

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

DEN TALERSTOL Ben Thompson

I've been talking about the importance of being nice everywhere I've been since I became President.



Sue Read has now heard me speak about it at three different clubs, but she's still very cheerful about hearing the message. Thank you Sue for your patience, and I hope everyone is happy to hear me talk about it more in the future (because I can guarantee that I will)!

I've also been talking about attracting new people to our wonderful, maddening, challenging, glorious game. Many clubs and many people have talked to me about the difficulty of running bridge lessons at smaller clubs, and the follow-on problem of helping new players transition into playing duplicate. There's clearly a need for a state-wide teaching and development program, and the VBA has been working on exactly that over the last six months.

We've been developing and testing a co-ordinated set of short introductory and beginners courses that we want to take "on the road" on a regular basis around Victoria to help all clubs attract, teach and retain new players. "Short" is the key word there. That is what will enable us to get our Victorian teacher to a different club or region every month, and co-ordinate follow-up.

Fully developing and delivering that program as extensively as we would like takes more money than we can afford in Victoria right now, so we're applying to the ABF for funding to support the new program (which also has a teacher development and accreditation component too).

If you would like to see more teaching and more teacher development near you, you can help by supporting our application. You can write in support to Sandra Mulcahy, the ABF's National Marketing Officer (marketing@abf.com.au), preferably before the end of June. You can also write to me (president@vba.asn.au).



Have you entered the 2013 Victor Champion Cup

to be held
Bayview Eden Hotel, South Melbourne
June 6 - 10

A Gold Master Point Event

Pairs Events: Thursday, Friday, June 6-7

- McCance Senior Swiss Pairs
- Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs
- Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs
- VCC Restricted Swiss Pairs
- Under 50 MP Swiss Pairs

Teams Events: Saturday-Monday, June 8-10

- Victor Champion Cup Swiss Teams
- Charlie Snashall Restricted Swiss Teams

All days commence at 10 am and conclude by 6:15 pm (except Monday which concludes at 1:45 pm)

Tournament Director: Sean Mullamphy

Convenor: Kim Frazer

Enter online at the VCC website

www.vba.asn.au/vcc

Phone enquiries: VBA (03) 9530 9006

We'd love to see you there.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a matchpoint duplicate, you hold:

♠ Q5 ♥ J953 ♦ J943 ♣ AK6

You are the dealer, and no-one is vulnerable.
Do you open this hand?

A simple guideline for deciding whether to open with a marginal hand is the *Rule of 20*. You add your high-card points to the number of cards in your two longest suits. If it comes to 20 or more, then open the bidding. It's not a perfect formula, but it is a reasonable guideline.

On this hand, you have 11 HCP and two 4-card suits: $11+4+4 = 19$. So the rule of 20 suggests you pass this hand. The rule says that you need 5-4 shape, or a 6-card suit in order to open the bidding with 11 points.

You pass and hear the following auction from your opponents:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1NT is 15-17 points, and 2♣ is the Stayman convention: RHO has four spades.

What do you lead?

Fourth highest of your longest and strongest is a very fine formula for deciding your lead against notrump contracts. On this hand, there is a tie between hearts and diamonds (ignoring the fact that you have ♥5 but only ♦4!).

To break the tie, go back to the bidding. LHO used Stayman, but was uninterested in spades when opener showed that suit. Clearly your LHO was actually interested in a heart contract, so she will almost certainly have a 4-card heart suit.

That suggests that you should avoid hearts and lead a diamond instead.

Did you also consider leading a top club? That's not the worst lead in the world. However, we will assume you lead the ♦3:

♠ Q5	N
♥ J953	W E
♦ J943	S
♣ AK6	

Declarer plays low from dummy, partner plays ♦10 (thank-you!) and declarer wins ♦A.

Next comes ♣2. Your move.

This hand falls into a fairly common category that might carry the label "Mystery". It is by no means obvious what you should do.

One thing you *can* do is to count the points. Declarer has 15-17, you and dummy have 21, so that leaves partner with between 2 and 4 points. So partner will have a queen, king or ace, and maybe the spade jack.

In circumstances when there is nothing obvious to do, it's often best to fall back on Hippocratic principles: try to do no harm. In a defensive context, this means passivity: make a play that gives nothing away.

On this deal there are clear risks in broaching spades, hearts or diamonds. You can construct for yourself layouts in each of those suits where if you lead the suit you give away a trick.

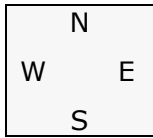
Clubs is the only suit that is safe to play. You should win your ace and king of clubs, and play a third one. Declarer will probably have four clubs, she won't have five (do you see why?), and therefore partner will have xxx or Qxx in clubs. Either way, declarer will get whatever tricks are owing to her in clubs, and nothing more.

Here is the full layout:

Dlr: West ♠ A6
 Vul: nil ♥ Q876
 ♦ K762
 ♣ J104

 ♠ Q5 ♠ 109832
 ♥ J953 ♥ K104
 ♦ J943 ♦ 105
 ♣ AK6 ♣ 972

 ♠ KJ74
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AK8
 ♣ Q853



With X-ray vision, declarer can make the contract, but more likely losing finesse in the majors will bring her undone. If you help her with a play in a non-club suit, the contract will be made.

Points to remember:

- The Rule of 20 is a sound guideline in deciding whether to open marginal hands. It translates to:
 - Open all 13-high-card-point hands
 - With 12 HCP, perhaps pass with 4333 shape, but open everything else
 - With 11 HCP, you need 5-4 shape, or a 6-card suit
 - With 10 HCP, wait for a 6-4 shape, or 7-3-2-1.
- It never hurts to recall the auction: right through the play, but particularly on opening lead. Without even mentioning the suit, responder had actually shown 4 hearts.
- Defence is hard, no doubt about it. Counting the points is a valuable aid to good defence. It doesn't help on every deal, but often it will give you a general view of partner's total assets.



RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Mixed Teams

- 1 S. Hinge, J. Thompson, E. Caplan, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson
- 2 E. Samuel, J. Fust, R. Livingston, P. Hill
- 3 E. Weisinger, C. Lachman, R. Drew, P. Marley

ANC Seniors Team selection

- 1 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 2 F. Beale – R. van Riel
- 3 M. Chrapot – S. Arber

ANC Youth Team selection

- 1 P. Hollands – J. Howard
- 2 J. Thompson – E. Pattison
- 3 N. Howard – M. Henbest

Congratulations to the 6 pairs above, who will be representing the state at the upcoming ANC in Adelaide.



TEST YOUR BIDDING

Responding to partner's preempt

No one vulnerable, partner deals

Partner	RHO	You
3♥	Pass	?

Pre-emptive opening bids at the 3-level are designed to play havoc with the opponents, but they can occasionally cause problems for poor partner.

Partner's 3♥ opening, non-vulnerable, suggests a 7-card suit, about 6-10 points and a hand that can take approximately 6 tricks on its own. This is the Rule of 2 and 3: non-vulnerable, an opening preempt should be on a hand within about 3 tricks of the contract. A vulnerable preempt shows a hand about a trick stronger than this: within 2 tricks of the contract.

How do you respond to partner's 3♥ opening with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ AK42 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ92 ♣ KQ65
- (b) ♠ KJ42 ♥ 103 ♦ A962 ♣ A65
- (c) ♠ A42 ♥ 1093 ♦ J9864 ♣ 32
- (d) ♠ AQ ♥ 3 ♦ AKQJ942 ♣ K103
- (e) ♠ A2 ♥ 3 ♦ KQJ1042 ♣ KJ65
- (f) ♠ AQJ654 ♥ 3 ♦ 42 ♣ AKQJ

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

Partner	RHO	You
3♥	Pass	?

(a) ♠ AK42 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ92 ♣ KQ65

4♥. If partner can take 6 tricks, you should be able to provide 4 more with all those honour cards. Don't fall into the trap of bidding 3NT. Imagine partner with

♠ xx ♥ KQJxxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx

How are you going to make 3NT? What about 4♥?

(b) ♠ KJ42 ♥ 103 ♦ A962 ♣ A65

Pass. This is a nice hand with heart support. If partner has 6 tricks, perhaps your hand will contribute another 3 to make 3♥. But the hand is not strong enough to try 4♥.

(c) ♠ A42 ♥ 1093 ♦ J9864 ♣ 32

4♥. This deal belongs to the opponents, probably for a game contract. Make life a little harder for them by extending partner's 3♥ preempt. When it's right to bid 4♥ on both hands (a) and (c), you can see why it's difficult for the opponents to know whether they should be coming into the auction.

(d) ♠ AQ ♥ 3 ♦ AKQJ942 ♣ K103

3NT. On the probable black suit lead, you have 9 tricks on top. Don't dally with any suit contract, such as in diamonds or hearts.

(e) ♠ A2 ♥ 3 ♦ KQJ1042 ♣ KJ65

Pass. Partner has really done it to you this time. There's no use moaning about it though. A 3♥ contract it has to be. Put your hand against the prototype from (a):

♠ xx ♥ KQJxxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx

and 3♥ is your best bet in the circumstances.

(f) ♠ AQJ654 ♥ 3 ♦ 42 ♣ AKQJ

3♠. Again, partner hasn't pleased you with the opening bid. However this hand is strong enough that you might have a chance in game. So bid 3♠ hoping that partner can support your spades. If not, you will try a 4♥ contract with at least some hope of success.

COUNCIL NEWS**Grand National Pairs**

At its recent AGM, the ABF Council discussed in detail the issue of the cancellation of the GNP, the National pairs competition for players of less than Life Master status. It was decided that although the existing format for the GNP was not viable, and that entries had declined over the years, there was still a significant case for a National competition for these players. Various formats were discussed, and the Management Committee was assigned the task of finding a suitable replacement (hopefully for the 2014 year). This could include a National Final being held in parallel with the ANC.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Vivienne Baker	Frankston
Rosanne Butler	Werribee
Lyn Mayer	Moonee Valley
Des Murphy	Moonee Valley

***State**

Helen Dolan	Ballarat
Roberta Ewing	Ovens & Murray
Gus Ghali	Moonee Valley
Rob Graham	Traralgon
Robyn Hewson	Eastern
Kumara Nainanayake	VBA
Wes Pawlowski	Rye Beach
Rosemary Polya	Northern

National

Paul Corry	Frankston
John Engelman	VBA
Charna Greene	VBA

***National**

Reginald Bond	Frankston
Every Hechtman	VBA
Ann McKay	Waverley
Teresa Pietrzak	Moonee Valley

Life

Michael Bryan	Moonee Valley
Sue Duff	Geelong
Fran Kerlin	Berwick

Bronze Life

Neil Cowen	Moonee Valley
Jennifer Goddard	Bendigo
Peter Goddard	Bendigo

Grand

Hayden Blakeman	Kattery
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BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

Checking back - the jump rebid to 2NT

This deal was played in the final of the National Open Teams, 2013.

Dir: North	♠ KQ652		
Vul: N/S	♥ 984		
	♦ 72		
	♣ J63		
♠ 104		N W E S	♠ 8
♥ A106			♥ KQ53
♦ AKQJ4			♦ 963
♣ A102			♣ KQ985
	♠ AJ973		
	♥ J72		
	♦ 1085		
	♣ 74		

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

An inelegant auction from Peter Newman - Matthew Thompson, who won the event, found them in the failing 3NT with 12 tricks available in the minors (or in hearts, though you wouldn't want to be in 6♥).

The West hand presents a rebid problem - is 2NT 100% forcing? and what are the continuations?

From an Acol base it can (should) be treated as game-forcing (GF) with 19 HCP, since rebidding 1NT shows 16-18 HCP. (West's holding could well be regarded as 19 HCP).

If those are your methods you have your GF, but if 2NT shows power and not necessarily stoppers in the unbid suits you need some form of checkback. Then 3♣ would ask opener to show (additional) features and the auction might well proceed:

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

* 3 cards: ? = asking we assume

Correctly interpreted this should lead to a sound 5♦, even if not slam.

However playing Standard there is no such luxury. The rebid shows 18-19 HCP since the opening 1NT stops at 17, and is not (quite) GF. Obviously there is need for check-back, but it seems to me that checkback 3♣ has far too much to do. Sampling a number of treatments I found some concerned with screeching to a halt short of game (the Wolff signoff).

What can we make of this turgid entry in Bridge World Standard?

After a one-level new-suit response and opener's 2NT rebid:

(a) responder's 3♣ rebid is artificial, and opener bids 3♦ unless he has three-card support for responder's major (responder's next bid up to and including three of his original suit is nonforcing; otherwise, responder's next bid is a signoff if that is possible; otherwise, it is a choice of games if that is possible; otherwise, it is a checkback for an eight-card major-suit fit if possible; otherwise, it converts the three-club rebid into a natural bid in the minor three diamonds over two notrump would not have shown).

The advanced student (!) might try a visit to rationalbridge.org. Do not be dismayed by finding it in Turkish - translation is available. Then to "system notes" where those from Eric Kokish - Beverley Kraft run to 381 pages, 7 of which treat the 6 sequences 1X - 1Y - 2NT individually, with continuations. Only 5 of them have "stop" options. The ability to remember such detail is beyond my comprehension, but no doubt there are excellent underlying principles (our editor is strong on principles).

Kim Morrison (partnering Bruce Neill) employed 3♣ to reach a successful slam.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All pass

He might have had doubts about continuations after 3♥ but his solution was practical and his final push perhaps reflected the state of the match.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS

Problem 1:

Dir: West ♠ KJ3
 Vul: N/S ♥ A7
 ♦ KQJ74
 ♣ 632

	N		♠ Q75
W		E	♥ K654
	S		♦ A85
			♣ KJ10

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

Partner leads ♦10 to ♦K and your ♦A wins. You switch to ♣J and declarer wins ♣A, crosses to ♥A (partner follows) and discards ♣9 on ♦Q. Then he trumps a diamond and continues ♥Q, partner discarding a club.

You win and have to decide where the defence can find 2 tricks.

Problem 2:

Dir: East ♠ 2
 Vul: all ♥ AKQ7
 ♦ Q109432
 ♣ J5

	N		♠ AJ96
W		E	♥ 96
	S		♦ A7
			♣ Q10943

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

Partner lead ♠7 (4th best) and you win ♠A.

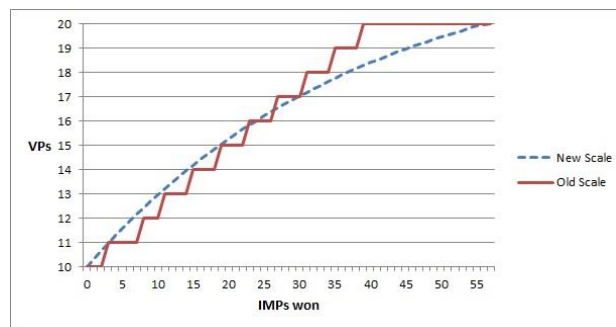
What will be your objective in defending?
 Your next card?

Solutions on page 11.



NEW VP SCALE AT A GLANCE

From May 2013, the VBA has adopted the new Victory Point scale provided by the World Bridge Federation. The graph below compares the old and new scales for a 14 board match.



Here are the main points:

- Whilst the old scale rose in a series of roughly linear jagged steps, the new scale follows a smooth curve, where every extra imp counts, but each extra imp you win the match by gains you a little less in terms of Victory Points.
- You need to win by more imps to get the maximum in Victory Points. In the old scale, you had to win a 14-board match by 39 imps to get the maximum; in the new scale, you need a 57 imp win.
- The new scale does away with the concept of "minus" VPs. In the old scale, a loss in excess of 43 imps got you a result of 4-25, 3-25, etc down to 0-25 for a 67 imp loss. In the new scale, your losing VP score is simply 20 minus your opponents' winning score.

Our verdict on the new VP scale? It rates a pass, mainly because it gets rid of the irritating "cusp" results. You know what we mean: you score the match, look up the VP scale and say: "Damn, we're on the cusp – if we'd just scored one more imp, we would have got another VP."

And we like the smooth reduction in the value of each successive imp, something the old scale totally failed at.

But awarding VPs to two decimal places will take some getting used to.

PANACHE - XXVIII
Ben Thompson

I played at the world-famous Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club last month with Leeron Branicki, who is President of their bridge group. I could have walked there from home but I have to confess that it was so cold I drove.

Dir: South ♠ J65
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ AQ8763

♠ K1043	N	♠ 987
♥ 105	W E	♥ J987432
♦ K10632	S	♦ 9
♣ K10		♣ J4

♠ AQ2
 ♥ AK6
 ♦ AJ75
 ♣ 952

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

This handed featured the most courageous bid I've seen in quite a while, and a thoughtful piece of cardplay.

First the bidding. Leeron introduced me at the start of the night (which made me feel very welcome) but that didn't seem to discourage anybody once we started playing. Quite the opposite in fact. That 3♥ bid by Angie MacPherson is quite some bid Red versus Green! American star Marty Bergen used to say that colours are for children, and Angie is clearly made from the same mould.

Everyone else then spent the rest of the hand trying to figure out where Angie's points were. After the obvious heart lead, which knocked out the only sure side entry to the long clubs, Leeron played the clubs in a far-sighted way.

If East has singleton ♣K, taking the first round club finesse would be bad with a capital B. If West has the ♣K, they'll still have it whether you finesse clubs the first chance you get or the second.

So, warned that the cards were likely to break poorly, and expecting East to have

some values, Leeron ducked the first round of clubs entirely. It's a little risky at pairs, where the actual layout with Kx in the pocket means you can take 6 club tricks, but very reasonable on the bidding.

Having scored a surprise trick, West went looking for partner's points and accidentally skewered her own extra trick. In the end Leeron emerged with 12 tricks, just as we would have if Angie had passed over 2♣. A different 12 tricks, but still 12 tricks.

The next part is my favourite part of the whole hand. Everyone could have done something a little differently and done better for their side, but actually everyone just enjoyed the interesting hand we had just played and the humour of the moment. We all play bridge for pleasure, and there is actually always pleasure to be had.

Expert aside: If Leeron had only two clubs, ducking the first round would have been easily the best play opposite that dummy in order to retain communication. When you take the club finesse on the second round, the clubs will run if they break 3-2 with the king onside. If you take the club finesse on the first round, you have a third round loser there and you may not have an entry to enjoy them even if you do set them up.

The takeaway

You don't always need to take a finesse on the first round of a suit. Safety or communication issues in particular can make it better to finesse on a later round.



Suit Combination of the month

Combination 1 32
 □
 AKJ1054

Combination 2 432
 □
 AKJ105

This is trumps, and you would like to draw them without losing a trick. Entries to dummy are plentiful. What do you do?

Solution on page 12.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Wodonga Bridge Inaugural Congress comes up trumps

At the St Augustine's School Hall, Wodonga, bridge players from Tasmania, New South Wales, the ACT and Victoria combined to create a full house at the Wodonga Bridge Club's Inaugural Congress which ran from Friday April 26 to Sunday April 28.

Members of the Wodonga Bridge Club and its Committee, under the guidance of Richard Harman, the Congress Convenor, and Mary Prowse, the Event Organiser (pictured right), planned and in-house catered for the three day event. Martin Willcox from Melbourne was the Director of the Congress.



The Wodonga Bridge Club was successful in obtaining a grant from the City of Wodonga and therefore the City of Wodonga was the major sponsor to the Congress. Other corporate sponsors who supplied the prizes were (some pictured right): Amulet Winery and Cidery of Beechworth, Hair Construction of Beechworth; Bridge Road Brewers of Beechworth, Beechworth Honey, H&R Block of Albury and Murray Goulburn of Tangambalanga. Prizes, pamphlets and advertising signs supplied by our sponsors were displayed around the Hall. Samples of Beechworth Honey were available to try or take home. Individuals Elaine Mann, Elly Valkenburg and Isabel Barton also donated prizes.



Congress players commented on the delightful and light filled venue, the quality and abundance of home cooked food, the camaraderie amongst the players and the

quality and friendliness of the local motels and eateries. Those players who found the time to further explore Wodonga were delighted with the beauty of the Sumption Gardens.

Some 95 bridge players over the three days were a boon to the Wodonga area and it augurs well for promoting bridge in the border area. The Wodonga Club plays in the Volker Court Community Hall of a Thursday evening at 6.40 for a 7.00 pm start with refreshments provided and bridge in Albury is played at the Commercial Club at various times throughout the week.

If anyone is wishing to play bridge at the Wodonga Club contact Mary Prowse on 03 5727 7313 or at the Albury Club contact Richard Harman on 03 5728 2323. At various times throughout the year, both Clubs offer bridge lessons to beginners who wish to learn a new and challenging skill in a friendly environment.

Gippsland Teaching Workshop

Joan Butts reports on the seminar she conducted at Traralgon on May 2nd:

Among the great people I met in April this year at the Melbourne Teacher Training Programme, were Chris Heesom, and Lorraine Robinson, who represented the Eastern Region.



ERBA President Pam Dingwell (left) welcomes Joan Butts to the seminar.

They asked me to do some workshops in their area, Gippsland, and as I was coming to Melbourne the following month for a bridge weekend, it seemed possible.

We decided on dates and topics, the event was advertised, and suddenly my train ticket arrived in the mail. The train trip itself was interesting, as I have never been to this area before. The two and a half hours from Melbourne sped by very fast.

People came from seven different clubs in the region (Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Sale, Traralgon, South Gippsland, Phillip Island and from the Orbost Social Group), most travelling on organized buses, and there were around 70 in total.

The morning's workshop emphasized bidding, opening at the 1-level in each of the four positions. Exercising and developing judgement about when to open was the theme.

After lunch, we moved to a totally different topic – defence, and signaling – attitude, count and suit preference. Everyone got involved, and there was energy in the air.

A huge vote of thanks goes to the Traralgon Bridge Club for hosting the day – especially Rhonda Van Dyke, Ken Tierney and Robyn Couch. Also to Shirley Stewart and Terry Nadebaum who organised the buses from each end of the region. And to the clubs who promoted it, to ERBA (Pam Dingwall, President) and the VBA (Ben Thompson, President) for supporting it.

So then it was back in the train for me – I had met a lot of enthusiastic people who love their bridge and are proud of their area. What more could a person want!



The group of 70 who attended the workshop

Big Double

Charlie Schwabegger and Kerrin Daws racked up a big double in the Sale Congress last month. Not only did they win both events, but they also had both events won with a round to go.



Charlie used to be an abalone diver, and doesn't like being much above ground level. When he and Kerrin travel, Charlie leaves a day or two early and drives to the destination airport to pick Kerrin up.

Look at them in action on the last board of the key match in the teams.

♠ J62	W E	♠ K843
♥ 4		♥ AK865
♦ 2		♦ 53
♣ AKJ96432		♣ 75

Charlie opened 2♣ with the West hand, and N/S competed every step of the way to 4♦ as Kerrin bid hearts and Charlie bid 4♣. When Charlie took the push to 5♣, South doubled on general principle, but when North led a spade from Q1097, Charlie played low and made his contract for 13 imps in and a maximum win.

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?

Then come along to the VBA 1 Day Bridge Crash Course on Sunday 23rd June, 10 am to 4 pm. No experience necessary.

Cost: \$40

VBA COUNCILLOR – JAN HACKETT

Jan Hackett has been a regional delegate and member of the VBA Council since 2007. She plays regularly at the Yarrowonga Bridge Club with frequent trips to Wangaratta, southern NSW congresses and many Victorian



congresses. Jan and husband Tom try to get to one or two new events each year. They also enjoy playing in major events such as the VCC, the Gold Coast Congress and the Canberra Festival of Bridge. Farther afield, they have also played in Wisconsin (Jan's home state), Italy and on a cruise to Alaska.

Her bridge life began in 1981 when she was a member of a class she organised in Yarrowonga through the Council of Adult Education. The twenty players from that group started the local club which now has just over 40 members but which regularly fields 7 or more tables each week. Since the playing venue is an open room at the local golf club, the bridge players arrive early to set up the tables and arrange supper while others stay later to complete the scoring and storing of the bridge materials. Working together contributes to the friendly atmosphere and sense of belonging.

Her main goals for the year involve including country players in state bridge events and decisions. As one of the two regional representatives, Jan's role on the council over the years has been to present a regional club viewpoint on matters raised for discussion.

While Jan loves the game of bridge and has tried many different systems (Goren, Standard American, Acol and now 2/1), she maintains that she finds the players just as interesting. Over the years she and Tom have enjoyed the hospitality shown to them by a variety of players in many clubs around the state and country. They have really enjoyed meeting and playing with and against such wonderful people – and they hope to continue to do so for many years.

RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Bayside Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 E. Linton – T. Cowie
- 2 P. Hill, J. Hill
- 3 M. Callander – T. Kay

Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Frazer, E. Hynes, G. Lovrecz, S. Weisz
- 2 J. Crafti, H. Flanders, C. Chakravorty, K. Sertori
- 3 S. Thorne, K. Thorne, G. Carter, D. Carter

Victorian Simultaneous Pairs

- 1 N. Luft – N. Pearce
- 2 B. Ulyatt – M. Petrie
- 3 J. Hackett – T. Hackett

Sale Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Schwabegger – K. Daws
- 2 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 3 B. Romeijn – C. Fernando

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Thorne, K. Thorne, C. Schwabegger, K. Daws
- 2 S. Klofa, D. Harley, R. Gallus, R. Stewart
- 3 H. Blakeman, C. Hughes, C. Arul, C. Chakravorty

Bendigo Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Clarke – P. Blinman
- 2 A. Talbot – M. Callander
- 3 D. Donkers – E. Payne

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Hackett, T. Hackett, D. Delcourt, K. Delcourt
- 2 D. Clarke, P. Blinman, M. Clarke, K. French
- 3 C. Schwabegger, K. Daws, K. Jefferson, C. Chakravorty

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 9 (May 11)

- 1 Patricia Gluyas – John Campbell (Ballarat)

Event 10 (May 19)

- 1 Mary Lynch – Philip McDermott (Frankston)

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: West ♠ KJ3
 Vul: N/S ♥ A7
 ♦ KQJ74
 ♣ 632

♠ A42	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <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		♠ Q75
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 3		♥ K654									
♦ 10963		♦ A85									
♣ Q8754		♣ KJ10									

♠ 10986
 ♥ QJ10982
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A9

There are 2 diamond tricks poised in dummy and an entry in ♠K. Clearly if declarer holds ♠A he has an easy 11 tricks, so you must play partner for that card and return ♠5 while you still have trumps. Partner will realise the need to remove ♠K.

Problem 2

Dir: East ♠ 2
 Vul: All ♥ AKQ7
 ♦ Q109432
 ♣ J5

♠ K1087	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <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		♠ AJ96
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 1052		♥ 96									
♦ K85		♦ A7									
♣ 872		♣ Q10943									

♠ Q543
 ♥ J843
 ♦ J6
 ♣ AK6

Declarer could well play to set up dummy's diamonds, using those good trumps for access.

To thwart this you must attack dummy's length in trumps, hoping that partner holds three.

Return a spade - South surely has at least three, including ♠K or, we hope, only ♠Q. If ♠K, your chance are slight, but if partner's spades are as good as ♠K10 you can force dummy twice, now and later after ♦A. You may need partner to have a useful card in diamonds.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

AUTUMN NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Congratulations to Leigh Gold who, partnering Jamie Ebery, was on the winning team at the recent ANOT in Adelaide. They defeated a team containing Neil Ewart by just 3 imps in the final!

For a glimpse of what modern bidding can do for you, take a look at this deal from round 7.

♠ K642	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> </table>		W	E		♠ A7
	W	E				
♥ A5		♥ K64				
♦ AK109		♦ Q76				
♣ 953		♣ KQJ76				

Leigh and Jamie bid it:

West	East
Jamie	Leigh
1♣	2NT
3♣	3♥
3♠	4♠
6♣	Pass

Only 3 of 52 pairs bid this excellent slam. Not surprising given two balanced hands, 29 HCP and the downtrodden clubs as trumps.

Want to know what the bids meant?

- 1♣ clubs or balanced
- 2NT 13+ balanced with 5 clubs
- 3♣ tell me more
- 3♥ 2335 shape
- 3♠ are you minimum or maximum?
- 4♠ maximum, and I have 2 club key cards and ♣Q (East bids 3NT with a minimum, higher bids are responses to Roman Key Card Blackwood with trumps as clubs)
- 6♣ OK then – let's try 6♣

That (amongst other factors) is how you win a national championship.



Andy Braithwaite, Ian Robinson, Jamie Ebery and Leigh Gold, winners in Adelaide



The Victoria Cup is only a month away. This event offers an opportunity for you to play online from the comfort of your lounge room.

Your team can consist of 4, 5 or 6 players from anywhere in the state and you can enter a division to suit your skill level. The divisions are under 10 master points, under 50 master points, and Open.

- **Meet players from all over Victoria**
- **Play with friends from 300km away**
- **Play online or in person**
- **IMPs scoring**
- **ABF Red Points**
- **Entry fee of \$80 per team**
- **Entries close on June 23rd**

Q. Haven't played online?

A. There is plenty of time to learn! It's easy once you know what you are doing. You can sign up to BBO and take a look around watching other matches before you give it a go. You can even call Laura at the VBA on a Tuesday or Thursday if you would like to be talked through it.

Q. Don't have a team or partner?

A. No worries. We can help to arrange teammates or partners just get in touch with us.

Q. Haven't played in any competitions?

A. The Victoria Cup has 3 different divisions including under 10 masterpoints. This is one of the few opportunities to compete against players with the same experience.

For further details see www.vba.asn.au/vc.

Ritchies / IGA Community Benefits partnership

The VBA has teamed up with Ritchies stores as a part of their community benefits program. Victorian players can now help the VBA to raise money for state activities simply by scanning their community benefits card any time that they shop at Ritchies. As a community benefits member you will also be entitled to many member benefits, including various CB member discounts, Myer One credits, fuel discounts and Seniors discounts.

To sign up you can either register in a Ritchies store (we are organisation 83382) or you can contact the VBA to get a pre-registered card or key tag. If you think that other members of your club would be interested we can send a few at a time.



Suit Combination of the month

<i>Combination 1</i>	32
	□
	AKJ1054
<i>Combination 2</i>	432
	□
	AKJ105

When you have an 8-card fit and are seeking out the queen, it is usually right to take a finesse: this is the "8-ever" part of the old cliché "8-ever, 9-never".

In Combination 1, you should lead low from dummy and take an immediate finesse. If it works, travel back to dummy and repeat the finesse. That way, you can pick up Qxxx onside (and be miserable if you lose the first finesse to a singleton queen: but Qxxx onside is 4 times more likely than singleton queen offside).

In Combination 2, you can afford to cash the ace first, then travel to dummy to take a finesse. If it works, repeat the finesse. In this case, an offside singleton queen will not make you miserable.