood
- 3 G. Schaller – G. Johnson

Swiss Teams

- 1 K. French, T. Gariepy, D. Clarke, M. Clarke
- 2 M. Henbest, N. Howard, R. Drew, L. Henbest
- 3 A. Hegedus, A. Mill, S. Klofa, R. Gallus

Wodonga Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 V. Sanderson – R. Harman
- 2 M. Singh – D. Barrow
- 3 G. Hill – J. Tunks

Swiss Teams

- 1 C. Brown, S. Brown, K. French, J. Crafti
- 2 E. Underwood, H. Rial, M. Wallis, K. Smith
- 3 D. Carter, J. Tunks, G. Carter, G. Hill



SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: South ♠ A102
 Vul: all ♥ Q762
 ♦ A4
 ♣ QJ52

♠ J943	N	♠ 86
♥ K982	W E	♥ AJ103
♦ QJ52	S	♦ 8763
♣ 4		♣ A109

♠ KQ75
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K109
 ♣ K8763

Consider where the defence could possibly find 4 more tricks. Diamonds you know about. Spades look hopeless (partner only 2) and declarer has started on clubs. Even if partner has a deep trick there it will be necessary that she hold ♥A. So up with ♥K to return ♥9.

Partner has found the killing switch - she not only needed to start on hearts but also to unblock them, and you needed all 3 of ♥K98x.

Problem 2

Dir: North ♠ K63
 Vul: All ♥ A9
 ♦ 43
 ♣ KQ7432

♠ 109	N	♠ 874
♥ Q1064	W E	♥ K873
♦ QJ95	S	♦ K10
♣ AJ6		♣ 10985

♠ AQJ52
 ♥ J52
 ♦ A8762
 ♣ -

As long as declarer holds ♦A he is sure of one ruff. You should think about his holding in the round suits - at most 4, 3 quite likely and if fewer your chances are slight. Dummy's clubs are an obvious source of tricks - why hasn't he led a club? Perhaps he is void! The risk is that he could win ♠K and play ♣K to discard a heart - loser on loser; without a third trump you could not prevent a diamond ruff, then a discard on ♣Q. So hearts have to be broached at once. You must rise ♦Q (or ♦J, whichever is your custom) to tell partner that you wish to hold the lead, and play ♥4. You see later that partner could have found the heart switch by the same reasoning.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: South ♠ AJ73
 Vul: All ♥ K54
 ♦ QJ82
 ♣ 62

N
S

♠ 82
 ♥ -
 ♦ A109765
 ♣ AKQ93

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

West leads ♥Q. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

♠ Q54	♠ AJ73	♠ K1096			
♥ QJ1032	♥ K54	♥ A9876			
♦ K	♦ QJ82	♦ 43			
♣ 10854	♣ 62	♣ J7			
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ 82				
	♥ -				
	♦ A109765				
	♣ AKQ93				

Some play problems are just too hard and this is one of them. If you are not in the mood for complicated calculations, cross to dummy's ♠A and take the diamond finesse. You will make the contract half the time.

But there are alternatives. You could cash ♦A at trick 2. If the king drops (which it will a little over a quarter of the time), then call bingo. If not, then perhaps clubs are 3-3,

and you can discard all dummy's little spades on the clubs.

Add the possibility that ♣J10 drops doubleton, and this line yields a 55% chance of success. A calculator at the table would help – alas, that is an illegal aid.

Or you could cash the top clubs without first taking ♦A. If West has a doubleton club and no ♦K, you will be able to finesse the diamond later. And if E/W are inveterate count givers, you could change your mind after the top two clubs and switch back to the diamond finesse.

Finally, suppose you take the simple option of crossing to dummy at trick 2 and running the ♦Q. If it loses, is it so certain the defence will take its spade trick? If they continue hearts, then you can fall back on a kindly club division.

Some play problems are just too hard. Give yourself full credit if you saw all three possible approaches.

September 18-21

Waverley Bridge Club - Great Bridge Escape

Join us for 3 nights and 4 days of bridge in an escape to Kalorama in the picturesque Dandenongs. Enjoy all the beauty of Australia without the interminable travel and expense associated with far-flung holidays.

You can have a game or two of tennis, swim in the heated pool, take perfect (and largely flat!!) walks, play golf, visit the gym, enjoy a trip to a winery, do a little shopping or just sit back and enjoy the glorious scenery.

Or of course you can just play bridge!

Our program of Red Point bridge directed by Mary Elson and Laura Ginnan will include Pairs and Teams Championships as well as some 'fun' games. Generous prizes will be awarded.

**Mary Elson will conduct lessons for Improving players, and
Bill Jacobs will give lessons for Expert players.**

The cost of this adventure is \$580 and includes bridge program, accommodation, all on-site recreational activities and all meals.

**Contact Waverley Bridge Club on 9807 6502 or email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au
for more information**