

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

May 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

My wife Jenny and I go to the Essendon-Collingwood ANZAC Day footy match every year. We got there before lunch this year,



and I reflected on the paradoxically sombre and celebratory day and its meaning during the build-up.

We are blessed – not merely fortunate – to live in a wealthy, free and safe country. Today, just as two examples, Syrians and Ukrainians are not so blessed. We are blessed to have the opportunity to care about a game rather than the urgent struggle for life.

It is an essential part of the ANZAC legend that soldiers from Australia and New Zealand retained their independent, good-natured, even larrikin, spirit in the midst of some of the deadliest battles in history.

That legend and that spirit is reflected in the way every sport is played in Australia, including ours.

We play our games hard but fair. That is, we take our games seriously, and we try to play our best, but we respect our opponents and when the game is over we shake hands and appreciate their contribution to the contest.

I played bridge over the weekend following ANZAC Day with these thoughts on my mind. The ANZAC spirit is indeed deeply ingrained. We can see it even in simple courtesies in bridge – which were abundantly on display I might add – like a “well played” when an opponent does something good, or a “thanks for the game” at the end of a set. And we can see it in simple team dynamics, like accepting good and bad results equally cheerfully. It’s a rare person who can live this spirit every

moment of the day, but I’m sure we all try without even thinking about it.

I am proud and blessed to be an Australian.

VALE CHARLIE SCHWABEGGER



Bridge players everywhere were saddened by the passing of Charlie Schwabegger last month. Charlie was an iconic figure on the Victorian Congress circuit, winning friends with his friendly attitude and cheeky smile. He also won many congresses, six of them in 2013, even while struggling with cancer.

Charlie was on the Victorian Seniors Team in 2003 and won the Interstate Seniors Pairs that year with Jim Branton (dec). He also won the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs in 1997.

He was married to his frequent bridge partner Kerrin Daws. He had been an abalone fisherman. He hated to fly so he used to drive regularly between Victoria and Queensland to his holiday place in Hervey Bay. Kerrin disliked the drive so she would fly.

Charlie will be greatly missed by the Victorian bridge community and all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Kerrin and his five daughters.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

As dealer, you pick up this 16 point hand:

♠ KQ5 ♥ J7 ♦ K1052 ♣ AK62

You are the dealer. What do you bid?

Whether you play a 1NT opening as showing 15-17 HCP or 16-18 HCP, this hand should be opened 1NT. Don't be put off by the weak doubleton heart: you do not have to have all suits stopped in order to open 1NT. If you have the right points, the right distribution (any 4333 or 4432 shape, or 5332 with a 5-card minor), then open 1NT.

LHO passes, and partner responds 2♥. You recall that you and your partner have agreed to play transfer bids, so partner's 2♥ shows *spades*, at least 5 cards long.

What do you do?

Well, you must alert your opponents to the artificial bid. You do this by clearly saying "Alert". If using bidding boxes, you also remove the blue "Alert" card and place it on the table. If using written bidding, draw a circle around partner's 2♥ bid.

RHO looks bored and passes, you obediently bid 2♠, and now partner bids 3NT.

What's going on here, and what do you bid?

Partner's transfer bid showed a suit of spades, at least 5 of them, and his 3NT bid now shows enough points for game. He is offering you a choice: do you want to play 3NT or 4♠?

In general, if you have 3 or 4 spades, you will prefer to play 4♠ in the 8 or 9 card fit. If you have a doubleton spade, then play 3NT. Here your hand is good for play in spades and you should bid 4♠. The final auction is:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

LHO leads ♠9, and you see this:

♠ A8632
♥ A43
♦ Q3
♣ 975

N
S
♠ KQ5
♥ J7
♦ K1052
♣ AK62

This is a typical declarer-play problem: a pair of hands full of uncertainties. Where do you start?

Counting your winners and losers is always a good start. In terms of winners, you hope 5 spades, ♥A, one diamond (once you have lost to the ace, you will have one trick), and ♣A and ♣K. That comes to 9.

Looking at losers, from the perspective of the hand with long trumps, in this case dummy: none in spades, two in hearts, one in diamonds (the missing ace) and one in clubs: once you have taken your ace and king, dummy still has a loser. That comes to 4.

Either way we look at it, we are short one trick. Where can we get that extra trick?

All three side suits present possibilities, but the safest is to trump dummy's long heart in your hand. Because you are trumping with the short spades, you still get the 5 spade tricks you were counting on.

How do you go about getting your heart ruff?

It's tricky. You want to ruff the heart with the ♠5 (you cannot afford to ruff with an honour, because that develops a trump trick for the opponents). So win trick 1 in your hand with ♠K.

Now play a low heart, and *follow low in dummy*. If the opponents win this and play a second trump, you can with ♠Q, play ♥A, trump a heart, and will eventually be able to get over to dummy (by ruffing a diamond) to draw the last outstanding trump.

The full deal:

♠ 94	♠ A8632	♠ J107			
♥ K10862	♥ A43	♥ Q95			
♦ J964	♦ Q3	♦ A87			
♣ Q4	♣ 975	♣ J1083			
	<table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ KQ5				
	♥ J7				
	♦ K1052				
	♣ AK62				

Phew! That contract was extremely hard work. If you found the way home, I congratulate you.

Points to remember:

- Partner's 'two-step' auction is a common aspect of transfer methods. First he shows his suit, then he shows his strength. Other strengths can be depicted with other rebids, for example:
 - Pass: I'm weak partner, let's play 2♠
 - 2NT: I have invitational values and a 5-card spade suit. This gives opener a choice of four contracts: 2NT, 3NT, 3♠ and 4♠.
 - 3♠: I have invitational values and a 6-card spade suit. Opener chooses between 3♠ and 4♠.
- Counting winners and/or losers is an essential first step of declarer play, and should be done before you call a card from dummy. You have to take stock.
- There were other possibilities for developing that 10th trick. For example, if the club suit divides 3-3, you can set up the long club in your hand as a winner. Or maybe you can develop an extra diamond trick, with the help of your ♦10.

If you decided to go with one of those routes, then that's fine. I apologise for setting up the hand so that neither of these work. The important point of this hand is to work out that you need to develop one more trick.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Responding to the Unusual 2NT

No one vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	2NT	Pass	?

The 2NT overcall of the opponents' 1♠ (or 1♥) opening bid is called the "unusual 2NT". It was certainly unusual when it was invented in the 1960s, but nowadays, "unusual" is perhaps a misnomer.

It is unusual in that it is not a natural bid, but shows two minor suits, at least 5 cards in each minor. The required strength varies according to the vulnerability (if vulnerable you should be a little bit stronger). In this case, with nobody vulnerable, about 8 HCP is probably the minimum strength shown.

There is not a lot of science involved with responding to the unusual 2NT. Basically, you bid your longer minor (or the stronger one with equal length, or clubs if they are both the same length and strength).

One issue is that it not always obvious which side has the greater high-card strength, and therefore who "owns" the contract. If you have 4-card support for a minor, it might be a good idea to give jump support (jump to the 4-level), even if you are quite weak. This might make life difficult for your left-hand opponent. And it might prompt partner to bid to the 5-level, either to make the contract, or as a sacrifice.

How do you respond to the unusual 2NT with these hands?

- (a) ♠ K874 ♥ KJ654 ♦ 83 ♣ 73
- (b) ♠ Q963 ♥ 654 ♦ K3 ♣ KJ73
- (c) ♠ 8743 ♥ AQ4 ♦ AQ92 ♣ Q10
- (d) ♠ A87 ♥ KQJ10652 ♦ A4 ♣ 3
- (e) ♠ A963 ♥ A654 ♦ 93 ♣ J84
- (f) ♠ AK106 ♥ QJ94 ♦ KJ3 ♣ J3

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	2NT	Pass	?

(a) ♠ K874 ♥ KJ654 ♦ 83 ♣ 73

3♣. It's all a bit unpleasant, but your duty is to choose a minor suit. There is a small upside: your left-hand opponent, the opening bidder, will have to find an opening lead against this contract, and your two major suit kings offer some protection.

(b) ♠ Q963 ♥ 654 ♦ K3 ♣ KJ73

4♣. This time you have quite a nice hand, and an excellent fit for clubs. Even if partner is minimum and you cannot make 4♣, you have reason to fear the opponents' major suit fits, so the jump to 4♣ could well have a blocking effect on your left-hand opponent.

(c) ♠ 8743 ♥ AQ4 ♦ AQ92 ♣ Q10

5♦. Better and better. With a strong fit in diamonds and excellent side cards, you can contract for game with some confidence. Actually, you are more likely to make a slam than to go down in 5♦, but let's not get too greedy.

(d) ♠ A87 ♥ KQJ10652 ♦ A4 ♣ 3

4♥. Minors, shminors. That heart suit stands on its own, and you should have every chance of making 4♥.

(e) ♠ A963 ♥ A654 ♦ 93 ♣ J84

3♣. This is a nice hand with a club fit, but it's not strong enough to bid more: imagine partner with 8 HCP. And remember that if partner has a strong hand, he can try 4♣, and now you can accept the invitation and bid 5♣.

(f) ♠ AK106 ♥ QJ94 ♦ KJ3 ♣ J3

3NT. You have a lot of points, but some of them are "soft". In particular the queen-jack in hearts is no use for suit play, but represents an excellent stopper in notrumps. You can hope to make a lot of diamond tricks in a 3NT contract. There are no guarantees, but 3NT is always a contract you should keep in mind.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: East	♠ 7532			
Vul: All	♥ 653			
	♦ 10			
	♣ A10876			
♠ AKQ94	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ 7				
♦ QJ98				
♣ 953				

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣ ¹
1♠	Pass	Pass	D'ble
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠ ²	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 Precision: 16+ HCP
- 2 Obscure

You start your spades and win the first two tricks, all following. Do you continue spades or is there a better option?

Problem 2:

Dlr: North	♠ 98			
Vul: All	♥ KQ64			
	♦ K105			
	♣ Q973			
♠ 7542	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ 8				
♦ A764				
♣ AK106				

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1 15-17

You start ♣A and continue ♣6, won by declarer's ♣J. Now come 3 top spades, ♠AKQ; dummy lets go a heart, partner follows with the ♠10 and ♠J and then discards ♥2. Now a low club, and you take ♣K (partner ♥3) and pause to consider your next card, which is?

Solutions on page 10.



THE DEFAULT
Bill Jacobs

This month's default relates to a class of auction where you and your partner have agreed a suit, but as part of the process, you have bid another suit.

There are many examples of this:

- a) 1♠ - 4♦ Splinter raise
- b) 1♠ - 3♣ Bergen raise
- c) 1♠ - 2♠
3♣ Long suit game try
- d) 1NT - 3♠
4♦ Cue bid
- e) 1♠ - 3♠
4NT - 5♥ Response to Blackwood
- f) (1♥) - 1♠ - (Pass) - 2♥
Cue-bid raise

In each of these auctions, it is clear from the auction that spades will be trumps, but the last bid made so far is not a spade bid.

That last bid is then *doubled* by your opponent.

This opens up new horizons for your auction. In particular, two bids are now available that weren't before: you can *pass* (as partner still has a chance to bid), or you can *redouble*.

How should you manage this sudden wealth of options? Here's my recommendation, a default I have used successfully for many years:

**When an artificial bid is doubled,
an immediate return to our agreed
trump suit is WEAK**

The corollary of this is that any other bid, including the newly available pass or redouble, is encouraging, showing at least some interest in higher things.

Let's see how this default operates in the first sample auction above:

1♠ - 4♦ Splinter raise

The 4♦ response shows a singleton or void in diamonds, spade support and enough strength for a game contract.

You as opener hold:

♠ AKQ632
♥ 94
♦ K42
♣ 75

RHO doubles the 4♦ splinter. Playing the default, you beat a hasty retreat to 4♠. Your ♦K, sitting opposite a singleton, is a "bad king", so your minimum opener has just gotten worse.

No problem so far: you would have returned to 4♠ with or without the intervening double. But let's look at the corollary situation. Instead, you hold:

♠ AKQ632
♥ 94
♦ 742
♣ K5

This time, your hand, whilst having the same distribution and high-card points, is a lot better. Your ♣K is a "good king". Had RHO passed the 4♦ bid, you would probably have regretfully signed off in 4♠. But now that 4♦ has been doubled, you can pass, inviting partner to consider higher things.

Partner's hand:

♠ J975
♥ A1062
♦ 8
♣ AQ92

After your encouraging pass, partner co-operates with a cue-bid of 4♥. This should be all you need to bid to the almost laydown slam.

With this simple default, you can teach your opponents a stern lesson:

"Don't mess with our auctions!"

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS Bill Jacobs

The Revoke

The failure to follow suit is one of the most common infractions at duplicate bridge. We've all done it: I have revoked playing on VuGraph in a world championship, and it cost me a game contract. (That was 33 years ago, and I am just about over it now.)

The revoke law is not complicated, but revokes often cause angst at the table, due to disagreement on whether a revoke has actually occurred. Directors can gain grey hairs as they try to sort out the truth from the fiction.

There are two phases to a revoke: before and after it has been "established". A revoke is established when the revoking side has played a card to the *next* trick – in the case of declarer's revoke, this includes calling a card from dummy.

Before a revoke is established, it can be rectified, with some restrictions, but without an automatic trick penalty.

After a revoke is established, play continues, but there may be one or more tricks transferred to the innocent side at the conclusion of the play. The number of tricks can vary, depending on when the revoke occurred, whether the revoking side won further tricks, whether the revoking card actually won the trick, and what the effect of the revoke was on the play as a whole.

Here are the essential **DOs** and **DON'Ts** of revoking.

DON'T revoke. Well, of course. But if you do:

DO call the director once you realise you have revoked, or if you believe another player has revoked. There are several reasons for this. First, it may be that the revoke has not been established. If this is the case, then the director can walk the players through the process of correcting the revoke, and avoiding the revoke penalty. Second, the earlier the director is called, the better the chances that the facts of what happened can be determined.

Having noticed that you have revoked, **DON'T** compound your revoke with a further revoke. It is strictly against the laws and proprieties to try to conceal a revoke in this or any other way.

If you are *dummy*, **DON'T** draw attention to a revoke during the play. You can only do that after play has finished. Dummy's rights during the play extend only to asking *declarer* "no clubs?" when for example declarer has failed to follow suit to a club lead.

When during the play, the possibility of a revoke has occurred, **DON'T** turn up old tricks to see if you have revoked (or even worse, turn over another player's cards). It's not allowed. Simply call the director and await his instructions.

DO carefully maintain your quitted tricks in their correct order. They are forensic evidence that the director can examine to find out what actually happened.



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.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Whittlesea Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Muir – I. Muir
- 2 N. Ewart – K. Frazer
- 3 D. Clarke – M. Clarke

Frankston Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 R. Ellery – A. Meydan
- 2 L. Young – K. Bechet
- 3 K. Muntz – G. Lovrecz

Swiss Teams

- 1 N. Jacob, B. Thompson, P. Hollands, J. Howard
- 2 B. Geyer, K. Frazer, N. Ewart, B. Kingham
- 3 A. Maluish, A. Mill, J. Thompson, A. Macready-Bryan

Kings & Queens Easter Congress

Good Friday Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Magee – T. Strong
- 2 A. Branicki – M. Gurfinkel
- 3 G. Gaspar – J. Gaspar

Easter Saturday Butler Pairs

N/S

- 1 A. Talbot – D. Jacobs
- 2 M. Yuill – M. Allison
- 3 J. Tunks – G. Hill

E/W

- 1 S. Murray-White – G. Whiting
- 2 A. St Clair – D. Harley
- 3 E. Samuel – R. Ellery

Charlie Schwabegger Swiss Teams

- 1 A. St Clair, D. Harley, T. Strong, J. Magee
- 2 A. Maluish, J. Howard, A. Mill, E. Pattison
- 3 S. Hawkins, P. Hollands, H. Blakeman, L. Ginnan

Easter Monday Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Lester – H. Flanders
- 2 P. Hollands – M. Henbest
- 3 M. Callander – R. Berlinski

VBA ANZAC Day Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Feiler – A. Lasocki
- 2 R. Kingham – G. Johnson
- 3 F. Beale – R. van Riel

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 7 (April 5)

- 1 Bryan Fuller – Chris Turner (Echuca)
- 3 John Higgins – Reginald Bond (Frankston)

Event 8 (April 27)

- 2 Bryan Fuller – Chris Turner (Echuca)

STATE EVENT RESULTS

Victorian Open Team Playoff

- 1 B. Thompson, N. Jacob, A. Mill, M. Wibley, J. Howard, P. Hollands
- 2 N. Ewart, D. Beckett, L. Henbest, B. Kingham
- 3 L. Gold, J. Fust, E. Samuel, A. Maluish

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Sale

Saturday 17th May 11:30 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 18th May 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Greenwattle Racecourse
 Sale – Maffra Road
 Contact: Di Baldwin, 0429 443 083

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Bendigo

Saturday 24th May 10:30 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 25th May 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Kangaroo Flat Sports Club
 Dower Park, Mackenzie Street West
 Kangaroo Flat, Vic, 3555
 Contact: Liz Haywood, 0428 130 654

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

Moonee Valley

Saturday 31st May 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 1st June 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: 2a Pattison St
 Moonee Ponds
 Contact: Bob Geyer, rgeyer@unimelb.edu.au

Enter: www.bridgeunlimited.com

**MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
NEWS
David Morgan**

Victorian Qualifying Points (VQPs)

The MTC reviewed the first year of operation of the VQP (Victorian Qualifying Points) system for determining which players contest the playoff to select the Victorian Open Team.

It agreed some tweaking was desirable to better reward success at mid-sized congresses and to reflect the reduced importance of the Butler pairs event. These changes will apply to the current VQP year, which began on March 10th. They will increase the proportion of VQPs available from Congresses from just under 55% to just over 60%.

We believe this will be beneficial for bridge in Victoria by encouraging more players to contest congresses while still ensuring that Victoria is represented by a team capable of contending for the Australian National Championship.

VQP leaders as of 30th April:

Player	VQPs	Congress wins
Kim Frazer	26.7	3
Bob Gallus	21.7	1
Andrew Mill	21.0	1
Andrew		
Macready-Bryan	18.6	1
Arie Meydan	18.3	1
Terry Strong	18.1	2
Ben Thompson	16.7	1
Gary Ridgway	16.5	2
Stan Klofa	15.9	1
Justin Howard	15.5	1

Following the successful introduction of VQPs for open team selection, MTC has also agreed to use VQPs to determine the entrants in the playoffs to select Victoria's seniors and women's teams in 2015.

These VQPs will be available whether or not you have played with a senior or woman partner. The current stage one trials for the women's and seniors teams will continue but as a Last Train-style event.

The period for earning VQPs for the women's and seniors team will be the year to the end of these Last Train events.

**Another pathway to the
Victorian Seniors Team**

If you can't play in the daytime qualifying event for the trials to select Victoria's seniors team a new alternative is available.

In recent years a lack of entries has affected the process to select the seniors team to represent Victoria in the Australian National Championship. In two of the past three years stage one – a three-session weeknight event – has been cancelled because of insufficient entries. The Match and Tournament Committee (MTC) informally consulted a number of players and was told this lack of interest was because the event was scheduled for a Tuesday evening and that a daytime event would be more suitable. In response MTC scheduled stage one as a daytime event to be held on May 6, 13 and 20. A few players expressed concern just a few weeks before stage one was scheduled to commence that they were no longer able to participate as they work or have other daytime commitments.

The MTC recognises that it is unable to satisfy everyone's preferences in scheduling events. However, in response to these concerns the MTC explored options to enable more players to compete in this year's trials.

Every solution has flaws but MTC determined that the fairest alternative on balance was to offer places in stage two to the top two seniors pairs in the Swiss Pairs to be held at the Bendigo Congress on 24 May, provided that these pairs finish in the top ten places. (That is: the pairs have to be available to play in the weekend trials and the ANC, finish in the top ten places in the Swiss Pairs and be among the top two seniors pairs who confirm their intention to enter stage two.)

Note: This arrangement assumes that there are sufficient entries to run stage one as scheduled on May 6, 13 and 20. If fewer than 12 pairs enter then stage one will be cancelled. Entry to stage two (the weekend trials on May 30 and June 1) will be open to all eligible pairs, up to a maximum of 14 pairs. Priority will be given to those pairs who entered stage one and the three pre-qualified regional pairs. Other pairs will be ranked according to the number of VQPs they earned during the year to March 10th 2014.

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

The poker-player's Pass

The 2014 Vanderbilt teams in the US was contested by strong teams of world-class players. This deal is from the final, between Nickell (US) and Monaco, that strangely based combination of Italian, Norwegian, and French/Swiss pairs. The last segment began with Monaco leading by 19 IMPs.

We examine a critical decision taken by Steve Weinstein, South, playing with Robert Levin for Nickell against Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness. The swing of 17 IMPs that it generated changed the outcome - Nickell went on to win by 2 IMPs.

Dir: West	♠ AQ953		
Vul: All	♥ -		
	♦ 65		
	♣ AQJ954		
♠ 7	N	♠ 10	
♥ K875432	W	♥ AQ	
♦ 74	E	♦ AKQJ10832	
♣ K83	S	♣ 72	
	♠ KJ8642		
	♥ J1096		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 106		

The deal is that bugbear of teams bridge, a slam (6♠ N/S) that depends on a finesse. At one table both sides avoided extravagance.

West	North	East	South
2♥	4♣ ¹	4♦	4♥
Pass	4♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass ²	

- 1 Leaping Michaels (spades and clubs)
- 2 see text

A commentator noted that Eric Rodwell (East) took 10 minutes to sell out to 5♠. How right he was.

There was less restraint at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	D'ble	1♠
4♥	4♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	6♠	7♦	Pass ¹
Pass	7♠	All pass	

- 1 see text

The auction rapidly reached a dizzy height, Levin at North voluntarily taking an extra step to 6♠. Correctly assuming he was right, Helgemo (East) also bid one more. Focus on Weinstein, bridge pro and an outstanding online poker player (before that game became illegal in the US in 2011).

The accepted wisdom of high-level competitive bidding holds that Passing in this situation indicates first-round control of the opponent's suit, leaving partner free to progress, as indeed Levin did. Clearly a diamond lead defeats 7♠, but commentators unanimously declared that Helness couldn't/wouldn't find it, and indeed he led a heart and the Grand was made.

What can we make of Weinstein's Pass? I don't believe he was tired or lost concentration - not these men. I think it was a deliberate bluff¹ by a master tactician, perhaps devised on the spot, or stored in his mind from previous contemplation.

Notice that it takes a very hot defence to get 1100 against 7♦ doubled: and 9 IMPs would not have been enough for Nickell.

JOAN BUTTS TEACHING TOUR
Christine Heesom

On her recent whirlwind visit to Victoria at the end of March, Joan Butts managed to squeeze in a visit to the Eastern Region where she conducted two workshops at Phillip Island on Tuesday March 25, then travelled to Bairnsdale for 2 days of Teaching Training workshops on Wednesday and Thursday March 26 and 27.

The Phillip Island sessions were well attended with 24 participants. Well done to Lorrie Read and her team for organising this visit. Pam Dingwall (President of ERBA) and I arrived to

¹ Subsequently confirmed by Weinstein on bridgewinners.com. He had deduced that Levin was void in hearts.

pick Joan up for the 3 hour drive to Bairnsdale and were able to sit in on the second session – look out opponents when we get to work with our new found skills at “end plays”.

Bairnsdale is the hub of an exciting “Bridge in Schools” Program which was started almost five years ago by local player, Frank Power. West Bairnsdale Primary School was the first school to come on board, thanks to the willingness of school Principal, Doug Vickers, to see the advantages of bridge which is part science, part math, part logic, part reason. Bridge embodies cooperation, logic, problem-solving and has even been linked to higher test scores among children. Bridge is also a partnership game - trust, communication and patience are the essential attributes of winning at bridge.

Since then more schools have joined the program each year, until now there are 11 schools in Bairnsdale and surrounding areas that have bridge lessons which are taught on a voluntary basis by local bridge players.

The purpose of Joan’s visit to Bairnsdale was mainly to provide basic skills for these volunteers and she certainly achieved that goal. There were approximately 30 attendees each day with the vast majority being bridge teachers, but also including a smaller group of players who were interested in discovering more about Joan’s teaching methods.

The Eastern Region is most grateful to Joan for sharing her expertise and would also like to thank the Australian Bridge Federation who provided funding for the teaching sessions.



Students from West Bairnsdale Primary School pictured with Joan Butts and Frank Power (front row) and two of the volunteer teachers Lyn Wilkinson and Sue Deed from Paynesville Bridge Club (back row, right)

Photo courtesy of Bairnsdale Advertiser

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dlr: West	♠ 7532
Vul: Nil	♥ 653
	♦ 10
	♣ A10876
♠ AKQ94	♠ 106
♥ 7	♥ 10842
♦ QJ98	♦ 643
♣ 953	♣ KJ42

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J8
♥ AKQJ9
♦ AK752
♣ Q

The choices are "continue spades" or "switch to a trump". If you went with the first you succeed, as declarer can't stand the force. The trump switch fails.

Whichever you chose you are in good company. In the 2014 Vanderbilt Weinstein succeeded (line 1) and Fantoni failed (line 2). He was playing declarer for something like ♠Jx ♥KQJ10xx ♦AKxx ♣Q, on the weak side for that auction, but Rodwell is pushy.

Problem 2

Dlr: East	♠ 98
Vul: All	♥ KQ64
	♦ K105
	♣ Q973
♠ 7542	♠ J10
♥ 8	♥ J10732
♦ A764	♦ Q932
♣ AK106	♣ 82

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AKQ63
♥ A95
♦ J8
♣ J54

Declarer must hold ♥A so his trick count is now up to 3-3-0-2. His ninth will come from diamonds. If all he can do is play towards ♦K the defence is history. However if he holds ♦J there is a finesse in diamonds, and since you have turned up with values already maybe declarer will guess wrong.

What you must not do is sidle out a low diamond. This not only an unlikely play from ♦Q, and may suggest playing ♦K to declarer, but partner knows less about this deal than

you do, and would quite likely insert the ♦9 if it goes ♦4-♦5. (If South's shape was 5323 with ♦J, partner is 3 times more likely than declarer to hold ♦9).

Exit a round suit and let declarer guess wrong.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Education Committee

At its April meeting the VBA Council agreed to establish an Education committee with primary responsibility for ensure the co-ordination and oversight of the overall education plan for Victorian bridge. The duties of the Education committee will include oversight and scheduling:

- Club Director Qualification, Training and Development
- Club Teacher Qualification, Training and Development
- Player education programs
- Club Masterpoint Administrator Training programs

Initial membership of the committee is Sarah Livingston (Chair) and Pam Dingwall, however membership of the committee may be augmented if necessary.

Half-Yearly Financial Statements

The half-yearly financial statements are now available on the VBA website in the VBA Document Library/Management section

David Beauchamp Teaching Tour

Australian representative David Beauchamp will be running some workshops in Melbourne just after the VCC in June.

Combine your chances as declarer:
Kings & Queens: Wed, 11th June, 1:30 pm
VBA: Wed, 11th June, 5:30 pm

Bidding over pre-empts:
Yarra Valley, Friday 13th June, 1 pm

More details about these workshops coming soon on the VBA web site.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Harry Blamires	Moonee Valley
Ronald Crick	Yarra Valley
Christopher Dodgshun	Geelong
Greta Gill	Yarra Valley
Margaret Graham	Warrnambool
Angela Hutson	Bairnsdale
Robert Jacobs	RACV
Maria Moryto	Waverley
Margaret Munro	South Gippsland
Ben Ogle	Moonee Valley
John Serry	Dendy Park
Terry Sheafe	Berwick
Shelley Shergold	Rye Beach

*State

John Brazier	Bairnsdale
Michael Francis	Sunbury
Dell Macneil	Waverley
Barrie Martin	Paynesville
Helen Rawicki	Waverley
Faye Symons	Bendigo

National

Jo-Anne Heywood	RACV
Doreen King	Traralgon
Magda Levy	Theodor Herzl
Terry Nadebaum	Lakes Entrance
Jan Rothlisberger	Waverley
Sue Small	Dendy Park
Elizabeth Vanselow	Ravens

*National

Inpa Inpanathan	Waverley
Jennifer Millar	Waverley
Timothy Woodley	Ballarat

**National

Eileen Farren	Dromana
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Life

John Bristow	Frankston
Frances Engleman	VBA
Shannon Irwin	Geelong
Heather Knorr	Traralgon
Brian Morgan	Rye Beach
Anne Rosengren	Moonee Valley

Bronze Life

Chris Fernando	Berwick
Anna St Clair	VBA

Silver Life

Larry Attwood	VBA
Maurice Brumer	Bayside
Heather Flanders	Dendy Park
Desma Sampson	Macedon Ranges
Frank Vearing	Macedon Ranges

Grand

Kim Frazer	Moonee Valley
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2014 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP BRIDGE FESTIVAL



10AM DAILY- THURSDAY 5TH JUNE – MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2014

Bayview Eden Hotel 6 Queens Road, South Melbourne Victoria

SWISS PAIRS EVENTS

WOMENS, SENIORS, OPEN, RESTRICTED, AND <50 MP 5TH JUNE -6TH JUNE

SWISS TEAMS: OPEN & RESTRICTED 7TH JUNE – 9TH JUNE

NEW FOR 2014 - WARM-UP WITH SPEEDBALL JUNE 4TH @8PM

An ABF Gold Point and Playoff Qualifying Points Event

For more details and to enter visit the website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc

WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB STONELEA RESORT COUNTRY ESTATE BRIDGE HOLIDAY

September 17 – 21, 2014

Join us for 4 nights and days of bridge at Alexandra, the heart of beautiful north-eastern Victoria, less than 100 km from home. Enjoy all the beauty of Australia without the interminable travel and expense associated with far-flung holidays.

- Two session Red Point Matchpoint Pairs and Swiss Teams events
- Three sessions of competition Green Point events
- Regular walk-in Green Point sessions
- Directors will be Laura Ginnan and Bill Jacobs
- Lessons and hand analysis for players at all levels, given by Bill Jacobs, Mary Elson and Laura Ginnan

You can have a game or two of golf, tennis, badminton or croquet using the on-site facilities, swim in the indoor pool, sample the wonderful local wines at our Saturday evening wine tasting, indulge yourself with a spa and massage, walk around the lake, do a little fishing, enjoy a trip to Marysville, Bruno's Sculpture Garden and Steavenson Falls, enjoy the wonderful food, the comfortable and spacious rooms and drink in the atmosphere of an old sheep farm – all bridge, accommodation, meals, snacks and activities are included in the price except for the spa and massage, and bar charges are extra. Choose to take some time off and arrange a private trip to Eildon Weir, only 20 km away.

Places are limited so book soon. Bus travel is offered, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bridge players cost	\$750 (self drive) or \$790 (with bus)
Non bridge players cost	\$680 (self drive) or \$720 (with bus)
Single supplement	\$180

Ring Mary or Laura on 9807 6502 or email office@waverleybridgeclub.com.au for more information or to book.