

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

December 2013

Editor: Bill Jacobs

SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

At the end of my first year as President of the VBA, I want to talk about the state of bridge in the State of Victoria.



Numerically, it has been a good year. We have added two new clubs (Melton and Beaumaris) and our total membership has increased 6.1% since this time last year. Our increase is nearly twice that of the ABF (at 3.2%) and only bettered by South Australia, which jumped an astounding 9.0%. The clubs growing most in Victoria (which includes Australia's highest growth club) are an interesting mix of small and large, metro and country.

Congress attendance is also up 4.3%, thanks to several new congresses this year (Bridge Fanatics, South Gippsland and the returning Wodonga). All 3 new congresses were very successful right out of the gate, with table numbers around about the average for all congresses.

State championship bridge is also up, by 3.7% on last year. At all levels of our great game, Victoria is doing well.

The VBA has embarked on a number of new initiatives this year to encourage and support the growth of bridge, some aimed at club bridge and some at competition bridge.

For example:

- We expanded the VBA Bulletin to 12 pages, increasing the space devoted to novice and duplicate players, and also to affiliated clubs.

- We've developed our one-day crash courses and have received ABF funding to help us deliver them around Victoria.
- We introduced a Congress Champion scheme and simultaneously reconfigured the way the Victorian Open Team is selected to include all Congresses in the qualification process.

However the VBA, like every regional body in every sport, is primarily an enabler. Most of the day-to-day work to promote, sustain and grow bridge has always, is always and will always be done by enthusiasts at clubs all around Victoria. Thank you to everyone who works for bridge. You've done wonders and I look forward to working with all of you next year.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every bridge player in Victoria a happy festive season, and a successful and healthy 2014. Good bridging everyone!

Victoria's fastest growing clubs

Club	Members	Increase
OZ Bridge Club	230	121
Dendy Park	232	44
Waverley	818	24
RACV	72	21
Bairnsdale	96	19
Caulfield Park	26	19
Melbourne	209	19
Bayside	111	18
Bendigo	141	18
MCC	103	16

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You pick up a hand that is well beyond your usual quota of strength:

♠ AQ ♥ AKQJ76 ♦ Q73 ♣ 62

Partner is the dealer, no one is vulnerable, and the auction starts:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♠	?

What are your possible choices and which do you select?

You could overcall with 2♥, but that runs the substantial risk that partner will pass with a moderate hand and enough strength for you to make a game contract. A 3♥ bid is a weak jump overcall, so you can't do that. And jumping to 4♥ (or 3NT!) is a pure shot in the dark.

That leaves a takeout double. Normally a double here shows opening bid values with a shortage in spades and at least 3 cards in each of the other suits. However an exception is where you have a very strong hand, typically 17+ HCP, and a long suit.

Such hands as these need a two-step strategy. First you make a takeout double, usually guaranteeing that you will get another chance to bid in this auction. Then at your next turn, you bid your long suit. This cancels the original meaning of the double, instead showing the 17+ HCP hand.

You double, and the auction proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♠	D'ble
2♠	Pass	Pass	?

Now what?

Continue with your plan. Bid your hearts, yes even at the 3-level, showing a strong hand with a long suit.

The auction concludes as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♠	D'ble
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

West leads ♠9, and you see:

♠ 764
♥ 1093
♦ 52
♣ A9754

N
S

♠ AQ
♥ AKQJ76
♦ Q73
♣ 62

Partner has been enterprising in raising your heart bid to game – now it's up to you to repay the faith. How do you play it?

You have 9 winners: 2 spades (after that opening lead), 6 hearts and the ♣A. Conversely, your hand has 4 losers: the second club and your 3 diamonds.

You can reduce your loser count from 4 to 3 by trumping a diamond in dummy. Win the spade lead and play a diamond. Whatever your opponents do after that, get the lead back and play a second diamond. You will then be able to trump a diamond loser in the dummy.

The full deal:

♠ 764
♥ 1093
♦ 52
♣ A9754

♠ 983	N	♠ KJ1052
♥ 2	W	♥ 854
♦ A10864	E	♦ KJ9
♣ Q1083	S	♣ KJ

♠ AQ
♥ AKQJ76
♦ Q73
♣ 62

West could have defeated you with an opening lead of his singleton trump. Then East could win the two diamond plays and play a trump each time, denuding dummy of

trumps. Fortunately, your opponents cannot see all 4 hands when they make their plays.

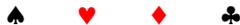
Similarly, it would have been an error by you to play even one round of trumps prior to playing on diamonds. This would have given East the opportunity to keep playing trumps.

Points to remember:

- Takeout doubles of an opponent's 1-level opening can be used for two hand types:
 - 1) Short in opponent's suit, support for all other suits, or
 - 2) Single-suited hand too strong for a simple (non-forcing) overcall

It was this type-2 hand that came into play here. Full marks to your partner for recognising that his hand had *two* useful features: the club ace and the diamond shortage. 4♥ was a fine bid that not many people would make. Well, a fine bid as long as you made your contract.

- It's Standard Operating Procedure to count winners and losers before embarking on the play in your contract. You should create a basic plan before calling a card from dummy. Here, drawing an idle round of trumps "whilst you think about the hand" spells doom.



RECENT STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Pennant

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, J. Howard, A. Mill, M. Whibley
- 2 L. Gold, S. Lester, E. Moskovsky, M. Henbest, S. Hinge
- 3 D. Morgan, B. Wein, N. Ewart, D. Beckett, B. Kingham, J. Rosen

Victorian Swiss Pairs

- 1 L. Henbest – B. Thompson
- 2 I. McCance – R. van Riel
- 3 E. Moskovsky – P. Hollands



TEST YOUR BIDDING

Fourth Seat Decisions

All vulnerable, LHO deals

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	Pass	Pass	?

When there are three passes to you, and you have a marginal opening hand of around 10-12 points, you must decide whether to open the bidding or pass the hand out and go and get a cup of coffee.

The *Pearson Count* is a tool to help you with this decision. The Pearson Count is easily calculated:

High-card points + number of spades

If the total is at least **15**, then open the bidding, otherwise pass the hand out.

You can expect each of the other three players to have between about 9 and 11 HCP. It is almost certainly a low partscore deal. In this situation, whoever has a fit in the "boss" suit, spades, is quite likely to go plus on the hand: they will either make a partscore in spades, or push the opponents to the next level and defeat that contract.

The Pearson Count is only a guideline, albeit a good one: don't let it get in the way of common sense. For example, if you have 13 HCP, always open the bidding, irrespective of the number of spades in your hand.

Calculate the Pearson Count and decide whether or not to open the bidding (and if so, with what bid) on these hands.

- (a) ♠ K962 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 73 ♣ A1054
- (b) ♠ 73 ♥ KJ3 ♦ K962 ♣ A1054
- (c) ♠ 2 ♥ KQJ105 ♦ AQ92 ♣ 1075
- (d) ♠ J3 ♥ J7 ♦ AQ32 ♣ KJ864
- (e) ♠ KQ984 ♥ A2 ♦ Q95 ♣ 765
- (f) ♠ 2 ♥ K8 ♦ K105 ♣ KQ109754

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	Pass	Pass	?

(a) ♠ K962 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 73 ♣ A1054

1♣. Pearson Count (PC) = 15. With that spade suit, you have a good chance of winning the auction, *and* making what you bid.

(b) ♠ 73 ♥ KJ3 ♦ K962 ♣ A1054

Pass. PC = 13. The spade suit is a worry. If the opponents come in with a spade bid, they are likely to make a spade contract and you probably won't be able to successfully outbid them.

(c) ♠ 2 ♥ KQJ105 ♦ AQ92 ♣ 1075

1♥. PC = 13. The Pearson Count tells you to pass, but this is a sound opening bid. Sure the opponents might bid spades, but on this hand, there is a reasonable chance that you can go up a level (particularly in hearts) *and* make your contract.

(d) ♠ J3 ♥ J7 ♦ AQ32 ♣ KJ864

Pass. PC = 14. 12 HCP but a terrible hand. Let the Pearson Count guide you. Suppose you open 1♣ and partner responds with 1♥ or 1♠, which will happen most of the time. You have no rebid that is even vaguely tolerable. Pass it out.

(e) ♠ KQ984 ♥ A2 ♦ Q95 ♣ 765

1♠. PC = 16. It's a marginal opening, but the fact that you have spades is a comfort. Your plan is to pass whatever your partner responds, with a fair chance of success. And if the opponents bid: well you are quite happy with that, because they will struggle to make anything.

(f) ♠ 2 ♥ K8 ♦ K105 ♣ KQ109754

3♣. PC = 12. The spade suit is very short, but this time you have a counter. The 3♣ preempt will make it hard for the opponents (two passed hands remember) to get together in spades. And most of the time you will make 3♣ opposite partner's 9-11 HCP.

SETTING TRICK - PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: North ♠ K542
 Vul: nil ♥ KQJ
 ♦ J52
 ♣ 952

♠ 3
 ♥ A109543
 ♦ K63
 ♣ KJ6

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2♦*	3♠
4♦	4♠	All pass	

* natural weak two, 6-card suit, 6-10 HCP

You decide to lead ♦K, which wins. How should you continue?

Problem 2:

Dlr: West ♠ Q72
 Vul: nil ♥ K762
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AKQ102

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KJ109
 ♥ J104
 ♦ J9865
 ♣ 4

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

1 Precision: 11-15 with clubs

2 Artificial enquiry

Clever partner starts ♠6 and declarer plays ♠Q. You win the first 2 tricks and continue spades to declarer's ♠A, partner discarding ♦3.

Now comes a low heart, and partner rises ♥A and returns ♥3. Declarer wins ♥K, starts clubs and turns out to hold ♣J, so you are put to 4 discards. Which will be your last 3 cards?

Solutions on page 10.

PANACHE - XXX
Ben Thompson

I studied Latin at school. One of the few phrases that has stuck with me is "timeo Danaos et dona ferentes" from Virgil's Aeneid. In English we know it as "beware Greeks bearing gifts" and it's handy advice at bridge.

Dir: South	♠ A76	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ63	
	♦ 7	
	♣ K10832	
♠ K52	N	♠ QJ1043
♥ 104	W E	♥ K875
♦ AK104	S	♦ 853
♣ J974		♣ 5
	♠ 98	
	♥ Q92	
	♦ QJ962	
	♣ AQ6	

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

* 11-14 HCP

West led ♣4 to the 2, 5 and ... a think by me. It's easy and attractive to win a trick cheaply but before you do, you want to plan ahead.

Winning ♣6 would absolutely guarantee 5 club tricks, but that would still only get me up to 8 certain tricks (I can take the heart finesse now and be sure of a second trick). Not enough, so it's time to think about where the 9th trick could come from.

The downside of taking the first trick with the ♣6 is that it blocks the club suit (I have to cash ♣AQ then cross to the board in another suit to cash the rest). Realistically, there is no chance that ♣J975 sits offside. Look at the pips. East would have to have played the 5 when playing the 7 would have guaranteed himself a club stopper.

Winning the ♣Q instead has the advantage of unblocking the suit because I can finesse the 10 later if necessary. So the real question is – do I need an extra entry to my hand or will it be more important to be able to run the clubs smoothly?

The answer is in the heart suit. If hearts are 3-3, it's all plain sailing, but my secondary chance is the ♥10 falling doubleton. If that happens, I'll need to be able to cash ♥9 to unblock the heart suit and THEN get to the board to cash all my winners.

And the danger is ... if I take a losing heart finesse, and a spade comes back, I can't deal with blocked clubs AND blocked hearts. Now that I had a plan, I won ♣Q and took the heart finesse. It lost and a spade came back but it was all fine. When the ♥10 fell, I could unravel the hand and claim 9 tricks.

Expert aside: I actually ducked the first spade. They couldn't shoot me yet and I wanted to get more information about the defensive layout just on general principles. After the second spade, it looked very much like West had started with 3 spades and 4 clubs, while East had started with 5 spades and 1 club. That's nowhere near enough shape to talk me into finessing ♥9.

The takeaway

Don't be in a rush to take a cheap (Greek) trick. Make sure it fits with how you want to play the hand.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE TWELFTH TRICK

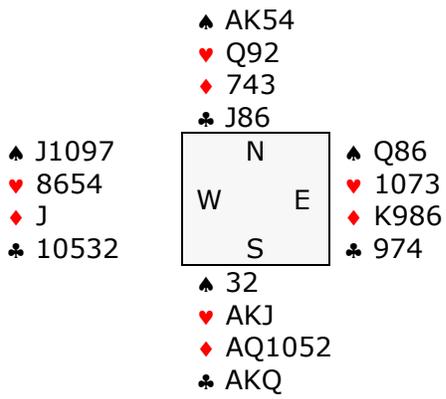
Dir: South	♠ AK54
Vul: N/S	♥ Q92
	♦ 743
	♣ J86
	N
	S
	♠ 32
	♥ AKJ
	♦ AQ1052
	♣ AKQ

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

West leads ♠J. Plan the play,
(a) playing for IMPs
(b) playing for matchpoints

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs



Playing Aussie-rules football, they talk about doing the "one-percenters". This deal is a "three-percenter".

(a) At IMPs, you simply want to make your contract. It is worth sacrificing a potential overtrick if it improves your chance of making. Win the spade in dummy and play a diamond to the *queen*. 3% of the time, West will follow with the singleton jack. You can now cross to dummy's ♥Q and finesse again in diamonds.

This lovely little play does not risk the contract in any other layout. If West wins the ♦K, then you will need to hope that East has ♦J, and the suit breaks 3-2: you take a second finesse. (You must accept that you will go down if West started with ♦KJ doubleton.)

If West follows with a small diamond, then go to ♥Q and play a second diamond. If East plays low, finesse the 10. If East plays an honour, *duck it*, just in case East started with ♦KJxx. West would show out, and you can use your final entry to dummy to finesse East's remaining honour.

(b) If you are playing for matchpoints, you cannot really afford to play diamonds this way. There is a solid chance (over 10%) that East started with ♦KJx, in which case you can make an overtrick by playing a diamond to the 10. Since your 6NT contract is normal, the 10% chance that you can make an overtrick trumps the 3% safety play for making your contract.



NEWS FROM THE CLUBS AND REGIONS

Thursday bridge @ Kew

The Melbourne Bridge Centre has fully refurbished clubrooms and facilities at 397 Barkers Rd, Kew. A new Thursday session at 11:30 am is starting up to celebrate this:

- ♠ Play 9 Thursday games and get the 10th one FREE (valid until 30th June 2014, and then reviewed)
- ♠ Fatten Up Program: Home made afternoon tea provided
- ♠ Sitouts will have a "Challenge Hand": if you bid and make the hand, you and your partner will win a prize (generally a Tattsлото syndicate ticket share)
- ♠ On-site parking

Phone 9817 3936 for more details.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State	
Anne Camamile	Royal South Yarra
Patricia Gluyas	Ballarat
Meg Wilson	Frankston
*State	
Jo-Anne Heywood	RACV
Lorraine Miller	Geelong
Mary Mirabella	Frankston
Lance Redman	Macedon Ranges
Maureen Redman	Macedon Ranges
Heather Smith	Melbourne
Sally Thornton	Frankston
National	
Margaret Castle	Sale
Barb Evans	Bendigo
Evelyn Stephenson	Moonee Valley
Don Tylee	Traralgon
*National	
Chris Heesom	Bairnsdale
Malcolm Lavender	Yarra Valley
Bronze Life	
Gwenda Mealyea	Waverley
Gold Life	
Jill Percil	VBA
Grand	
Helen Stewart	VBA

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

Squeezing a weak hand

This spectacular deal from the 2013 World Championships in Bali was extensively analysed in the event's daily Bulletin.

Dir: North ♠ 85
 Vul: N/S ♥ A53
 ♦ KJ932
 ♣ 532

♠ -	N	♠ 742
♥ KQJ842	W	♥ 10976
♦ Q105	E	♦ 876
♣ K864	S	♣ 1097

♠ AKQJ10963
 ♥ -
 ♦ A4
 ♣ AQJ

South played a grand slam in spades 18 times, 8 times successfully.

Look at South's problem in 7♠ after ♥K is led, firstly without consideration of the auction. On the first round of spades West shows out.

Declarer has 12 tricks on top. The 13th can come from a finesse in diamonds or clubs, or a squeeze. If declarer runs all the spades a squeeze will grab either opponent if holding both the missing cards, ♦Q and ♣K. This line is theoretically only slightly worse than a finesse but, we see later, it's much worse.

Before risking the club finesse South can try to drop ♦Q, improving the chances from 50% to 68.5%, not bad odds.

The experts of the Bulletin pointed out that the squeeze option can be improved by introducing the heart suit. Dummy's low hearts constitute some sort of threat, looming larger when opponents are put to many discards. Consider one such auction, pointing to a 6-4 heart division:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Inclusion of the hearts transforms the squeeze from a simple squeeze of one defender into a double squeeze. Because the squeeze cards come from South and dummy has only one entry, diamonds become the "middle suit", threatening both opponents:

Dir: North ♠ -
 Vul: N/S ♥ 5
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ 5

♠ -	N	♠ -
♥ -	W	♥ 10
♦ Q105	E	♦ 87
♣ K8	S	♣ 109

♠ 3
 ♥ -
 ♦ A4
 ♣ AQ

When South plays the last spade West has to bare ♣K: to let go a diamond is to surrender (two Wests did). Declarers adopting the 68.5% line described went down 2, finessing into the bare king (3 of these). That is why the simple squeeze solution is bad - declarer does not know the squeeze has worked. But in double squeeze mode *South can release ♣5 on the last spade* and East is squeezed, not in high cards but of information.

East must retain ♥10. Say he discards ♦7. Now declarer cashes ♣A, dropping ♣K in the situation shown, but not if East has it. But, in that case, East has only one more diamond and after ♦A, that suit can be finessed. If East lets go a club the suit likely drops. Declarer could decide to adopt the winning line when, after many rounds of spades, it becomes clear that both defenders are clinging to their diamonds.

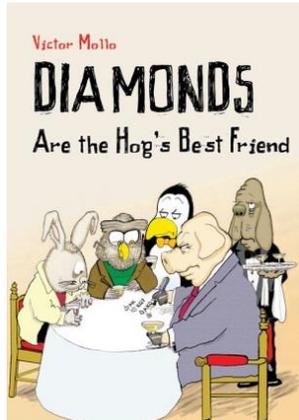
This winning line requires an accurate prediction of the heart distribution. Unlucky for the (Australian) declarer who had opened the South hand 6♠: West found 7♥ and North bid the Grand. Now West was likely to be much longer in hearts and with less defence, so the 68.5% line seemed best.

Actions such as West's out-of-the-blue 7♥ over 6♠ stimulated the late Edgar Kaplan to campaign, successfully, for changing the score for non-vulnerable down-tricks beyond 3 from 200 to 300. Here, if North decides to double 7♥, accurate defence brings 1400, a loss of only 1 IMP to audacity.

BOOK REVIEW**DIAMONDS ARE THE HOG'S BEST FRIEND**

Victor Mollo passed away in 1987 but his greatest creation, the Menagerie characters, lives on this collection of lost stories not previously published in book form.

If you haven't already come across the cast of characters in Mollo's bridge menagerie, then you are missing out on some of the world's best humorous bridge writing.



The leading stars of the series are the Hideous Hog, self-styled greatest player in the Western Hemisphere, and probably also the Eastern for all we know, and the Rueful Rabbit, who may be the worst player, but is protected by a Guardian Angel that turns all his base metal plays into pure gold.

Take this hand, for example:

Dir: East	♠ 6543			
Vul: All	♥ 10765			
	♦ K765			
	♣ A			
♠ -		♠ Q87		
♥ AKQJ		♥ 432		
♦ QJ1098		♦ -		
♣ 5432		♣ KQJ10876		
	♠ AKJ1092			
	♥ 98			
	♦ A432			
	♣ 9			

The Rabbit found himself at the helm in 4♠ as South, and West led out three top hearts.

Question 1: How can 4♠ be made?

Question 2: How on earth did the Rabbit find this play?

The answer to question 1 is on page 9. For question 2, you must read the book.

Diamonds are the Hog's Best Friend can be bought at <http://bridgeshop.com.au> and retails for \$29.95. It would make a fine Christmas gift. ... BJ

COUNCIL NEWS**Ian McCance retires as Chair of the VBA Foundation**

The VBA Foundation was established in 2003 to manage funds donated by VBA members, notably June Grigg. Most recently, it funded the new TVs in the VBA clubrooms.

Ian McCance has chaired the Foundation from its inception. In addition to his stellar record as a player, Ian has served the VBA in numerous voluntary capacities over a lifetime of membership (he was a youth player before there was a youth category!). Many players will remember his stint as Bulletin editor. He has been a life member since 1985.

Ian has resigned from the chairmanship due to a recent run of poor health.

Change to Law 21B2

The World Bridge Federation Laws Committee has recently issued the following adjustment to the Laws – club directors take note.

Law 21B2 - *When a player elects not to change a call because of misinformation, Law 16D will still apply. The situation is analogous to the withdrawal of an original call followed by the subsequent replacement of the same call. Information arising from inferences that only become available because of the correction of misinformation is authorized to the non-offending side, but unauthorized to the offending side.*

If you, like your Editor, are somewhat confounded by all this, or any matter relating to the Laws of Bridge, then what you can do is consult with the VBA's Chief Director, Laurie Kelso.

Laurie has recently been elevated to Secretary of the WBF Laws Committee. This is a prestigious if onerous position, and congratulations go to Laurie for his appointment. He will essentially be overseeing the development of the next revision of the Laws, due in 2017.

So if you would like to suggest a change in the Laws, you know where to go!

VICTORIA CUP NEWS



The qualifying rounds for the Victoria Cup have been completed and we are all set for the finals to be played at the VBA on the weekend of 15th December.

Here are the finalists:

Open

1. D. Morgan, B. Wein, B. Kingham, J. Rosen
2. T. Strong, J. Magee, B. Kat, K. Kat
3. L. Ginnan, J. Collins, J. Howard, R. Fruewirth, D. Thompson, J. Thompson
4. W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, P. Hollands, M. Henbest, L. Gold, S. Hinge

Under 50 MP

1. M. Glenn, B. Chakravorty, P. Bolling, T. Johannsen
2. S. Rennie, A. Ferdinands, J. Rennie, A. Roberts

Under 10 MP

1. J. Skeen, R. Davies, J. Tyler, L. Yoffa
2. C. McNeill, L. McNeill, A. Tran, W. Tran

Feedback on the event has been positive. Here is one review from a contestant:

I had used BBO periodically over the past few years, but had become increasingly irritated by the variable standards of play and the level of vitriol sometimes expressed by casual partners! Participation in the Victoria Cup has helped to remove many of these concerns and has given me the opportunity to marvel at the technology that BBO delivers. As a direct result, a number of us are trying to organise ourselves to use BBO regularly for teams matches between ourselves, and we may well extend this to challenge other like-minded bridge players.

VBA 2013 Summer Congress Don't miss out!

Saturday 7th December: Swiss Pairs
Sunday 8th December: Swiss Teams

10.00 am start both days

The Bridge Players Café will be open all day

Director: Laurie Kelso

Enter online: www.vba.asn.au
or e-mail: clachman@vba.asn.au
or phone: 9530 9006

Suit Combination of the month

- | | |
|----|------|
| 1) | KQ54 |
| | □ |
| | J32 |
| 2) | QJ2 |
| | □ |
| | A543 |

Two related suit combinations this month. In each case, you are trying to make three tricks in the suit, with plentiful entries to both hands.

Solution on page 11.



Solution to play in 4♠

Trump the third heart and play ♠A, ♠K, ♣A and a low spade. East wins an unnecessary spade trick but must play a club. Trump in dummy, discarding a losing diamond from hand.

Play a diamond to the ace, and then the remainder of the spades. West is squeezed in hearts and diamonds.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: North		♠ K542					
Vul: N/S		♥ KQJ					
		♦ J52					
		♣ 952					
♠ 3		N	♠ QJ				
♥ A109543		W	♥ 876	E			
♦ K63		S	♦ AQ10854				
♣ KJ6			♣ 107				
		♠ A109876					
		♥ 2					
		♦ 9					
		♣ AQ843					

You expect to take two tricks in the red suits: none in trumps, so the problem is to ensure 2 tricks in clubs.

If declarer has 7 spades he must make, so assume 6. He must have length and strength in clubs, so you won't want to lead them. What you mustn't do is allow declarer to clear the red suits and endplay you in clubs. Following that thought you notice that North's small spades won't provide an entry.

Partner must have at least 2 hearts. With none he would have signalled on ♦K: with one he would have overtaken and led it.

So don't continue diamonds. Cash ♥A then exit a heart. South won't be able to ruff out dummy's diamonds and pass a low club into your hand.

Problem 2

Dir: East		♠ Q72					
Vul: nil		♥ K762					
		♦ 7					
		♣ AKQ102					
♠ 65		N	♠ KJ109				
♥ AQ53		W	♥ J104	E			
♦ K103		S	♦ J9865				
♣ 9875			♣ 4				
		♠ A843					
		♥ 98					
		♦ AQ42					
		♣ J63					

You must of course hold on to ♠9, and your other card of price is ♥J. Your diamonds are of no consequence in this end-game. If you

let ♥J go South will exit a heart to partner's ♥Q and make the last two tricks with ♦AQ. After you keep ♥J partner will unblock ♥Q.

RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

Waverley Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 H. Stewart – T. Bloom
- 2 G. Johnson – G. Schaller
- 3 C. Arul – I. Inpanathan

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Glenn – L. Yoffa
- 2 J. Rennie – A. Ferdinands
- 3 L. Williams – M. Pogson

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Maluish, A. Hegedus, A. Mill, J. Howard
- 2 D. Happell, D. Newland, G. Ridgway, P. Jain
- 3 J. Yang, M. Zhang, K. Zhang, Y. Lu

Butler Pairs

N/S

- 1 G. Johnson – G. Schaller
- 2 L. Szabo – J. Eddie
- 3 I. Sandler – D. Menashe

E/W

- 1 B. Gold – L. Gold
- 2 D. Hopllands – F. Vearing
- 3 S. Read – L. Chan

South Gippsland Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 2 D. Flynn – J. Percil
- 3 P. Nolan – M. Porter

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

Kooyong Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – B. Geyer
- 2 F. Vearing – J. Heywood
- 3 J. Reynolds – P. Cork

Kattery Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Harley – O. Nolf
- 2 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 3 A. Hegedus – A. Mill

Queen’s Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 21 (November 3)

- 3 Eric Ramshaw – Sandy Ryan (Ballarat)

Event 22 (November 17)

- 1 Jack Kuiper – John Sutton (South Gippsland)



Suit Combination of the month

- 1) KQ54
 □
 J32

- 2) QJ2
 □
 A543

In both these setups, it doesn’t make a whole lot of difference what you do if the six outstanding cards divide 3-3. What you need to do is examine the possibilities if the suit divides 4-2 or even 5-1.

In setup 1, if someone has four to the ace, you are not going to get 3 tricks. Whether that someone is West or East, she will hold off with her ace until it can be used to capture one of your honours.

However if West, specifically, has ace-doubleton, you can trap it. Lead a low card from hand and win with the king when West plays low. Then come back to your hand in another suit and lead another low card: West’s ace will now catch thin air, and you can make your queen and jack separately.

(If it is East with ace-doubleton, you could in theory trap it by playing a low card from dummy to your jack and ducking on the way back: but this is at the expense of a 3-3 break.)

In setup 2, again lead a low card from hand. If West has Kxxx, he will need to play low. Win with the queen, come back to hand and play another low card. West’s king will now catch thin air, and you can make your ace and jack separately.

The rule of thumb with these combinations is to lead twice towards the hand that has two honours in it.



POINT AND COUNTERPOINT
Bill Jacobs

This deal from the semi-finals of the recent Victorian Pennant saw an impressive series of plays from both sides:

Dir: North	♠ K65										
Vul: E/W	♥ 10654										
	♦ 104										
	♣ KQ85										
♠ Q92	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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		♠ J843
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 2		♥ Q9									
♦ AQJ762		♦ 83									
♣ J107		♣ A9642									
	♠ A107										
	♥ AKJ873										
	♦ K95										
	♣ 3										

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

West, Richard Greenfield, led ♣J. Michael Whibley was declarer and he put the defence to its first test by playing *low* from dummy.

Ken Pearson sitting East was having none of this: he rose with ♣A and played ♦8. Michael covered this with ♦9, Richard won and played ♦A, on which Michael dropped the king. A third diamond was ruffed in dummy with the ♥10, to no avail, as East overruffed for the setting trick.

What a nice sequence of point and counterpoint from declarer and defenders that was. At several tables of the event, 4♥ was made.

Those were the days!

We recently received the following newspaper cutting from Max Walters in NSW. It is a story from the "New Graphic" magazine, published in 1934.



How well they dressed for a game of bridge in those days.

Whether or not this was actually the world's biggest bridge tournament at that time is open to conjecture, but it certainly wasn't small:

