

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

August 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

Congress events in Victoria have been going gang-busters this year. Through to the Phillip Island congress at the end of July, congress table numbers are up over 9% compared to this time last year. Part of it is due to new congresses coming on the scene and part of it is due to more people playing congresses – in about equal parts!



Some people worry about new clubs and congresses taking away from existing clubs and congresses but I'm convinced it's actually the other way around – they add to them. Economists and technology startups talk about this in terms of positive network effects but stripped of the fancy language, the principle is that the more opportunity there is to play bridge in more different places, ways and times, the more likely it is that someone who is keen on bridge will be able to find a way to fit it into their lives. The congress table numbers example I gave above demonstrates the point – increasing the opportunity to play congress bridge went with an increase in average attendance across the board. Put your hand up if you knew bridge looked just like a Silicon Valley startup!

The new Youth Cub congress ran a (small) restricted pairs event, with very generous sponsorship from the Gold Coast Congress. I've been writing and talking this year about the importance of building our collective "pipeline" of new players. My hat is off to the Youth Club for their commitment to growing bridge, particularly amongst younger players and very much off to the far-sighted Gold Coast Congress convener, Therese Tully, for investing in growing bridge around the country.

Incidentally, the Youth Club did some interesting things with their restricted event. Suffice it to say you don't have to run it as a carbon copy of the main Swiss Pairs. If your club is thinking of introducing a restricted pairs event to your congress, have a word with Laura Ginnan about her ideas.

	Congress Leader-board	VQPs
1	Bob Gallus	54.3
2	Andrew Mill	43.4
3	Stan Klofa	39.4
4	Anna St Clair	36.4
5	Justin Howard	34.7
6	Ben Kingham	31.9
7	Dee Harley	31.0
8	Kim Frazer	29.2
9	Peter Hollands	28.8
10	Chelliah Arul	28.4

SYDNEY ANC

Congratulations to our Seniors and Juniors teams, who performed superbly at the Australian National Championships just concluded in Sydney.

The Seniors team, Dee Harley – Stephen Weisz, Neil Ewart – Doug Newlands and Rex Livingston – Paul Hill, with Laurie Kelso as NPC, comfortably won the qualifying rounds, but then succumbed by a narrow margin to the team from the ACT.

The Youth team, Laura Ginnan, Ella Pattison, Ellena Moscovski, Peter Bolling, Vicky Thompson and Finn Rennie, with Grant Kilvington as NPC, did it in reverse. They were second in the qualifying rounds behind Western Australia, but then won the final in some comfort. This team was youthful in extreme, with Vicky Thompson being 16, and Finn Rennie just 11.

See page 5 for a short report on the Youth team's victory.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

In a matchpoint duplicate, you are the dealer and hold:

♠ K65 ♥ A4 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ 8632

With 14 HCP playing Standard American, you need to open one of a suit. Deciding between 1♣ and 1♦ is largely a matter of taste: there is no compelling argument one way or another. Some always open 1♣, others always open 1♦ and yet others open according to whim or in whichever suit is the stronger.

We'll assume you choose 1♦, and the auction continues:

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

Partner has made a *negative double*: this suggests interest in the unbid suits, with the emphasis on any unbid major, on this auction, hearts.

What is your rebid?

Don't fall into the trap of bidding your other suit, clubs. Your hand is essentially balanced, and you have cover in the spade suit that LHO has overcalled. You should rebid 1NT.

The auction continues:

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

Now what?

Partner is inviting you to bid game in notrumps, if you are maximum strength for your bidding to date.

Your 1NT rebid showed about 12-14 HCP (if your 1NT opening is 15-17 HCP), or 12-15 HCP (if your 1NT opening is 16-18 HCP). It showed a balanced opening hand not strong enough to open 1NT in the first place.

Whichever way you cut it, 14 HCP is in the maximum range for your bidding to date, and you should accept partner's invitation and bid 3NT.

No one has anything further to say, LHO leads ♠4, and you see:

♠4 led	♠ Q7 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ 10932 ♣ KJ4 N S ♠ K65 ♥ A4 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ 8632
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Plan the play.

In notrump contracts, there are always two aspects to your planning.

First you have to count your tricks and work out how to bring the total to that required, in this case 9.

And then you need to consider how you will stop the opponents taking the setting tricks (in this case 5) before you get to your 9.

In terms of your tricks, you have 1 spade available, 4 hearts and 1 diamond, for a total of 6: the remaining 3 tricks can most easily come from diamonds, should RHO have the finessable ♦K.

As for the opponents, they are threatening you in the spade suit. For example, should LHO have the ♦K, you want to prevent him from running all the spades.

You can reduce this threat by playing dummy's ♠Q at trick 1. Given that LHO has bid spades, the ♠Q will probably win. Then should LHO win the ♦K, your ♠Kx will be in place to prevent your immediate destruction.

The ♠Q does indeed win trick 1, but when you play the ♦10 at trick 2, and then low from your hand, LHO wins ♦K. LHO plays ♣5, and you?

It will do you no good to play ♣J, hoping LHO has ♣Q and RHO ♣A. That would win the club battle but lose the 3NT war, because RHO would win ♣A and fire a spade through your ♠Kx, and the defence will run the spade suit.

No, you need to pray that LHO has ♣A and play the ♣K on this trick. When that wins, you are home, with 1 spade, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club, the full deal being:

♠ Q7		♠ 1083			
♥ KQJ2		♥ 10876			
♦ 10932		♦ 864			
♣ KJ4		♣ Q107			
♠ AJ942	<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	♠ 1083
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 953		♥ 10876			
♦ K7		♦ 864			
♣ A95		♣ Q107			
♠ K65					
♥ A4					
♦ AQJ5					
♣ 8632					

Points to remember:

- Sooner or later, you usually need to bid notrumps with a balanced hand. This deal is a case in point: 3NT is a making contract. You had an 8-card fit in diamonds, but couldn't make 5♦. Most of the time, 3NT 'trumps' 5 of a minor.
- Watch out for this (or equivalent) suit combination:

Qx

Kxx

If this suit is led to a notrump contract, it is almost always right to play the honour from dummy. If RHO has the ace, it will do you no good to play low from dummy, because RHO will usually play a spot card that forces out your king. But if LHO has the ace, then the queen will win at trick 1, and then if you can prevent RHO from getting in, your Kx will form a second stopper.

- If you need a particular card (on this deal, the ♣A) to lie in a particular defender's hand, then assume that it does, and play accordingly! This is called "card play by assumption".

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Dealing with your usual hand

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

A 2♣ opening shows a very strong hand: if balanced it will have 23+ HCP, if unbalanced it can be lighter in high cards, but typically at least 20 HCP.

Your 2♦ response is artificial, showing any hand in the range 0-7 HCP. Next partner has named a suit, showing at least 5 cards there, and it's up to you to find a rebid with your usual lousy cards.

Partner's bid is forcing: you must not pass it no matter how much you would like to do so. Lacking 3-card support for partner's suit, there are only two options: you can bid a 5-card or longer suit of your own, or lacking that, rebid 2NT.

If you do have support for partner, you should show it. A popular and sensible approach is that if you have a very weak hand with support for partner's major, then jump to game (4♥ here). This is the principle of Fast Arrival: if you are destined to reach game, then bid the game immediately with a minimum holding in the context of your previous bidding.

If you have a better than minimum hand with support, give a single raise to the 3-level. This leaves partner some room to investigate a slam if interested.

How do you respond to partner's 2♥ rebid with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 653 ♥ 42 ♦ Q7643 ♣ J106
- (b) ♠ Q932 ♥ 42 ♦ J54 ♣ J765
- (c) ♠ 65 ♥ J32 ♦ J1076 ♣ J762
- (d) ♠ KJ653 ♥ Q32 ♦ 54 ♣ 762
- (e) ♠ J2 ♥ Q32 ♦ A543 ♣ 10962
- (f) ♠ 653 ♥ Q632 ♦ A10943 ♣ 2

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

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

(a) ♠ 653 ♥ 42 ♦ Q7643 ♣ J106

3♦. There's nothing to stop you showing your 5-card diamond suit. Maybe partner will have diamond support. Or maybe this bid will solve a diamond problem for partner who can now bid 3NT. If partner instead rebids 3♥, then that's a bid you can pass.

(b) ♠ Q932 ♥ 42 ♦ J54 ♣ J765

2NT. No support for partner, no 5-card suit to show. 2NT is what's left. Don't fall into the trap of bidding 2♠ here with only 4 of them.

(c) ♠ 65 ♥ J32 ♦ J1076 ♣ J762

4♥. Get the agony over with. 4♥ might not make, but who knows? Maybe some of your jacks will come in handy. Or maybe partner can ruff a spade in your hand. This is the classic 'game try': bid a 'game' and 'try' to make it!

(d) ♠ KJ653 ♥ Q32 ♦ 54 ♣ 762

3♥. Some might show the spades but it's usually best to reveal a major suit fit that you know of. 3♥ shows support and about 4-7 HCP. If you bid spades first, and then hearts, partner won't realise that your heart support is this good.

(e) ♠ J2 ♥ Q32 ♦ A543 ♣ 10962

3♥. This is a wonderful hand in context. Good support, a side shortage and an ace to boot! If partner investigates slam with a cue bid, you will certainly bid 4♦ next, showing control in that suit.

(f) ♠ 653 ♥ Q632 ♦ A10943 ♣ 2

3♥ or 4♣. If the last hand was good, this one is a monster. If you have discussed splinter bids with your partner, you could jump to 4♣ here, showing heart support and a singleton or void in clubs. Otherwise just raise to 3♥ and if partner shows any signs of life, you should drive this hand to slam.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: South	♠ K43									
Vul: E/W	♥ J974									
	♦ 9									
	♣ KJ1063									
	<table border="1"> <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									
	♠ AQ97									
	♥ K632									
	♦ A762									
	♣ 9									

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

- 1 Precision: 16+ HCP
- 2 obscure

Partner leads a 4th best ♠5, your ♠Q winning as declarer plays ♠2.

Plan your defence.

Problem 2:

Dlr: West	♠ AQ1098									
Vul: E/W	♥ 5									
	♦ J4									
	♣ AK986									
	<table border="1"> <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									
	♠ KJ6									
	♥ J943									
	♦ A1053									
	♣ J2									

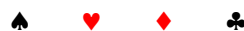
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

- 1 Forcing

Partner leads a 4th best ♥7 and declarer's ♥Q beats your ♥J. Next comes a diamond to dummy's ♦J.

Plan your defence.

Solutions on page 12.



**ANC YOUTH TEAM FINAL
Bill Jacobs**



The winning Youth team, left-right: Ellena Moscovsky, Laura Ginnan, Peter Bolling, Finn Rennie (front), Grant Kilvington (npc), Ella Pattison (absent: Vicky Thompson)

The final against Western Australia started with a bang for Victoria on Board 1:

Dir: North ♠ AQ54
 Vul: nil ♥ J7
 ♦ AQ754
 ♣ J8

♠ K108	<table border="1"> <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									
♥ A86		♥ 532									
♦ J1063	♦ K98										
♣ AQ5	♣ K1097432										
	♠ J97632										
	♥ KQ1094										
	♦ 2										
	♣ 6										

Room 1:

West	North	East	South
Thompson		Moscovsky	
	1♦	3♣	D'ble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

After Ellena's weak jump overcall, South made a reasonable negative double. Now Vicky's 4♣ was very well judged, removing North from the necessity of bidding. 4♣ made when North couldn't read South's ♦2 lead as a singleton.

Room 2:

West	North	East	South
	Rennie		Bolling
	1♦	3♣	3♠
4♣	4♠	All pass	

Here Peter found the winning 3♠ bid: he was prepared to have a go in 4 of a major (if

partner didn't support spades, he would try 4♥ next). West's 4♣ didn't deter Finn from supporting his partner's spades. 4♠ made easily for an 11 imp gain.

Here is a brilliant piece of card play, backing up some excellent bidding, from Laura Ginnan in the second-last set.

Dir: West ♠ AKJ63
 Vul: all ♥ 1074
 ♦ 762
 ♣ 87

♠ 8	<table border="1"> <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		♠ Q942
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ KJ862		♥ 3									
♦ Q1098	♦ J543										
♣ AQ6	♣ J1094										
	♠ 1075										
	♥ AQ95										
	♦ AK										
	♣ K532										

West	North	East	South
	Moscovsky		Ginnan
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

First, the bidding. After Ellena's overcall, Laura made a cue-raise, then decided to offer 3NT as an alternative contract, based on her heart suit. Ellena was happy to play notrumps with her balanced pattern.

At the other table, South just went to 4♠ and East's heart lead destroyed that contract by two tricks.

Against 3NT, West led a heart, won by Laura's ♥9. She played a low spade, ♠8, ♠J and East cleverly ducked with hardly a hint of hesitation. Now Laura played a low spade from dummy! East won ♠Q, and played ♠J, but Laura knew where ♣A was and simply kept ducking the clubs: ♣K was her 9th trick.

The low spade on the second round of the suit was a beautiful play, and it was almost certainly the correct card even without the benefit of the small "tell" from East. Even if West wins ♠Q and plays a diamond, declarer can just run the spades, throwing clubs from hand and destroying West in the process. It would not be difficult to develop the 9th trick on an endplay.

VICTORIAN SCHOOLS COORDINATOR

The VBA is pleased to announce that **Peter Marley** has been appointed to the Victorian Schools Coordinator position, to build on the success of the schools program in Eastern Victoria and facilitate the growth of bridge in schools around Victoria.



Peter Marley in directing mode

Peter, who lives in Maldon, is extremely well qualified for the position. We interviewed Peter about his life, bridge experience and vision for the Schools Coordinator role.

How did you get started playing bridge?

My childhood Friday nights were spent playing four-handed Euchre with my father, grandmother and great-grandmother (who stood 4 ft 9 in, weighed under 6 stone and would have cut your heart out if you revoked). This led to my interest in trick-taking games.

In 1976 I bopped up to the ESU to ask about learning bridge and was sat down to fill a table, with predictably horrendous results, given I knew nothing about the game. I went away with a copy of Klinger's Bridge Basics, ploughed my way through to Chapter 5 and was back the next week.

All went swimmingly as long as the hands required nothing further than Chapter 5. By the next week I had finished the book and all exercises and practice examples and was raring to go. Little did I know then how long I would keep going.

Tell us something about your background as a teacher.

After starting my working life as a Civil Engineer with the Melbourne Harbor Trust, I went back to university to do a degree in Music and joined the teaching service as a Music teacher, but once the school became aware of my background in Engineering and theatre, I ended up teaching more Maths and Drama than Music. My love of Bridge led me to become one of the founding members of the ABTA, the Australian Bridge Teachers Association.

I always loved teaching, but could not stomach the Education Department drivel for too long, so I never spent more than 8 years at a time in schools.

How did you get into directing? What's the funniest incident you've ever had to deal with as a director?

In the early 80s I was asked by Jim and Norma Borin to help with the annual ESU Congress, and this I was pleased to do. After weeks of swotting up on the Laws and preparation all was ready for my directing debut.

Having just got the first session underway, I was gathering my thoughts when up barreled Miss Prissy as if pursued by hellhounds. Sensing an epic disaster, I asked what I could do to help. She informed me that her partner's fly was undone, and she couldn't possibly play in these circumstances.

Manfully girding the loins I took her back to the table and (seeking to avoid embarrassment to anyone) quietly whispered to her partner about the problem. He responded by standing up, inspecting the offending gap, booming "You're right - my fly's undone", then correcting the issue with a gesture worthy of a silent screen actor.....so much for subtlety.

At another Congress which used those chairs with the plastic seat and the spindly legs, a woman of ample frame sat down and kept going as the chair legs spreadeagled under her mass. The funny part was not so much her unfortunate predicament (she appeared to be sitting astride an octopus), as the speed with which everyone else scarpered and left it to me to remedy the situation - I'd previously only ever seen Bridge players move that fast when there was free food or booze on offer.

Where is Maldon? Is there any bridge played there?

Maldon is an historic town in the Goldfields area, about 45 km from Bendigo and 22 km from Castlemaine. The local Bridge group was started and continues to be run by people I taught as beginners at Bendigo.

What are your initial thoughts on the Schools Coordinator position?

Having been involved in two failed attempts at a Schools Program before (at the ESU in the 80s and the VBA in the early 90s), I may not know what works, but at least I can say what won't work!

On both occasions, the attempts were staffed and driven from one organisation. The kids' interest was generated, but the lack of ongoing support was the killer.

From these experiences, I believe that a successful program will have to be staffed and supported by the clubs, not simply the central body.

The clubs must be the engines of any program. They have the networks, the contacts and (if willing) can provide the people to get to the schools regularly. They are also the providers of access to the broader competitive game and the continuing availability of playing and learning opportunities for young players.

As an example, I have done the beginners' lessons for Bendigo for some time, but I believe that their exceptional retention rate is due to the special effort the club makes to welcome and encourage new players. Club members are rostered to attend courses so the beginners have some familiar faces when they visit the club, and supervised and special sessions are held to get newbies regularly attending and comfortable before joining the normal duplicates.

A similar effort will need to be made by all clubs to gain and keep school players, even perhaps to the extent of extra sessions being held at times more suited to the needs of schoolkids. Basic marketing tells us to focus on the wants and needs of the customers, not the product.

Centrally, we can provide materials, advice, interclub contact etc., but the day to day operation must be done by the clubs.

We can support the clubs in several ways:

- Provision of promotional and teaching materials and advice, perhaps to the extent of "Teaching the Teachers" courses.
- Assistance with Working With Children checks
- Networking and contact with other clubs in the program
- Provision of special interschool or statewide competitions for kids, possibly online as well as physically attended

Before going to the clubs, we will need to decide on what we can offer to encourage the clubs to get on board and to make their task easier when they do.

VALE FRANK POWER

The bridge community lost a valuable member in July. Frank Power was an absolute icon in the Eastern Region bridge community. He was a passionate and enthusiastic player who was always generous with his time and knowledge,



willing to play with beginners to ease them into the club duplicate or with more experienced players needing some expert tuition.

In addition to his dedication to bridge he was also, in his youth, a talented footballer, cricketer and tennis player. In later years he took up table tennis and was instrumental in launching the "Keenagers" program for older table tennis players which has since spread to more than 22 clubs in Victoria alone. He was also an enthusiastic race horse owner and could often be seen ducking out of the bridge clubrooms to tune in to the radio to check on his latest "runner".

Frank began playing bridge in Bairnsdale about 23 years ago and was always interested in improving his understanding of the game. He recently donated his library of over 100 bridge books to the Bairnsdale Bridge Club, and they are free to all members to borrow. The club named the library in his honour.

After reading research done by Professor Christopher Shaw in Carlinville, Illinois USA in 2005 which showed significant improvement in 5 subject areas in children who were being taught bridge, Frank embarked on an innovative program of teaching bridge in schools.

In 2009 his "Bridge in Schools" program began as an adjunct to the school maths program at West Bairnsdale Primary School, and St Mary's Primary and Gippsland Grammar Junior Campus joined in 2010. Currently there are 10 schools in the Bairnsdale area that teach bridge thanks to a group of volunteers from Bairnsdale and Paynesville Bridge Clubs.

Frank had written his own bridge "system" which was over 90 pages in length, but despite his attention to detail at the bridge table, he could be forgetful - a famous example of this was when he drove to Melbourne with the late Barry Stokes who was a member of the VBA Council at the time. He had arranged to pick Barry up on the way home to Bairnsdale after the VBA meeting and Barry was duly waiting at the appointed pick up spot only to see Frank drive past. It wasn't until Frank arrived home in Bairnsdale (some 3 hours later) that he discovered Barry's suitcase in the boot of his car.

Frank travelled all over Australia to play bridge. He was the first player from this Region to take part in the Gold Coast Congress which he loved, and on his return he encouraged about 30 other local players to travel to Broadbeach.

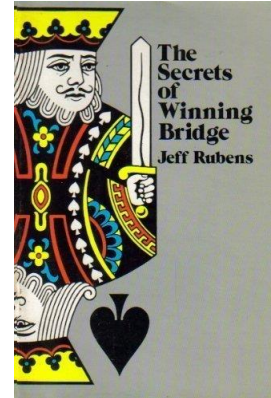
Frank was also instrumental in encouraging Ishmael Del'Monte to visit Bairnsdale and Traralgon in 2013 and he was proud to receive his Grand Master certificate this year.

R.I.P. Frank - we will miss you.

... Christine Heesom

BOOK REVIEW
Secrets of Winning Bridge
By Jeff Rubens

Good news! *The Secrets of Winning Bridge*, by Jeff Rubens - one of the best bridge books ever written - is now back in print. This new edition, published by Bridge World Books (paperback; 219 pages), includes minor updates of the original.



The book covers a range of topics, including how one's bidding and play should vary with different forms of scoring. Reflecting its American origins, the emphasis is on matchpoint scoring. What to do at IMPs - a relatively new form of scoring when the book was written (first published in 1969) - is contrasted with that, and with the discussion of how to bid and play at rubber bridge.

The parts of the book that remain unique focus on hand evaluation and developing a partnership.

Rubens, who represented North America in a world championship and has been editor or co-editor of *The Bridge World* magazine for more than forty years, introduces a number of ideas that will improve the bidding skills of all bridge players.

In particular, he explains why the location of honours matters and develops the principle of in-and-out evaluation: it is better, all else being equal, to have secondary honours ([kings and] queens and jacks) in partner's long suits and primary honours (aces [and kings]) outside.

Once explained, the idea is obvious. And Rubens shows how it can be applied to competitive auctions, and how a bidding system can be designed to enable partner to make a better judgment about the worth of his hand.

He also introduces a number of tools and rules that can help with close decisions. Some - like Rubens' refinement of an old rule about

bidding slam: investigate slam if partner's perfect minimum will make slam laydown – are still not well-known but are used routinely by experts.

Rubens explains why partnerships should be cautious about adopting new bidding conventions, and why it's better to play one partner's stylistic and systemic preferences than to cobble together a compromise mixture.

The book is well-written and easy to read. The ideas are important and are explained well. Everyone who reads *The Secrets of Winning Bridge* will learn something and become a better bridge player.

... David Morgan

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

A tale of jack-nine-sixth

Not a very tidy holding, but sometimes vulnerability helps - and sometimes not.

Here are two deals from the US Vanderbilt 2014. We note that in this prestigious event nearly everyone holds a World ranking.

Dir: East ♠ 63
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q1082
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ AJ95

♠ KQ952	N W E S	♠ J87
♥ 7		♥ J96543
♦ A742		♦ 3
♣ Q103		♣ K84

♠ A104
 ♥ AK
 ♦ KQJ96
 ♣ 762

West	North	East	South
		2♥	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

East favoured by the vulnerability, opened that terrible weak two. West (a World Grand Master) dutifully led his ♥7. How could that be right?¹ East couldn't hold enough in high cards to establish then cash winning tricks.

At the other table:

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

Although warned by the auction, N/S proceeded to the same thin game which failed after a spade was led.

Dir: East ♠ J97654
 Vul: E/W ♥ 9
 ♦ K762
 ♣ A8

♠ A103	N W E S	♠ 8
♥ AJ1085		♥ KQ762
♦ 85		♦ AJ43
♣ J54		♣ K63

♠ KQ2
 ♥ 43
 ♦ Q109
 ♣ Q10972

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
2NT	3♠	D'ble	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here the enterprising North (World Life Master), once again stimulated by the favourable vulnerability, entered the auction on a similar anaemic suit and pushed his opponents overboard. At the other table West responded 2♠ to his partner's opening 1♥, which muzzled North.

Note that 4♠ is a very cheap save against 4♥.

Directors Course

As advertised last month, this course is on the weekend of 8th and 9th August. Here is a great opportunity to tune up your directing skills!

All Victorian Affiliated clubs are entitled to send one financial club member free of charge.

Contact the VBA for full details.

¹ A heart can work well as a safe, passive lead. Partners don't always supply the ♠J ... Ed

CONGRESS RESULTS

FABCV Croft Teams

- 1 A. Roberts, C. Chakravorty, K. Palmer, A. Sharp
- 2 T. Gariepy, B. Headey, V. Chang, G. Ghali
- 3 K. Attwood, L. Attwood, M. Simons, C. Irwin

Youth Club Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Johnson – G. Schaller
- 2 N. Grigg – T. Gariepy
- 3 P. Blinman – M. Clarke

Swiss Teams

- 1 H. Stewart, M. Allison, P. Corrigan, M. Yuill
- 2 E. Dickson, J. Guttman, J. Kent, S. Kudelka
- 3 E. Moskovsky, P. Bolling, D. Carter, G. Carter

Knockout Teams

- 1 B. Thompson, N. Jacob, P. Hollands, S. Hinge, M. Henbest
- 2 C. Mill, J. Thompson, D. Thompson, J. Thompson
- 3 J. Magee, H. Snashall, A. Edwards, T. Johannsen

Kattery Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. St Clair – D. Harley
- 2 E. Harmat – G. Mealyea
- 3 A. Hegedus – A. Mill

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Magee, T. Strong, R. Gallus, A. St Clair
- 2 S. Klofa, M. Gurfinkiel, A. Czapnik, R. Stewart
- 3 A. Hegedus, S. Collins, M. Callander, R. Berlinski

Phillip Island Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Hackett – T. Hackett
- 2 L. Shaw – P. Shaw
- 3 M. Callander – S. Collins

Swiss Teams

- 1 C. Arul, C. Chakravorty, C. Fernando, B. Romeijn
- 2 G. Kilvington, P. Hollands, J. Howard, L. Ginnan
- 3 S. Klofa, L. Kelso, M. Gurfinkiel, R. Gallus

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 14 (July 20)

- 3 Alex Smith – Denise Newland (Ballarat)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Melbourne Bridge Club

Saturday 9th August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 10th August 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: 397 Barkers Road
 Kew, 3101

Contact: Sandra Mansell, 9853 1449

Enter: <http://www.melbournebridge.com.au>

Yarrowonga

Friday 15th August, 7:30 pm: Welcome Pairs
 Saturday 16th August, 12 noon: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 17th August 9:30 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Club
 65 Gulai Road
 Mulwala, NSW, 2640

Contact: Jan Hackett, 0429 017 822

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

Traralgon

Saturday 23rd August, 11 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 24th August 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Traralgon Bridge Club
 Traralgon Showgrounds
 enter off Howitt Street

Contact: Jocelyn Pilmore, 0418 387 758

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

Dendy Park

Sunday 31st August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Brighton Bowls Clubrooms
 Breen Drive
 Brighton East

Contact: Boris Tencer, 0400 815 353

Enter: <http://www.dpbridge.com/entry.php>

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS Bill Jacobs

Insufficient Bids

One of the most 'popular' irregularities, the laws on insufficient bids are rather more complex than people realise. So Rule #1, as is usually the case when anything goes wrong at the bridge table, is to *call the director*.

You hold

♠ QJxxx ♥ xx ♦ Jxx ♣ Kxx

and the bidding proceeds:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	1♣	

"That's insufficient," you remark, and your RHO says: "oh, sorry" and changes the "1" to a "2" on the bidding pad, so it's now an overcall of 2♣.

That leaves you stuck without a bid: 2♠ isn't justified with just 7 HCP, and there's nothing else you can comfortably do.

You should call the director. He will give you the option of *accepting* the insufficient bid of 1♣, and now you have a comfortable 1♠ bid available. There's actually nothing wrong with the auction 1♦ - 1♣ - 1♠!

This is one of several places in the laws where an irregularity can be accepted by an opponent. For example, you can accept a bid that is made out of turn, or if declarer leads from the wrong hand, you can allow that also, if you feel it's to your advantage.

Here's another weird auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
Pass	1♦!		1♦

Popular bid, that 1♦. It seems partner didn't see your opening bid. RHO calls for the director and decides not to accept that second 1♦ bid.

In this situation, the insufficient bidder can correct his bid to 2♦ without penalty (this is allowed if both the insufficient bid, 1♦ and the

sufficient bid 2♦ are essentially natural). If the insufficient bidder chooses anything else, then you would have to pass for the rest of the auction.

Partner does correct to 2♦, so you are free to bid, as RHO passes. You are looking at:

♠ Ax ♥ QJxx ♦ KQxxx ♣ Jx

In your system, a simple raise of a minor suit opening shows 6-9 HCP and support. Normally you would pass with your hand after a single raise, but here you know that partner was actually intending to *open* 1♦.

The laws allow you to use this information. It is perfectly legal and ethical for you to keep the auction going, for example by bidding 2♥ here. Your side will still be able to reach a normal game contract, with both you and your partner holding opening hands.

Finally, you hold:

♠ xx ♥ KQxxx ♦ Jx ♣ AJxx

Partner opens 1NT (15 – 17 HCP) and you bid 2♦, transferring to 2♥ with your heart suit.

Your LHO calls the director, because in fact this has been the auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1NT	2♠	2♦

You didn't see the 2♠ overcall, and LHO does not accept your 2♦ bid. What now?

You cannot correct your bid to 3♦ without barring partner from the auction, because the 2♦ bid was not natural.

But what the director *will* allow you to do is bid 3♥ without penalty, and partner can keep bidding. This is because the laws in their most recent form allow you to correct an insufficient bid to any bid that has the same, or more precise, meaning than the insufficient bid.

In this instance, both the 2♦ transfer bid and the 3♥ bid show at least 5 hearts. The 2♦ bid is ambiguous as to strength, the 3♥ bid shows strength: it is a more precise bid than 2♦ and therefore can be allowed, without further restrictions on the auction.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Pauline Baker	Ocean Grove
Krystena Casey	Moonee Valley
Neville Houghton	Waverley
Georgina Howitt	Rye Beach
Libby Persson	Waverley
Anne Roberts	Waverley
Hugh Rogers	Moonee Valley
Shirley Walker	Phillip Island
Ron Watkinson	Macedon Ranges

***State**

Colin Campbell	Moonee Valley
Diane Heagney	Bendigo
Michael McTiernan	Dendy Park
Vivienne Roche	Moonee Valley
Joy Rockey	Ballarat
Lyn Smark	Lakes Entrance

National

Stephen Curtis	Melbourne
Linda Healy	Macedon Ranges
Kay Leeton	VBA
Sarah Livingston	Dromana

***National**

Kevin Beard	Moonee Valley
Kenneth Fong	Kings & Queens
Margot Moylan	Phillip Island
June Simpson	Frankston
Evelyn Stephenson	Moonee Valley

****National**

Anne Gooding	Waverley
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Life

Kaye Douglas	Phillip Island
Molly Downing	Phillip Island

Bronze Life

Lindy Anderson	VBA
Lucy Henbest	Bridge Fanatics
Wojciech Sieredzinski	Frankston

Silver Life

Richard Lawrie	Geelong
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Gold Life

Andrzej Jez	Waverley
Sylvia Kudelka	Waverley

Grand

Albert Braunstein	Dendy Park
David Thompson	Echuca

Silver Grand

Alfred Branicki	Tivoli
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SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS
Ian McCance**Problem 1**

Dir: South	♠ K43	
Vul: Nil	♥ J974	
	♦ 9	
	♣ KJ1063	
♠ 10865		♠ AQ97
♥ Q105		♥ K632
♦ 1043		♦ A762
♣ 842		♣ 9
		♠ J2
		♥ A8
		♦ KQJ85
		♣ AQ75

Your ♦A is certain to be a trick and an entry: you could clear spades and set up a set up a long but you that would get you to only 4 tricks. The setting trick must come from hearts, and you must now switch to ♥2. Partner with ♥Q will win and revert to spades. If declarer rises ♥A the defence has 2 spades, 2 hearts and ♦A.

If declarer has ♥AQ partner will need to have an entry in diamonds to continue spades.

[Defence found by Rex Livingston (East) with Paul Hill, ANC 2014]

Problem 2

Dir: East	♠ AQ1098	
Vul: All	♥ 5	
	♦ J4	
	♣ AK986	
♠ 752		♠ KJ6
♥ K10876		♥ J943
♦ 92		♦ A1053
♣ Q73		♣ J2
		♠ 43
		♥ AQ2
		♦ KQ876
		♣ 1054

Partner has hit a jackpot with his lead and what you must do is come in straight away to continue hearts. You have no fear of spades being established, but you can't tell about the minors.