

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

November 2014

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE George Campbell

Sale Bridge Club proved they have what it takes in 'spades' by hosting an Ice Bucket Challenge, on Wednesday, October 1, to help raise awareness and fund research into Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

Following a suggestion from Sale Club member, Veronica Hudson, Club president George Campbell, was prompted to organise the event because his friend and playing partner Michael Larcombe, suffers from MND.

Participants on the day were George Campbell, Veronica Hudson and the President of Lakes Entrance Bridge Club, Sandor Varga. Each demonstrated they were strong in heart(s) by having five game-making buckets of iced water dumped over their head and shoulders to the gasps of the amused on-lookers.

The event was held at the Sale Bridge Club on a day that 'could have been warmer' according to Mr Campbell, but all three participants showed their 'vulnerability' and doubled up by playing in the duplicate session that followed.



George Campbell, Veronica Hudson and Sandor Varga take the challenge

All Bridge clubs in the ERBA region contributed generously to the effort which raised the outstanding sum of \$9,820.

Following the success of this event, Sale Bridge Club hopes to host another MND fund raiser in the first half of 2015.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Special Councillor Nominations

A reminder that the deadline for nominations is 5 pm November 4th. The nomination form and other information is available on the VBA website.

VBA Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the VBA will be held in the clubrooms on Tuesday December 2nd commencing at 6.30 pm. The financial accounts, nominees for council and other papers will soon be available on the website.

VICTORIAN QUALIFYING POINTS UPDATE

As of end October, here is the leaderboard in the race to qualify for the 2015 Victorian Open Team playoff. (Points are earned by placing in a Congress or State Event.)

	Congress Leader-board	VQPs
1	Ben Thompson	88.6
2	Andrew Mill	62.3
3	Kim Frazer	55.5
4	Justin Howard	54.0
5	Peter Hollands	52.8
6	Nick Jacob	52.6
7	Dee Harley	45.8
8	Chelliah Arul	45.2
9	Anna St Clair	44.4
10	Bob Gallus	41.6

FOR STARTERS
Bill Jacobs

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

♠ K1082 ♥ A94 ♦ A10763 ♣ 4

No one is vulnerable. Do you open the bidding?

The Rule of 20 is a useful guideline for deciding whether to open the bidding with marginal hands. You add your high-card points to the length of your two longest suits: if the sum is at least 20, then open the bidding.

Here you have 11 HCP, a 5-card suit and a 4-card suit: $11 + 5 + 4 = 20$, so the rule of 20 advises you to open.

There's a bit more to this decision than just that, but for the moment, you go with the rule of 20 and open 1♦. The auction continues:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♦
2♣	Pass	Pass	?

Now what?

What's going on here? You've opened on a measly 11 HCP, LHO has made a simple overcall, and both partner and RHO have passed. Where are all the points?

You don't know for sure. But consider this: if RHO has some points, then he won't have a club fit, because otherwise he would have supported his partner's clubs.

And if your partner has some points, then perhaps the reason *he* hasn't bid is that he has clubs.

Either way, it is likely that your partner has some length in clubs. And if by chance he doesn't, then you will have a nice fit somewhere in one of the other three suits.

With shortage in clubs yourself, you should make a takeout double. It's a bid that has very little downside: either partner has clubs and

will convert this to a penalty situation by passing, or your partner has length in some other suit, and your side has a fit there.

You double, and not surprisingly, that is the final bid of the auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♦
2♣	Pass	Pass	D'ble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Your partner leads ♦5, and your RHO glumly puts down his dummy:

♠ J9754										
♥ QJ862										
♦ K4										
♣ 7										
♦5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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									
	♠ K1082									
	♥ A94									
	♦ A10763									
	♣ 4									

Declarer sighs, and calls for a small diamond.

Your play.

The opponents don't seem happy! That makes you happy, but don't take your eye off the ball. You need to decide what card to play at trick 1.

What is the diamond layout? You don't know, but it's worthwhile working through the possibilities.

Partner might have a singleton, but that would give declarer 5 diamonds, which is not very likely.

If partner has a doubleton (specifically ♦52 doubleton), then declarer has ♦QJ98. That's certainly possible, but the lead essentially finesses your ♦10, and it's not going to make much difference what you do.

What about 3 diamonds with partner, e.g. ♦985, ♦J85, ♦Q85? With the first of these, your play is of little relevance, and neither is it with the third, as long as you play a trump at some early stage to get rid of the threat of dummy ruffing a diamond.

But if partner started with $\spadesuit Jxx$, your play is highly relevant. You need to play the $\spadesuit 10$, letting declarer win the $\spadesuit Q$. Then when you get in, perhaps with $\spadesuit A$, play a trump. This will develop two diamond tricks for your side, whereas if you play "third hand high" with the $\spadesuit A$ at trick 1, the defence only gets one trick.

The full deal:

	\spadesuit J9754										
	\heartsuit QJ862										
	\diamondsuit K4										
	\clubsuit 7										
\spadesuit Q6	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit K1082
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit K107		\heartsuit A94									
\diamondsuit J85		\diamondsuit A10763									
\clubsuit KJ962		\clubsuit 4									
	\spadesuit A3										
	\heartsuit 53										
	\diamondsuit Q92										
	\clubsuit AQ10853										

Your sharp defence will beat $2\clubsuit$ by 3 tricks for a 500 point penalty and an excellent score.

Points to remember:

- The rule of 20 is a simple and reliable guideline for "should I open" decisions. It's applied to 10 HCP and 11 HCP hands. But don't open 9 HCP hands at the one level, even if the Rule of 20 says to, for example, with 6-5 shape.
- If they overcall your opening bid, and the next two players pass, it is often due to partner having length in the overcalled suit, particularly so if you have shortness there. A balancing takeout double can be used to good effect.

Alternatively, it might be because *you* have length in the overcalled suit, in which case you would tend to pass them out, as partner, with likely shortage in their suit, probably has a weak hand to explain his pass.

- At trick 1, it's worth taking a little time to work through the possible layouts in the suit of the opening lead, guided by partner's spot card. This will help you decide your play in the suit.

TEST YOUR BIDDING

After opener's jump rebid

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1 \diamondsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	3 \diamondsuit	Pass	?

When opener jump rebids his opened suit, he is showing extra values, about 15-17 HCP and a good 6-card suit. It's a strength-showing but non-forcing rebid.

Whilst you are certainly allowed to pass 3 \diamondsuit with your usual blah hand, if you *don't* pass, then your side is committed to a game contract. There is no sensible way to stop short of game, once you decide to bid on over 3 \diamondsuit .

What are your options? Well you can certainly choose a game contract of 3NT or 5 \diamondsuit . With a strong 5-card (or 6-card) spade suit, you can rebid in spades, to see if partner has a little support there.

Alternatively you can bid a new suit: since partner's rebid tends to deny a side 4-card suit (he would have bid it), new suits here show high cards in that suit, rather than specifically length: if the bid is below the level of 3NT, then it is angling for a contract of 3NT.

Finally there is the simple raise of partner's suit: in this case a bid of 4 \diamondsuit . That shows a good hand, at least enough for game, and perhaps with visions of a slam contract. It gives opener the opportunity to ask for aces, or maybe make a cue-bid in search of slam.

What is your rebid with each of the following hands?

- (a) \spadesuit AKJ104 \heartsuit 1072 \diamondsuit Q5 \clubsuit 763
- (b) \spadesuit K10543 \heartsuit AJ3 \diamondsuit Q5 \clubsuit 763
- (c) \spadesuit K10543 \heartsuit Q732 \diamondsuit J5 \clubsuit 76
- (d) \spadesuit K1054 \heartsuit 1076 \diamondsuit Q5 \clubsuit AJ43
- (e) \spadesuit A1054 \heartsuit AK3 \diamondsuit Q542 \clubsuit 76
- (f) \spadesuit K1054 \heartsuit 3 \diamondsuit Q542 \clubsuit K763

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

(a) ♠ AKJ104 ♥ 1072 ♦ Q5 ♣ 763

3♠. It's a fine spade suit, and worth rebidding. If partner has as little as ♠Qx, then a 4♠ contract could be just perfect. Lacking spade support, you hope that partner will try 3NT: after all, his 15-17 points have to be *somewhere*.

(b) ♠ K10543 ♥ AJ3 ♦ Q5 ♣ 763

3♥. This shows cover in the heart department, and begs partner to take a look at his clubs, for 3NT purposes. Lacking a club stopper, then perhaps partner can support your spades. And if there is no spade support either, then partner will rebid the diamonds, and you can try 5♦.

(c) ♠ K10543 ♥ Q732 ♦ J5 ♣ 76

Pass. There are simply not enough combined points for game. It's possible that partner has 3 spades, and that you will score better in a contract of 3♠ than in 3♦, but you cannot afford to try to find that out.

(d) ♠ K1054 ♥ 1076 ♦ Q5 ♣ AJ43

3NT. The lack of a heart stopper is a concern, but 3NT remains the most likely contract, and there is no way to explore other options. Good partners will supply you with a heart stopper.

(e) ♠ A1054 ♥ AK3 ♦ Q542 ♣ 76

4♦. An excellent hand with real slam possibilities. Show your diamond fit, and hope that partner can use Blackwood, or cue-bid control in clubs. If partner just bids 5♦, you will have to content yourself with that contract.

(f) ♠ K1054 ♥ 3 ♦ Q542 ♣ K763

5♦. You have 11 total-points in support of diamonds, which you hope is enough for game. But there are insufficient values for a slam, so 5♦ it is.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**State**

Anne Caulfield	Ballarat
Faye Ding	VBA
Rupert Ferdinands	Yarra Valley
Marion Scambler	Geelong

***State**

Doug Arney	Geelong
Barbara Bell	Geelong
Lesley Jonklaas	Yarra Valley
Jim Naughtin	Werribee

National

Margie Horan	Phillip Island
Beverley Kroger	Geelong
Mieke Van Weel	Rye Beach

***National**

Pauline Grodski	Dendy Park
Vi Temple	Geelong
Don Tylee	Traralgon

****National**

Audrey Kable	Yarra Valley
Rhonda Van Dyke	Traralgon
Carol Woodley	Ballarat

Life

Jeffrey Lacey	Frankston
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Bronze Life

Clive Hope	South Gippsland
Robin Macaulay	Geelong
Alex Smith	Ballarat
Louis Veenstra	Traralgon

Silver Life

Gordon Myers	Geelong
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Gold Life

Lesley Clark-Samuels	Geelong
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Grand

Lindsey Robinson	Waverley
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STATE EVENT RESULTS**Melbourne Metro GNOT Qualifying**

- 1 S. Arber, H. de Jong, F. Beale, R. van Riel
- 2 J. Magee, T. Strong, D. Harley, A. St Clair, K. Frazer, J. Ebery
- 3 J. Fust, E. Samuel, L. Gold, A. Maluish

Restricted qualifier:

A. Jez, M. Moryto, W. Mroz, L. Kunc

CONGRESS RESULTS

Macedon Ranges Pairs

- 1 L. Griffiths – M. Clarke
- 2 K. Frazer – B. Geyer
- 3 B. Turner – T. Gariepy

Bairnsdale Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 N. Bugeia – G. Stockham
- 2 K. Colbert – A. Hewat
- 3 R. Moss – A. Drury

Swiss Teams

- 1 C. Manley, L. Seychell, R. Moss, A. Drury
- 2 M. Obenchain, S. White, K. Yang, C. Arul
- 3 S. Collins, D. Yoffa, D. Happell, J. Day

Albury Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 D. Appleton – G. Kozakos
- 2 K. Frazer – J. Ebery
- 3 E. Hynes – D. Middleton

Swiss Teams

- 1 A. Glasson, F. Kovacs, D. Middleton,
E. Hynes
- 2 J. Kahler, A. Farthing, P. Kahler, S. Mendick
- 3 N. Ewart, D. Beckett, T. Strong, J. Magee

Warrnambool Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 G. Ridgway – A. Robbins
- 2 H. Lovegrove – P. Bailey
- 3 D. Read – G. Read

Restricted Swiss Pairs

- 1 A. Shiels – N. Hill
- 2 B. Horton – P. Thomas
- 3 E. Rendell, P. Starkie

Swiss Teams

- 1 G. Ridgway, A. Robbins, D. Newlands,
P. Jain
- 2 J. Simpson, L. Newton-Tabrett, P. Bailey,
H. Lovegrove
- 3 C. Woodley, L. Holmes, P. Fiskien,
T. Woodley

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 20 (October 19)

- 1 A. Drury – R. Moss (South Gippsland)
- 2 R. Graham – G. Davidson (Traralgon)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

South Gippsland

Saturday 8th Nov, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 9th Nov 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Daker Centre
 Cnr Smith & Watt St
 Leongatha

Contact: Jean Barbour, 0429 046 638

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

Kooyong

Sunday 16th Nov, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club
 489 Glenferrie Rd
 Kooyong

Contact: Rob Nurse, 0418 848 486

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

Bridge at Tivoli

Sunday 30th Nov, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 21B Electra Ave
 Ashwood

Contact: Leeron Branicki, 0412 884 446

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

VBA Summer Congress

Saturday 6th Dec, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 7th Dec, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Victorian Bridge Association
 131 Poath Road
 Murrumbeena

Contact: Cathie Lachman, 9530 9006

Enter: <http://vba.asn.au/>

WOMEN'S BRIDGE LESSONS - SQUEEZES
Kim Frazer

These lessons organised by Anna St Clair have proven extremely popular with the women players. At the most recent lesson held at the VBA and Waverley, Max Henbest's talk covered squeezes and proved to be a challenging topic for many in attendance. A few days later practising online with Kitty Muntz, I had this hand which presented a great opportunity for squeeze play - I was only in 3NT, however on the defence provided, 12 tricks were possible on a squeeze.

Dlr: East ♠ J10976
 Vul: N/S ♥ K7
 ♦ J1098
 ♣ Q9

♠ 8542	N	♠ A
♥ Q1096	W	♥ 542
♦ Q7542	E	♦ K6
♣ -	S	♣ K876542

♠ KQ3
 ♥ AJ83
 ♦ A3
 ♣ AJ103

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♣	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead was a low diamond to the ♦K and ♦A. The ♠K was won by East's ♠A who returned a heart won in dummy with the king. On the bidding, East is marked with the ♣K, so I ran the ♣Q which East kindly covered (not the best play as I can never finesse East out of his king enough times). Now a low club back to the ♣9, a spade back to hand cashing my two winning clubs and I ran all the spades arriving at this position:

Dlr: East ♠ J
 Vul: N/S ♥ 7
 ♦ J
 ♣ -

♠ -	N	♠ -
♥ Q10	W	♥ 95
♦ Q	E	♦ 10832
♣ -	S	♣ K976432

♠ -
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ 3
 ♣ -

immaterial

On the play of the last spade from North, South discards a diamond and West is squeezed. Pitching a heart means South plays a heart to the ace felling the queen, and if West pitches the diamond, North's ♦J is high. Shame I wasn't in slam! Thanks to Max for a great lesson.



Squeeze time at the VBA



ANYONE FOR SPADES?
Bill Jacobs

Board 18 from Round 4 of the Pennant:

Dlr: West ♠ 96
 Vul: N/S ♥ J764
 ♦ QJ964
 ♣ 105

♠ 108532	N	♠ -
♥ AQ8	W	♥ 95
♦ AK	E	♦ 10832
♣ AQJ	S	♣ K976432

♠ AKQJ74
 ♥ K1032
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 8

This deal was played 22 times, 9 times in a spade contract.

Five of those were final contracts of 1♠ by West. No doubt West opened with that bid, East found a disciplined pass, and South decided that this contract was as good as any.

To add insult to injury, all five 1♠ contracts went down by a trick. A score of -50, with 6♣ laydown and 7♣ making with a winning finesse in hearts. Unlucky? Or did someone do something wrong?

The latter perhaps, because most Wests decided that this was actually a 2NT (or equivalent) opening bid: 20-22 HCP balanced. Even if you don't officially allow such openings to contain a 5-card major, can that spade suit really be regarded as 5 cards long?

The other four spade contracts were by South. Presumably a natural 20-22 HCP 2NT (or Multi 2♦) was opened, and it was South who got to mention the spades, usually to his regret.

Jamie Ebery and Leigh Gold heard this auction:

West	North	East	South
Ebery		Gold	
2♦	Pass	2♥	4♠ (!)

2♦ was the Multi, and 2♥ was "pass or correct". Ebery took a deep breath in order to deal with that 4♠ impertinence.

To get full value from the deal, you want to defeat 4♠ at least 3 tricks. Put yourself in West's seat and defend. It's easy enough to cash the ace and king of diamonds, but then what? You don't really want to lead from one of those ace-queen suits, but a trump switch is clearly no good, as it will give access to dummy when the ♠9 scores.

The solution lies with East. Leigh Gold followed to the diamonds with the ♦2 and then ♦3. What could that be but a suit preference signal for clubs? There was no point giving attitude in diamonds, and hardly any point in giving the count. A McKenney signal was what was left.

Ebery continued with the ace and queen of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff, and ensuring a maximum penalty.

Suit preference signals are perhaps the most under-utilised part of the game.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Cute bridge terms

Death: a deal where no-one can make anything, often leading to:

Cross-gruffing: partners conducting a heated post-mortem

TRARALGON CRASH COURSE Robyn Couch

It was a lovely Gippsland morning on Sunday October 26. Just perfect for a drive in the country. Players converged on the Traralgon Bridge Club from Lakes Entrance to Phillip Island. There were scones with jam and cream or buttered waiting for the 36 hungry players: a mix of prospective teachers, mentors and four complete beginners. The Eastern Region donated the nibbles whilst Traralgon kindly donated a pen and a free table pass for everyone. Presenter for the day was Laura Ginnan, who drove up from Melbourne.

The day started with the odd hiccup or two, including a mixup about the starting time. Then we went outside to help Laura bring in her gear only to discover she had locked her keys in the car and was not in the RACV. Once a coat hanger was brought in we discovered one player had hidden talents. Playing bridge and breaking into cars.

When we commenced, the 4 prospective players sat at one table with Laura whilst the other 32 had boards to play and a quiz to go through. Many of us got some of the questions wrong so there was a lot of discussion about different aspects of the quiz. After lunch Laura talked about "inferences". What you can deduce about the other hands from the bidding. More boards followed. The last session was about the "Rule of 11" and what can be deduced from the lead. During the lunch break Laura talked to the teachers and mentors about how she teaches bridge. Handouts were then provided.

The day concluded with all agreeing it was well worthwhile. Laura was thanked by Lorraine Robinson from ERBA to great applause. The 4 new players were given a rousing ovation for coming, and surviving the day.



Laura Ginnan presents at Traralgon

GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS

Bill Jacobs

Law 74: Conduct and Etiquette

For a change, I will simply quote the essential clauses of this law:

- *A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times*
- *A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.*
- *Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.*

A player should refrain from:

- *paying insufficient attention to the game.*
- *making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.*
- *detaching a card before it is his turn to play.*
- *summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to him or other contestants.*

The following are violations of procedure:

- *indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.*
- *indicating the expectation or intention of winning or losing a trick that has not yet been completed.*
- *looking intently at any other player during the auction and play.*
- *showing an obvious lack of further interest in a deal.*
- *leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.*

Now read them again, and specifically rate yourself on how well you abide by this part of the law. Be honest.

I'm sure we all like to think of ourselves as playing the game in accordance with the laws. But I doubt that any of us conform fully with Law 74. And yet in many ways, Law 74 is the most important of them all, because it speaks directly to players' enjoyment of the game: the other players, that is.

BOOK REVIEW

Winning Suit Contract Opening Leads

By David Bird & Taf Anthias

How often have you made a well-reasoned opening lead, only to discover that it was a total loser on the actual layout? Partner is invariably unimpressed.

In this book, English author David Bird and software developer Taf Anthias fight back. They present hundreds of lead problems, and for each one, randomly generate 5,000 layouts for the other three hands, consistent with the auction. A double dummy analyser is then used to determine how often any particular lead would have worked to defeat the contract.

They then draw conclusions about what sort of leads work well against what sort of auctions. The book is grouped by auction types: slams versus games versus part-scores, auctions where partner has bid, auctions where there has been a 1NT opening, etc. Some of the conclusions are startling.

For such a statistical approach, the material is presented entertainingly and readably: one would expect no less from David Bird. The authors also provide deeper reasoning of why certain leads come out ahead, or behind, by examining the layouts themselves.

As a taster, do you have a view whether it's best to lead from a king, a queen or a jack? Well, Bird and Anthias supply the answer. They pose this hand:

♠ 7 ♥ K974 ♦ Q983 ♣ J862

on lead against the auction 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠.

It turns out that leading a club is best, leading a heart is worst. Leading from a jack is better than leading from a queen, is better than leading from a king. Case closed.

Whichever way you slice it, this book is a game changer.

... Bill Jacobs

