

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

October 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

*"Decisions get made by those who show up."*

That's a great line about participation, often attributed to Harry S Truman, the highly quotable 33rd President of the United States of America.



To put the great man's quote another way – if you care about the outcome, get involved. I use it to remind myself that if I want something to happen, it's my responsibility to roll up my sleeves and actually work.

Of course, you also need a way to get involved! At the VBA, we've been very concerned about making it easier for representative voices from around Victoria to get involved in State matters.

After last December's VBA AGM, we now have four reserved spots on the VBA Council for players directly elected by Victorian clubs. You'll see a call for nominations for these important positions elsewhere in this month's bulletin.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the three inaugural Special Councillors for their terrific contributions this year. They are:

- Rob Quirk from Waverley Bridge Club representing all clubs "near" the VBA
- Sarah Livingston from Dromana (and Rye Beach) representing all other Greater Melbourne clubs
- Pam Dingwall from Lakes Entrance representing Eastern (Country) Victoria

The place reserved for Western Country Victoria wasn't filled this year. If that's your region and you want to get involved, the opportunity is there.

If you have a good or great idea for bridge across Victoria, please approach your local Councillor and (even better) volunteer to help make it happen. In other words, if you care about the outcome, get involved!



**WOMEN OF VICTORIA - WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH**

Come to our Advanced classes at the VBA on Tuesday evenings or our intermediate classes at the Waverley Club on Fridays and receive great tuition from some of Australia's top players.

Each evening will run on a different format depending on the visiting tutor which will add to the experience. The evenings will end in cheese, wine and discussion. No partner required.

Time	7.30pm
Cost	\$10
Contact Anna	0406732190

The VBA is starting a series of tutorials for women.

These tutorials are intended to enhance the play, standard and enthusiasm for Women's bridge.

Each Tuesday evening we invite all those of an advanced standard to attend the VBA and those of intermediate level to attend the same lesson at the Waverley club on a Friday evening.

The lectures will also shortly be available on-line for those country members who are keen to attend but limited by distance.

Each evening will take a different format depending on the style of the visiting lecturer but will include an end of evening discussion over cheese and wine.

Come alone or with a partner – a partner is guaranteed for you as needed.

For further information call Anna on 0406 732 190

**FOR STARTERS**  
**Bill Jacobs**

Playing in your club's weekly duplicate, you pick up:

♠ 654 ♥ K ♦ KQJ9764 ♣ K5

You are the dealer, and no one is vulnerable. What do you bid?

12 HCP and diamonds: you should look no further than a 1♦ opening. Your strong 7-card diamond suit has all the attributes for a 3♦ opening bid, but the hand is simply too strong. Preemptive opening bids (both at the two and three levels) are for hands of between 6 and 10 HCP.

Whilst the singleton ♥K is nothing to write home about, it still represents 3 points, and could be quite helpful in, for example a notrump contract.

The auction continues as follows:

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

After partner's 1♥ response, you correctly rebid your diamonds, showing about 12-14 HCP and at least 6 diamonds.

Partner has now wheeled out a new suit with 2♠. This change of suit is forcing: you have to bid something, but what?

It's tempting to just meekly rebid the diamonds again, but you need to consider the situation of the unbid suit, clubs.

By bidding like this, partner is showing quite a good hand, presumably with hearts and spades. Where are you going to end up? In situations like this, it's really important to admit to having a stopper in the unbid suit. Your ♣Kx doesn't look magnificent, but it *is* a stopper, and you should show it by bidding 2NT.

Partner raises this to 3NT. The ♠Q is led and you see:

♠Q	♠ A82	
	♥ AJ876	
	♦ A3	
	♣ 732	
	N	
	S	
	♠ 654	
	♥ K	
	♦ KQJ9764	
	♣ K5	

OK you are at the helm in 3NT. You start by counting your top tricks. The ♠A, ♥A and ♥K, and 7 diamonds. You have 10 tricks on top. Happy days!

So how do you play it?

First of all, it would be a serious error to instinctively duck the spade lead, trying for some sort of hold up play.

What if RHO overtook the spade with ♠K and fired a club through the king? That wouldn't be pleasant.

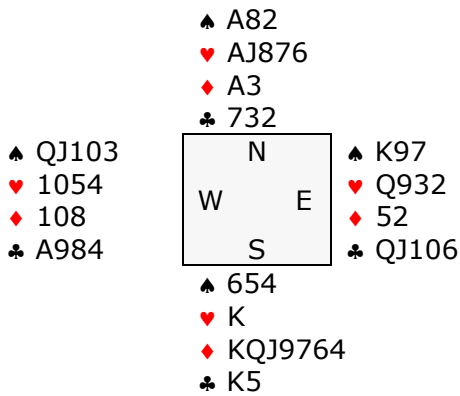
So you win the ♠A, RHO following with a low spade. And then?

Well, we have worked out that there are 10 tricks there, but if you happily cash all your diamonds at this point, you won't get them. Dummy's ♥A will be stranded: after you have taken the diamonds and ♥K, you are left with only black cards in your hand.

A little planning will ensure you take all your tricks. After winning ♠A, play to your ♥K. Then you can cross back to dummy with the ♦A and cash the ♥A.

Only then will it be time to take your diamonds, and you will have safely gathered the first 10 tricks. You cannot afford to muck around with the club suit, because if West has the ♣A, the hand will go Boom!

The full deal:



Safely gathering 10 tricks in 3NT should earn you a fine score. 5♦ on the other hand has the same 10 tricks available: i.e. you cannot make it.

As is so often the case, 9 tricks in notrumps are easier than 11 in a minor.

*Points to remember:*

- Limit your preemptive opening bids to hands with between 6 and 10 HCP. With stronger hands, be prepared to simply open at the one-level in your long suit.
- What did you think of partner’s 2♠ on a 3-card suit? He was on a fishing expedition: he knew spades was unlikely to be the final destination, after all, you hadn’t bid 1♠ over 1♥. But hearts, diamonds and notrumps were all in the picture, and more information was needed from you. 2♠ was absolutely the correct bid.
- When three suits are bid in an auction, it is incumbent on a player to bid notrumps with a stopper in the fourth suit, even if it’s superficially unattractive.
- Always count your tricks when embarking on a notrump contract: it gives you a platform on which to start planning the play. And on this deal, you did need to plan, because even with 10 tricks on top, there were some typical traps:
  - an unnecessary duck, giving the defenders the opportunity to switch horses
  - communication problems between declarer and dummy to be resolved

**TEST YOUR BIDDING**

**They overcall at the 1-level**

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	1♠	?

Auctions like this occur frequently, so it’s a good idea to know what you’re doing. Your bids tend to have the same or similar meaning as if RHO had not overcalled, but there are several points of interest.

First and most crucial is to recognize that RHO’s bid has automatically given your partner another bid in this auction. You are no longer required to make a bid with 6 HCP. Indeed, if you have a motley 6-9 point hand with no particularly attractive bid, then you can happily *pass*. Partner is still there.

Second is to appreciate that a notrump bid by you requires a stopper (the ace, guarded king, guarded queen, etc) in your opponent’s overcalled suit, in this example spades. It’s no use bidding 1NT (or 2NT, or 3NT) with nothing in spades, because then the defence is quite likely to cash 5 or even more spade tricks in your resulting notrump contract.

And third, the intervention has given you a new possible bid: *double*. This is called a negative double, and shows interest in the two unbid suits, in particular, any unbid major suit. In our example auction, double would strongly indicate hearts. It essentially says: “partner, I was going to respond 1♥, but they took that option away from me”.

What is your response with each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ 653 ♥ Q102 ♦ K64 ♣ K962
- (b) ♠ 76 ♥ A43 ♦ K64 ♣ KJ962
- (c) ♠ J6 ♥ K432 ♦ K643 ♣ J108
- (d) ♠ KJ6 ♥ A43 ♦ K64 ♣ 10862
- (e) ♠ 76 ♥ Q43 ♦ Q4 ♣ QJ10862
- (f) ♠ K6 ♥ KQ1032 ♦ A64 ♣ J62

Solutions over page.

**TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS**

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	1♠	?

(a) ♠ 653 ♥ Q102 ♦ K64 ♣ K962

Pass. Without the intervention, you would have responded 1NT. But you can't do that now, with nothing in spades. So pass and await developments.

(b) ♠ 76 ♥ A43 ♦ K64 ♣ KJ962

2♣. Without the intervention, you would have bid 2♣, and there's nothing to stop you doing precisely that here. You are showing 10+ HCP and a suit of clubs.

(c) ♠ J6 ♥ K432 ♦ K643 ♣ J108

Double. This is the perfect setup for a negative double, in effect saying: "partner, I was planning to respond 1♥". If partner has hearts, he will "support" you; otherwise he will bid something else, and you will have the option of revealing your diamond support. But it's important to look for a major suit fit before settling in a diamond contract.

(d) ♠ KJ6 ♥ A43 ♦ K64 ♣ 10862

2NT. 11 HCP, spades securely stopped. A 2NT bid conveys this to partner. In fact, this hand is better than its 11 HCP because of the positional advantage in spades. ♠KJx likely represents *two* stoppers, just like ♠KQx would.

(e) ♠ 76 ♥ Q43 ♦ Q4 ♣ QJ10862

Pass. You can't bid 2♣, because that would promise at least 10 HCP. You have to pass. Maybe you can bid clubs later, and partner can deduce from your initial pass that you have a fistful of clubs but are lacking high cards.

(f) ♠ K6 ♥ KQ1032 ♦ A64 ♣ J62

2♥. Without the overcall, you were going to respond 1♥, but that doesn't mean you should make a negative double here. Better to show the 5-card suit and 10+ HCP immediately with your two-over-one 2♥ bid.

**NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL****Special Councillor Elections**

Nomination Forms and other information regarding Special Councillor elections have now been sent to all clubs. Nominations close on November 4<sup>th</sup> after which clubs will be invited to vote for candidates in the event there are multiple nominees in a zone.

Further details regarding the elections and the responsibilities of Special Councillors may be obtained from the VBA website or by calling or emailing Kim Frazer at [secretary@vba.asn.au](mailto:secretary@vba.asn.au); ph 0409 416 128.

**Restricted Pairs Subsidy for 2015 ANC**

Earlier this year the ABF announced a substantial subsidy will be available for two restricted pairs from each state to attend the 2015 ANC which will be held in Perth. We are currently drafting the selection process to be used to determine the two pairs which will be eligible to receive this subsidy. More details on the selection process will be made available on the VBA website and in this bulletin.

**Get Wines Direct Sponsorship**

Members may be aware that Get Wines Direct is a national sponsor of the ABF. As part of its sponsorship, GWD offers affiliated club members an extra 7% discount off its wines as well as providing the state associations with a commission on all wine sales made to members in affiliated clubs. The VBA recently received the first of these commission payments, and whilst the amount is small, the funds can be used to support marketing initiatives across the state. GWD has a huge range of wines at very competitive prices so why not consider supporting them for your club or personal wine requirements.

**Seniors Week**

**½ Price Beginner's Crash Course (\$20 for Seniors)**

Love a challenge? Like to have fun?

**LEARN BRIDGE IN A DAY**

(the world's most popular mind sport)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Lunch included

To register phone

Cathie - 9530 9006



## HOW TO WIN THE MIXED PAIRS Ben Thompson

My wife Jenny and I won the Victorian Mixed Pairs last month. People often talk about the different tactics required in the Mixed version of any sport (e.g. try to play your shots to the woman in tennis). The traditional (and misguided) tactic in bridge is to navigate the declarership to the man. The better approach is for both partners to feel free to make the best decision they can, as in this hand.

Dir: North	♠ 62			
Vul: nil	♥ AJ10432			
	♦ 52			
	♣ K73			
♠ Q107		N		♠ KJ3
♥ Q85		W      E		♥ K6
♦ QJ10963		S		♦ 87
♣ Q				♣ J108654
	♠ A9854			
	♥ 97			
	♦ AK4			
	♣ A92			

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Jen and I don't play weak 2's (we use the 2 level openings for something else we find very effective) but weak 2's are very effective preemptive bids so you don't want to get behind the field by passing a weak 2 in a major if you can avoid it. As a result we tend to open good weak 2's at the 3 level.

At this vulnerability, Jenny can expect me to have around 6 tricks with hearts as trump. Added to her 4, that makes 10 tricks and suggests bidding 4♥ – and in fact every other pair in the final played a heart contract (a few missed game after a weak 2 opening).

With her excellent controls, and holding two hearts, Jenny thought notrumps could make as many tricks as hearts and so she gave 3NT a go. Jenny knew that the problem is that if I had opened 3♥ with a hand like ♥KQJxxxx and out, the oppos duck the ♥A once and dummy is dead ... 10 tricks but no way to collect them.

As you can see, 3NT was a very successful punt, with the same 10 tricks (1 spade, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs) available

whether you play with or without a trump suit. Played just a few boards from the end, this top turned out to be "the match-winning goal" as they say in footy.

*Expert aside:* When Jenny led a heart up at trick 2, Andrew Mill thought about making the expert play of ♥Q. That can be very effective if it causes declarer to duck and later take another finesse to your partner's now bare king. However, Andrew was confident my ♣K was an entry and that therefore Jenny would just win the ♥A and keep plugging away with hearts from the top. And if Jenny had bid 3NT with 3 card support, hopping ♥Q would drop his partner's singleton K for a very big oops.

### My advice on winning the Mixed Pairs

Smile and say "well done".



## THE MISTAKES YOUR PARTNER MAKES

*Next time your partner blunders, reflect on this conversation from Victor Mollo's immortal Managerie series. The speaker is the Hideous Hog, the self-proclaimed best player in the Western Universe, and the Eastern as well:*

"What does it feel like to make a mistake, H.H.?" asked Colin the Corgi, the facetious young man from Oxbridge.

"How would I know?" retorted the Hog indignantly.

"But surely, H.H.," persisted the Corgi, "there must be bids and plays that you've regretted making?"

"Certainly," agreed the Hog, "but that's by no means the same thing. Mistakes, you know, fall into very different categories. You may miscount trumps or not realise that the ♣5 is master. That's merely due to lack of concentration, strain, fatigue, opting unwisely for the other half of the magnum at dinner. I would call it a behavioural lapse, rather than a mistake. Failing to spot an overtaking squeeze, that's a mistake undoubtedly, but it doesn't really apply for it's a limitation imposed by nature, such as not singing like Caruso. It doesn't make one feel guilty."



## STATE EVENT RESULTS

### Thwaites Mixed Pairs

#### Championship

- 1 J. Thompson – B. Thompson
- 2 F. Beale – R. van Riel
- 3 A. St Clair – D. Harley

#### Plate

- 1 L. Henbest – B. Kingham
- 2 T. Kay – D. Newlands
- 3 E. Samuel – J. Fust

#### Unmixed Section

- 1 R. Gallus – M. Gurfinkel
- 2 M. Tildesley – E. Windmiller
- 3 B. Dembo – R. O'Dell

## CONGRESS RESULTS

### Ballarat Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. Frazer – J. Ebery
- 2 L. Saoud – T. Ranasinghe
- 3 C. Fernando – B. Romeijn

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, J. Magee, T. Strong
- 2 S. Klofa, R. Gallus, M. Gurfinkiel, C. Hughes
- 3 D. Newland, D. Happell, D. Newlands,  
A. Robbins

### Peninsula Congress

#### Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Mill – A. Maluish
- 2 S. Lester – I. Hamilton
- 3 C. Shugg – W. Sieredzinski

#### Swiss Teams

- 1 K. Frazer, J. Ebery, A. St Clair, D. Harley
- 2 J. Magee, T. Strong, N. Ewart, D. Beckett
- 3 C. Shugg, W. Sieredzinski, C. Fernando,  
B. Romeijn

### Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

#### Event 17 (September 6)

- 2 Wayne Leppard – Chris Turner (Echuca)
- 3 Lilli Allgood – Paulina Baker (VBA)

#### Event 18 (September 21)

- 2 Beverley Pollard – Eileen Farren (Frankston)

### Traralgon Congress review

The results of the recent Traralgon congress were published last month. Here is a short report:



Traralgon Bridge Club hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress on August 23 and 24 with Laurie Kelso directing. The event was held at our clubrooms and was "event full" for more than two weeks beforehand. A total of 72 players converged on the clubrooms to make the event a great success. There were visitors from as far away as Lakes Entrance, Rye and Melbourne.

There were many comments heard during the day such as "Isn't this a friendly club", "What a great atmosphere", "Wasn't the food delicious and plentiful". The best comment was definitely "I am coming back next year and I must tell my club about this Congress".



Swiss Pairs winners: Judy Banks & Anna Kearon

**UPCOMING CONGRESSES**

**Bairnsdale**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 12 pm: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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>

**Albury**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm: Welcome Pairs  
 Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 12 pm: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9:30 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Commercial Club  
 618 Dean St, Albury

Contact: Dianne Barrow, 0419 251 180

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

**Warrnambool**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1:30 pm: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 10 am: Swiss Teams  
 Swiss Pairs includes Restricted Section

Venue: Warrnambool Football/Netball Club  
 Cramer St, Warrnambool

Contact: Janet Attril, 0439 350 551

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

**Waverley**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10 am: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 10 am: Swiss Teams  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 10 am: Butler Pairs  
 Swiss Pairs includes Restricted Section

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club  
 21B Electra Ave, Ashwood

Contact: Mary Elson, 9807 6502

Enter: <http://waverleybridgeclub.com.au>

**Melbourne Cup Day Extravaganza**



Everyone is welcome to attend this unique bridge event. Enjoy a day of bridge at the VBA, and watch the big race.

We are offering a Calcutta event where you get to bet on your favourite bridge nag.

You may participate in the Calcutta event or for shyer folk, or those who miss out, we are running a Duplicate.

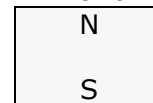
Lunch, bubbly and refreshments all included (\$25pp).

This will be a fun and action packed day.

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

Dir: South ♠ J5  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ10  
 ♦ K1062  
 ♣ K876



♠ A76  
 ♥ A9764  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ AQ5

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♥2 is led. Plan the play.

Solution over page.

### THE TWELFTH TRICK Bill Jacobs

♠ Q1094	♠ J5	♠ K832			
♥ 8532	♥ KJ10	♥ Q			
♦ Q94	♦ K1062	♦ J875			
♣ J3	♣ K876	♣ 10942			
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N					
W      E					
S					
♠ A76					
♥ A9764					
♦ A3					
♣ AQ5					

That's a friendly lead – don't waste it. Surely RHO holds the trump queen: whilst it's being finessed for you right now, you could do the finessing later.

Assuming the hearts can be picked up for no losers, you can make the contract by trumping a spade. Win trick 1 with ♥K and play spades. You later ruff a spade, and if necessary, take the heart finesse through East.

Look what befalls you if you play low from dummy a trick 1, taking the "free" finesse. You capture the queen with the ace and go about the business of ruffing a spade. In the process, you have set up West's ♥8 and down you go. Sad!

♠    ♥    ♦    ♣

### THE DEFAULT Bill Jacobs

#### 4NT

What does 4NT mean? This is perhaps the most dangerous question in bridge. A final contract of 4NT has no real benefit: you might as well be in 3NT, which is a game contract. 4NT scores like 3NT does, unless you take 9 tricks, in which 3NT is making and 4NT is down one.

So 4NT might as well take on some different meaning: for example asking for aces. However there are many auctions where using 4NT to ask for aces is a clearly inferior use for the bid.

4NT is a bid that cries out for a default: a meaning that both members of the partnership will understand. Let's look at a few possibilities, based on experience level.

#### *Just out of Beginners Classes.*

Stop reading now, please. You don't want to think about 4NT. Concentrate instead on the essentials of bidding: the opening bid, the response and rebids. This is what you need to get familiar with.

#### *Between 3 months and 2 years' experience.*

A bid of 4NT should be asking for aces, the Blackwood convention. The 4NT bidder is thinking there is a slam in the cards, but wants to check first that the opponents cannot take two aces. Partner responds to 4NT as follows:

5♣	0 aces or 4 aces
5♦	1 ace
5♥	2 aces
5♠	3 aces

Next the 4NTER can place the final contract, or ask for kings with a bid of 5NT, if interested in a possible grand slam. The responses to the king-ask are like those for the ace-ask, except at the 6-level.

I have known good players, with vastly more than 2 years' experience, sticking to this default: 4NT is Blackwood. They are not bidding optimally, but they never suffer a disastrous misunderstanding about the meaning of 4NT. That counts for something!

#### *Between 2 and 3 years' experience.*

You will have discovered that asking for aces works best when you have a suit-fit and are looking to play slam in a suit contract.

But if you lack a suit fit, and are looking for a 6NT contract based on raw high-card strength, it might be more important to check on HCP than aces.

For example, you hold:

♠ AQJ   ♥ K32   ♦ AK104   ♣ 984

Partner opens 1NT, showing 15-17 HCP. What do you bid? You have 17 HCP yourself, so the



combined partnership total is 32-34 HCP. With balanced hands, you usually want at least 33 combined points for slam.

You would like to ask partner whether he is minimum or maximum. In all likelihood, a minimum 1NT opener means you should stay in game; a maximum will probably be enough for 6NT.

A response of 4NT is *quantitative*, asking partner to pass with a minimum or bid 6NT with a maximum.

The default is: after any natural notrump bid, a bid by partner of 4NT is quantitative. This is a really excellent rule.

*3-5 years' experience.*

All the above defaults apply, but there is more. Once you have found a suit fit, then 4NT is Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB). The trump king counts as an "ace". There are now 5 "aces" or key-cards. The responses are:

- 5♣ 0 keycards or 3 keycards
- 5♦ 1 keycard or 4 keycards
- 5♥ 2 keycards, but no trump queen
- 5♠ 2 keycards, plus the trump queen

RKCB is an extremely powerful tool, but it takes some getting used to. In particular, you need to be on a wavelength on what suit is trumps. Sometimes this is obvious, but consider this auction:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♣
2♥	4NT

There has been no "official" suit agreement in this auction. In such scenarios, the last bid suit is deemed to be trumps. In this example, responder has a strong hand with clubs and hearts, and is going for a heart slam.

At this default level, there is hardly ever an auction that includes simple Blackwood. Either you have a fit, or an implied fit, and 4NT is Roman Keycard Blackwood, or someone has just bid notrumps, and 4NT is quantitative.

This is a recommended set of defaults for experienced players, but if you want more:

*More than 5 years' experience.*

There are other possible meanings for 4NT. It can be used in some auctions as showing the minors. Or it can be a suggestion to play there in certain competitive auctions. Or it can be a trump cue-bid. Or it can be Byzantine Blackwood. Or ...

If you are super-experienced, and use any of these options, then your Default rules could run to several pages. After the first couple of horrendous misunderstandings, you may wish to return to the days when you were just out of the Beginners Classes.



**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

**State**

Marina Darling	Waverley
John Fox	Dendy Park
Anne Gibbs	Bairnsdale
Bob Jeffcott	Yarrowonga
Chris Nixon	MCC
Leo Rozner	Waverley

**\*State**

Peter Cork	Melbourne
Bella Edelman	Dendy Park
David Hollands	RACV
Jennie McKenzie	Eastern
Maria Moryto	Waverley

**National**

Faye Bell	Geelong
Anne Gunst	Geelong
Sandor Varga	Lakes Entrance

**\*National**

Jo-Anne Heywood	RACV
Ron Huntley	Mornington
Dot Peacock	Geelong
Adam Peirce	Echuca
Janet Reynolds	Melbourne

**\*\*National**

Peter Nolan	VBA
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**Bronze Life**

Neil Pearce	VBA
Kay Smith	Ovens & Murray

**Silver Life**

Gwenda Mealyea	Waverley
Ian Muir	Moonee Valley
Anna St Clair	VBA

**Grand**

Denise Keenan	Bayside
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## GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS Bill Jacobs

### Opening lead out of turn

Of all the irregularities in the game, this might be #1 in terms of frequency. Any director would know this tedious law by heart.

The infraction sometimes rebounds on the declarer, who can get befuddled by all the options and suffer shutdown of the brain. So let's simplify things.

Declarer has 5 choices, but realistically, only 3 of them should be considered.

*Sensible Option 1* is to accept the lead, and put your hand down as dummy. There is a theory that a defender who doesn't know who's on lead is unlikely to have made a good choice anyway, so why not take advantage?

Putting your hand down as dummy, when you were due to be declarer, is excellent partnership psychology. Everyone enjoys playing the hand, and letting your partner do so not only spreads the enjoyment, but also shows faith in their declarer play.

*Sensible Options 2 & 3* are best explained with an example. Consider this auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

There you are in 3NT, and RHO leads ♠J out of turn. You call the Director, who comes over and recites the 5 options.

You hold:

♠ AQ4 ♥ J2 ♦ AQ1076 ♣ 1042

You certainly don't want to accept the ♠J lead and let partner play the hand. Then your ♠AQx would be exposed as the lead comes through it.

But you quite like the idea of forcing LHO to lead a spade up to your ♠AQx. This is *Sensible Option 2*: require that the correct opening leader lead that suit at trick 1. RHO can put the ♠J back in his hand, but nevertheless you

now have two certain spade tricks, and have avoided a possibly uncomfortable club lead.

But what if your hand is:

♠ A42 ♥ J2 ♦ AQ1076 ♣ Q104

Now you don't like the spade situation at all: if LHO holds the king and queen, as is quite possible, you only have one stopper and spades represents a serious threat to your contract.

You should exercise *Sensible Option 3*, which is to prohibit the lead of a spade, a prohibition that remains in effect whilst your LHO retains the initial lead. Again the ♠J can be returned to RHO's hand, but you have still gained significantly from the infraction.

Moreover, the knowledge that partner has the ♠J is unauthorized to your LHO. They will not be allowed to profit from that information.

So there are your sensible choices:

1. Accept the lead, put down your hand as dummy, let partner have some fun
2. Require the correct opening leader to lead that suit
3. Prohibit the correct opening leader from leading that suit

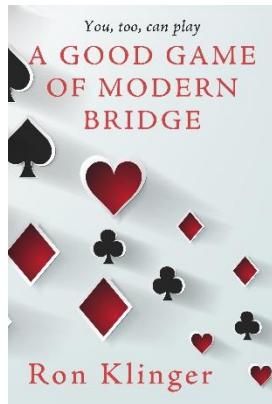
For the record, Option 4 is to accept the lead, but still retain the declarership. Dummy gets put down, and the first trick (started by RHO) runs clockwise up to dummy.

And Option 5 is to return the lead to the correct opening leader, let him lead anything he likes, and the lead out of turn remains face up on the table as a major penalty card. This means it has to be played at the first legal opportunity. There may be situations where that is a good option, but they are not easy to construct.

Finally, the *Sensible Options* described here also apply in the middle of the play, when a defender leads a card but it is his partner's turn to lead. You can accept the lead (in this scenario, the dummy obviously remains the dummy), or you can return the lead to the correct defender and demand or prohibit the lead of that suit.

**BOOK REVIEW**  
**A Good Game of Modern Bridge**  
**By Ron Klinger**

Ron Klinger’s latest offering is a monster. In it, he documents just about all the methods and conventions commonly employed in the game today.



The book is nicely structured into 4 levels: you can choose the level that suits you. At the start, the material is suitable for relatively inexperienced players, and then moves on to club level, state level and beyond.

For example, early on is an explanation of the Blackwood convention: 4NT asking for aces. But later, this morphs into Roman Keycard Blackwood, and later still Kickback Blackwood and Exclusion Blackwood.

This is much more than simply a catalogue of the tools available to the current day player: bidding judgment and mechanisms for developing this judgment (such as the Losing Trick Count) are also given the full treatment. And Klinger does not hesitate to offer his own views, both positive and negative, on the various gadgets out there.

For example, he doesn’t like Gerber: a bid of 4♣ to ask for aces. He respectfully advises the reader to try *not* playing Gerber for a while, to see how it works out. His recommended trial period is 25 years.

He gives this pair of hands in support of his argument - a simple auction that contains a lot of good theory:

♠ AQJ3		♠ K7
♥ AKJ		♥ Q95
♦ Q10		♦ 87
♣ A984		♣ KQJ532



West	East
2NT	4♣
4♥	5♣
Pass	

4♣ is a natural bid. 4♥ is a cue-bid, and by inference denies the ace or king of diamonds: Klinger offers the essential modern advice that cue-bids should show either first *or second* round control of a suit. So East signs off in 5♣.

I see this book as a fine resource for developing your bidding (and defensive signalling) agreements with your favourite partner. Virtually any bidding practice in common use will be there for you to examine.

My only quibble is the title: A Good Game of *Modern* Bridge? How well will this stand the test of time? In 2064, what will a reviewer write, when he gets hold of a copy, perhaps by downloading it straight to his brain via FMM protocol (File Mind Meld). Perhaps it will be something like: “what quaint but antiquated methods they used in the early part of the century!”

But in 2014, it’s excellent value.

Available from [www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com).  
 RRP: \$29.95

... Bill Jacobs



**Help Cure Motor Neurone Disease**

Following on from the article published in last month’s VBA bulletin regarding Mike Larcombe, Sale Bridge Club have decided to run an “ice bucket challenge” on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Visit:

<https://www.mycause.com.au/page/83001/salebridgeclubchallenge>

to pledge a donation which will go towards research to hopefully go some way towards finding a cure for this insidious disease.

Two of the “dumpees” at this stage are President of Sale Bridge Club (and Mike’s long time bridge partner) George Campbell and President of Lakes Entrance Bridge Club, Sandor Varga.



## 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](mailto: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.