

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

ENDAI Ben Thompson

Several things last month got me thinking about resilience and the strength that bridge can give you. It was



actually a beginner at the end of the June crash course at the VBA who prompted this column. She asked me how long I'd been playing and what I liked about bridge. I've been playing for 27 years now, and the short version of what I like is the constant challenge.

I added that I'm still learning new things about bridge, and that I make mistakes every single time I play bridge. Even the very best players in world make mistakes every single time they play bridge. The kinds of mistakes world champions make are different from the kinds beginners make, but they're still mistakes.

Isn't it surprising that we're all hooked on something that we all get wrong so regularly? For me, there's a great lesson hiding in there. I think the secret to happiness in bridge is to not get too hung up on mistakes - my mistakes, partner's mistakes, grammatical mistakes, any mistakes. Sure, think about them, learn from them, but then move on.

If we can do that, there is a lot of joy in doing difficult things correctly. In making a great bid. In plucking the right lead. In figuring out an endplay. Even when we're not playing at our best, there are always small triumphs to enjoy along the way. I don't know about you, but I would rather enjoy even little successes than dwell on my failings. And it's so much easier to be nice when you're enjoying yourself!

I want to finish with a small personal tribute to one of the most friendly, resilient, and tolerant people I have known. The great Bob Richman passed away at the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships in Hong Kong last month, just before the opening ceremony. He was the NPC of my first Australian team and taught me a lot about the game. People familiar with our shared enthusiasm for (over) bidding will be surprised to hear the best bridge advice he ever gave me. It was "Pass". We both enjoyed the irony.

VICTORIAN TEAMS FOR 2013 ANC

We wish our various representative teams the very best of luck in their quest for glory at the upcoming ANC in Adelaide.

Open: Chris Hughes (captain), Hayden Blakeman, Neil Ewart, Ben Kingham, Leigh Gold, Jeff Fust

Women: Jeannette Collins, Laura Ginnan, Cathie Lachman, Helen Snashall, Marian Obenchain, Tania Gariepy (Laurie Kelso NPC)

Seniors: Stan Klofa, Dee Harley, Felicity Beale, Rob van Riel, Michael Chrapot, Sam Arber (Laurie Kelso NPC)

Juniors: Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Jamie Thompson, Ella Pattison, Peter Bolling, Ellena Moskovsky (Grant Kilvington NPC)



Seniors Week: October 6-13

Seniors week provides an opportunity for us to share the game we know and love with people who have not yet experienced the addiction that tricks and trumps provide. The VBA will be producing a kit for clubs to use to introduce people to the game over a 2 hour session. If you would like to host a come-and-try day using a kit please contact the VBA and your local council to find out how you should advertise your event.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You pick up this nice hand:

♠ A105 ♥ AK3 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ 972

As dealer, what is your plan for the bidding.

At 19 points, this hand is too strong to open 1NT, but not strong enough to open 2NT. The plan should be to open 1♦, and if partner responds one of a major, rebid 2NT, showing about 18-19 points in a balanced hand. You cannot worry about the three little clubs in this auction: you need to describe the general nature of the hand.

In fact the auction proceeds a little differently:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
			?

Your bid.

This auction, where LHO not partner, has bid one of a major is quite different from the one you were planning. Here partner has not shown any points at all, so it would be foolhardy to jump to 2NT. Instead you rebid 1NT, showing about 18-19 points, balanced, with hearts stopped.

If instead you had 12-14 points balanced, you would simply pass out 1♥, accepting that this deal does not belong to your side. And with 15-17 points balanced, you would have *opened* 1NT in the first place.

The auction concludes:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All pass	1NT

LHO leads ♥Q and this is what you see:

♠ KJ
♥ 752
♦ 974
♣ QJ654

♥Q

N
S

♠ A105
♥ AK3
♦ AKJ6
♣ 972

How do you go about playing this 3NT?

The first thing to do when declaring any contract, but particularly notrump contracts is to count your top tricks.

Here you have 2 tricks in spades, 2 in hearts and 2 in diamonds. Total is 6, and you need 9, so immediately you know that you have to somehow develop 3 tricks to fulfil your contract.

Where can these 3 extra tricks come from? The spades could produce one with a successful finesse for the queen. And the diamonds could produce two, with a very lucky division in the suit.

But the best odds surely come from the club suit, where three extra tricks will likely emerge, once you have knocked out the ace and king. So all things being equal clubs is the suit you should play on.

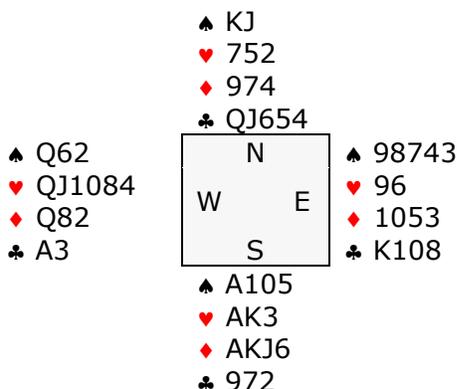
So what do you do at trick 1 and why?

As well as counting your own tricks, it's essential to look at your opponents' tricks: can they take 5 tricks before you have fulfilled your contract?

On this deal, the heart suit is clearly a threat, with opening leader having overcalled in the suit probably holding five hearts. If you win the first trick in hearts, play on clubs, and the opponents continue with hearts, they might gather 5 tricks (3 hearts and 2 diamonds) before you can take your 9.

You have a good chance of neutralizing this threat by letting the opponents take the first heart trick, and winning the second: a hold-up play. Then if your RHO then wins a club trick, he will have no further hearts to play. (If LHO has both ♠A and ♠K, I admit you are in big trouble on this deal.)

Let's look at the full deal to see the effect of this hold-up play:



If you let ♥Q win the first trick, and take the second round, then RHO will not have a heart to play when in with ♠K, and you will be able to develop your 9 tricks in peace.

Points to remember:

- With 18-19 points and a balanced hand, open at the one-level, and plan to jump to 2NT if partner responds in a suit at the one-level. But if partner passes, and the auction comes back to you (with the opponents having bid a suit at the one-level) then you can show your strength with a rebid of 1NT.
- First planning step in notrumps is to count your top tricks (not that you should necessarily take these top tricks immediately!), and then work out a plan to make the extra tricks you need.
- Second planning step in notrumps is to check on whether the opponents can develop enough tricks to beat you, and then work out a counter measure. That often involves a hold-up play. 3NT contracts often involve a race, where declarer is racing to 9 tricks whilst the defenders race to 5. You need to have a plan to win that race.

RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Board-a-Match

- 1 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, P. Hollands, J. Howard, S. Hinge, L. Gold
- 2 M. Henbest, N. Howard, E. Moskovski, L. Henbest
- 3 S. Klofa, P. Fent, D. Harley, A. St Clair



TEST YOUR BIDDING

Responding to partner's overcall

No one vulnerable, LHO deals

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	1♥	Pass	?

When partner overcalls in a suit at the one-level, she is showing at least five cards in that suit, and around 8-16 points. With fewer points, partner will not overcall; with 17 or more points, partner should double first, and then plan to bid her suit later.

Your options are to raise partner's suit with at least 3-card support, bid a new suit of your own (this is best played as forcing on partner), or bid some number of notrumps.

A final option is to make a *cue-bid*, a bid of the opponent's suit (in this case 2♣) with a strong hand – asking partner to describe her hand further. Cue-bids should usually include genuine support for the overcalled suit: the cue-bid is often described as a "cue raise".

How do you respond to partner's 1♥ overcall with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 762 ♥ J43 ♦ Q10732 ♣ A5
- (b) ♠ KQ1062 ♥ J3 ♦ A73 ♣ 875
- (c) ♠ KJ2 ♥ J3 ♦ A932 ♣ Q1075
- (d) ♠ 10762 ♥ 3 ♦ A932 ♣ Q1075
- (e) ♠ 62 ♥ J743 ♦ K932 ♣ A75
- (f) ♠ A62 ♥ J43 ♦ Q10732 ♣ A5

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	1♥	Pass	?

(a) ♠ 762 ♥ J43 ♦ Q10732 ♣ A5

2♥. You don't have any great aspirations here, but you owe your partner a raise. This gets in the way of the opponents, who might own the deal, and gives your partner the option of competing further if desired. Don't bid the diamonds when you already know about your heart fit.

(b) ♠ KQ1062 ♥ J3 ♦ A73 ♣ 875

1♠. Keeps the ball rolling, and shows a decent suit. Partner might raise, rebid the hearts or bid notrumps, all of which you will be comfortable with. If partner bids 2♦, showing a second suit, go back to 2♥.

(c) ♠ KJ2 ♥ J3 ♦ A932 ♣ Q1075

1NT. Shows about 9-11 points and a stopper in the opponent's suit. Even with 11 points, don't jump to 2NT: remember that partner might have just 8 points – you don't want to be in 2NT with a combined 19 count.

(d) ♠ 10762 ♥ 3 ♦ A932 ♣ Q1075

Pass. Trying to get out of hearts risks jumping from the frying pan into the fire. You can't bid 1NT here if you also bid 1NT on hand (c). Partner might take you seriously.

(e) ♠ 62 ♥ J743 ♦ K932 ♣ A75

3♥. With 4-card support for an overcall, it is often a good idea to jump raise. You are not sure whether the hand belongs to your side of theirs, but taking away the opponents' bidding room is never a bad idea. If partner goes on to 4♥, she'll make it!

(f) ♠ A62 ♥ J43 ♦ Q10732 ♣ A5

2♣. With plenty of high card points and good support, you might be going places. But remember that partner could just have 8 points, in which case you don't want to get too high. A cue-bid shows your general strength, but if partner now merely bids 2♥, you can pack it in, and expect to be high enough at the 2-level.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: North ♠ AQ10
 Vul: N/S ♥ J102
 ♦ Q954
 ♣ A96

♠ 84
 ♥ 984
 ♦ AKJ1072
 ♣ 42

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

You start with ♦A and when that holds, partner following ♦3 (standard signals), declarer's distribution is revealed as probably 4-5-2-2.

What should you continue?

Problem 2:

Dlr: East ♠ AK5
 Vul: nil ♥ J65
 ♦ 76
 ♣ AK954

♠ 6
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ AJ105432
 ♣ Q6

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
3♦	D'ble	4♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You begin with ♦A, which declarer trumps.

He leads a club to ♣A, partner following ♣2, then cashes ♠A, ♠K (partner's ♠9, ♠10). Next comes a low club, partner's ♣8, declarer's ♣10.

You win and consider your options.

Solutions on page 11.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

A couple of crocodiles – cost-free

When I was growing up, probably from 8 or 9 on, I played German whist with my sister. This is a 13-card game for two players. I remember that towards the end of each bout both players are clutching a fist-full of trumps, and when the holdings are not too disparate the to-and-fro produced was useful training in suit handling that served us well later on.

A similar situation exists when declarer's trump holding is long and only semi-solid and the trumps split badly. Defenders learn that it is a disadvantage to lead trumps into the declaring hand, but to force it to play away from its holding in trumps. To this end they need to cash off all available tricks in side-suits before forcing declarer; declarer for his part will be trying to shorten his length in trumps while retaining exit cards.

Now to the Estoril Festival, 2013.

Dir: West ♠ AKQ10
 Vul: all ♥ 84
 ♦ 753
 ♣ A852

♠ 98742	N
♥ -	W E
♦ KJ1086	S
♣ KQ10	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

Your lead of ♣K is won by ♣A, ♣9, ♣3. (You play standard length signals with attitude on lead.) The three top spades follow, declarer discarding three small clubs. Next comes a trump to ♥Q and declarer gives your ♠8 a good look. He plays ♦A (partner ♦2), then ♦4 and you need to decide what to do.

Declarer started with 4 small clubs. You can be fairly sure of this, with 5 he would have preferred to discard losing diamonds. That play to ♥Q looks like a finesse, particularly now declarer is playing a plain suit. If he had 7 trumps to ♥AQ partner had 4 and declarer

will lose only 2 trumps and this diamond. However trumps were more likely 6-5 (from the auction) and you must cash a second diamond before forcing declarer.

How to ensure this? On your hypothetical count (declarer 0-6-3-4) partner started with only 2 diamonds. If you play ♦10 and partner has retained ♦Q he will be end-played into forcing declarer while he still has an exit card. Your correct card is ♦K, a crocodile coup, swallowing up that blocking ♦Q.

What if declarer's other diamond is ♦Q? This seems unlikely, since declarer chose to finesse (you think) in trumps. But if you're wrong, you will be guilty of playing for partner's error (failure to unblock) when there was none. However all might not be lost! You can continue a diamond and partner (looking reproachful) and, missing ♦Q, will ruff. If his remaining trumps are as good as ♥K10x he will make a further 2 tricks because shortening his hand will help.

REWIND

You hold the same hand against the same auction and again you lead ♣K. Again declarer wins ♣A and plays 3 top spades, this time discarding ♦4, ♦9 and a club. Again he plays to ♥Q and cashes ♦A, now exiting a club. You need to decide what to do. Your hypothetical count is the same and partner has only one club left. Could it be ♣J? You can't be sure if partner would have unblocked on the lead, but here we go again. Rise ♣Q for a crocodile coup, swallowing that blocking ♣J. And yes, if declarer still holds ♣J partner can trump your ♠10, maybe to advantage.

♠ AKQ10
 ♥ 84
 ♦ 753
 ♣ A852

♠ 98742	N	♠ J653
♥ -	W E	♥ K10762
♦ KJ1086	S	♦ Q2
♣ KQ10		♣ J9

♠ -
 ♥ AQJ953
 ♦ A94
 ♣ 7643

Check it through. If partner is left on lead with his doubleton (either), his exit shortens declarer, who can end-play partner's trumps.

Escape Melbourne cold on the Sunshine Coast Queensland

One of our Members, Phillip Fent, has recently refurbished his 3 bedroom house in Sunshine Beach to make it available for Holiday Rental.

Sunshine Beach has become an extremely popular tourist destination in its own right. Just a five minute drive away from Noosa, bordering the southern side of the Noosa National Park. Check it out at: <http://www.stayz.com.au/134693>.

To book with Phill and receive a 20% discount on the rental, email him at phillipfent@bigpond.com or call 0403 074 899

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Paynesville Bridge Club Rookies Day

Paynesville Bridge Club ran a very successful Rookies Day on May 22 with players travelling from Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Sale and Bairnsdale to play. The event was strictly limited to players with 0-10 masterpoints and was run as a separate section on our normal Wednesday duplicate afternoon.

Winners, with an impressive 59.72% were local pair Maree Haylock and Geraldine Tyler pictured receiving the "Helen Cantwell" shield from Club President, John Haylock.



Traralgon, Frankston, Rye Beach Interclub

Traralgon Bridge Club was considering ideas on how to increase the number of Interclub sessions we hold. It is a long distance between country clubs. Our nearest neighbour is over 50km away. The other "close" club is up to 100km from us.

We wanted to "extend the hand of friendship" with other clubs. It was decided to approach Frankston Bridge Club as we have ties with each other. Lindsay Young virtually started Bridge in the Latrobe Valley. She lives in the Mornington Peninsula area. Bill Young was a local GP in Traralgon. Lynn Clough was an active Traralgon member until she moved to Frankston a few years ago. Frank McConvill suggested including Rye Beach as we all play on the same evening. They have not played an Interclub event for many years. Frank liaised with the State Masterpoints Secretary, Colin Campbell, and set up the hand files.

The place-getters were:

1. Elizabeth Morrish - Rhonda van Dyke (Traralgon)
2. Margaret Porteous - Ted Fielding (Rye Beach)
3. Bill Young - Frank McConvill (Frankston)

Everyone was very excited with the concept and really enjoyed the evening. We were all asked "When is the next one?"

The event could not have been done this way without the three clubs using the Bridgewebs system. Hopefully this will lead to our members participating in and enjoying each others Congresses.



Winners: Rhonda and Elizabeth

East Gippsland Director/Scorer Training

Geoff Schaller ran a training session for directors and scorers from Lakes Entrance, Paynesville and Bairnsdale at the Bairnsdale Bridge Club on Sunday 26th May. In attendance were Liz Munro, Phillip Goode, Anne Gibbs, Brian Sampson and Bev Fisher (Bairnsdale), Pam Dingwall (Lakes Entrance) and Chris Heesom (Paynesville) and the purpose of the session was for participants to understand more about the Bridgemastr scoring program. The clubs very much appreciated the time and effort made by Geoff and his wife, Lyn, in travelling all the way to Bairnsdale to deliver the information, and to the President of Bairnsdale Bridge Club for offering accommodation to Geoff and Lyn at his delightful B&B.



Geoff Schaller explaining it all

5 QUESTIONS WITH BRIAN MORGAN

Brian Morgan, owner and operator of Rye Beach Bridge Club is one of Victoria's two delegates to the ABF.



1. How did you get started playing bridge and how long have you been playing. Do other family members play?

I had 6 lessons with George Rogerson at Kew in the mid-nineties, after which I thought I knew everything! I started playing competitively on moving to the Mornington Peninsula in 2000 – within a few week I was

hooked. My wife, Margaret, was already a regular player and introduced me to bridge etiquette. Together, we established the Rye Beach Bridge Club in November 2004, in the hope of increasing the numbers and standard of players on the Peninsula.

2. What are your hobbies outside bridge?

Most summer weekends are spent umpiring cricket for the Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association – one of the highlights was umpiring the inaugural over 70s Test Match between England and Australia at Dromana in 2011. The love of both cricket and bridge makes it hard to allocate priorities, particularly in the January to March period. In the winter months I am able to support the Mighty Hawks.

3. Tell us what bridge is like in your home club.

Rye Beach Bridge Club has grown over the years and now has about 110 members. Our policy is that 'Bridge is Fun', and rude behaviour is not tolerated. We run three regular sessions a week (one of which is in the attractive surroundings of Portsea Golf Club). In addition we have 2 beginners classes a year, and run a clinic every Thursday morning where the basic elements of bridge play are demonstrated again and again.

4. What are your goals as a regional representative for bridge in your region? Across the State?

As the Mornington Peninsula Regional Organiser I have been responsible for the GNOT and (sadly departed) GNP events. Plans are being put in place for the Region to take part in additional inter and intra regional events in the near future.

5. What would you like to achieve on council this year?

As a new (and least experienced) representative on the ABF Council, I see it as my responsibility to ensure that the ABF is aware that over 75% of its members are below Life Master status, and the interests of these 'grass roots' members should always be considered in future planning.

Farewell, Bob Richman



The bridge world was shocked last month by the sudden passing of Bobby Richman on the opening day of the Pacific Asia Bridge Championships in Hong Kong. He was 63.

Bob lived most of his adult life in Sydney, but he had a strong connection with Melbourne, living here for several periods. He first burst into prominence in 1972 when he was on the winning Victorian ANC team, partnering Diana Smart. They played a system called Animal Acol, a version of Acol involving very light openings, and this introduced to the world Bob's penchant for playing a system designed to wreak havoc on his opponents. It could truly be said that when Bob was at the table, no-one really knew what was going on, including his partner.

Bob also represented the state in the late 1990s and early 2000s. More recently he developed strong and incredibly successful partnerships with Sara Tishler and George Gaspar, including qualifying for the Australian Open Team with George in 2005. He is Australia's leading masterpoint holder.

But what most will remember about Bob were his friendly personality and ready wit. It was just tremendous fun to be around him, and he will be sorely missed.

... Bill Jacobs

ANNOUNCING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS Laurie Kelso

As of August 1st 2013 there will be a significant change to the current alerting procedures which will have an impact on all players.

When you open 1♣ or a natural 1NT, there will be no need to alert the bid. Instead opener's partner must automatically "announce", without waiting to be asked, the essential meaning of the bid.

For a natural 1NT opening, this announcement is the strength range. So partner says: "15 to 17" or "12 to 14" or whatever the range is.

For a 1♣ opening, it depends on the system. For natural systems, partner announces the minimum club length guaranteed, saying "4 plus clubs" or "3 plus clubs", etc.

For strong club systems, you announce the point range. For Precision you would say "strong, at least 16 points".

For other systems, for example Polish Club, which has multiple means for the 1♣ opening, partner simply announces "unusual".

After any announcement, the opponents will still be able to ask supplementary questions, however the basic information already conveyed will avoid much of that need. A side benefit of this new approach is that many of the problems currently created due to inopportune (and sometimes pointed) enquiries will now disappear. And opponents will no longer be at risk of confusion caused by variable 1NT ranges and the like.

It will take some time for players to adjust to such a significant change in alert procedure. Directors are encouraged to exercise suitable tolerance in respect to inadvertent non-compliance until players become familiar with the new procedure.

Announcements have been successfully used in both England and the United States for a number of years and it is felt that the above application of the same approach will also be beneficial in Australia.

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP 2013
Kim Frazer – VCC Convenor

The 2013 event was held once again at the Bayview Eden in South Melbourne which was a popular venue with players in 2012. This year's theme was "be nice" and players warmed to the theme with the event being held in good harmony, the directors all working well together and the number of appeals reduced to zero. The Youth group held a fund raising trivia night on Saturday evening which was well attended and we appreciate your generous support. Our thanks to the players who didn't attend, but made generous donations for their support.

The VCC Open Teams event presented a more open field than in previous years due to the absence of several national teams at the Asia Pacific Championships. With two rounds to go it looked like the Sartaj Hans, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Michael Whibley team had a lock on the championship, however bridge players once again proved that anything can happen. So it was when the team of Simon Hinge, Richard Jedrychowski, Kim Morrison, Bruce Neill staged a spectacular final day comeback with wins of 24 and 25 in the last two rounds to win by 1 VP. This made it a double for Richard and Bruce who also took out the Open Pairs event ahead of Neil Ewart and Jamie Ebery, with Simon and Kim placing 3rd.

The McCance Senior Pairs was an all Victorian success story which also had a come-from-behind win by Eva Caplan and Rena Kaplan who were victorious by 2 VPs over Stan Klofa and Dee Harley with Bob Gallus and Dennis Goldner in 3rd place. This capped of a successful week for Stan, Bob and Dennis who were part of the 3rd placed team, which also included Phillip Fent and David Happell, in the overall VCC standings claiming the President's Cup for the best Victorian team.

We were all shocked to hear the news of the death of the great Bobby Richman and players held a minute's silence in memory of him.

During the past year, Victoria has been saddened by the loss of three of its most notable players in Blaine Howe, Victor Muntz

and Sara Tishler. The VCC Women's Pairs event, won this year by Marilyn Chadwick and Toni Sharp from NSW is named after Sara, whilst Blaine's name is firmly attached through an endowment to Youth Bridge. It was therefore with great delight that we announced the naming of VCC Restricted Pairs after the late Victor Muntz, won this year by Leszek Kunc and Waldek Mroz from Waverley Bridge Club. Our thanks to Kitty Muntz for her generous donation of this trophy.

Victorian players finalised a clean sweep of the Restricted events taking out the <50MP Swiss Pairs with Alice Green and Lee Opray the winners whilst Penny Blankfield, Marina Darling, Christophe Leach, Sue Read were successful in the Restricted Teams event.

Sponsors for this year's event were Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers and Paul Lavings Bridgegear who made generous donations to the event. My thanks to Max Henbest for his excellent board dealing, the directing staff Sean Mullamphy, David Anderson, Val Daly, Peter Marley and Sandra Hughes and all the caddies who helped make this event a success. I acknowledge the work of Traian Chira who generously donated his time once again to run the Vugraph sessions over the 3 days, and particular thanks to Laura Ginnan who organised the Youth Trivia night and a number of youth players to help with caddying and end of event pack up. Cathie Lachman and Laurie Kelso were invaluable in managing preparations prior to the event, and finally a huge thank you to Neil Ewart for his outstanding work in managing the finances of the event.



Suit Combination of the month

J7652



AQ983

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.

PABF SENIOR TEAMS TRIUMPH

Our warmest congratulations go to Chris Hughes, a member of the Australian team that won the PABF Senior teams at the recent Asia-Pacific Bridge Championships in Hong Kong. The other players on the team were Avi Kanetkar (Chris’s partner), Terry Brown, George Bilski, Paul Lavings and Robert Krochmalik.

Every serious partnership needs to have agreements for what to do when an opponent enters the auction with an artificial bid (for example the multi-2♦ opening, or artificial overcalls of 1NT). Chris and Avi use an excellent convention called “double-double-double”.

In this approach, the first double, of the artificial bid, shows some high cards, a second double is for takeout, and a third double will be for penalties.

The following board was from a key match late in the tournament.

Dir: South ♠ KQ932
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q65
 ♦ 854
 ♣ J7

♠ 8	N	♠ 8
♥ J10982	W	♥ J10982
♦ 9	E	♦ 9
♣ 986432	S	♣ 986432

♠ AJ104
 ♥ K
 ♦ KQ107632
 ♣ Q

♠ 765
 ♥ A743
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ AK105

West	North	East	South
	Avi		Chris
			1NT
2♣	D’ble	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	D’ble
3♦	D’ble	All pass	

West’s 2♣ intervention had multiple meanings, and 2♠ confirmed diamonds and spades. Avi and Chris used the double-double-double convention to good effect. The double of 2♣ showed some high cards, Chris’s double of 2♠ was for takeout, and Avi was happy to double 3♦ for penalties.

After the excellent trump lead (strongly

indicated as it seems declarer might want to trump spades), declarer was held to his 7 top tricks for a score of 300 to N/S. At the other table (and indeed at most tables), N/S went down in 4♠ for 9 fat imps to Australia.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State	
Vicki Banko	Bendigo
Brian Brasier	Donald
Enid Brasier	Donald
Doreen Gillam	Geelong
Michael McTiernan	Dendy Park
Simon Smith	Eastern
*State	
Aileen Park	Warrnambool
Faye Searle	Bendigo
National	
Judy Judah	Dendy Park
Marjory Poulston	Geelong
Yvonne Sleeman	Geelong
Life	
Chandradeep Chakravorty	Waverley
Silver Life	
Annabel Norlyng	Frankston
Gold Life	
Anton Stavik	VBA
Grand	
Kirsten Thorne	Dendy Park
Gold Grand	
Jamie Ebery	VBA

FRESH LOOK SESSIONS

The VBA will be introducing two new sessions with fresh approaches that have been suggested by members.

The first is a session that will run for just over 2 hours. This session will be run on a Wednesday morning and will allow people to get their bridge hit whilst having the time to make appointments, drop off/pick up the kids or grandkids or make their lunch dates.

The second is a once a month walk-in Butler pairs session that will provide an opportunity to gain some IMPs experience but will still allow duplicate players to come along for their regular game. It’s great to hear feedback from players. Make sure you pass your ideas onto your clubs and the VBA if you have them: after all, if you’re thinking about it others probably are too!

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dlr: North	♠ AQ10		
Vul: N/S	♥ J102		
	♦ Q954		
	♣ A96		
♠ 84		N	♠ K763
♥ 984		W	♥ 53
♦ AKJ1072		E	♦ 3
♣ 42		S	♣ KJ10873
	♠ J952		
	♥ AKQ76		
	♦ 86		
	♣ Q5		

Partner will need to hold lots of stuff to enable you to break this contract. Almost certainly ♠K, and if anything in trumps (other than ♥A) it is badly placed. If partner holds ♥A and ♠K a switch to spades would suffice but it's most likely that his other values are in clubs (from the auction.) You could switch to a club now, but you need to make sure of a second trick in diamonds. A low diamond does this with a ruff and partner will have to deal with the black suits. Cashing ♦K allows declarer to shed his club loser.

Problem 2

Dlr: East	♠ AK5		
Vul: nil	♥ J65		
	♦ 76		
	♣ AK954		
♠ 6		N	♠ Q109
♥ Q107		W	♥ K83
♦ AJ105432		E	♦ KQ98
♣ Q6		S	♣ J82
	♠ J87432		
	♥ A942		
	♦ -		
	♣ 1073		

The way play has developed it seems partner has ♠Q, having started with three, and one more club. If you now force declarer he will play to ♣K and run clubs. When partner interrupts, ♠5 will be an entry for further discards.

So the defence must establish the setting tricks in hearts. Declarer has four hearts, probably ♥A, possibly ♥K (if both, the contract is secure). You must switch to a

heart, and the right one is ♥10. If partner has ♥K that neutralises ♥J, and you hope the other spots in hearts are kind. If partner has ♥A, he will know to return a heart.



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 Association's 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.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Cost: \$40, includes lunch, course notes and booklet, and a voucher to a supervised play session (the next step)



Australian Youth Training Weekend

The VBA was pleased to host the Australian Youth Team training weekend on June 29 and 30. Highlights from the weekend included:

- Tech Talk on "Planning the Defense"
- Tech Talk on "Partnership Management"
- Tech Talk on "Extra Chances"
- Tech Talk on "High-Level Competition"

The ABF and VBA would like to thank Dave Thompson, Ishmael Delmonte, Ben Thompson, Bill Jacobs and Grant Kilvington (Australian and under 25 captain) for their contribution to this event.

RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Moonee Valley Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Glasson – K. Radcliffe
- 2 T. Kay – M. Yuill
- 3 C. Schwabegger – K. Daws

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Morgan, J. Thompson, B. Thompson, W. Jacobs
- 2 J. Yang, M. Zhang, D. Nie
- 3 T. Rangasinghe, G. McRobert, J. Ashkar, N. Cowen

Regional Teams Playoff

- 1 D. Thompson, J. Thompson, R. Fruewirth, M. McQueen-Thompson
- 2 P. Blinman, D. Clarke, M. Clarke, G. Myers
- 3 J. Lever, R. Laurie, H. Scott, F. Bell

Berwick Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – N. Ewart
- 2 C. Shugg – W. Sieredzinski
- 3 M. Adams – V. Daly

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Krolikowski, R. Stewart, N. Howard, M. Henbest
- 2 C. Lachman, L. Henbest, E. Hynes, G. Lovrecz
- 3 D. Happell, L. Robinson, G. Hammond, F. Kerlin

Geelong Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Bailey – K. Bailey
- 2 K. French – D. Sharman
- 3 R. Muir – I. Muir

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 H. Blamires – L. Chan
- 2 T. Hassett - B. Fitzpatrick
- 3 J. Zikos – K. Sheppard

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, D. Harley, R. Gallus, D. Goldner
- 2 J. Magee, T. Strong, A. Krolikowski, R. Stewart
- 3 N. Ewart, B. Lindsay, E. Hynes, G. Lovrecz

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 11 (June 1)

- 3 Mary Lynch – Philip McDermott (Frankston)

Event 12 (June 16)

- 1 Bryan Fuller – Chris Turner (Echuca)
- 3 Jeanne Anderson – Corrie Van Lier (Sale)



Suit Combination of the month

J7652



AQ983

Missing 3 trumps, you should finesse East for the king. But do it the right way, lead the *jack* from dummy. Then if East has K10x, you will be able to pick up the entire suit: if East covers the jack with the king, then when West discards, you will know that you can finesse East's 10. If instead you play a low card from dummy to your queen, then you will lose a trick if East has all three cards.

Suppose you lead the jack from dummy and East plays low. Should you take an inference that East would have covered the jack if he held the king, and therefore he doesn't? In that case, you could play the ace and hope to drop West's singleton king.

It's up to you, and might involve reading East's body language. But a good player sitting East will never cover the jack, because he probably knows about your big fit and can see that there is no point in it. In fact, from East's perspective, covering the jack with Kx could be a huge mistake if West happens to have the singleton queen!



COUNCIL NEWS

VBA Member Consultation Meetings

The VBA is developing proposed constitutional amendments regarding election procedures (particularly proxies) and direct election of regional representatives onto the VBA Council. All VBA members are invited to consultations meetings of about 45 minutes on 20 July at 12 noon and 29 July at 6pm.