

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

I've just come back from the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra. The great thing about the large



national congresses is that there is room for players of all levels of skill and experience. The greatest range of these masterpoint-restricted events is at Canberra, and the Gold Coast Congress (in late February).

In Canberra, there were 5 separate events specifically for less experienced players, attracting about 80 tables from around Australia. Hearty congratulations to Victorians Leone Carberry and Yvette Cox who took out the Super Novice pairs – for players with fewer than 20 masterpoints.

If you look around the bar after play, you see bridge players of all ages with three things in common – a drink, a hand record, and a love of bridge. The social experience – making new friends, catching up with old friends – is one of the best parts of national and congress competitions.

10 years ago, there were very few masterpoint-restricted events available at nationals. Today, people can find events designed for them at almost all nationals, and increasingly at congresses.

If you've never tried bridge outside your club, try dipping your toe in the water in a restricted event at a congress or national. If you know someone at your club who you think might enjoy it, encourage them to try it out. When a friend from your club does try a congress for the first time, help them enjoy it more by introducing them to a few people – over a drink, or a hand record, or just our love of bridge.

2013 CONGRESS CHAMPION

The 2013 congress championship was a neck-and-neck two horse race decided in the last event of the year - the Kings & Queens congress.

Going into the last round there was a mere 2 point difference between the two contenders **Stan Klofa** and **Dee Harley**. Stan had been leading for most of the year but was pipped at the post by his sometime partner Dee.

There was then a big gap to the equal 3rd place getters: young gun **Justin Howard** and congress stalwart **Charlie Schwabegger**, who collected 53 points during the year.

Congratulations to Dee on a fine year on the Victorian Congress circuit.

Here are the final placings:

| Player | Congress VQPs | Congress Wins |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 Dee Harley | 85 | 9 |
| 2 Stan Klofa | 81 | 7 |
| 3 Justin Howard | 53 | 3 |
| 4 Charlie Schwabegger | 53 | 6 |
| 5 Andrew Mill | 46 | 5 |
| 6 Andy Hegedus | 46 | 5 |
| 7 Kim Frazer | 42 | 5 |
| 8 Terry Strong | 34 | 1 |
| 9 Jill Magee | 34 | 1 |
| 10 George Lovrecz | 34 | 2 |
| 11 Ben Thompson | 30 | 4 |
| 12 Bob Gallus | 27 | 3 |
| 13 Jenny Thompson | 27 | 3 |
| 14 Neil Ewart | 26 | 1 |
| 15 Denise Clarke | 26 | 4 |
| 16 Kerrin Daws | 26 | 3 |
| 17 Kae French | 25 | 3 |
| 18 Lindy Anderson | 25 | 1 |
| 19 Annette Maluish | 24 | 2 |
| 20 Chandra Chakravorty | 23 | 2 |

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Everyone is vulnerable on this deal from a duplicate game, and you hold:

♠ K10652 ♥ A93 ♦ 75 ♣ K92

Dealer on your right opens 1♥. Do you overcall 1♠?

The textbooks might frown upon a 1♠ overcall here, due to the doubtful quality of the suit, but it would be a little timid not to bid it. Spades is the "boss" suit, and it's important not to forego the opportunity to compete effectively with the highest-ranking suit.

Very occasionally you might take a bath in 1♠ doubled, but the occasional huge loss has to be offset against the frequency of gain.

You overcall 1♠ and the auction continues:

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|------|---------|-----|-----|
| | | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | 3♦ | ? |

Now what?

You have said your all with the 1♠ overcall. If partner wants to compete further for the contract, then that's her business.

You pass, and that ends the auction.

What do you lead to 3♦?

Even though your partner raised spades, that does not mean that she will have a high honour in the suit. The raise shows 3-card support, at least, and about 6-9 HCP. So a spade lead, whilst reasonable, could easily work badly.

You shouldn't consider hearts, as that's declarer's first suit, and a club lead is like the spade lead: could work well, could work badly.

What about leading a trump? Let's see. It seems that dummy will be weak, and all we know is that your LHO has preferred diamonds to hearts. It's entirely possible that dummy is short in hearts and has a few diamonds, which can be used to trump hearts.

So a trump lead may have the effect of cutting down on declarer's ability to trump hearts in dummy. It's a good choice, made with a firm purpose.

Leading trumps is often indicated when declarer shows two suits, and dummy indicates mediocre preference for one of them.

You lead a diamond, and see:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Dir: South | ♠ Q87 | | | | | | | | | |
| Vul: all | ♥ 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 864 | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ Q107653 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ K10652 | <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 | |
| | | N | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | E | | | | | | | |
| | | S | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A93 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 75 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K92 | | | | | | | | | | |

Your diamond lead goes to partner's ♦Q and declarer's ♦A. Next comes ♥Q. What do you do?

When you see the dummy, you can re-evaluate the hand. In this case, it seems that your trump lead might have hit the spot. Grab that ♥A and continue the trump attack.

The full deal:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-------|
| | ♠ Q87 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 864 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ Q107653 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ K10652 | <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 | | ♠ J94 |
| | | N | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | E | | | | | | | | |
| | | S | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A93 | | ♥ J1082 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 75 | ♦ KQ2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ K92 | ♣ J84 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ KQ765 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ AJ1093 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ A | | | | | | | | | | |

You will take 1 spade, 3 heart tricks and a diamond to beat the contract. Your trump

lead prevented declarer from getting a single heart ruff in dummy. (Declarer could have made the contract by letting partner win the first round of trumps – do you see why? – but that play was hardly feasible.)

Points to remember:

- Don't be scared to overcall at the one level, particularly in spades. More good things will happen than bad things.

On this deal, if you pass 1♥, it becomes the final contract, and it makes easily.

- Most players lead trumps more often than they should, but watch out for situations where a trump lead is indicated. One such situation is where declarer has named two suits, and dummy has given unenthusiastic preference for one of them.
- The opening lead always involves some guesswork. Once dummy has been revealed, you have more material to work with. All three involved players should "take stock of the situation" at trick 1.



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 clachman@vba.asn.au.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

After a Redouble

All vulnerable

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|-------|---------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1♠ |
| D'ble | Red'ble | 2♦ | ? |

Partner's redouble of a takeout double shows a good hand with at least 10 HCP. Penalising the opponents should be in your mind. There are some well-established rules for bidding after a strength showing redouble.

- A subsequent double by you or your partner is for penalties. So you can double 2♦ here for penalties, and if you pass, your partner can do likewise. Similarly, if the opponents try another suit, then that can also be doubled for penalties.
- Your side cannot pass out RHO's 2♦, or indeed any non-jump bid by the opposing side. So you can pass 2♦ here and know that partner will find a bid.
- If you have a weak distributional hand that doesn't want to defend 2♦, you should bid *immediately*.
- Conversely, if you pass 2♦ and then subsequently bid over partner's penalty double, you are showing a *strong* hand. This particular auction is forcing to at least game.

What do you do over RHO's 2♦ with each of the following hands?

(a) ♠ AK1032 ♥ Q1054 ♦ 64 ♣ A9

(b) ♠ K8754 ♥ 103 ♦ KJ94 ♣ AQ

(c) ♠ KQ10654 ♥ Q93 ♦ 8 ♣ A87

(d) ♠ AQ984 ♥ AQJ ♦ 632 ♣ K5

(e) ♠ KJ1074 ♥ AQ65 ♦ - ♣ J1092

(f) ♠ AQJ54 ♥ J42 ♦ - ♣ AKJ93

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

| LHO | Partner | RHO | You |
|-------|---------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1♠ |
| D'ble | Red'ble | 2♦ | ? |

(a) ♠ AK1032 ♥ Q1054 ♦ 64 ♣ A9

Pass. With a normal opening bid, first order of business is to see if partner wants to penalise 2♦. If she does, you're content. If not, then that's fine also.

(b) ♠ K8754 ♥ 103 ♦ KJ94 ♣ AQ

Double. This time, you are the one that thinks the opponents are in big trouble.

(c) ♠ KQ10654 ♥ Q93 ♦ 8 ♣ A87

2♠. You wouldn't be very happy defending 2♦ doubled with this minimum distributional hand. Best to describe the nature of the hand immediately to your partner: a minimum opening bid with at least 6 spades.

(d) ♠ AQ984 ♥ AQJ ♦ 632 ♣ K5

Pass. Given your three diamonds, it's most unlikely that partner wants to penalise 2♦, but there's nothing you can say at this stage. Whatever partner bids, you will force the auction to the game level.

For example if partner comes back with 2♠ (a non-forcing bid that shows about 10-11 HCP and 3-card spade support), you can bid 4♠. If partner bids 2NT instead, you bid 3NT.

(e) ♠ KJ1074 ♥ AQ65 ♦ - ♣ J1092

2♥. Another weak distributional hand unsuitable for defence against a diamond contract. Of course, it's possible that partner has the world's biggest penalty double of 2♦, but you cannot always nail the opponents. Doubling the opponents when one of you is void in their trump suit often works out very poorly.

(f) ♠ AQJ54 ♥ J42 ♦ - ♣ AKJ93

Pass. It's quite likely partner will double 2♦ for penalties, and if you remove that to 3♣ (would you?), you are showing a good hand, otherwise you would have bid 3♣ right now.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: South ♠ AJ9
 Vul: Nil ♥ 952
 ♦ QJ103
 ♣ A102

♠ 52
 ♥ J743
 ♦ A72
 ♣ KJ76

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

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

Somehow you don't fancy leading from ♣KJ and you wonder if it's time to try something new from that book you have just read*. So you start ♠5.

Trick 1 goes ♠9, ♠10, ♠K. Declarer now plays ♦4. Can you see a defence?

* Winning No-trump Leads, by Bird, D. and Anthias, T.

Problem 2:

Dlr: East ♠ 8
 Vul: All ♥ 973
 ♦ AK953
 ♣ Q972

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----------|
| | N | | ♠ AQ7643 |
| W | | E | ♥ KJ |
| | S | | ♦ J1072 |
| | | | ♣ 6 |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | 1♠ | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Partner leads ♠J, which holds the trick, and continues ♠10, which you run to declarer's ♠K. Declarer leads a low club (partner ♣4) and ♣Q wins. Next comes another club, on which you must begin to discard. How do you plan to defend?

Solutions on page 11.

VICTORIA CUP FINALS



Six teams fronted the VBA in December to play off in the finals of the inaugural Victoria Cup. Here are the results:

Open Division

- 1 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, P. Hollands, M. Henbest
- 2 D. Morgan, B. Wein, J. Rosen, B. Kingham

Under 50 MP Division

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



(l-r) Megan Glenn, Thomas Johannsen, Bharati Chakravorty, Peter Bolling

Under 10 MP Division

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



(l-r) Jim Skeen, Lisa Yoffa, Ros Davies, Jillian Tyler



RECENT CONGRESS RESULTS

VBA Summer Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Sharp – D. Sharp
- 2 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 3 H. Snashall – C. Lachman

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Maluish, J. Howard, A. Hegedus, A. Mill
- 2 J. Yang, M. Zhang, K. Zhang, Y. Jian Lu
- 3 J. Magee, T. Strong, D. Harley, O. Nolf

Kings & Queens Congress

Jim Borin Swiss Pairs

- 1 F. Kovacs – A. Glasson
- 2 K. French – T. Gariepy
- 3 G. Hill – J. Tunks

Coffee Coast Swiss Pairs

- 1 E. Hynes – S. Lester
- 2 A. Hegedus – A. Mill
- 3 B. Jaffrey – M. Cliff

KLTCB Swiss Pairs

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

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Harley, D. Newlands, J. Magee, T. Strong
- 2 L. Henbest, B. Kingham, M. Henbest, N. Howard
- 3 S. Mould, S. Wanz, R. Kingham, H. Rawicki



This year's Summer Festival kicked off with Youth Week. As expected in recent times, Victoria was extremely well represented, both in numbers and in outcomes. Undoubtedly, the Youth Bridge scene remains vibrant:



Justin Howard (left, below), playing with Adam Edgtton, won the Pairs Championship:



Then Ella Pattison was a member of the team that won the Teams Championship.



Youth Team winners: Shane Harrison, Ella Pattison, Rhys Cooper, Sam Schulz

Next it was on to the Australian Youth Team selection, and the resulting team was 50% Victorian, with Laura Ginnan – Justin Howard, and Jamie Thompson (playing with Stephen Williams). They join the trials winners, Adam and Nabil Edgtton.

Meanwhile, the Super Novice Pairs was in progress, and the winners, by a huge margin, were Yvette Cox and Leone Carberry – they scored over 70% across the two sessions!

(Yvette and Leone then teamed up with NSW players Jirina Safarik and John Price to take out the double, winning the Super Novice Teams.)



Yvette Cox and Leone Carberry

Jenny Thompson (playing with Julia Hoffman) was a losing finalist in the National Women's Teams.



NWT runners-up: Julia Hoffman, Jenny Thompson, Sheila Bird, Karen Creet, Pele Rankin, Sue Lusk

Simon Hinge (playing with Kim Morrison) was also a losing finalist in the National Senior Teams.

And for a winning finalist, there was Neil Ewart who, playing with Andrew Braithwaite, took out the Senior Teams final. Down by some 30 imps at the three-quarter mark, they had a stunning 81-14 final set to win in comfort.



National Seniors Teams winners: Chris Quail, Ian Robinson, Neil Ewart, David Hoffman, Richard Brightling, Andy Braithwaite

Then it was on to the major event of the festival, the South-West Pacific Teams qualifying to the National Open Teams.

The Geelong-based team of Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Roger Gillard, Piyush Jain and Michael Stokie took out the Country Category Final.



SWPT Country Category winners: Mike Stokie, Gary Ridgway, Piyush Jain, Arthur Robbins

A number of Victorians qualified for the finals: Felicity Beale, Rob van Riel and Neil Ewart went out in the quarter-finals. Bill Jacobs and Ben Thompson got through to the semi-finals but lost there.

Finally, Peter Hollands, playing with Ishmael del-Monte on the #1 seeded Milne team, went all the way, winning the final in a nail-biting finish.



NOT winners: Adam Edgton, Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Peter Hollands, Andy Hung, Ishmael del'Monte

Congratulations to all the winners and place-getters in Canberra! (Actually, the biggest winners were those who played in the first week of the event, and thus avoided the stifling heat of Melbourne.)



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: North ♠ A3
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK
 IMPs ♦ AK7653
 ♣ A42

| |
|---|
| N |
| S |

♠ KJ5
 ♥ QJ103
 ♦ 84
 ♣ Q953

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 6NT | All pass | |

♠10 is led. Plan the play.

(Hint: get started on your thinking of what to do if diamonds do not divide 3-2.)

Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Bill Jacobs

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|---|---|
| <p>♠ A3 ♥ AK ♦ AK7653 ♣ A42</p> | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W E | S | <p>♠ Q642 ♥ 97652 ♦ J ♣ KJ6</p> |
| N | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | |
| S | | | | | |
| <p>♠ 10987 ♥ 84 ♦ Q1092 ♣ 1087</p> | <p>♠ KJ5 ♥ QJ103 ♦ 84 ♣ Q953</p> | | | | |

Step 1. Win ♠A. You cannot afford to let the spade lead run around to your hand, because then you will have no entry to your good hearts.

Step 2. Cash ♦A and ♦K. If the suit divides 3-2, cash the ♥A and ♥K and play a 3rd diamond. You will win 2 spades, 4 hearts, 5 diamonds and 1 club. The ♣A is the entry to your diamonds and the ♠K is the entry to your hearts.

Step 3. If diamonds don't break, play ♣A and another club. If West has the good diamonds (as in the hand diagram), you will need East to hold ♣KJx, and the ♠Q. You will end up with 3 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs.

If East has the good diamonds, you will have to pray that West has ♣K10 or ♣KJ doubleton. You play low from your hand on the second round of clubs and later finesse East for the remaining club card and the queen of spades.

Clearing ♥AK before steps 1, 2 and 3 have been executed will lead to defeat on best defence (you might like to amuse yourself by working out what this defence is, in both scenarios of West or East having the long diamonds). You need to retain at least one heart honour in dummy as an entry to do all the finessing.

If you followed steps 1, 2 and 3 to make 6NT, you may rate your slam declarer play as officially *god-like*.

BEGINNERS' CLASSES

'Tis the new year, and several major clubs are running a series of classes for beginners. Here's a great opportunity to introduce a friend or relative to the game ...



Beginner Lessons 2014

Love a challenge? Like to have fun?

BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS

(the world's most popular mind sport)

2014 Schedule of 1 day Crash Courses at the VBA, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee

Cost \$40 per person - Lunch included - 10am to 4pm

- Sunday, February 16th
- Saturday, April 12th
- Sunday, June 1st
- Saturday, August 2nd

2014 Schedule of Workshops (2-3 hr play and bidding back to back on the same day)

- Sunday, March 16th
- Saturday, May 10th
- Sunday, July 27th



Waverley Bridge Club

Do you want to learn bridge in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere? Come to our next

Beginners' Lessons

Book in now for the next course beginning Tuesday 25 February at 1:45 pm, with each lesson repeated on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, from 26 February.

Come at whichever time suits you better.

Included are 8 two-hour lessons and 2 extra card play sessions to be held Saturday March 22 and April 12 at 9:30 am.

Cost of complete course \$120, including 10 lessons, lesson book and one free supervised session at completion of course. No partner is necessary.

Ring Mary Elson on 9807 6502 for more information and booking form.

Location: Electra Community Centre, 21b Electra Ave, Ashwood.

Moonee Valley Bridge Club

Beginners Classes are divided into two separate courses:

Bridge Basics: \$80 for 7 sessions, including 6 classes and 1 supervised play session, with a text book provided.

Commences Tuesday March 11 at 7:30 pm.

Bridge Basics 2: \$60 for 5 sessions, including 4 classes and 1 supervised play session.

Commences Monday June 2 at 7:30 pm

Sessions are 2½ hours and include tea and coffee.

Ring Jenny Date on 9326 0582, or email jennydate@optusnet.com or mybcsecretary@hotmail.com for enrolment information.

Location: Moonee Valley Bridge Club, 2a Pattison Street, Moonee Valley.



COUNCIL NEWS

VBA Council 2014

Ben Thompson was re-elected unopposed as President of the VBA at the AGM held at the clubrooms on 3 December 2013. Kim Frazer was also re-elected as Secretary and Neil Ewart as Treasurer. Jenny Thompson was elected Vice President.

Other 2013 councillors David Morgan, Ralph Berlinski and Terri Kay were also re-elected. David Morgan continues as Chair of the Match and Tournament Committee.

The AGM also considered several motions to change the Articles of Association which were unanimously approved. The most significant of these is the change to enable directly elected Special Councillor positions - see separate article on Special Councillor positions below.

Special Councillor Positions

At the VBA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 3 December 2013, the articles of association were changed by special resolution to alter the composition of the VBA Council.

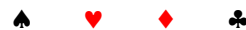
Four Ordinary Councillor positions elected by VBA members were eliminated and four new Special Councillor positions were created. Special Councillors will be directly nominated and elected by the affiliated clubs.

In order to ensure a relatively equitable voting process across the state, clubs have been allocated to zones based on their Local Government Area and number of members. These zones do not correlate to regions/zones used for other purposes (e.g. GNOT) which remain unchanged.

Nominees for election to a Special Councillor position must be current financial members of one (or more) affiliated clubs within the zone they are seeking to represent and must be endorsed in writing by the President or Secretary of an affiliated bridge club within the zone they seek to represent.

Nominations for Special Councillors close on February 15th. Where there is only one nominee for a zone, that nominee will be declared elected. Where there are more nominees, a voting process will be administered by the VBA, with remaining councillors being announced by April 7th.

The Regulations governing Special Councillor Elections, Zones, and the Nomination Form and revised Articles of Association may be found on the VBA website under The VBA/Document Library/Constitution.



Suit Combination of the month

J9642



AK853

You need to take all 5 tricks in this suit. How do you go about it?

Solution on page 12.

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

If it were done when 'tis done, then t'were well it were done quickly:
(Macbeth)

This deal was played in the Australian Open Teams Championship in 1975, Victoria vs Tasmania. Some details have been lost, but the essence remains.

| | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Dir: South | ♠ KJ103 | | |
| Vul: ? | ♥ QJ4 | | |
| | ♦ A109 | | |
| | ♣ AQ4 | | |
| ♠ 86 | | N | ♠ 94 |
| ♥ 105 | | W E | ♥ K9732 |
| ♦ J6 | | S | ♦ Q8743 |
| ♣ KJ109853 | | | ♣ 2 |
| | ♠ AQ752 | | |
| | ♥ A86 | | |
| | ♦ K52 | | |
| | ♣ 76 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | 1♠ |
| 3(?)♣ | 4NT* | Pass | 5♥ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All pass | |

A reconstructed auction. West would have interposed clubs, 3♣ (weak) else 2♣.

* Blackwood was simple in those days.

A black suit was led, let's assume a trump. Declarer drew trumps ending in dummy and led ♥Q. East covered and declarer won, then finessed and cleared clubs, trumping the third. He next cashed ♥J and exited a heart to East, no doubt intending to play for divided diamond pictures after the forced return. Planning this sequence had taken time enough for East to see an end-play coming, and after winning the heart he produced ♦Q without significant hesitation. South ran it to ♦A and continued ♦10, as is normal after an opponent breaks a suit from QJ. When East followed ♦3 declarer began to entertain serious doubts about the diamond position, but after an agonising pause he ran ♦10 to West's ♦J.

The success of this defence likely resulted from East's playing ♦Q painlessly.

Notice also that if East doesn't cover ♥Q and it holds, South succeeds by clearing clubs and playing 3 rounds of diamonds.

Was declarer's line in 6♠ best? After ♣A is cashed West is known to be 2??7. Ruffing the third club can be deferred until a second heart is played. When West's ♥10 appears declarer can decide to fill in those ?s as 2s, and change tack. He can cash ♦K and ♦A, then discard one red suit loser on ♣4 and the other after the ensuing ruff-and-discard.



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Peter Burt | Bendigo |
| Bennie Finkelstein | Frankston |
| Paula Hillis | Warrnambool |
| Susan Lipton | Kings & Queens |
| Jane Lobo | Frankston |
| Patricia Murray | Yarra Valley |
| Patricia McGlone | Geelong |
| Mark Rosenow | Ovens & Murray |
| Philip Scrambler | Geelong |
| Christine Sroka | Moonee Valley |
| Dawn Stephens | Benalla |
| Denis Upsall | Bendigo |
| Heather Watts | Traralgon |
| Jan Williams | Traralgon |
| Dianne Wyndham | Bairnsdale |

***State**

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Leila Bell | South Gippsland |
| Mary Bertuna | VBA |
| Jenny Coverdale | Bairnsdale |
| Geoff Davidson | Traralgon |
| George Del Papa | Ocean Grove |
| Denise Donald | Frankston |
| Trevor Haley | Moonee Valley |
| Joyce Garton | Berwick |
| Angela Langley | Macedon Ranges |
| Peter Lany | Waverley |
| Brian Mee | Waverley |
| Licenne Newton-Tabrett | Warrnambool |
| Robert Quirk | Waverley |
| Leo Saoud | Moonee Valley |
| David Stubbings | Yarra Valley |
| Frank Trett | Sale |
| Jimmy Zhang | Ballarat |

National

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Kath Connors | Ballarat |
| Margaret Copland | Macedon Ranges |
| Gus Ghali | Moonee Valley |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Gunnar Knudsen | Frankston |
| Leszek Kunc | Waverley |
| Anne McNaughton | Moonee Valley |
| Riekie Moerenhout | Yarra Valley |
| Joan Quirk | Waverley |
| Cecile Senior | Kooyong |
| Hal Shuster | Frankston |
| Lea Woolf | Dendy Park |

***National**

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Mary Adams | Waverley |
| Quintin Fernando | Moonee Valley |
| Jona Goldman | Dendy Park |
| Anne Howes | Traralgon |
| Christine Hynd | Ballarat |
| Jenny Johnstone | Geelong |
| Peter Karol | Melbourne |
| Philip McDermott | Frankston |
| Thea Mitchell | Bairnsdale |
| Judith Williams | Geelong |

****National**

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Yvonne Minton | Frankston |
| Brian Morgan | Rye Beach |
| Mary Queerfield | Moonee Valley |
| Barbar Strachan | Knox |

Life

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| George Campbell | Sale |
| Cate Carr | Moonee Valley |
| Margaret Morgan | Rye Beach |
| Suzanne Robinson | Geelong |
| Annette Rose | Waverley |

Bronze Life

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Helen Lovegrove | Warrnambool |
| Gregory Nunn | Moonee Valley |
| David Saleeba | Phillip Island |
| Kenn Trolland | VBA |

Silver Life

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Chris Bailey | Yarra Valley |
| Ralph Berlinski | VBA |
| Irene Hamilton | Dendy Park |
| Jean Mcleod | Bairnsdale |
| Bert Romeijn | Berwick |
| Michael Stokie | Geelong |

Gold Life

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Tammy Bloom | VBA |
| Mary Day | Yarra Valley |
| Christina Macquarrie | VBA |
| Beverley Pollard | Frankston |

Grand

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Julie Day | Berwick |
| Kae French | Moonee Valley |

Silver Grand

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Henri de Jong | VBA |
|---------------|-----|

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| Dir: South | ♠ AJ9 | |
| Vul: Nil | ♥ 952 | |
| | ♦ QJ103 | |
| | ♣ A102 | |
| ♠ 52 | | ♠ Q108763 |
| ♥ J743 | | ♥ 6 |
| ♦ A72 | | ♦ K865 |
| ♣ KJ76 | | ♣ 93 |

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|----------|
| ♠ K4 |
| ♥ AKQ108 |
| ♦ 94 |
| ♣ Q854 |

The dummy suggests you were right to avoid leading clubs. If declarer holds ♦K there is not much point in holding up ♦A, but if partner holds ♦K it will be his only entry. So stay with the Birds and hop ♦A to lead your other spade.

If you play a low diamond partner must duck to preserve his entry. Then declarer, with 9 tricks as long as hearts break 3-2, can look to improving his prospects by returning to his hand with a heart to lead a low club. If you insert ♣J clubs will be continued, declarer coming to 9 tricks 2-3-1-3, and if you play low ♣10 scores and declarer will pass the next heart to you to garner 2-4-1-2.

Problem 2

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Dir: East | ♠ 8 | |
| Vul: All | ♥ 973 | |
| | ♦ AK953 | |
| | ♣ Q972 | |
| ♠ J105 | | ♠ AQ7643 |
| ♥ Q842 | | ♥ KJ |
| ♦ Q6 | | ♦ J1072 |
| ♣ 10843 | | ♣ 6 |

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|---------|
| ♠ K92 |
| ♥ A1065 |
| ♦ 84 |
| ♣ AKJ5 |

You will need help from partner, certainly a third spade. It wouldn't be right to let go a diamond (yet), and your best hope must be to retain your long spades. The cards you don't need are those heart pictures - if declarer has ♥AQ they are useless, so leave hearts to partner.

When a fourth club comes, you can relinquish one spade, but declarer can find only 8 tricks.

[Defence found by Felicity Beale in National Women's Teams, 2014.]

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

THE DEFAULT Bill Jacobs

Bridge is a complex game. In the bidding, for example, there are a stupendous number of possible auctions:

128,745,650,347,030,683,120,231,926,111,609,371,363,122,697,557

so stupendous that I needed a 7-point font to display it on the page.

(If you want the mathematical formula for this number, it is $(4 * (22^{35} - 1) / 3) + 1$, where the "+ 1" is for the auction that is "Passed Out" – the only auction that everyone understands.)

One technique for surviving all those possible auctions is to have some simple agreements, or defaults, that you can rely on in times for uncertainty. In this series of articles, we will present some useful Defaults.

As Homer Simpson says: "De-Fault: the two sweetest words in the English language"

Is it forcing?

It was the final of an important match, and I picked up:

♠ K1052 ♥ AQ863 ♦ K4 ♣ K3

With no-one vulnerable, partner opened 1♦ and the next hand doubled.

Sensing blood, I redoubled, and this was passed around to the takeout doubler, who removed himself to 2♣. I bid 2♥, the bidding tray was pushed under the screen, and I suddenly had a very queasy feeling in my stomach.

Was my 2♥ bid forcing? If you have completed the Test Your Bidding quiz on page 3, you will see that fast removals of the opponents' runout after a redouble indicate a

weak hand. This certainly applies to *opener's* removal: should it also apply to *responder's* fast removal?

Why oh why had I bid 2♥? Stupid, so stupid! I should have passed, a 100% forcing bid, and indeed if partner doubles 2♣, then it will be a massacre.

Partner's hand was:

♠ J83 ♥ K2 ♦ AQJ102 ♣ Q95

He wasn't sure whether my 2♥ bid was forcing, but fortunately, our partnership has a Default:

If in doubt, we treat partner's bid as forcing.

So he rebid 3♦, and I bid 3NT with a sigh of relief. The Default had saved me from my error.

There is no end to the number of auctions where a bid may or may not be forcing. Partnership agreements can't cover every contingency: that number of auctions listed at the start of the article is just too big.

You will find that the bad result you get from having a mix-up about the forcingness of a bid will be smaller if you treat it as forcing and bid, than if you treat it as non-forcing and pass.

If you bid and that is wrong, perhaps you will end up a level too high, or perhaps not. But if you pass, and end up playing a partscore when cold for slam, then it's throat-slitting time.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Suit Combination of the month

J9642

□

AK853

If the suit divides 2-1, no problem. If LHO has all 3, no chance. But if RHO has 3 ... try leading the jack (intending to go up with the ace). If RHO, with Q107, instinctively covers with the queen, then LHO will show out, and you can later finesse against RHO's remaining 10-7.