

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

After 16 years at the helm, Keith McDonald has retired as ABF President. Keith has overseen a lot of change at the ABF, and has



significantly improved our peak body's financial position and stability. Personally, I have always found Keith a very gracious person to work with, and one who has worked hard on behalf of bridge. Thank you Keith for a job well done.

The new President is Bruce Neill from NSW. Bruce was until recently president of the NSW Bridge Association and has represented Australia in international competition several times.

Bruce has made his high-level priorities clear, and I most certainly endorse them:

1. enhance the enjoyment / experience of players
2. increase the number of active players
3. perform well at international championships

That order is intentional, by the way. Bruce's number one priority is to enhance the enjoyment everyone one of us gets from bridge. I didn't know I could enjoy bridge, but I'm certainly willing to try!

Best of luck Bruce!

Our four Victorian teams are heading off to the Interstate Teams Championship in a few weeks time. Best of luck to all of our teams. I'm hopeful of some silverware for Victoria in there somewhere!

VICTORIAN ANC TEAMS

Here are our representative teams for Sydney ANC. Good luck!

Open: Ben Thompson (c) – Nick Jacob, Peter Hollands – Justin Howard, Andrew Mill - Michael Whibley



Ben Nick Peter Justin Andrew Michael

Women: Kae French – Denise Clarke, Cathie Lachman – Helen Snashall, Franci Halmos – Eva Samuel
NPC: Kim Frazer



Kae Denise Cathie Helen Franci Eva

Seniors: Dee Harley – Stephen Weisz, Neil Ewart – Doug Newlands, Rex Livingston – Paul Hill
NPC: Laurie Kelso



Dee Stephen Neil Doug Rex Paul

Youth: Laura Ginnan, Ella Pattison, Ellena Moscovski, Peter Bolling, Vicky Thompson, Finn Rennie
NPC: Grant Kilvington



Laura Ella Ellena Peter Vicky Finn

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

You hold:

♠ AK872 ♥ 94 ♦ J62 ♣ Q93

With everyone vulnerable, your partner deals and passes, and RHO opens 1♥.

What do you bid?

The normal requirements for overcalling in a suit at the one-level are to have a decent 5-card suit, and at least 8 HCP.

This hand qualifies on both counts, so you overcall 1♠, and the auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	All pass

Partner gave you a raise in spades, but of course you had done your all with the 1♠ overcall, and have nothing further to say.

It's your lead to 4♠.

As the saying goes, the good Lord gives you a suit headed by the ace-king in order to tell you what to lead.

You lead ♠A, and this is what you see:

Dlr: South	♠ QJ5
Vul: E/W	♥ Q1032
	♦ Q103
	♣ 752
♠ AK872	
♥ 94	
♦ J62	
♣ Q93	

	N	
W		E
	S	

Partner follows with ♠3, and declarer with ♠4.

Defence is full of uncertainties, and this deal is no exception. Defences to suit contracts usually fall into one of two categories: *active* and *passive*.

Active defences involve trying to quickly generate tricks for your side, before declarer can get rid of losers (typically by discarding them on a side suit).

Another form of active defence is when dummy's trumps are threatening to ruff declarer's losers. Then playing trumps actively works to limit the number of ruffs that dummy can get.

Passive defences on the other hand don't try to do anything other than avoid giving away tricks. They involve safety, for example playing on a suit where declarer has no losers. The idea is to force declarer to make all the risky plays.

The main indicator for an active defence is where it looks like declarer can establish tricks in a side suit, either in his hand or in dummy. In that situation, you need to be quickly getting tricks in other suits first.

The main indicator for a passive defence is where it seems declarer might have several finesses to take. Particularly if some of those finesses are going to lose, you want to play it safe and let declarer do all the work.

All right, with this in mind, do you think this deal calls for active or passive defence?

Dummy's spades are an urgent threat. Declarer probably has two spades, which means once you have taken your second spade trick, declarer will have a discard available on the third round.

You must defend actively, to develop tricks for your side before dummy's spade comes good.

So what do you play at trick 2?

The club suit has the best potential for quickly generating tricks. If partner has the ♣A or ♣K, a club switch by you will develop at least one further trick for your side.

You switch to ♣3, and this turns out to be the winning defence, as the full deal is:

♠ AK872	N W E S	♠ 1063
♥ 94		♥ 8
♦ J62		♦ K974
♣ Q93		♣ K10864
	♠ 94	
	♥ AKJ765	
	♦ A85	
	♣ AJ	

The club switch builds the setting trick, to go with the ♠AK and one eventual diamond trick.

Points to remember:

- To overcall at the one level, you need a decent 5-card suit and at least 8 HCP. To make an overcall at the *two*-level, the requirements are a little higher: about 10 HCP points and a *very* good 5-card suit, or preferably, a 6-card suit.
- If I have an ace-king suit, I *always* lead a top card in that suit as my opening lead. No exceptions! Why? Because twice in important matches, I have had partners who have eschewed this obvious lead. In each case, they thought they had a good reason. And in each case, the outcome was a beatable contract that made.
- The decision between active and passive defence is one of the most important, and difficult, in bridge. It's worth restating the indicators. When you can see how declarer is likely to make the contract, either by developing tricks in side-suits, or by ruffing losers, then you need to be active. On this deal, dummy's ♠QJx was hardly an awe-inspiring threat, but nevertheless it forced an active defence to counter it.

Conversely, where there is no immediate threat, and/or it seems the cards are sitting poorly for declarer, go passive.

The easiest defences are the ones that involve a play that is both active *and* passive. For example, imagine you had ♣QJ10 on the problem deal. An easy ♣Q shift, working both actively and safely.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

After their overcall and raise

Matchpoint duplicate, no-one vulnerable

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

In this auction, the opponents have found a fit, whilst your partner has declined to bid. Typically partner will have 0-5 HCP, but he could be a bit stronger, say 6-9 HCP but with no suitable bid to make. Partner was not required to bid with 6 HCP, because the opponents' intervention meant that you still had another chance to call.

If at all possible, you don't want your opponents to be allowed to play 2♥. Your side can continue to bid naturally, but an extra important tool at your disposal is a take-out double. You have already shown some length in diamonds, but a takeout double widens the investigation, indicating at least 3-card support for spades and clubs, and necessarily a shortage in hearts.

Understanding how the scoring table works is an important factor in your decision. If the opponents can make 2♥, they score 110 points. So if you compete further, and go down one (-50) or two (-100), you are actually showing a profit.

It is relevant that you are non-vulnerable: if vulnerable, undertricks count as 100 points each, and there is a lot less margin for error in competing further.

What is your rebid on each of these hands?

- (a) ♠ A53 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ KJ92
- (b) ♠ K10 ♥ 652 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ AJ2
- (c) ♠ A4 ♥ K52 ♦ AKQ1084 ♣ QJ
- (d) ♠ A4 ♥ 652 ♦ QJ10765 ♣ AQ
- (e) ♠ A4 ♥ 62 ♦ AKQ9542 ♣ K2
- (f) ♠ KQJ5 ♥ 62 ♦ AK984 ♣ Q2

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	Pass	2♥	1♦ ?

(a) ♠ A53 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ KJ92

Double. You could bid 3♣, but why not bring the spades into play as well? Partner could have a weak hand with long spades and will be delighted to bid them.

(b) ♠ K10 ♥ 652 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ AJ2

Pass. It's a sound opening bid and you probably have a fit somewhere, but there's no bid you can make right now. Partner is still there: with short hearts he may be able to bid something, secure in the knowledge that his original pass denied strength.

(c) ♠ A4 ♥ K52 ♦ AKQ1084 ♣ QJ

2NT. You have the making of 8 tricks in notrumps: 1 spade, 6 diamonds and a heart if that suit is led. If partner has a little something, perhaps there will be 9. Always keep 3NT in mind as a possible contract!

Worried about the lack of a club stopper? Well, feel free to worry, but you can't have everything: bridge is a game that entails some measure of risk-taking.

(d) ♠ A4 ♥ 652 ♦ QJ10765 ♣ AQ

3♦. You have a decent suit, and partner can be expected to have a heart shortage. There is no guarantee – when is there ever? – but you should compete further. Maybe 3♦ will be a good sacrifice against their 2♥.

(e) ♠ A4 ♥ 62 ♦ AKQ9542 ♣ K2

3♥. This bid asks partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper. If he has one, then your hand should provide the other 8 tricks required for 3NT. If he doesn't have one, you will have to do your best in 4♦.

(f) ♠ KQJ5 ♥ 62 ♦ AK984 ♣ Q2

2♠. A simple bid, just trying to stop them getting away with a 2♥ contract.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: East ♠ J32
Vul: N/S ♥ K987
♦ 1072
♣ K74

♠ K6
♥ A53
♦ K8643
♣ Q53

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

You lead ♦4 and partner's ♦9 is taken by declarer's ♦Q. Now comes ♥J and you need to plan your defence.

Problem 2:

Dlr: North ♠ 942
Vul: N/S ♥ QJ6
♦ AJ9743
♣ 2

♠ J76
♥ K1097
♦ K102
♣ A65

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

* strong club

** natural positive

You start ♥10, partner plays ♥2 and declarer's ♥A wins. Now comes ♦Q, and you?

Solutions on page 11.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

The VBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Dale Sheather to the VBA Council to take up the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Ralph Berlinski. Dale is well known in bridge circles and a regular player at congress events around the state. We welcome Dale to the council. The council continues to seek a nominee from Western Region to take up the vacant Special Councillor position.

CONGRESS RESULTS

Victorian Simultaneous Pairs

- 1 G. Ridgway – A. Robbins
 - 2 A. Mill – A. Maceady-Bryan
 - 3 S. Arber – H. Silver
- (The results posted last month were incorrect)*

Moonee Valley Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Senior – S. Lester
- 2 L. Meyer – P. Moritz
- 3 R. Kingham – G. Johnson

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Howard, P. Hollands, G. Feiler, A. Lasocki
- 2 H. Snashall, C. Chakravorty, M. Callander, R. Berlinski
- 3 J. Yang, G. Lovrecz, M. Zhang, Y. Lu

Berwick Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Hegedus – A. Mill
- 2 P. Ditchfield – L. Robinson
- 3 J. Rosen – B. Kingham

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Krolkowski, R. Stewart, J. Rosen, B. Kingham
- 2 K. Kat, B. Kat, S. Klofa, R. Gallus
- 3 C. Shugg, W. Sieredzinski, C. Hughes, K. Bechet

Geelong Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. McRobert – T. Ranasinghe
- 2 L. Gold – L. Gold
- 3 D. Newland – D. Happell

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, R. Gallus, D. Newlands, M. Gurfinkiel
- 2 A. Hegedus, A. Mill, A. Maluish, J. Howard
- 3 A. Robbins, A. Ridgway, D. Newland, D. Happell

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs

804 pairs entered this event.

- 2 Vicki Lee – Fiona Morris (Waverley)
- 7 Jeff Clymo – Fraser Thorpe (Moonee Valley)
- 10 Rosemary Kinna – Barbara Ross (Ballarat)

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 11 (June 7)

- 2 Beverley Pollard - Eileen Farren (Frankston)
- 3 Diane McBeath – Carol Woodley (Ballarat)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Victorian Youth Bridge Club Congress

Not just for youth players! All can enter.

Saturday 5th July, 10 am: Swiss Teams & Restricted Pairs
 Sunday 6th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Both Saturday & Sunday: K/O Teams, limited entry

All profits from this inaugural congress go to developing youth bridge in Victoria.

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 21B Electra Ave
 Ashwood, 3147
 Contact: Laura Ginnan, 0411 694 248

Visit <http://vicyouthcongress.wordpress.com/> for more details.

Kattery

Saturday 12th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 13th July 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 Electra Community Centre
 21A Electra Ave, Ashwood

Contact: Keith Kat, 0428 130 844

Enter: <http://www.bridgeunlimited.com>

Phillip Island

Saturday 26th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 27th July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Newhaven Hall
 Cleeland Street
 Newhaven, Phillip Island

Contact: Shirley Stewart, 0400 815 353

Enter: <http://www.bridgeunlimited.com>

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP BRIDGE FESTIVAL 2014

The Bayview Eden was once again the venue for Victoria's most prestigious bridge event - the Victor Champion Cup. Comprising two days of pairs events followed by the three day teams event, this year we had the largest participation in the VCC ever with 82 teams contesting the teams event in what was also a high quality competitive field.

Winners for 2014 were Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley and Sartaj Hans. The victory was particularly sweet for Justin and Peter who have been runners up for the past two years.



VCC winners: Michael Whibley, Justin Howard, Sartaj Hans and Peter Hollands

Also delighted with their result were the restricted team of Helen McAdam, Don Tylee, Pam Dingwall and Sandor Varga. The restricted event saw the final round host a playoff series for final placings and a strong result from this team in the final round saw them take out the trophy.

The Open Pairs also had its best entry ever with a very strong field of 54 contesting the event taken out by Geo Tislevoll and Susan Crompton.

Victorians fared well in the Women's Pairs with Helen Snashall and Cathie Lachman staging a second day comeback to take out the event - well done.

The McCance Senior Pairs went to Martin Bloom and Nigel Rosendorff.

Les Kunc and Waldek Mroz were once again victorious in the Restricted event, whilst the

<50MP event was won by Colleen Bourke and Maria Campbell.

The VCC would not be possible without the wonderful efforts of the directing and floor staff who worked hard to ensure everything ran smoothly. Traian Chira once again provided Vu-graph coverage of the VCC Teams with viewers from around the world watching the final sets - a great showcase for Victorian bridge.



VCC Women's Pairs winners: Helen Snashall and Cathie Lachman, with VBA president Ben Thompson.

Next year the organising committee plans to revamp the restricted matches in an attempt to attract more players to enjoy and experience this event.



2ND ASIA CUP Ben Thompson

Felicity Beale and Diana Smart starred on the Australian women's team that made the final of the recent Asia Cup in China. The Asia Cup is a prestigious regional championship which invites countries in Asia and the South Pacific to send representative teams in Open, Women, Senior and several Junior categories.

The Australian women pulled out a stunning defeat of the Chinese team in their 48-board semifinal, arguably the best single win ever by an Australian women's team. The Chinese women's team has been one of the world's best for over 20 years, this version including three world champions. They dominated the qualifying rounds so thoroughly that they finished four full matches clear of 2nd.

Undaunted, Felicity and Diana produced results like this on the way to their 17 imp victory:

Dir: East ♠ J73
 Vul: All ♥ KQJ1093
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 1096

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q82 ♠ 94
 ♥ A7652 ♥ 84
 ♦ Q643 ♦ K852
 ♣ 5 ♣ AQ743

♠ AK1065
 ♥ -
 ♦ AJ107
 ♣ KJ82

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	2NT	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Chinese defenders started with a club lead and a club ruff back (with Diana taking the club finesse). After a diamond return, Diana played smoothly to land 4♠ (take the ruffing diamond finesse, ruff another diamond, and make sure you drop the now-doubleton ♠Q).

Looking at all hands, it seems easy enough to play in the 5-3 spade fit, but look what happened in the other room. The Chinese East insisted upon her high quality heart suit and played 4♥ instead. On a diamond lead, she eventually ran short of trumps against the 5-2 break and had to go one off for 12imps to Australia.

You often see people tighten up against highly-credentialled opponents (in any sport) but in the last set with the pressure on Diana preempted more courageously than her Chinese counterpart vulnerable against not. That jockeyed her opponents to the 5 level for one off while her teammates played comfortably at the 4 level for 10imps in.

Although they eventually lost a hard-fought final to the world class Indonesian team, the Australian Women put in a truly world class performance of their own. Well done indeed!



Diana Smart and Felicity Beale

Directors Course

Do you direct at your club, but have never undergone formal training? Or would you like to refresh your understanding of directors' duties?

The VBA will be conducting a 2 day Director course, run by Laurie Kelso, on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th August at the VBA, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena.

On Saturday, the basics will be covered:

- Laws 1*
- Movements 1*
- Technology and Scoring 1*

Then on Sunday, some more detailed topics:

- Movements 2*
- Masterpointing (introduction)*
- Preparation and Organisation*

You may attend either or both of the days, according to your requirements.

All Victorian Affiliated clubs are entitled to send one financial club member free of charge. The cost for other attendees is \$50 for one day or \$80 for both. If you decide to subsequently sit the Club Director exam, you will get a \$20 refund on the cost of the course.

Travel subsidies are available for those residents outside the Melbourne Metropolitan area of \$25 per person.

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

The Victor Champion Cup for 2014 was won by the Hans Team, which included Victoria's young stars Justin Howard and Peter Hollands. On this deal from round 4 Howard found an elegant end-play to bring home a vulnerable game, not made at the other table, for a pick-up of 12 IMPs.

Dir: West	♠ A82		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ7		
	♦ 1086		
	♣ KQ97		
♠ K76		♠ Q1093	
♥ 10		♥ J93	
♦ AJ3		♦ 9742	
♣ AJ10853		♣ 64	
	♠ J54		
	♥ A86542		
	♦ KQ5		
	♣ 2		

Howard declared 4♥ after this brief auction:

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

West, with the balance of the defenders' high cards, chose a passive lead, ♥10. Howard drew trumps in 3 rounds, ending in hand, and led his club. West correctly played low and ♣K won. Declarer trumped a club and led ♦K, won by West, who switched to ♠6. This went to East's ♠Q and ♠10 came back, not covered and won by ♠A. Howard ruffed himself back to hand with a club and led his last trump in this position:

	♠ 8		
	♥ -		
	♦ 108		
	♣ Q		
♠ K		♠ 93	
♥ -		♥ -	
♦ J3		♦ 97	
♣ A		♣ -	
	♠ J		
	♥ 8		
	♦ Q5		
	♣ -		

West could let go of ♣A but was then thrown in with his ♠K to lead away from ♦J.

At the other table the auction was similar except West's opening bid was 2♣, and again ♥10 was led. Play proceeded similarly to the point where West took ♦A and played to East's ♠Q: then South surprisingly covered East's ♠10 (West surely held ♠K) and no end-play was available.

Points to note:

- An initial spade lead would defeat 4♥.
- Both Wests correctly played low on declarer's ♣2.
- A winning defence is to allow declarer's ♦K (or ♦Q*) to win the first round of diamonds.

* The failing declarer led a diamond from dummy at trick 5 and played ♦Q, much harder to duck since East would not have risen ♦K had he held it.



RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Bruce Headey	Moonee Valley
Peter Hill	Macedon Ranges

***State**

Anthea Gedge	Kooyong LTC
Peter Radford	Benalla
Pat Waite	Barinsdale
Dawn Wallace	Lakes Entrance

National

Graham Davies	Waverley
Ted Fielding	Rye Beach
Gary Lee	Geelong
Doug Mitchell	Dendy Park
Bruce Turner	Whittlesea

***National**

Kerry Delcourt	Bendigo
Nellie Jones	Sale
Cecile Senior	Kooyong LTC
Ian Williams	Moonee Valley

Bronze Life

Jean Barber	South Gippsland
Chandradeep Chakravorty	Waverley

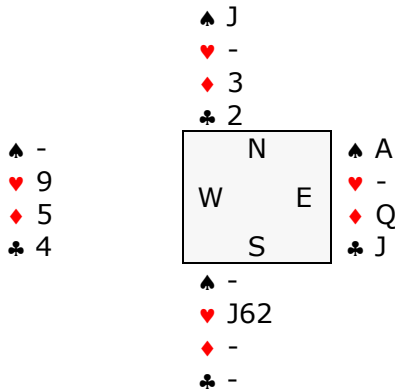
Grand

Kathy Radcliffe	Moonee Valley
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GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS Bill Jacobs

All About Claims

Test your understanding of the laws with this situation:



South is playing in a heart contract, and the lead is in dummy.

Scenario 1. Declarer faces his cards and says "they're all mine". West says: "hang on a second."

Scenario 2. Declarer leads a club from dummy and trumps it with his ♥2. He then faces his cards and says "they're all mine". West says: "hang on a second."

What do the laws say about these two situations?

Claims are an essential component of duplicate bridge. Without them, the game would be tedious indeed: imagine declarer with nothing but trumps (and no-one else has any), being forced to play trick after trick.

However claims are also a source of much angst when disputed. If an opponent is concerned about any claim, there are just two golden rules for the players, enshrined in Law 69D:

1. Play ceases
2. Call the director

That's all you need to know. Stop playing. Call the director.

Here is how the director will rule in our two problem scenarios.

Scenario 1. It seems declarer has forgotten about West's outstanding trump. With the lead in dummy, it appears there's a two-thirds chance that declarer will ruff a minor suit card, rather than a fatal spade (which would establish a trump trick for West). But declarer is clearly not on top of the situation, and might easily play the spade. The director will rule that West gets a trick.

When seeing the actual situation, many declarers will say: "obviously I am ruffing a minor", but this argument won't wash. The fact that the defenders have queried the claim will have triggered the memory. Declarer had to explicitly state at the time of the claim how he intended to return to hand.

Scenario 2. Declarer may or may not have forgotten about West's outstanding trump. But at trick 12, with two trumps in hand, it would be irrational to play the ♥6 rather than the ♥J. Declarer is always going to play the higher card first, and the claim should be allowed.

The guiding principle for directors in the case of a disputed claim is that the claimant will be forced into a careless play, but not an irrational play.

Here are a few further tips about claims:

Don't claim in complex situations. To start with, you are quite likely to trip up on the wording. And getting the claim explained and accepted may well take longer than simply playing out the hand! It is the height of folly to claim with the words: "you're squeezed."¹

Be very cautious of claiming, or conceding, as a defender. If your claim involves partner doing something intelligent, there might be strife. And a faulty concession of tricks might result in you losing tricks you could actually have won. (Partner has to jump in quickly to stop your concession taking hold.)

¹ Many years ago, a declarer claimed against me on a squeeze, and a complex one at that. I had no idea, but my partner Rob van Riel said: "what if Bill discards a spade?" He was right: this play defeated the contract, but I doubt that I would have found it on my own.

FOR BUTCHERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in the Altman Swiss Pairs, you pick up:

♠ Q103 ♥ KQ6 ♦ AKQ ♣ K1076

The auction starts:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

What do you bid?

With a balanced 19 HCP, jump to 2NT. This shows a hand too strong to have opened 1NT, typically around 19 HCP.

Partner raises to 3NT, and the ♦6 is led:

♦6 led	♠ K852 ♥ A95 ♦ J107 ♣ J98 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 5px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N S </div> ♠ Q103 ♥ KQ6 ♦ AKQ ♣ K1076
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Plan the play.

Count your top tricks. 3 hearts + 3 diamonds = 6. The remaining 3 tricks can come easily enough from clubs (2 tricks there, even if you have to lose to the ace and queen) and you can build a spade trick.

Rather than cross to dummy's ♥A (which could result in the defence eventually establishing heart tricks), you decide to lead clubs from your hand, and choose the ♣K, for two reasons: perhaps someone has a singleton ♣Q, and it makes you look like an expert.

RHO wins ♣A and plays a second diamond. What now?

This is a little worrying: perhaps LHO has 5 diamonds and that suit is a threat. But with a combined 28 HCP, surely it will work out OK.

You decide to play a spade now towards dummy: if West has the ace, he won't be able to safely play it, for fear of setting up too many spade tricks for you. With a spade trick safely snaffled, you can revert to clubs to set up your 9 tricks.

You play a spade, LHO plays low, and RHO captures the king with the ace. She now plays a second spade. What now?

This is a little worrying: if you finesse the ♠10 and it loses, a further diamond will set up West's suit. But if you reject the finesse and win ♠Q to play a club, maybe whoever wins that trick has two spades to cash.

You decide to finesse ♠10, which is not a success, the full deal being:

♠ J74 ♥ 843 ♦ 86543 ♣ Q3	♠ K852 ♥ A95 ♦ J107 ♣ J98 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 5px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N S W E </div> ♠ Q103 ♥ KQ6 ♦ AKQ ♣ K1076	♠ A96 ♥ J1072 ♦ 92 ♣ A542
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West wins ♠J, plays a third diamond, and cashes two more diamonds when in with ♣Q: two down. At every other table, 3NT was made, often with an overtrick.

Points to remember:

- If you are going to butcher the play of a hand, as I did here, do it properly. The 11 imps lost on this deal was a disproportionately small penalty, given the number and size of the poor decisions made in the play.
- You won't always get a quiet "bad luck" from partner after a deal like this. All I got was a sort of stunned silence, which in the circumstances was a pretty good effort by him.

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance

Problem 1

Dir: South ♠ J32
 Vul: Nil ♥ K987
 ♦ 1072
 ♣ K74

♠ K6	N	♠ 10987
♥ A53	W E	♥ 10642
♦ K8643	S	♦ J95
♣ Q53		♣ J2

♠ AQ54
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ A10986

Declarer's rebid confirms that you can't expect much of partner - you have to hope he holds ♦J. You control all suits, but can't afford to concede a tempo.

You must rise ♥A and continue diamonds before you are put to excruciating discards on clubs.

Problem 2

Dir: East ♠ 942
 Vul: All ♥ QJ6
 ♦ AJ9743
 ♣ 2

♠ J76	N	♠ K53
♥ K1097	W E	♥ 852
♦ K102	S	♦ 865
♣ A65		♣ J1095

♠ AQ108
 ♥ A43
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KQ874

The clue to this defence is declarer's play to trick 1. That was about ensuring an entry to dummy. Your only hope is that ♦Q is singleton - you mustn't cover because that gets him to dummy and in a position to establish those diamonds with hearts as entry. The cover seems automatic holding ♦10. But it isn't.

If you covered, join the others at the Bermuda Bowl.

THE DEFAULT
Bill Jacobs

The elusive double

Of all the bids in bridge, the one that causes the most heartache is the double². It is a chameleon, just made for Lewis Carroll's Humpty Dumpty: "when I make a double, it means just what I want it to mean: neither more nor less".

The double has always been part of the game, even in the time of Auction Bridge, but in the early days it only had a single usage: "this contract is going down, and I am going to increase the penalty", that is, a simple penalty double.

But over the decades, we've lost control of the double. In modern terminology, it's gone viral. As well as penalty doubles we have:

- Takeout doubles
- Responsive doubles
- Negative doubles
- Optional doubles
- Action doubles
- Lightner doubles
- Support doubles
- Maximal doubles
- Stolen bid doubles
- Fisher doubles
- Pass or correct doubles
- Snapdragon doubles
- Exclusion doubles
- DOPI doubles

So when partner doubles, we have a smorgasbord of possible meanings. How can you tell which one is intended?

Consider this auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♦
3♥	D'ble	Pass	?

What do you make of partner's double? It's not immediately obvious. Is partner a Humpty Dumpty, who believes he's identified every one of his 13 cards? Probably not. But surely

² The other is 4NT, of which more another day.

the partnership should know whether this is a Penalty Double or Something Else.

A default will help.

If the opponents have bid and supported a suit, a double of that suit is *never* for penalties, below the level of game.

If you have this default, then this means partner's double is not a penalty double. In fact, it means he has a good hand and wants you to do something intelligent, such as showing a little spade support, or bidding 3NT with a heart stopper.

Do you wonder if this default is simply a licence for the opponents to get away with murder? It's not. Suppose you hold:

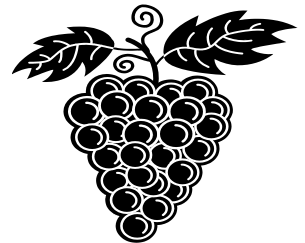
♠ 7 ♥ QJ92 ♦ AK10643 ♣ K10

Depending on the vulnerability, you might decide to pass partner's double, converting it to a penalty double.

This is an example of a strange paradox of bridge: the fewer penalty doubles there are in your arsenal, the more chance you have to penalise your opponents.



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