

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## JUSTIN HOWARD WINS INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Our warmest congratulations go to Victorian player Justin Howard, who has been awarded the 2013 Parnis England Junior Sportsmanship Award. This prestigious prize is awarded annually by the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA).



This was the official announcement of the award by the IBPA Executive:

*The Parnis England Sportsmanship Award is presented to Justin Howard of Australia for outstanding acts of sportsmanship at the World Open Youth Championships in Atlanta.*

*Firstly, in the semifinal of the World Open Youth Team Championship, he allowed an opponent to retract a card inadvertently dropped, even though it cost him the contract and jeopardised the match. His team won that match on the last board. Secondly, in the final, he allowed his opponents to field a player who had not previously played in the event due to continued success in the Spingold. "We want to play against your best," was Justin's comment. Unfortunately, Justin's team lost that match. The behaviour of Justin Howard is laudatory and shows that there is excellent sportsmanship in the Junior game as well as the Open game.*

## THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

I've been watching the World Championships in Bali. The onsite co-ordinator of the great vugraph presentation on Bridge Base Online (free!) is none other than all-round nice guy and leading Victorian player Traian Chira.



There has also been live video of the players in action, and one thing I've particularly enjoyed is watching their reactions after both triumphs and disasters (even the very best have plenty of both). Far and away the most common reaction, no matter what the result, is ... put the cards back in the board, write down the score, and get on with the next deal. Kipling wrote a famous poem ("If") about that stoic virtue to which we can all aspire.

Victorian (and Australian) junior star Justin Howard was given the Parnis England Junior Sportsmanship Award in Bali for allowing an opponent to withdraw a card he had inadvertently dropped (see details, left). This was exceptional: it's hard to hold your nerve and your principles in those circumstances. I'm impressed and I'm sure Kipling would have been too.

To mangle the poet's words:

*If you can be nice and play fair,  
Yours is the game and all the joy in it*

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**Aussies in Bali.** None of the Australian representative teams (Open, Women, Seniors) starred in the recent World Championships in Bali, all failing to make the finals. However, Victorians George Gaspar and Simon Hinge, members of our Seniors team, played well, coming 20<sup>th</sup> (out of 78 pairs) in the Butler rankings. Given the strength of the field in this event, this was no mean feat.

## FOR STARTERS

### Bill Jacobs

In a duplicate pairs, you pick up this pleasant collection:

♠ AKJ5   ♥ KJ32   ♦ AQ   ♣ KQ7

You are the dealer: what is your opening bid and basic bidding plan?

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With 23 HCP, open 2♣: if partner responds with a negative 2♦ (showing 0-7 HCP), you plan to rebid 2NT. This would show 23-24 HCP in a balanced hand.

Indeed the bidding does start this way, and continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

What does partner's 3♥ mean, and what do you do now?

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This is a matter of partnership system, but if you have agreed to play transfer responses after a 1NT opening, you could (and should) play transfers after a 2NT opening, and also in this auction. After all the auction 2♣-2♦-2NT is a *bit* like a 2NT opening, only with opener showing a stronger hand.

If you have the agreement that partner is showing spades (at least 5 of them), you should now jump to 4♠ to indicate how much you like spades.

Your partner seems to get all excited by your 4♠ bid and launches into Blackwood, the auction concluding:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All pass	

The lead is ♣J, and this is what you see:

♠ Q109742

♥ 6

♦ 97

♣ A653

N
S

♠ AKJ5

♥ KJ32

♦ AQ

♣ KQ7

What is your plan of attack?

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In a suit contract, start by counting your losers: none in spades and none in clubs (you can trump dummy's 4<sup>th</sup> club if necessary), but there is a loser in both hearts and diamonds, one of which will need to be eliminated.

You cannot do anything about the heart loser: you will have to lose a trick there, but there are several ways by which the diamond loser might be avoided.

You could take a winning diamond finesse, if East holds ♦K.

Alternatively, you might develop a heart trick in your hand, and discard dummy's diamond loser on it.

Finally, if the opponents' clubs divide 3-3, you can discard the ♦Q from your hand, and then trump dummy's diamond loser.

So what do you do?

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You need to take your various chances in the right order. Win ♣K and draw trumps, ending in dummy, then lead dummy's singleton heart. If East plays ♥A, then your problems are over: you will be able to discard dummy's second diamond on ♥K.

But East doesn't play the ace, she plays the 2, with no noticeable concern. Which heart do you play?

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The jack. Perhaps East has the ♥Q instead – with the ace, she might have played it, or at least thought about it. If East ducked smoothly with the ace, well done to her.

West takes your ♥J with the ♥Q, and plays ♣10. Now what?

It doesn't look like the hearts are going to help you, but there is a chance that the ace will come down when you ruff some hearts. So win with ♣Q and trump a heart. Then play dummy's ♣A and if the clubs don't divide 3-3, trump dummy's small club and trump another heart. If nothing good happens, fire your last salvo and take the diamond finesse.

The full deal:

	♠ Q109742	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 97	
	♣ A653	
♠ 63		♠ 8
♥ AQ10		♥ 98754
♦ K854		♦ J10632
♣ J1098		♣ 42
	♠ AKJ5	
	♥ KJ32	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ KQ7	

Wonder of wonders, West's ♥A drops on the third round of the suit, and there's no need to try the diamond finesse, as your ♥J is now good. Whew!

*Points to remember:*

- In Standard bidding, there is a well-defined set of opening bids and responses for bidding balanced hands that lack a 5-card major. It is worth reviewing them:

12-14 HCP	Open 1-minor, and rebid 1NT
* 15-17 HCP	Open 1NT
18-19 HCP	Open 1-minor and <i>jump</i> in notrumps
* 20-22 HCP	Open 2NT
* 23-24 HCP	Open 2♣ and rebid 2NT (over 2♦)
25-26 HCP	Open 2♣ and rebid 3NT (over 2♦)

In the auctions marked with a \*, Stayman and transfers may be used.

- In the play, there were several ways to eliminate your diamond loser. It was

important to try them in the correct order: hearts, then clubs, then diamonds. There was a fair bit of planning required on this deal!

- It is within the rules of the game to try to read an opponent's tempo and body language. In this case, when you led dummy's singleton heart, the worry-free play of a low heart from East was an indication that she didn't have the ace. A very experienced East might have recognised this situation and steeled herself to play low in tempo, holding the ace: if this happens, and you misguess the suit, don't forget to congratulate East!



**Australian Youth  
Bridge Triathlon  
MELBOURNE**

**Fri Dec 6 - Sun Dec 8, 2013**

**Friday Night- BAM teams  
Saturday- IMP Teams  
Sunday- Matchpoint Pairs**

**\$40 entry**  
**Great prizes and billets can be organised!**

Melbourne will again be home to the 2013 Australian Youth Bridge Triathlon. There is no swimming, cycling or running at the triathlon but players do compete in three different versions of the game. The formats played include Board a Match, Matchpoint Pairs and Teams.

This is the perfect event for young players to come along and meet people from all around the country and take part in the challenge.

Entry is open to all players under 30 years old at 31 December 2013. Enter via email to [vicyouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:vicyouthbridge@gmail.com).

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club.

# Bridge and Mind Sports Festival

Friday, 11 October

# VBA

## Keeping fit and active includes keeping your brain active.



The Victorian Bridge Association will be giving seniors the opportunity to explore a number of ways to keep your brain active when it hosts the Bridge and Mind Sports Festival.

### With David Astle! (DA)

## Highlights

Cryptic Crossword solving workshop with David Astle  
 Swiss Chess competition  
 Chess middle games  
 Learn the World's greatest card game-bridge!  
 Duplicate Bridge- for experienced players  
 Give Go a try  
 Board and strategy games for all levels including Chess, Scrabble and Grabble.  
 Sudoku challenges  
 Line Dancing  
 Urban Bushwalking

Friday October 11  
 from 10 am  
 Venue: VBA.  
**ABF members save more than 20% on entry!**  
 RRP \$49,  
 ABF members **\$39.**



VICTORIAN  
 SENIORS  
*Festival*  
 IT'S  
 YOUR TIME  
 OCTOBER 2013



[www.vba.asn.au/msf](http://www.vba.asn.au/msf)

# VBA

**SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS****Problem 1:**

Dir: West      ♠ A643  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ AQJ2  
                  ♦ 8754

♣ 9	
♠ 85	N
♥ 10976	W      E
♦ A92	
♣ J1062	S

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

You lead ♣J and partner wins ♣A and plays ♦3. Declarer plays ♦10 and you win ♦A. What next?

**Problem 2:**

Dir: South      ♠ KQ1054  
 Vul: all      ♥ J94

♦ Q	
♣ J853	N
	W      E
	S

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

\* 15-17 HCP

Your partner leads a fourth-best ♥3, low from dummy and won by ♥Q. Declarer plays ♠J, which you allow to hold, and follows with another spade to ♠K (partner had two). Formulate your defence.

Solutions on page 11.

♠      ♥      ♦      ♣

**RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS****GNOT Metro Final**

- 1 A. Munro, P. Hollands, J. Howard, L. Gold, L. Ginnan, S. Hinge
- 2 J. Fust, E. Samuel, H. Blakeman, C. Hughes
- 3 S. Klofa, P. Fent, D. Harley, A. St Clair, D. Goldner

**TEST YOUR BIDDING**

Nil vulnerable, LHO deals:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3♦	D'ble	Pass	?

An opposition opening bid at the 3-level, typically on a 7-card suit with less than opening values, often has you calling for aspirin. Deprived of bidding room, it is a huge challenge for you to reach the right contract.

An essential tool in the battle against the pre-emptive opening bid is the takeout double. It has essentially the same meaning as a double of a one-level opening: at least opening-bid values, with shortage in the bid suit and some measure of support in all the other suits.

Because the level is higher, there is less precision possible when responding to it. With up to about 10 points, you make a minimum bid in your longest suit; with a stronger hand, you can jump to game in your longest suit.

Responding 3NT is always a possibility if you have their suit well stopped, and of course, you might want to pass the takeout double if you think that defending is the best option.

With a strong hand that is uncertain about what suit to play in, you cue-bid their opened suit. In this example, this would entail a 4♦ response to the takeout double.

How do you respond to partner's takeout double with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ A76 ♥ Q1032 ♦ J5 ♣ Q985
- (b) ♠ Q762 ♥ A7 ♦ A96 ♣ K842
- (c) ♠ 43 ♥ 965 ♦ KQ10 ♣ AJ753
- (d) ♠ Q6 ♥ 954 ♦ QJ98 ♣ Q765
- (e) ♠ KQ76 ♥ AK32 ♦ 1076 ♣ 98
- (f) ♠ 763 ♥ 972 ♦ J63 ♣ Q954

Solutions over page.

**TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS**

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3♦	D'ble	Pass	?

(a) ♠ A76 ♥ Q1032 ♦ J5 ♣ Q985

3♥. This hand is not quite strong enough to commit to a game contract, although it is possible that you could miss a making 4♥. If partner has extra values, perhaps she will come through for you and raise you to game. The ♦J is not worth jack: that's one point you can discount.

(b) ♠ Q762 ♥ A7 ♦ A96 ♣ K842

4♠. 13 HCP opposite partner's opening values = game. Your spades aren't overly strong, but partner will have spades herself for the takeout double. Think of your 4♠ bid as supporting partner's spades.

(c) ♠ 43 ♥ 965 ♦ KQ10 ♣ AJ753

3NT. Assuming LHO leads a diamond to your 3NT contract, you have two stoppers in the suit. And with any luck you can establish and run the clubs. 3NT is hardly guaranteed, but this is one of those hands where 9 tricks in notrumps will be easier than 11 in clubs.

(d) ♠ Q6 ♥ 954 ♦ QJ98 ♣ Q765

Pass. Again, no guarantees, but you do have a nasty surprise (in diamonds) for declarer. Your diamonds plus partner's high cards will almost certainly defeat 3♦, possibly by several tricks.

(e) ♠ KQ76 ♥ AK32 ♦ 1076 ♣ 98

4♦. You have enough points to bid game, but which game? 4♥ or 4♠, and your cue-bid will force partner to name her longer or better major.

(f) ♠ 763 ♥ 972 ♦ J63 ♣ Q954

4♣. This is the stuff of nightmares, but don't panic and pass the double. Takeout doubles should be taken out, unless you fully expect to defeat 3♦, like you do in hand (d). Bid your longest suit, and pray that partner doesn't bid too much from here.

**NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS****Northern Region GNOT heat:  
Success for Thompson team**

The Northern Region held its GNOT heat in Shepparton at the end of August with the Thompson team amassing a huge winning margin. The team (David Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Michael McQueen-Thomson and Wayne Leppard) won all their matches to finish the round robin comfortably first.

Second were Richard Harman, Val Sanderson, David Brown and Ann Medhurst from Albury and third were Nimal Weerasinghe, Frank Vearing, and Dan and Kerry Delcourt from Bendigo.

Eight teams contested the event with at least one player present from each of the regional clubs. The Shepparton RSL provided a great venue, and everyone enjoyed a day of friendly competition.



GNOT winners: Jamie Thompson, Wayne Leppard, Michael McQueen-Thomson, David Thompson

**Ishmael Del Monte's Eastern Tour**

Ishmael Del.Monte visited the Eastern Region on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September – a trip 3 years in the planning and well worth the wait. After being collected from Tullamarine airport on Friday afternoon, Ish and son Ben were treated to a scenic tour of the Latrobe Valley en route to Bairnsdale.

On Saturday morning, Ish and VBA Marketing manager, Laura Ginnan, met with some of Frank Power's Primary School bridge players at a separate venue before Ish fronted 63 keen players at the Bairnsdale Bridge Club

leaving Laura to continue the session with the young students.

The topic for the day at Bairnsdale was "Competitive Bidding" and Ish's edict that "it is always correct not to let the opponents play at the 2 level if they have shown a fit" has certainly been taken to heart by many local players. All tables played the same eight hands at the same time (thanks to the Bairnsdale board dealers for setting up all the boards - a big task!) with discussion about the bidding and play of the hands before and after play.

Saturday afternoon Ish won the raffle to play with our own Julie Farmer and she was able to carry him over the line to win the E/W half of the room.

On Sunday, the venue was the Traralgon Bridge Club. Numbers were a little down here mostly due to it being Fathers Day, but we still had 32 players at the morning session (High Level Bidding) and 35 at the afternoon session (Bridge Secrets).

Every person who attended the weekend sessions was delighted and impressed with the way Ish communicated the various concepts. It didn't matter if you were a relative beginner or a more advanced level player, everyone took something new home to consider and integrate into their systems.

### **Warrnambool Congress Free Lesson from Jeff Fust**

As if our beautiful city by the sea, our friendliness and country catering were not enough reasons to join us for our Congress on October 19 and 20 we are offering a FREE lesson with Jeff Fust on the Friday evening of the 18th for all Congress registrants.

Enter at [www.bridgeunlimited.com](http://www.bridgeunlimited.com).

### **Mildura U3A Congress**

#### **WANTED Bridge Players!!**

who love a trip to the country, first class accommodation and restaurants, a weekend of lively play with friendly opponents in an historic venue, gourmet lunches, generous prizes and a brilliant Director.

IS THIS YOU? Then come to the Mildura U3A Congress!

When: October 26, 27, 2013

Where: The Mildura Club

Cost: \$30 per-person per-day, all inclusive

Enter online at [www.bridgeunlimited.com](http://www.bridgeunlimited.com) or phone Suzanne Ryan on 03 5024 8408.

### **Waverley Congress**

*Enter early to avoid disappointment!*

Held over the Melbourne Cup Day long weekend, this congress is not to be missed.

Saturday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>: Swiss Pairs

Sunday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>: Swiss Teams

Monday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>: Butler Pairs

Tuesday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>: Cup Day Matchpoint Pairs

- \* Restricted Swiss Pairs and Teams run on Saturday and Sunday (all players must have less than 20 masterpoints)
- \* Youth Club providing all-you-can-eat feast on Saturday and Sunday for only \$10
- \* Generous cash and other prizes
- \* Sausage sizzle on Monday
- \* Snacks served at all sessions
- \* Chief director: Laurie Kelso

Enter at: [www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au](http://www.waverleybridgeclub.com.au)  
or Email [office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au](mailto:office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au)  
or phone Mary Elson on 9807 6502.

### **Victorian Qualifying Points (VCPs) Leaderboard as at 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Player	Congress VQPs	Congress Wins
Stan Klofa	63	5
Charlie Schwabegger	53	6
Dee Harley	49	4
Kim Frazer	33	4
George Lovrecz	31	2
Ben Thompson	30	4
Justin Howard	29	1
Jenny Thompson	27	3
Neil Ewart	26	1
Kerrin Daws	26	3

## BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE

### Ian McCance

#### Pre-empting and countering pre-empts: a philosophical commentary

At the 6th European Bridge Championships, 2013, this deal was played in 6 matches: 4 open quarter-finals, the Women's final and playoff. From BBO we have 10 auctions (not available from Women's playoff) and 12 results for the interactions between East-West pre-emption and North-South countering.

Dlr: East	♠ AK1032										
Vul: E/W	♥ -										
	♦ KQ7										
	♣ KJ874										
♠ J874		♠ Q65									
♥ AQ		♥ KJ1098432									
♦ AQ932		♦ 64									
♣ 532		♣ -									
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 9										
	♥ 765										
	♦ J1085										
	♣ AQ1096										

Should East open 3♥ or 4♥?

To my surprise<sup>1</sup>, 4♥ was not the majority choice: there wasn't one, five-all.

What were the outcomes?

(a) 3♥ opened:

Twice West passed (!), whereafter one North made good use of the extra bidding level afforded to reach slam:

West	North	East	South
		3♥	Pass
Pass	D'ble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All pass	

The other North also doubled 3♥ but simply raised South's 4♣.

One West tried 3NT after 3♥. North cue-bid 4♥ and settled for 5♣. Another nine\* times

North was required to cope with 4♥. (\* now including results from Women's playoff).

(b) Actions after 4♥:

One North over-reached by cue-bidding 5♥, leading inevitably to the failing 7♣.

Six Norths doubled, the only take-out manouvre remaining.

This led three times (probably 4) to the sensible 4NT from South (choice of minors), after which one North punted 6♣, another settled for the safe 5♣, twice West saved with 5♥ (once doubled) and two Souths passed for -790. Those were in the Women's matches, final and playoff, pairs from Netherlands and Austria.

Twice North tried 4♠ after 4♥. In the Women's, West doubled this, rapidly removed to 5♣. Poor judgement on this board cost the Dutch Women 15 IMPs.

The declarer in 4♠ was two down. Playing this contract raises an interesting point of technique. Forced after a heart lead, declarer can cash one high trump, but mustn't play the second. Continuing ♠x after ♠A would get him out for one down, but only because West runs out of hearts.

#### My philosophies

1. It must be better to open 4♥. Eight cards, 6 sure tricks at very worst and a headache for opponents. 4♥/4♠ doubled is rarely left to play with success.
2. West should raise a vulnerable 3♥ opening. Three tricks for partner gets you close to 10 tricks.
3. Sitting North I would cue-bid 4♥ if 3♥ came to me, a convenient way to show 2 long suits. (see #6).
4. Take-out doubles should include 4♥ (at least), so no need to chance 4♠.
5. Take-out doubles should be taken out (Edgar Kaplan). (Unless of course, it's wrong.) Responding 4NT from South seems clear.

<sup>1</sup> It doesn't entirely surprise me: East-West were vulnerable versus not ... BJ

6. Scoring +420 for 5♣ (as 4 pairs did) should be regarded as satisfactory (6 pairs did worse), since room to explore has been lost. The objective after preemption (distributions wild) should be to bid and make a game. The two pairs in 6♣ did better, but a lay-out only slightly different could have found East-West taking the first 2 tricks through ♦A, diamond ruff.
7. If a double of 4♥ produces 5♦, North should stand it, a likely 5-suit (not 4 spades, not 4 clubs).
8. West's progression to 5♥ was fraught, can of worms territory. Neither pair who succeeded with this sacrifice was put to the testing question "what after 6♣?"
9. Make a penalty double after partner has pre-empted only if sure you can punish a run-out.

Footnote: Playing a hand with a minority of trumps, don't relinquish the master trump.



## 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)**

For more information please call the VBA on 9530 9006 or email [auraginnan@vba.asn.au](mailto:auraginnan@vba.asn.au).

## FORTHCOMING RED POINT STATE EVENT AT THE VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Fly solo and win!

Enter the

## 2013 Victorian Individual

**A 2 week matchpoint event playing with a different partner each round**

**Green card conventions only**

Wednesdays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
At 7.30 p.m.

Table Fees \$14.00

Enter: via the website: [www.vba.asn.au](http://www.vba.asn.au) or phone 9530 9006



♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: South ♠ 1096  
Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ  
Matchpoints ♦ 7  
♣ AKQJ72

N
S

♠ KJ3  
♥ K1054  
♦ AQ54  
♣ 65

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	All pass	

Lead: ♠10.

Plan the play. Solution over page.

## THE TWELFTH TRICK

### Bill Jacobs

	♠ 1096	
	♥ AQJ	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AKQJ72	
♠ A42	N	♠ Q875
♥ 972	W      E	♥ 863
♦ 10862		♦ KJ93
♣ 1098	S	♣ 43
	♠ KJ3	
	♥ K1054	
	♦ AQ54	
	♣ 65	

Oh for a winning finesse. You could finesse East for the spade queen, the spade ace or the diamond king. But which one?

You could delay that decision by taking all your heart and club winners first. Perhaps the defenders' discards will help you decide.

Actually, if you want to enlist your opponents' help on this deal, I suggest playing a spade from dummy at trick 2. If you lose whatever finesse you take, with West not having both the spade ace and queen, then any return by him other than a spade will allow you to try the diamond finesse.

Best is to play a spade to the *king* at trick 2. If West wins ♠A and lacks ♠Q, then he is very unlikely to play a spade back to his partner's queen. He would be much more concerned about exposing his partner's hypothetical ♠J to a finesse. And now you can try the diamond finesse later.

In fact your chances are even better: West might well smoothly duck your ♠K, hoping that you will play a spade to the queen next, should you have started with ♠KQx. And if he does duck his ace, that's 12 tricks in the bag.

I have laid the cards out so that either of the two inferior finesses work. Consider it an early Christmas present. Against normal defenders, you really cannot go down on this deal!

♠   ♥   ♦   ♣

## COUNCIL NEWS

### VBA Capitation Fees

In line with positive feedback from clubs on the VBA's proposal to align the VBA capitation year with the ABF year, the VBA Council ratified this change earlier this year. As the first stage in implementing this change, invoices for 50% of the annual capitation fee (i.e. \$5 per member) will be issued to clubs in early October.

### Club Secretaries Information Sheet

Based on feedback from clubs at the Club President's Day held earlier this year, Council has also developed an information sheet for Club Secretaries which will be issued annually. The first information sheet will be sent out with the capitation invoices. We trust that this sheet will be a useful source of key information for new and returning club secretaries. Copies of this and other information sent to club secretaries is available on the VBA website in the Document Library under the Club Notices section.

### ABF Voluntary Workers Insurance

The ABF has recently upgraded its insurance cover to include Voluntary Workers Insurance so that individual clubs will no longer have to take out separate insurance to cover club volunteer workers. Details of this including the Certificate of Currency are available on the VBA website in the Document Library under the Club Notices section.

### Bill Jacobs Honoured with Top Award

Annually, the International Bridge Press Association announces a number of awards to recognise outstanding achievement in the bridge world over the past year. At this year's awards announced during the WBF World Championships in Bali, our very own VBA Bulletin Editor - Bill Jacobs - was declared the winner of the Master Point Press Book of the Year for authorship of "*Fantunes Revealed*".

Announcing the award to players during the Pennant competition at the VBA, David Morgan, Chair of the Match & Tournament

Committee, and also one of the panellists who selected the winner, expressed delight at being able to nominate and be part of the panel who judged Bill's book worthy of this prestigious award. David stated it was a thrill to award the prize to one of our own VBA players representatives.

"Fantunes" is described as a new bidding system which has had an immediate impact the likes of which has not been seen since Precision came to the fore. Bill's book delves into the system giving readers an insight into how and why it works. Fantunes was developed by the internationally acclaimed pairing of Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, and Bill has won his most recent three Australian National Championships playing the system with partner and VBA President Ben Thompson.

Other well-known authors shortlisted for the prize were David Bird and Victor Molloy. On behalf of the VBA congratulations Bill - we are all very proud of your achievement.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

### SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS Ian McCance

#### Problem 1

Dlr: North ♠ A643  
Vul: E/W ♥ AQJ2  
♦ 8754  
♣ 9

♠ 85 ♠ 109  
♥ 10976 ♥ K54  
♦ A92 ♦ KJ63  
♣ J1062 ♣ AQ83

♠ KQJ72  
♥ 83  
♦ Q10  
♣ K754

Partner's low diamond indicates that declarer has ♦K or ♦Q. Continuing ♦9 is not a good idea. If partner's diamond is ♦K he can win, but now declarer, who has entries by club ruffs, has an exposed finesse position against partner's ♦J.

It is safe to continue ♦2 (partner can continue a low diamond) or switch to a heart.

#### Problem 2

Dlr: East ♠ KQ1054  
Vul: N/S ♥ J94  
♦ Q  
♣ J853

♠ 93 ♠ A872  
♥ K8732 ♥ 5  
♦ K976 ♦ 10542  
♣ Q6 ♣ A742

♠ J6  
♥ AQ106  
♦ AJ83  
♣ K109

Partner likely started with 5 hearts and presumably he has ♥K, because declarer's play at trick 1 indicates that he is planning to use ♥J to enter dummy. So declarer has 7 cards in the minors, likely 4-3 from what is visible. After taking ♠A you will have to play a minor, but which? Dummy's clubs are an obstacle but you lack good intermediates in diamonds. You should let South tell you. If you allow ♠K to hold, declarer must continue spades to establish them, and perhaps one discard will weaken South's hand. You must lead the 2 from whichever suit declarer discards to encourage partner to return it.

This deal was played in the quarter-finals of the 2013 European Open Teams, and 4 times South declared 3NT. (The other 4 contracts were partials). The lead and play in 3NT were identical. *Three of the Easts waited until the third round to take ♠A.* Two declarers discarded a low diamond, after which East's diamond switch should have led to defeat, though one West fumbled. The other declarer discarded ♣9 on the third spade, and East didn't find the club switch that would have put South to a crucial guess - he has to play ♠K not ♠10.

#### Suit Combination of the month

AJ42  
□  
K965

What's the best play in this suit for

(a) 4 tricks

(b) 3 tricks

There are plentiful entries to both hands.

Solution over page.

## Suit Combination of the month

AJ42  
 □  
 K965

This combination is a bit trickier than it looks at first sight.

(a) To take all the tricks, you must hope that West has the queen, and no more than 3 in the suit. Lead **low** from your hand, and insert the jack if West plays low.

If West plays the queen on the first round, you win ace, play the jack, and if West shows out, finesse East's 10 on the way back.

(b) There's a 100% play for 3 tricks. Cash the ace, and if you see all small cards, play a low one from dummy.

If East plays low, put in the 9, and if West wins the trick, then you have the rest, the suit dividing 3-2. If East started with Q10xx, your nine will win the trick, and there's nothing East can do about it.

If East shows out on the second round, go up with the king, and lead towards the Jx, managing the suit for one loser if West started with Q10xx.



## RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

### State

Alice Green	Rye Beach
Dianne Keys	Waverley
Derek Kingston	Sale

### \*State

Eunice Payne	Rye Beach
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### \*\*National

Bob Parker	Berwick
Bridget Wilson	Sale

### Life

Ken Anderson	VBA
Valerie Huntley	Mornington

### Bronze Life

Dorothy Stewart	Yarra Valley
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### Grand

Susie Stock	Dendy Park
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## RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

### Traralgon Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Schwabegger – C. Chakravorty
- 2 J. Crafti – P. Corrigan
- 3 S. Klofa – D. Harley

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 H. Blakeman, C. Schwabegger, K. Muntz, C. Chakravorty
- 2 A. Drury, J. Kuiper, J. Farr, S. Stewart
- 3 B. Turner, N. Grigg, E. Hynes, G. Lovrecz

### Ballarat Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 2 N. Ewart - G. Lovrecz
- 3 E. Lin - P. Chang

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Allison, L. Hickman, J. Millar, M. Yuill
- 2 S. Klofa, D. Newland, A. Robbins, G. Ridgway
- 3 P. Shaw, L. Shaw, N. Grigg, B. Turner

### Macedon Ranges Congress

#### Matchpoint Pairs

- 1 N. McManamny – A. Jez
- 2 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 3 L. Gold – L. Gold

### Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

#### Event 17 (September 7)

- 1 McDermott –Thornton (Frankston)
- 2 Dolan – Campbell (Ballarat)

#### Event 18 (September 22)

- 1 J. Farr – A. Drury (Phillip Island)
- 3 L. Harvey – S. Vorbach (Frankston)

### Vu-Graph quotes from Edgar Kaplan

“They make a game. It wasn't a good game but still they won't give it back on that account.”

“Somebody said down one is good bridge. Making is perhaps better.”

“The best one can say for this contract is that it has not yet gone down.”