

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

September 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

The ABF and the South Pacific Bridge Federation (in world terms, our regional bridge organisation) are interested in making



contact with bridge clubs throughout the South Pacific, and more broadly in encouraging the growth and development of bridge in the South Pacific. I'm doing some legwork to develop contacts and establish how we can best help.

The ABF is actually the 6th largest national bridge organisation by membership (and Victoria alone would be about the 20th largest). At our scale, helping to promote bridge in our neighbouring countries is all part of being good bridge citizens.

It's early days, but so far I've made contact with groups in Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Our search is focussed on the South Pacific nations outside the currently active SPBF members (Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia and New Caledonia).

If you or someone you know is currently or has recently (within the last few years) played bridge in the South Pacific in either a club or regular group setting, I'd be delighted to hear from you at president@vba.asn.au.

The strong growth over several years in bridge club and bridge player numbers in Gippsland really shows the benefit of a cluster of clubs and close working relationships between them in developing bridge in a region. That's a model the VBA is keen to support around Victoria (and the ABF can encourage in the South Pacific).

The VBA can support emerging clusters in several ways. We can, for example, provide

teachers for introductory courses (it can be hard to find someone with enough time and bridge experience to teach). But first, especially with smaller groups not currently associated with the VBA or ABF, it really helps if we know you exist! If you know of or play at a non-affiliated Victorian club, particularly in country Victoria, please encourage them to contact the VBA.

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

The Victorian Seniors Festival runs from October 5th to 12th with over 1,000 events on offer (visit www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au for details). This year's theme is "Taking good care of yourself" and we all know that there is no better way to take of your mind than to play bridge!

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. 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 (\$20 for seniors!), 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.

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

Playing in your local duplicate, you pick up this handsome hand:

♠ A5 ♥ AK64 ♦ KQ10984 ♣ 5

Everyone is vulnerable, and you are the dealer. The auction starts:

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

What now?

A chicken would meekly pass here. Passing is tantamount to giving up, allowing the opponents the option of playing at the 2-level in their fit.

Conversely, a rooster on steroids bids 3♥. This high level reversing bid (reversing because partner has to raise a level to return to your first suit), opposite a partner who hasn't shown as much as a single point, forces your side into the stratosphere, minus parachute.

3♦ is the choice of the sensible poultry. This competes for the contract without a whole lot of risk.

The auction continues:

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

Now what?

Pass. You've done your best, but spades beats diamonds.

It's your lead to 3♠.

Lead problems often involve choosing the least worst of unpalatable options. This is the reverse scenario: every suit is attractive in its own way:

- Ace of **spades**, continuing perhaps with another spade, may limit declarer's ruffing power
- A top **heart** will win, and gives you a look at dummy
- The **diamond** king works towards building a diamond trick
- The singleton **club** acts towards developing a possible club ruff for you.

Of the four suits, I would rule out a spade and a diamond: both of these plans can equally be executed after the lead of a top heart.

But either the top heart or the singleton lead is a good option. Leading from an ace-king or a side suit singleton are the Rolls-Royce leads to a suit contract.

Let's say you lead ♥A. You see this dummy:

Dlr: West	♠ KQ82									
Vul: All	♥ Q1083									
	♦ 5									
	♣ AQ108									
♠ A5	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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								
♥ AK64										
♦ KQ10984										
♣ 5										

Partner follows with ♥9, and declarer ♥2. You are playing standard signals, so the high card is an encouraging play: partner is quite possibly starting a high-low signal with a doubleton.

What is your next play?

It does seem likely that you can give partner a heart ruff. That gives you three tricks immediately, and the ♠A is a fourth. But where is the fifth?

Partner won't have ♣K or ♦A. Remember that declarer *jumped* to 2♠: he needs those two cards to justify the bid. So the setting trick must come from a club ruff. To achieve this, you must switch to your singleton club right now. Then, you can come in with your ♠A on the first round of trumps, give partner his heart ruff, and (as long as partner is awake!) receive a club ruff in return.

This is the winning defence. The full deal:

♠ A5	♠ KQ82	♠ 764			
♥ AK64	♥ Q1083	♥ 95			
♦ KQ10984	♦ 5	♦ J72			
♣ 5	♣ AQ108	♣ 97632			
<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> <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					
♠ J1093					
♥ J72					
♦ A63					
♣ KJ4					

Points to remember:

- If at all possible, don't let your opponents play at the two-level with a known fit.
- Ace-king suits and side-suit singletons make the best opening leads to suit contracts. On this deal, either would have done just fine.
- On defence, a little forward planning can go a long way.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State	
Susan Bunting	MCC
*State	
Anne Hensen	Sale
Matti Shub	VBA
National	
Penny Blankfield	Kooyong
Evelyn Harmat	Waverley
Pam Lawson	Kings & Queens
*National	
Janice Gladders	Bairnsdale
Ken Tierney	Traralgon
Lea Woolf	Dendy Park
**National	
Bill Pheasant	Yarrawonga
Robert Rosenberg	VBA
Life	
Waldek Mroz	Waverley
James Simpson	Warrnambool
Gold Life	
Anne Williams	South Gippsland
Grand	
Meredith Lambert	VBA

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Responses with a weak hand

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	Pass	?

When partner opens the bidding with one of a suit, you owe him a response if you have at least 6 HCP. However, if you are in the minimum range (6 to 9 HCP), your options are limited.

With 3-card support for partner's major suit opening, you can give a raise: in this case, a response of 2♥. (If partner has opened in a minor suit, the raise to the two-level still shows 6-9 HCP, but at least 4 or preferably 5 of partner's minor, because minor suit openings promise less length in the suit than major suit openings.)

Alternatively, you can respond at the one-level in a new suit of at least 4-cards. In this auction, that would be a 1♠ response to 1♥. Note however that this 1♠ response *does not* limit your hand to 6 to 9 HCP. It shows 6 *or more* HCP (no upper limit), and at least 4 spades.

There's only one other possible bid, if you have 6 to 9 points, and that is 1NT. This 1NT response is one of the most anti-intuitive bids in the game. It is the bid you make when nothing else fits. 1NT does not in any way show a balanced hand (which is why it is anti-intuitive): it simply means that you cannot support partner and cannot bid a new suit at the one-level.

How do you respond to partner's 1♥ opening bid with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 653 ♥ 2 ♦ 10764 ♣ AQ962
- (b) ♠ J76 ♥ K6 ♦ Q54 ♣ Q8765
- (c) ♠ A4 ♥ 32 ♦ KJ1076 ♣ 9762
- (d) ♠ J76 ♥ 2 ♦ J7 ♣ KQ97654
- (e) ♠ J432 ♥ 32 ♦ J4 ♣ AQ962
- (f) ♠ 65 ♥ 632 ♦ J76 ♣ AQ962

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♥	Pass	?

(a) ♠ 653 ♥ 2 ♦ 10764 ♣ AQ962

1NT. 6 HCP is insufficient to bid 2♣, but you do owe partner a bid. You don't have heart support, you don't have spades: 1NT is what's left.

(b) ♠ J76 ♥ K6 ♦ Q54 ♣ Q8765

1NT. 8 HCP is insufficient to bid 2♣. You don't have heart support, you don't have spades: 1NT is what's left.

(c) ♠ A4 ♥ 32 ♦ KJ1076 ♣ 9762

1NT. 8 HCP is insufficient to bid 2♦. You don't have heart support, you don't have spades: 1NT is what's left.

(d) ♠ J76 ♥ 2 ♦ J7 ♣ KQ97654

1NT. 7 HCP is insufficient to bid 2♣. You don't have heart support, you don't have spades: 1NT is what's left.

Getting the idea? 1NT might not be the bid of your dreams on these four hands – none of them look very 'notrumpy'. But bidding your suit at the 2-level will mislead partner about your strength, and partner may well carry the auction too high. And you can't pass 1♥, because partner could have a very powerful hand, up to 20 HCP or even more.

(e) ♠ J432 ♥ 32 ♦ J4 ♣ AQ962

1♠. At last there's another bid you can make other than 1NT. 1♠ shows at least four spades, of any quality, and at least 6 HCP. Think of the ♠J as a bonus: had you held ♠5432, your correct bid would still be 1♠.

(f) ♠ 65 ♥ 632 ♦ J76 ♣ AQ962

2♥. With partner showing at least 5 hearts, you know you have an 8-card fit in hearts, and 8-card fits are the name of the game. 2♥ shows 6-9 HCP and at least 3 hearts.

For more on this important auction, go to Part 2 on page 7.

SETTING TRICK PROBLEMS**Problem 1:**

Dlr: East ♠ Q9
 Vul: nil ♥ J942
 ♦ AQJ8
 ♣ 843

	N		♠ 872
W		E	♥ AQ875
			♦ 643
	S		♣ 97

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

Partner leads ♣J, which runs to South's ♣Q. Declarer enters dummy via ♦Q and plays ♠Q which partner wins with ♠K. Partner switches to ♥10, covered, and you win ♥A.

What next?

Problem 2:

Dlr: West ♠ 106
 Vul: all ♥ 742
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ AK943

	N		
♠ KQ73		E	
♥ AJ6	W		
♦ 1054			
♣ J108		S	

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

- 1 Polish Club (multi-way)
- 2 Negative: 0-7 HCP

You lead ♠K, partner's ♠2 is discouraging, and declarer wins ♠A. Dummy's ♣A wins the next trick (partner ♣5, declarer ♣6). Now a low heart to ♥10 and your ♥J.

What next?

Solutions on page 11.



CONGRESS RESULTS

Melbourne Bridge Club Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 B. Kingham – N. Ewart
- 2 A. Maluish – A. Mill
- 3 M. Bryan – B. Heady

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, C. Hughes, M. Garfinkiel, R. Gallus
- 2 C. Chakravorty, H. Snashall, M. Callander, S. Collins
- 3 S. Kudelka, E. Dickson, J. Guttman, J. Kent

Knox Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 C. Macquarrie – S. White
- 2 C. Arul – C. Chakravorty
- 3 D. Harley – A. Czapnik

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Yang, D. Nie, J. Zhang, Y. Jian Lu
- 2 R. Kingham, H. Rawicki, C. Arul, A. Paul
- 3 D. Middleton, M. Tildesley, E. Hynes, J. Adams

Yarrawonga Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Ross – A. Thompson
- 2 R. Harman – V. Sanderson
- 3 A. Talbot – S. Kudelka

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Hackett, T. Hackett, M. Brown, J. Nankervis
- 2 R. Harman, V. Sanderson, J. Friesen, H. Mitlehner
- 3 E. Leach, J. Brockwell, H. Taylor, E. Taylor

Traralgon Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Banks – A. Kearon
- 2 C. Arul – C. Chakravorty
- 3 M. Tiplady – C. Fernando

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Middleton, N. Grigg, S. White, M. Obenchain
- 2 T. Garipey, F. Kovacs, C. Chakravorty, C. Arul,
- 3 J. Banks, A. Kearon, M. Larcombe, G. Campbell

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 15 (August 2)

- 1 Jean Barbour – Eileen Farr (Phillip Island)
- 2 Jennifer & Peter Goddard (Bendigo)
- 3 Robin Hecker – Don Tylee (Traralgon)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Ballarat

Saturday 13th Sept, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 14th Sept, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Ballarat Bridge club
 cnr Ripon & Eyre St Ballarat

Contact: Tim Woodley, 5342 4847

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

Peninsula

Saturday 20th Sept, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 21st Sept, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: St Francis Xavier's Church Hall
 60 Davey St, Frankston

Contact: Lindsay Young, 9787-2235

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

Macedeon Ranges

Sunday 28th Sept, 10 am: Matchpoint Pairs

Venue: St Mary's Norma Richardson Hall
 14 Buckland St
 Woodend (Melways Map 909 G9)

Contact: Ron Watkinson, 0422 622 658

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

Bairnsdale

Saturday 4th October, 12 pm: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 5th October, 10 am: Swiss Teams
 Open, Restricted & Novice sections both days
 Lunch provided on Sunday only

Venue: St Mary's Parish Centre
 Main St, Bairnsdale

Contact: John Brazier, 03 5152 3494

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

BRIDGE & MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE Christine Heesom

What would you do if you were told by your doctor that in a very short space of time you would lose the use of your legs, arms, hands and speech? That was the devastating news that Mike Larcombe was given courtesy of a Motor Neurone Disease (MND) diagnosis in November 2012.



Mike, a Vet, first took up bridge in 2002 at the Sale Bridge Club, joining a group being taught by Libby Thomson and Lorraine Robinson. Mike, and fellow student George Campbell, quickly showed a talent and were encouraged and assisted in developing their game by the late Frank Power.

The following are Mike's own words

With MND, I have slowly lost the use of my legs, hands, arms and now speech. Having worked with computers for thirty years, they were a large part of my life. I really wanted something that filled my days with something constructive to do and enabled me to communicate with the world around me. While unlucky on the health front, I'm lucky that modern technology has come to my rescue.

The Tobii eye gaze system lets me continue working at the computer and provides my link with the world. It works using a camera mounted to the bottom of your computer screen. The camera watches your eyes. You run a calibration process where you look at nine points on the screen in front of you. From this, the system learns where you are looking.

At the right of the screen there is a bar that lets me drive the mouse. There is a set of icons that highlight as you look at them. If I want to left click the mouse, I gaze at that icon until it changes colour. I then immediately look where I want to click. The clever system works out where I am looking and starts to magnify that part of the screen. You follow with your eyes where you want to click. When zooming of the screen finishes, the mouse is clicked where you are looking. This system lets you click anywhere on the screen with great accuracy.



The other half of the Tobii system is the communicator program which provides keyboards which are activated by the gaze of your eyes. They have word prediction which speeds up typing. When you type a phrase you can get the computer to say what you typed. Using this great tool, I have been able to continue my programming work, communicate with the world around me and the added bonus of keeping my social life at the Bridge table going.

The wonderful staff at the Bethlehem hospital have set me up with a mobile version that uses a tablet computer mounted to the wheel chair provided to me by the Motor Neuron Disease Association. With this, combined with Tobii, I can communicate when out and about.

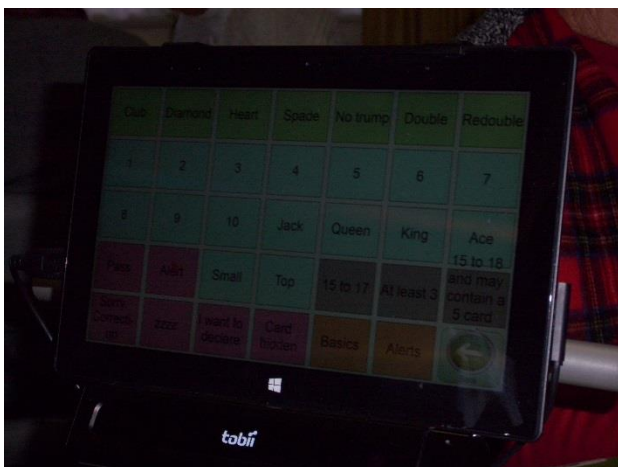
The communicator program is a very powerful piece of software. I have been able to set up special keyboards that with the help of my great friends at the Bairnsdale and Sale Bridge clubs allow me the continued enjoyment of playing the great game of Bridge. I have set up keyboards that will announce my bids, explain my alerts and tell my caddy which card to play. Recently, I have added a laser pointer

attached to my glasses to indicate which card I want played from hand or dummy. Perhaps one day, I will have my cards on my tablet and be able to play them with my eyes.



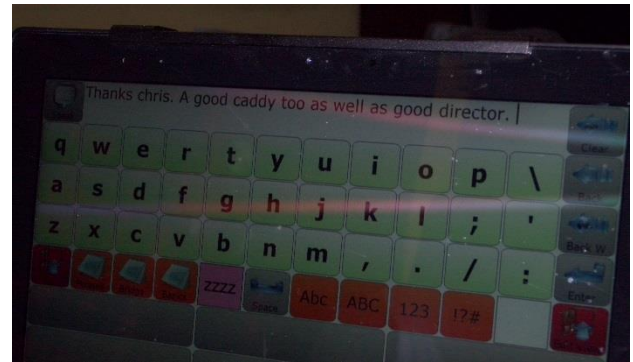
The cards in the holder: the laser light is used to select the desired card to play

Since his diagnosis, Mike has continued to compete regularly at Bairnsdale and Sale duplicate events. He is a regular in the Nationwide Pairs, took part in the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs and has successfully taken part in Congresses at Berwick, Phillip Island, Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Sale and the ERBA Championships. GNOT Heats at Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale were also contested and while successfully earning the chance to play in the finals at Coolangatta in 2013, Mike was unable to make the journey.



The Tobii screen: Mike can select suit, level, card etc and the system will speak his choice

(Editor's note: Mike, playing with George Campbell, came third in the Swiss Teams at the recent Traralgon Congress.)



Message mode: Mike thanks Chris for being his bridge assistant today

TEST YOUR BIDDING (PART 2)

Responses with a weak hand

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

As we have seen, your 1NT response shows 6-9 HCP, no suit you can bid at the one-level, and fewer than 3 hearts.

Partner's 2♦ rebid is natural and non-forcing: you are allowed to pass it. Partner is showing at least 5 hearts, at least 4 diamonds and about 12 to 16 HCP.

Mostly, you will be choosing between a final contract of 2♦ and 2♥, depending on your relative lengths in those two suits. With maximum values (8-9 HCP) and a strong fit for diamonds, you can support partner's diamonds, as there might still be a game in the cards.

The final option is to bid a long suit of your own: one that you couldn't bid the first time because you were too weak.

What is your rebid with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 653 ♥ 2 ♦ 10764 ♣ AQ962
- (b) ♠ J76 ♥ K6 ♦ Q54 ♣ Q8765
- (c) ♠ A4 ♥ 32 ♦ KJ1076 ♣ 9762
- (d) ♠ J76 ♥ 2 ♦ J7 ♣ KQ97654

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING II - SOLUTIONS

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

(a) ♠ 653 ♥ 2 ♦ 10764 ♣ AQ962

Pass. You are very happy with a diamond contract, but your hand is not strong enough to entertain thoughts of game. 2♦ should be a splendid contract.

(b) ♠ J76 ♥ K6 ♦ Q54 ♣ Q8765

2♥. With partner guaranteeing at least 5 hearts and at least 4 diamonds, you know of a 7-card fit in both red suits. Which one should you choose? It is normal to select hearts, if only because 2♥ making 8 tricks (+110) scores more than 2♦ making 8 tricks (+90).

This 2♥ rebid is called "false preference". It only seems false because your hearts are shorter than your diamonds.

(c) ♠ A4 ♥ 32 ♦ KJ1076 ♣ 9762

3♦. You're loving it! You have a fantastic fit for diamonds and maximum values to boot. A game contract is still in the picture, so you should keep the bidding open. If partner has, say

♠Jxx ♥AKJxx ♦AQxx ♣x,

then 5♦ is an excellent contract.

(d) ♠ J76 ♥ 2 ♦ J7 ♣ KQ97654

3♣. Now is the time to reveal your club suit. You are not interested in red suit contracts, but 3♣ should be an acceptable spot to play. Since your 1NT bid told partner you had at most 9 HCP, partner will not take you too high.

STATE EVENT RESULTS**Victorian Swiss Pairs**

- 1 T. Chira – D. Hohor
- 2 R. Livingston – P. Hill
- 3 L. Henbest – B. Thompson

**A UNIQUE CONTRACT
Bill Jacobs**

Have you heard of the following riddle?

"What do you call a solid 8-card suit?"
Answer: "Trumps!"

Sam Arber apparently doesn't know this one, because holding this hand from the Victorian Swiss Pairs:

♠ AKQ109765 ♥ A6 ♦ 2 ♣ 73

he conducted the following auction:

West	North	East	South Sam
			2♣
Pass	2♦*	3♦	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass (!)
Pass			

* weak hand

That's right, with 8 solid spades, he allowed his partner, Henri de Jong, to play 3NT.

And right he was, as this was the full deal:

Dir: South	♠ 4		
Vul: N/S	♥ 9		
	♦ Q10943		
	♣ KJ9542		
♠ 32		N	♠ J8
♥ K108754		W	♥ QJ32
♦ 75		E	♦ AKJ86
♣ 1086		S	♣ AQ
			♠ AKQ109765
			♥ A6
			♦ 2
			♣ 73

3NT is the only making game (Henri judged very well also to bid 3NT rather than show his strong club suit).

Unsurprisingly, Sam and Henri were the only one of the 19 North-Souths to get there. There were a couple 5♥ contracts E/W, but everyone else was in 4♠ (or 5♠), and mostly the defenders were capable of playing a trump early to limit declarer to 9 tricks.

Bravo!

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS
Bill Jacobs

Playing a card

It's a simple activity, playing a card to a trick. But in the cut and thrust of duplicate bridge, it can cause trouble.

So let's look at the basics.

First, if you play a card from your hand, as declarer or defender, and it's not a revoke, then that is that: the card is played and you cannot retract it. You cannot change your mind, and if you accidentally pulled out the card next to the one you wanted, then that's just too bad.

What constitutes "playing a card"? If you are declarer, then the card is played if (and I quote the laws verbatim):

"... held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played."

For a defender, the definition is a little different: it is regarded as played if it is

"... held so that it is possible for partner to see its face."

No doubt, the lawmakers have sweated long and hard in choosing this wording. It is a difficult area of the laws, particularly for the director who has no first hand way of knowing whether the disputed card was indeed "played", according to the legal definition.

What about dummy's plays? This involves declarer naming a card, and the dummy picking up that card and playing it.¹

Here the laws do permit a little wriggle room for declarer. Declarer is allowed to change the card he unintentionally called from dummy if he does so *without pause for thought*.

This of course opens another can of worms, but if you say "heart, I mean spade" without drawing breath, the spade option should be allowed. But if the director feels that in fact

you might have changed your mind, then he will rule that a heart must be played. It's only a "slip of the tongue" that can be corrected, not "a slip of the mind".

In a famous incident from a major international event, declarer called for a spade from dummy. "Which spade?" asked dummy, who no doubt was following the play. "The ace of course," replied declarer. (Indeed the ace was a completely obvious play: playing a low spade would lose the contract.)

The laws state that when you designate a suit but not a rank, then the lowest card of the suit is played. When this deal went to an Appeals Committee, it ruled controversially, but 100% correctly, that a low spade must be played.

Dummy had in fact exceeded his rights in asking "which spade?", and the committee had every reason to believe that declarer had suffered from a slip of the brain.



THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dlr: South ♠ 652
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10632
 ♦ 654
 ♣ 732

N
S

♠ AKQJ10
 ♥ AK
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ AKJ5

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

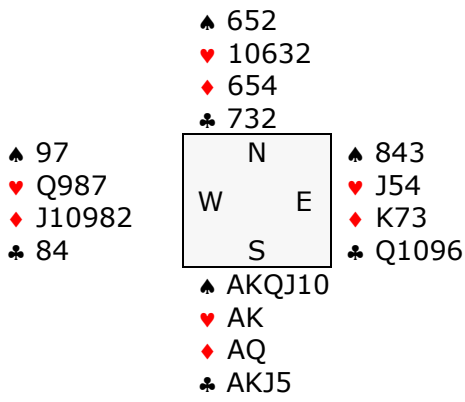
West leads ♦J: well, that's one problem solved!

How will you solve your second problem: to not lose two tricks in clubs?

Solution over page.

¹ If dummy has left the table, declarer simply picks up the card himself. Failure to do this properly cost Italy the world championship in 2003.

THE TWELFTH TRICK
Bill Jacobs



6♠ can certainly make if clubs divide 3-3 or the ♣Q is doubleton. Either way, you lose just one club trick.

The only other possibility is to ruff your fourth club in dummy. That would require the defender who is short in clubs to have at most two spades.

The correct line is to *play a low club from your hand at trick 2*. Win the return, cash two trumps and then play a top club. If the queen has not appeared, play another top club. If the layout is as in the hand diagram, West will not follow but has no trump to play: you can now trump your club loser in dummy.

It would be a mistake to play two rounds of trumps up front: then East could play a third trump when in with the club.



NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Women's Bridge Co-ordinator

The VBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Anna St Clair as women's bridge co-ordinator. Anna has a keen interest in women's bridge and will initially be developing programs designed to advance the skills of female pairs with a focus on state representative aspirants. Concurrently with this she will be running further activities for intermediate and improving players at the Waverley Club. Expansion beyond this will be considered after the initial programs are established.

Special Councillor Elections

Under the VBA Articles of Association, the process for election of Special Councillors will commence this month with a call for nominations to be posted to all clubs. The current Special Councillors, Rob Quirk (Metro Central); Sarah Livingston (Metro Arc) and Pam Dingwall (Eastern), whose terms expire at the AGM in December have all made valuable contributions to state bridge during the year. We invite all players with a passion for bridge and a desire to contribute to the growth and development of bridge in Victoria to consider nominating for the special councillor position for your zone.

Further information regarding the responsibilities of Special Councillors may be obtained by calling or emailing me at secretary@vba.asn.au; phone 0409 416 128. Details on the election process and special councillor zones may be found on the VBA website.

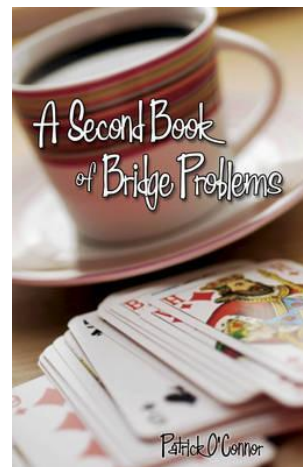
VBA Council Changes

The VBA advises clubs that Ms Terri Kay has resigned from the council. We thank Terri for her service in the marketing area and on council over the past year, and wish her well for the future.



BOOK REVIEW
A Second Book of Bridge Problems
By Pat O'Connor

Sydneysider Pat O'Connor has done it again, winning the prestigious American Bridge Teachers Association Book of the Prize for the second time. His First Book of Bridge Problems took out the same award in 2012.



The book is aimed at aspiring players: relatively new to the game but keen to improve their cardplay.

There are 50 problems posed, a mix of play and defence. The hands are crisp, and each features just a single theme for you to learn from.

As an example, here is problem 40:

♠ 632	♠ AKJ4
♥ AK1072	♥ 83
♦ 64	♦ AQJ102
♣ AQ4	♣ 102

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

East plays the ♥Q on your ♥A! What does this mean?

Is it a singleton? Unlikely! What do you do now?

(Answer later)

Apart from the excellent selection of problems, the book has other nice features. The author starts by giving sound advice on how to plan the play in both notrump and suit contracts. Players starting out tend to skip this vital step!

Similarly, there is a section on planning the defence, a task that can be murkier than planning the declarer play. Again this is a clean and helpful introduction to getting your thinking going when defending a contract.

The various cardplay themes are cross-referenced: for example, if you would like to revisit the notrump hold-up play, you can quickly refer to the relevant problems.

The book concludes with a useful glossary of common bridge terms.

As for problem 40, partner's ♥Q indicates that he also has ♥J and is inviting you to lead to it on the next trick. An invitation you should be happy to accept, as the way to defeat the contract is for partner to lead a club through declarer's ♣K at trick 3.

Available from www.bridgeshop.com.au and www.bridgegear.com. RRP: \$22.95

All in all ... highly recommended.

... Bill Jacobs

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

SETTING TRICK – SOLUTIONS

Ian McCance

Problem 1

♠ Q9	♠ 872
♥ J942	♥ AQ875
♦ AQJ8	♦ 643
♣ 843	♣ 97

♠ K653	♠ N	♠ 872
♥ K103	W E	♥ AQ875
♦ 92	S	♦ 643
♣ KJ104		♣ 97

♠ AJ104
♥ 6
♦ K1075
♣ AQ52

If partner's opening lead was from ♣AJ10xx, then you must return a club. But declarer won with ♣Q, not usual with ♣KQ. More likely partner has found the killing switch, the "surround card" from ♥K10x, in which case you must return a low heart.

Problem 2

Dir: East	♠ 106	♠ 9842
Vul: All	♥ 742	♥ K3
	♦ Q82	♦ 976
	♣ AK943	♣ Q752

♠ KQ73	♠ N	♠ 9842
♥ AJ6	W E	♥ K3
♦ 1054	S	♦ 976
♣ J108		♣ Q752

♠ AJ5
♥ Q10985
♦ AKJ3
♣ 6

What did you make of this play in hearts? It looks as if partner has ♥K. That would make 4 tricks for the defence. Is there any hurry? Yes - cash that ♠Q before dummy's spade goes away on the fourth round of diamonds.



WORKSHOP INVITATION FOR BRIDGE TEACHERS

Presenter: Joan Butts
ABF National Teaching Coordinator



A professional development day for bridge teachers who wish to update their skills for teaching intermediate + classes is offered FREE. (NB: an ABF Teacher Training Program Certificate is desirable, but not essential, to attend)

When: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday October 11, 2014

Where: Victorian Bridge Association 131 Poath Road
Murrumbeena 3163

Join us for the following:

- modern teaching techniques and recommended content
- interactive lessons, with teacher and student exercises
- ✓ Lunch provided
- ✓ All materials provided by the ABF.

For more information, please contact Cathie Lachman
clachman@vba.asn.au Ph: (03) 9530 9006

Completion of this workshop will offer points towards ABF Teacher Accreditation, for teachers who have completed a Teacher Training Programme.