

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

ADELAIDE ANC WRAPUP

The recently completed Australian National Championships saw some excellent results for Victoria.

The first week was the Interstate Teams Championships, and all four Victorian teams performed creditably. The Seniors finished 4th; the Open team finished equal third, being in contention for a spot in the final all the way. The Women's team was also third, an agonising 3 imps behind qualifying.

The Youth team, which punters had as a short-priced favourite to win the event, didn't let us down. They qualified in comfort for the final, and then easily accounted for Western Australia by 92 imps over 60 boards. Our congratulations go to Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Jamie Thompson, Ella Pattison, Ellena Moskovsky, Peter Bolling and NPC Grant Kilvington.



(l-r) Grant, Jamie, Justin, Ellena, Ella, Peter Bolling, Peter Hollands

The second week was the Butler Trials. Whilst we didn't star in the Women's or Senior's divisions, Victorians dominated the Open Trials. Peter Hollands and Justin Howard took out the double: winning their division of the Interstate Teams and the Butler Trials. Second place went to Michael Whibley and Ashley Bach (Ash runs Kings and Queens club in Brighton). And third was 21 year-old Max Henbest, playing with Sydneysider David Wiltshire.

SELECTING THE STATE TEAM ... AND THE CONGRESS CHAMPION Ben Thompson

After consulting with all clubs and about 80 of Victoria's leading players, the VBA is changing the way the Victorian Open Team is selected from 2014. We're moving to a 'playoff point' system like the ABF's method for Australian teams.

We're expanding the pool of qualifying events from just 2 events held at the VBA to around 60 held all over Victoria so that every Victorian player can easily participate in the selection process for the Victorian Open Team. High place getters in every Congress will now be awarded 'Victorian Qualifying Points' (VQPs).

Everybody with any VQPs is eligible to contend for a place in the Victorian Open Team Playoff next year. You can team up with anybody else with VQPs and the 6 teams with the highest average VQPs will play off next year to become the Victorian team.

At the same time, we're using the same points system to identify the Congress Champion for 2013. We're going to list the leaders in the Bulletin every month. All the details will be available on the VBA website. Briefly, there are 3 tiers of Congress events (small, medium and large) with bigger events attracting more VQPs.

Top 10 Congress players at the end of July:

Player	Congress VQPs	Congress Wins
Stan Klofa	38	3
Ben Thompson	30	4
Charlie Schwabegger	30	3
Justin Howard	29	1
Dee Harley	27	2
Kim Frazer	27	4
Jenny Thompson	27	3
Lindy Anderson	25	1
Kerrin Daws	21	2
Kae French	18	2

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in a Swiss Pairs congress (imp scoring) you pick up:

♠ Q742 ♥ K3 ♦ AJ954 ♣ 72

You are not vulnerable, the opponents are vulnerable. Partner deals and passes, and RHO opens 1♠. Do you make a bid?

Even at favourable vulnerability, I wouldn't recommend anything other than Pass. Overcalling 2♦ has little to gain and plenty to lose. Its potential gain is that it might point partner to a profitable lead should your LHO become declarer. But the downsides are plentiful:

- you cannot expect to compete successfully for the contract when partner is a passed hand,
- you might take a hefty penalty in 2♦ doubled,
- you give the opponents information about the deal that could assist in both their bidding and the play.

You pass and the auction concludes:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Partner leads ♥4, and you see:

Dir: North	♠ AKJ83
Vul: N/S	♥ Q6
	♦ Q103
	♣ AK9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q742
♥ K3
♦ AJ954
♣ 72

Declarer plays low from dummy, you try ♥K and declarer wins ♥A.

Next comes ♠10, ♠6 from partner, low from dummy, and you?

Back in the June newsletter, I set a defensive problem in For Starters that extolled the virtue of the passive defence. On that deal, there was no obvious defensive play to be made, and the advice was to make a play that didn't give any help to declarer.

This deal represents a mirror image of the passive defence. Here you have to act, and act quickly. If you defend passively, for example winning ♠Q and returning partner's suit, 3NT will likely be made. Declarer has 8 tricks that you can see: 4 spades, 2 hearts and 2 clubs. If declarer has ♦K, he can simply play a diamond to establish the 9th trick.

And if declarer *doesn't* have the ♦K, well ...

You must win the spade and play a low diamond, hoping partner has ♦K, in which case you can run the diamond suit, assuming partner has another diamond to return.

The full deal:

	♠ AKJ83	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ Q103	
	♣ AK9	

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 65	♠ Q742
♥ J754	♥ K3
♦ K72	♦ AJ954
♣ 10543	♣ 72

♠ 109
♥ A10982
♦ 86
♣ QJ86

This was a deal for the Desperation Defence, not the Passive Defence.

Points to remember:

- Avoid overcalling in a minor suit at the two-level with a marginal hand, particularly opposite a partner who has already passed. There's so little to gain and so much to lose. On this deal for example, your opponents may be warned off the failing 3NT contract, and into a making major suit game.
- When things are desperate, as they clearly were after the start of the play on this deal, think optimistically. Mentally place

your partner with the card or cards that he needs to hold to break the contract. Then defend on that basis. Partner holding the ♦K was a 'sine qua non' for this defence.



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

John Campbell	Ballarat
Peter Cork	Melbourne
Linda Everington	Ballarat
Christopher Leach	MCC
Joanne Mitchell	Geelong
Elaine Newcomen	Bairnsdale
Bella Szmerling	Dendy Park
Ming Zhang	VBA
Rob Ziffer	Bairnsdale

*State

Penny Blankfield	Kooyong
Sarah Livingston	Dromana
Richard Sicree	Dendy Park

National

Else Bailey	Sale
Marion Bott	Yarrawonga
Helen Ingram	Dendy Park
Pamela Richardson	Waverley
George Skarbek	Waverley
Charlie Ward	Frankston

**National

Kathryn Attwood	VBA
Genie Harband	VBA
Jim Stewart	Moonee Valley

**National

Lynn Clough	Frankston
John Puusepp	Moonee Valley

Life

Simon Begg	Yarra Valley
Sue Brink	Waverley
Kevin Sertori	Waverley

Bronze Life

John Ashkar	Moonee Valley
Maurice Brumer	Theodor Herzl
Sue Read	Yarra Valley

Silver Life

Paulina Baker	Kooyong
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Gold Life

Dennis Goldner	VBA
Carl Hagan	Yarra Valley

Grand

Leeron Branicki	Kooyong
Steven Thorne	Dendy Park

RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Rothfield Teams

- 1 E. Moskovsky, L. Henbest, W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, S. Hinge, L. Gold
- 2 S. Arber, M. Chrapot, K. Pearson, R. Greenfield
- 3 N. Ewart, B. Kingham, J. Thompson, V. Goldberg

TEST YOUR BIDDING

After a transfer response to 1NT

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

Transfer responses to 1NT are the best thing since sliced bread. The 2♦ and 2♥ responses, rather than being natural, instead show at least 5 cards in the next higher suit, hearts and spades respectively.

Opener is required to bid the next step (responder's suit) and await further instruction.

Transfers have two major benefits. First, the 1NT opener will be declarer if the final contract is in responder's suit: by making the strong hand declarer, you give the defenders a harder time, particularly on opening lead. But more importantly, the transfer gives responder two bites of the apple – allowing him to first show his suit and then follow up with a further description of his hand.

Assuming 1NT shows 15-17 points, how do you follow up your transfer with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 76 ♥ QJ932 ♦ 10765 ♣ K5
- (b) ♠ A4 ♥ QJ932 ♦ Q93 ♣ 875
- (c) ♠ K4 ♥ A10865 ♦ QJ2 ♣ J75
- (d) ♠ J ♥ AQ765 ♦ AJ92 ♣ Q76
- (e) ♠ K76 ♥ K108764 ♦ 2 ♣ Q107
- (f) ♠ Q3 ♥ Q9742 ♦ K10 ♣ J1082

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

(a) 76 ♥ QJ932 ♦ 10765 ♣ K5

Pass. With just 6 HCP you have no aspirations of game. Instead you simply want to play in 2♥, thinking that this is likely to be a better contract than 1NT. Put your weak hand down as dummy and relax.

(b) ♠ A4 ♥ QJ932 ♦ Q93 ♣ 875

2NT. 9 HCP represents invitational values opposite 15-17. Transferring and bidding 2NT indicates your invitation and also shows the 5-card suit. Partner can choose between final contracts of 2NT, 3♥, 3NT and 4♥ depending on his strength and heart holding.

(c) ♠ K4 ♥ A10865 ♦ QJ2 ♣ J75

3NT. This time your point count tells you there's enough for game. Here you offer partner a choice between 3NT and 4♥.

(d) ♠ J ♥ AQ765 ♦ AJ92 ♣ Q76

3♦. Bidding a new suit after a transfer is natural and *forcing*. You are not sure of the final destination: probably 3NT, 4♥ or 5♦. Partner's next bid will help you decide.

(e) ♠ K76 ♥ K108764 ♦ 2 ♣ Q107

3♥. Holding 6 hearts, you know you have at least an 8-card fit, and so the final contract should be in hearts. Raising your own suit shows this, and depicts invitational values. Partner has only two options: pass or 4♥ depending on his overall strength.

(f) ♠ Q3 ♥ Q9742 ♦ K10 ♣ J1082

2NT. It would be a mistake to show the club suit here. Primarily, you want to invite a game contract, and the way to do that is by rebidding 2NT, just like on hand (b). If instead you rebid 3♣, partner might have to bid 3NT on minimum values, and you don't have enough strength to underwrite that contract.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: East	♠ K10			
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ8			
	♦ J7			
	♣ K97652			
♠ J82	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ 52				
♦ AK10532				
♣ 104				

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass*
2♦	3♣	4♦	4♠
Pas	Pass	Pass	

* South had a weak 2 opening available

You start with a top diamond, partner signalling even. What next?

Problem 2:

Dlr: South	♠ Q65			
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ82			
	♦ KQ10			
	♣ Q108			
♠ 102	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ A65				
♦ A8653				
♣ J95				

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

* 12-14 HCP

You start with ♦5 to dummy's ♦10, partner *odd*, declarer ♦J. He plays ♥4 and you must formulate a defence.

Solutions on page 9.

Victorian Open Teams: the Pennant

Metro players should mark down six consecutive Wednesday evenings, starting 11th September, to participate in Victoria's premier teams event. The finals are scheduled for November 16-17.

**LEAD-DIRECTING DOUBLES OF 3NT
Dr Albert Braunstein**

You hold:

♠ 106543 ♥ 7432 ♦ 105 ♣ 42

Your right hand opponent opens a strong 1NT, showing 16 to 18 points, which LHO raises to 3NT. What is your opening lead if partner (a) passes, or (b) doubles to show a long running suit, such as AKQJxx or AKQxxxx?

Dir: South	♠ 92		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q109		
	♦ 876		
	♣ AQ1083		
♠ 106543	N	♠ QJ	
♥ 7432	W E	♥ K85	
♦ 105	S	♦ AKQJ43	
♣ 42		♣ 97	
		♠ AK87	
		♥ AJ6	
		♦ 92	
		♣ KJ65	

Closed Room

West Perron	North Tammens	East Chemla	South Kirkoff
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

Opening lead: ♠4

Open Room

West Bomhof	North Soulet	East Ramer	South Lebel
Pass	3NT	D'ble*	1NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	Pass

* shows a long solid suit

Opening lead: ♦K

In the closed room, Paul Chemla could not double 3NT as that would have asked for a spade lead. Declarer had no trouble making 10 tricks on the spade lead: two spades, three hearts and five clubs.

At the other table Ramer's double was the short suit convention and showed a long running suit. With two unprotected suits,

Soulet ran to the safety of 4♣ and made an overtrick. Plus 150 but 7imps to Holland.

Would Bomhof for Holland in the Open Room have led the right doubleton if the double of 3NT had been left in? Bomhof half-jokingly replied that he would have, of course, led a club as his diamond holding was so much stronger!

If your partner is not as talented as Jeremy Flint and cannot be relied upon to make "intelligent" leads, then, it is much better to reserve the double to show a specific suit.

The **Elwell** double, named after Joseph Elwell, asks for a heart lead. It dates from the early days of bridge when hearts was the highest ranking suit. No kidding in the early days of bridge spades was the lowest ranking suit!!

The **Fisher** double, named after John Fisher, calls for the lead of a minor. If no suit has been bid the Fisher double demands a club lead. However, if the opponents have gone via Stayman, the Fisher double asks for a diamond lead.

I have no strong feelings about whether to play that a double of 3NT, when no suit has been bid naturally by the opponents, asks for a spade, a heart (Elwell), or a minor (Fisher). However, I would strongly counsel against the Short Suit Convention as partner will often guess wrong; maybe 50% of the time!

If dummy has bid a suit, then the double of 3NT should ask for dummy's suit. For example, after

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	D'ble	2NT

Here the double asks for a heart lead - dummy's suit. If dummy has bid two suits, double asks for dummy's first bid suit. Finally, if you have bid a suit and partner doubles their 3NT contract the double asks you to lead your suit and suggests a high honour in the suit, such as Qx. Make sure that you and your partner have an agreement about the meaning of a double of the opponent's 3NT contract.

O PALANQUE
Ben Thompson

I was at a party the other day and got talking with some friends, and friends-of-friends, about them taking up bridge.



Everyone had heard of bridge (good), many were interested in taking bridge up (good) but most of those were avoiding actually do it (not so good).

"Why" I wondered. And asked. There were basically 3 reasons, and fortunately for every one of us who wants to get their friends hooked on bridge, we can address 2 of them pretty easily.

Reason 1 – It's too hard to learn. At the VBA, we teach people who have never picked up a deck of cards before how to play (basic) bridge in about 6 hours. Enough to play a social game with friends. You can also learn basic tennis in a few lessons – enough to get out and have a fun hit with your friends.

Reason 2 – I'll forget all the rules. This turns out not to be about the mechanics or the laws – it's about rules; bidding rules, leading rules, planning rules. We should obey the bridge laws, but if we forget or ignore a few "rules", what happens? Go to any social club and you'll see a lot of people having a lot of fun ignoring every bridge "rule" under the sun.

Reason 3 – I'm too busy. I understand that, particularly for people with busy jobs, but bridge doesn't have to be a big commitment. My friends know that I'm a bridge nut, and they see the amount of time I put into it, but you can also play once a month, and people do. A few bridge players I know never even play, but they like watching (eg on BBO).

I compare learning bridge to learning tennis. You can learn tennis quickly, ignore all rules and get out every now and then for a fun hit with your friends.

The next time one of your friends wheels out one of the Big Three reasons for not taking up bridge, tell them it's just a game! We can enjoy bridge, or any sport, in an almost infinite number of ways. Your friends and mine can learn quickly, forget every "rule" there ever was and still have a whale of a time in their occasional social game.

Do your friends a favour and nudge them over the edge!



RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Theodor Herzl Congress

Congress Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – C. Lachman
- 2 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 3 S. Klofa – P. Fent

FABCV Croft Teams

- 1 L. Attwood, K. Attwood, C. Macquarrie, K. Trolland
- 2 J. Hoff, K. Hoff, A. Meydan, A. Bell
- 3 B. Pollard, J. Apfelbaum, L. Young, W. Sieredzinski

Phillip Island Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – G. Lovrecz
- 2 H. Flanders – J. Crafti
- 3 D. Wallace – P. Dingwall

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Drury, R. Moss, A. Meydan, F. Power
- 2 C. Schwabegger, K. Daws, K. French, M. Willcox
- 3 C. Arul, C. Chakravorty, H. Blakeman, E. Matheson

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 13 (July 6)

- 3 Denise Mizzi – Andre Ferdinands (Yarra Valley)

Event 14 (July 21)

- 2 Paul Waylen – Shirley Stewart (Phillip Island)
- 3 Bert Romeijn – Chris Fernando (Berwick)

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

A stratagem uncovered

This deal was played in the Rothfield Teams at the VBA, 2013, so from there to here is not very far. It poses a defensive problem and I originally included it in my "Setting Trick" series, but I fell in love with it and have given it centre billing.

You are East.

Dir: West ♠ J62
 Vul: all ♥ J95
 ♦ J854
 ♣ 1085

N	♠ AKQ953
W E	♥ 6
S	♦ Q1063
	♣ Q3

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

Partner cashes ♣A, ♣K, on the second of which declarer plays ♣J. Partner then produces a rather surprising ♦2. Declarer considers this and rises ♦J. What do you make of this development? Plan your defence.

Partner evidently started with 6 clubs and has raised spades. Could declarer have 8 hearts? Perhaps, but partner doubled. It is much more likely that partner has 3 hearts and is playing declarer for a 7-card heart suit - he hasn't continued clubs thinking you wouldn't be able to trump ♣10 - and has led a singleton diamond, hoping for a ruff.

Suppress that instinctive cover: you must play low. Your assets in diamonds are ♦Q and ♦10. If, as seems certain, declarer has both ♦A and ♦K, your next card, ♦6, is not good enough to protect them. After ♦J holds, declarer can make 3 more diamonds by finessing twice, but he can't start doing so before drawing partner's trumps. If partner has a trick in trumps all is well, but if declarer holds seven hearts to ♥AK all is lost, so you have to hope not. If he has only six to ♥AKQ (so 1642 shape) he can discard his

spade, but ♥J is dummy's only entry. You can play high on the second round of diamonds to ensure a setting trick.

Dir: North ♠ J62
 Vul: N/S ♥ J95
 ♦ J854
 ♣ 1085

♠ 1074	N	♠ AKQ953
♥ 1073	W E	♥ 6
♦ 2	S	♦ Q1063
♣ AK9742		♣ Q3

♠ 8
 ♥ AKQ842
 ♦ AK97
 ♣ J6

COUNCIL NEWS

VCC 2014 Convenor

We are seeking a member to take on the role of Convenor for the Victor Champion Cup for 2014. If you are interested in finding out what is involved with this position, please contact Kim Frazer for more details on 0409 416128 or email secretary@vba.asn.au.

State Event Entry Fees

The VBA has completed its annual review of table and entry fees for competitions. Players should note that there will be some important changes to entry and table fees for state events which are designed to simplify fee collection for both players and the directors.

Effective from September 1st for all new competitions.

- Entry fees will no longer apply for state competitions and state selection events
- State competitions will be charged at a flat rate table fee of \$16 per night/session
- State selection events will be charged at a flat rate table fee of \$18 per night/session

Competitions in progress on September 1st will continue to be charged at the current rates.

YOUTHFUL ANC HIGHLIGHTS
Bill Jacobs

Victoria has a vibrant development program for youth bridge, and this has been bearing fruit for several years now. In the Youth division at the Adelaide ANC, the three Victorian Pairs, Peter Hollands – Justin Howard, Ellena Moskovsky – Peter Bolling and Ella Pattison - Jamie Thompson, ran 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively in the round-robin datums, demonstrating the strength and depth of youth bridge in the state.

The pair that topped the datums was from Western Australia, and they were playing a Forcing Pass system: a highly artificial method where a 1♥ opening shows any hand containing 0-7 points. Such systems can wreak havoc on opponents who are insufficiently prepared to play against them, and are therefore very rarely allowed. It was to our team’s credit that they were able to overcome this challenge and easily take out the 60 board final.

Peter and Justin demonstrated on this hand from the final just how hard they have been working on their system:

♠ A94 ♥ 2 ♦ AKQJ987 ♣ A8	<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	♠ 32 ♥ A8543 ♦ 542 ♣ K103
N					
W E					
S					

West Peter	East Justin
1♦	1♥
2NT ¹	3♣ ²
3NT ³	4♦
4♠ ⁴	5♣ ⁴
5♠ ⁵	6♦

- 1 6+ diamonds, 18+ points
- 2 Tell me more
- 3 Singleton heart
- 4 Cue bids
- 5 Grand slam try

This impressive auction garnered 12 imps when the Western Australians stayed in 3NT, as did most of the finalists in the other divisions.

In the trials, Max Henbest, who at 21 is playing above his age, demonstrated how to cope with the dreaded Fertilizer 1♥ opening

of the Forcing Pass system, conducting a fine auction with partner David Wiltshire to a difficult slam:

Dir: East Vul: All ♠ K864 ♥ 876 ♦ 974 ♣ 753	<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	♠ 1032 ♥ 94 ♦ Q52 ♣ K10986 ♠ AJ75 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ J1083 ♣ J
N					
W E					
S					

West	North David	East	South Max
		1♥ ¹	D'ble ²
Pass	Pass	2♣	D'ble ³
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 0-7 points, any shape
- 2 15+ points
- 3 takeout

7 of the 10 pairs reached the good slam, but only Max and David had to deal with an opponent’s opening bid. They utilised the “double-double-double” method, described in last month’s bulletin, which really is the tool of choice for dealing with pesky opponents who intervene into your auctions artificially.

Max’s first double was showing points, and the second double was takeout. This allowed his side to smoothly find the heart fit and apply Blackwood.

Now Max had to make it, no gimme, and indeed 3 declarers went down in 6♥. A club was led and Max straddled the first hurdle when he won ♣A. Then he wisely took the spade finesse. It lost and a diamond was returned, won with ♦A. ♦K and two spades followed, allowing dummy’s little diamond to be discarded. When a diamond was ruffed high, bringing down ♦Q, things were looking up. A trump to the ace and Max’s last spade was ruffed high. Finally he drew trumps and banked the 12 imps.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dlr: East ♠ K10
 Vul: N/S ♥ AQ8
 ♦ J7
 ♣ K97652

♠ J82	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A96
N	E					
W	S					
♥ 52		♥ KJ106				
♦ AK10532		♦ Q984				
♣ 104		♣ J8				

♠ Q7543
 ♥ 9743
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ3

South is a passed hand and dummy is not over-endowed. As against that, the spades divide 3-3 (South probably has only 5 spades as he passed up the opportunity to open a weak 2). The risk must be that the club suit provides tricks, and that suggests attacking hearts immediately, despite our weak holding. If and only if you next play ♥5 (and partner can give you a ruff) this piratical contract will be defeated.

Problem 2

Dlr: East ♠ Q65
 Vul: nil ♥ KQ82
 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ Q108

♠ 102	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ J974
N	E					
W	S					
♥ A65		♥ 1093				
♦ A8653		♦ 972				
♣ J95		♣ A74				

♠ AK83
 ♥ J74
 ♦ J4
 ♣ K632

Diamonds can be established by losing one more. If you rise ♥A declarer has 3 tricks there and you would have to hope that after your ♦3 declarer must lose a black-suit trick to partner before coming to 9.

Alternatively you could wait it out until partner comes to that winner to lead a diamond for you. Which?

The answer is rise ♥A to lead a low diamond. If you wait it out, declarer may not need another trick in hearts.

(If ♥K holds and ♣8 comes next partner has no winning play: if he rises ♣A, declarer has nine tricks, 3+1+2+3; if partner ducks, declarer wins and plays another heart.)

[From the 2013 VCC. The winning defence was found by Michael Whibley.]



Suit Combination of the month

A9765
 □
 Q10432

This is trumps. Entries to dummy are plentiful. How do you play the suit if you need to draw trumps without losing a trick?

What about if you can afford to lose one trick, but not two?

Solution on page 11.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: East ♠ A5
 Vul: N/S ♥ 76
 ♦ A82
 ♣ KQ9643

<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	S
N	S	
♠ 8632		
♥ AK8543		
♦ 7		
♣ A10		

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

West leads ♠Q, ♠A, ♠7, ♠2. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

♠ QJ94 ♥ 102 ♦ QJ10954 ♣ 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K107 ♥ QJ9 ♦ K63 ♣ J875
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ A5 ♥ 76 ♦ A82 ♣ KQ9643				
	♠ 8632 ♥ AK8543 ♦ 7 ♣ A10				

What an unfortunate opening lead. If West had just led his suit, there would have been plenty of time to clear the trumps and set up the clubs for discards. Now it looks hopeless: how can you play sufficient clubs to discard all your losing spades before the opponents take their trump trick?

If an opponent has 3 hearts and 3 clubs, you can cash ♥AK and then play 4 rounds of clubs discarding two spades, but that 4th round will be trumped and you will still have a losing spade. What you need is for someone (East on the bidding) to have 3 hearts and 4 clubs. Now you can play 5 rounds of clubs discarding all your losing spades as East ruffs in.

If East must have 4 clubs, then it will likely include the jack: this points the way to a newspaper play. At trick 2, play a club to the 10! If this wins, cash two top hearts, ♣A, over to the ♦A and play winning clubs. You can discard all your losing spades in time.

An alternative line is to hope that the ♠Q lead was a singleton, and that West has the three trumps, for example, 1363 distribution. But that doesn't sit well with East's first round pass at favourable vulnerability. I like the newspaper play.



VICTORIA CUP NEWS

This on-line event is now in full swing: go to <http://www.vba.asn.au/vc> to see the calendar of matches, running scores and event bulletins.

There are 13 teams entered in the Open Division (seeded into two sections) and 6 in the Restricted. Since the event is primarily conducted on-line, there are no issues of geography, so for example, the team based in Gippsland can happily compete against a Melbourne-based group. And as there's no travel involved, it's relatively easy to agree a day and time that suits all.

The first Victorian Cup bulletin has an interesting player profile, which we reproduce here:

Victoria Cup Player Profile: Andre Ferdinands (U50 MP)

Why did you get into bridge?

My father roped me into it about 5 years ago. I'm a good son, I said yes.



What's your most memorable hand?

It was just the other day, I landed in 6NT with unbalanced hands and not enough points. Love it when you get lucky and it comes home.

Tell me a bit about yourself.

I'm a qualified tennis coach and I run Top Stocks (good thing I know all the bridge clubs wifi passwords!) ... Oh I was also born in Sri Lanka but moved here when I was 3.

That's interesting ... you still go for Australia in the cricket right?

No, Sri Lanka.¹

Is there anything that you don't like about bridge?

A grumpy or unfriendly room ... People should be nice².

What are some of your bridge successes?

The last couple of months have been great. I won my first red point event at Waverley and managed to rack up some gold points in the Victor Champion Cup.

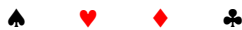
¹ All in all, you would have to say this is a smart move.

² Ben Thompson had nothing to do with editing this profile but it looks as though the "be nice" message is working!

MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE NEWS David Morgan - Chairman

A number of people have asked about the last-minute change to the Victorian Open Team for the ANC. What happened was that Dan Hohor was unavailable for serious personal reasons. His partner, Traian Chira, decided he did not wish to play with a new partner in an important event. The rest of the team was forced to find a third pair.

While there are no regulations that cover a withdrawal at this stage, we do have a regulation that covers earlier steps in the selection process. The M&TC applied the principles underlying that regulation. This meant the team had to choose two players from those who had made the finals of previous stages of the selection process (either the Pennant or the Butler). The team was allowed to choose replacements who they think will be compatible with the rest of the team. The team chose Jeff Fust and Leigh Gold, even though they had not competed previously as a pair, when other players they asked were not available with less than two weeks notice.



Suit Combination of the month

A9765
□
Q10432

To avoid losing a trick, the best you can do is lead the ace, and hope someone has the singleton king. This will be the case just over a quarter of the time.

If you can afford to lose one trick, but not two, you have a sure-fire play. Lead low from hand and if LHO plays the 8, cover with the 9. This protects against LHO having KJ8. If LHO instead shows out, you can rise with the ace, and play one back, protecting against RHO having KJ8.

An alternative is to lead low from dummy, which works just as well, except that you might lose an unnecessary trick should LHO have the singleton king.

First Aid Courses

You never know when a medical emergency might arise, but it's always comforting when you know that someone is around who is trained in first aid. The VBA is offering clubs First Aid training through All Health Training for \$50 per person. We encourage clubs to send along personnel that frequently work at the club. This price is a special offer and will be tailored to the risks that are likely to arise in a bridge club.

Please send expressions of interest through to auraginnan@vba.asn.au with your preferred dates.

Course Details

Time: 3 hour session (+ pre reading)
Date: TBA (we will try to accommodate preferences)
Location: VBA Clubrooms
Class size: Max 12 people per session
Cost: \$50 per person
Course type: HLTF311A : Apply First Aid
Inclusions: Training and First Aid Book



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)

Nationwide Pairs

The Nationwide Pairs is an ABF-organised, simultaneous event that is held on a fortnightly basis. Many clubs throughout Victoria already hold heats for the NWP where you can go along and play in a normal session but also have your results entered into the national competition.

Clubs which regularly hold heats include:

Bairnsdale	Ballarat
Bendigo	Berwick
Frankston	Moonee Valley
Phillip Island	Rye Beach
Sale	South Gippsland
Traralgon	Victorian Bridge Association
Waverley	Yarra Valley

Contact one of these clubs and get along to a Nationwide Pairs heat or talk to your local club about running a heat.



Club Websites

A few months ago the VBA arranged special discount offers on bridge web sites for affiliated clubs with two leading providers – Bridgewebs and Altosoft.

Three clubs ranging from small to large have taken up the offers so far:

- Northern plays every Tuesday and is using Bridgewebs, see: www.bridgewebs.com/northern.
- Warrnambool, the centre of bridge in Western Victoria, is using Altosoft, see: <http://www.warrnambool.bridgeaustralia.org/>.
- Waverley, Victoria's biggest club, switched to Bridgewebs from their own custom site, see: <http://www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au/>.

If your club is thinking about getting on the web, go to school on what these three clubs have done – you'll surely agree that the new websites are very professional and easy to navigate.

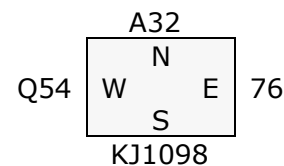


BOOK REVIEW BY KIM FRAZER: EDDIE KANTAR'S DEFENSIVE BRIDGE PLAY

I read Defensive Bridge Play some time ago. Also known as the big red book, it was written in the 1970s but is still relevant today. Whilst there have since been many good books written on bridge defence, I feel Kantar is still a worthy author. This book covers just about everything you need to know about defending in bridge. At around 500 A4 size pages with tons of information it is quite a slog to get through, but there are just so many good ideas in here that it is worth the effort.

The section on leads covers Rusinow leads which I used to play – i.e. under-leading rather than the more common over-leading from sequences. There are many gems on discards, what to play as second hand, third hand, signalling and so on. With hundreds of examples to illustrate the author's points it is easy to understand the points being made, although the amount of information may be a bit overwhelming for new players.

Here is one example of second hand play. We all have heard the maxim – cover an honour with an honour. But look at this example:



South leads the jack. If you cover it, you have set up 5 tricks for South. However if you duck without hesitation; South is likely to play the ace and finesse East for the queen on the way back. Think about how often contracts are defeated by 1 trick, and how this small sleight of hand might be the difference for you in your next match. Of course in order to duck without hesitation, you need to do some thinking when dummy goes down. Don't wait until the card is led to decide. The good players have already thought about what card they will play before a lead is made.

I highly recommend this tome to anyone interested in improving their defence at bridge.