

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

February 2015

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson

The start of a new year always brings new ideas, new plans and new opportunities. Education is a focus area for the VBA this year – bringing new players into the game and developing existing players is critical to the long-term health and growth of our game.



Anna St Clair started up a very popular women's program last year with sessions at the VBA and Waverley. She's already warned me she'll be asking me to lead a session this year (I've chosen my topic – "Raise").

Jeff Fust has joined the VBA Council and is heading up our Education Committee. He has a lot of energy and a lot of great ideas but the committee needs your help to make things happen! I know Jeff is particularly interested in online teaching (potentially a great way to reach beginners in country areas) and mentoring. The Education Committee is also bringing back Joan Butts this year for her teacher training workshop, which are always well attended.

We're aiming to run an introductory restricted congress later this year. The idea is that players who normally only play duplicate can come to a day where they can try out the usual congress-type events but without all the usual congress players. More on that later in the year.

While I'm on restricted events – look for the Council announcement in this Bulletin on subsidised places in the ANC Restricted Butler.

Have a great year in bridge!

## NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

### VBA Council for 2015

The VBA council elected at the 2014 AGM is:

*President:* Ben Thompson  
*Vice President:* Jenny Thompson  
*Secretary:* Kim Frazer  
*Treasurer:* Neil Ewart  
*Councilors:* David Morgan  
Jeff Fust  
Dale Sheather  
*Special Councilors*  
*Metro:* Rob Quirk  
*Eastern:* Helen McAdam  
*Metro Arc:* Chris Lovelock

The Special Councilor position for Western Zone remains vacant.

The council thanks its retiring councilors Pam Dingwall and Sarah Livingston who both provided valuable contributions to the VBA during their terms on council.

### State Awards of Excellence

The VBA is pleased to announce the introduction of State Awards of Excellence. These awards will recognise outstanding contributions from members across the state during 2014 in the following categories: Teacher; Official; and Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, the VBA will award a Sportsmanship Award to a player who exhibits great conduct at the bridge table.

Details on the criteria, nomination forms and the application process will be sent to clubs soon with nominations due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. We encourage members to start thinking about the people in your club who you would like to see recognised for the work they do for bridge in your club or area.

Award recipients will be honoured at the VCC in Melbourne in June.

**FOR STARTERS**

With no-one vulnerable in a matchpoint duplicate, you pick up as dealer:

♠ 7 ♥ KJ10876 ♦ K42 ♣ J107

This is a perfect hand for a weak-two: an opening bid of 2♥ showing 6-10 HCP and a good 6-card heart suit.

The auction proceeds as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			2♥
Pass	3♥	3♠	?

What's your bid here?

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This decision centres on the meaning of partner's raise to 3♥. What does this show?

The answer is that it doesn't particularly show anything. A simple raise of a weak two opening is a tactical manoeuvre designed to extend the effect of your pre-emptive opening.

Partner is trying to make things harder for your opponents by pushing the bidding higher. 3♥ does not invite you back into the auction. If partner had been interested in further input from you, he could have tried a new suit, or bid 2NT, of which more later in this bulletin.

Except in specific circumstances – and this is not one of them - if you make a pre-emptive bid, you don't bid again!

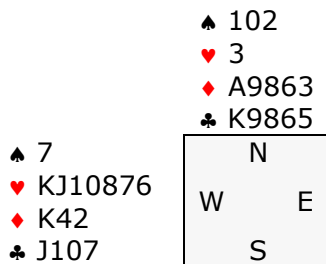
You pass 3♠, and no-one has anything further to say. So now it's your lead. What will it be?

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You could lead a heart, the jack for preference, but it carries a risk. Partner's heart bid doesn't promise any high cards in the suit: if the opponents have both the ace and queen, then your heart lead will not work well.

In such circumstances, it's worth scouting around for alternatives, and in this case, you notice the ♣J10x. The ♣J, top of a sequence, is a nice safe and constructive lead.

You lead ♣J, and this is what confronts you:



The ♣J wins the trick, partner following with ♣4 and declarer with ♣2. You lead so well!

What now?

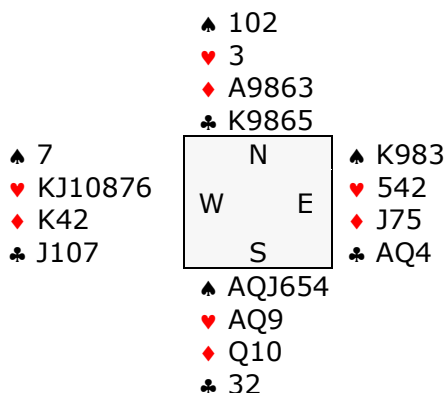
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Clearly partner started with the ace and queen of clubs ... declarer with either a small singleton or doubleton. If there's another trick for your side in clubs, it will keep.

But dummy's heart singleton is a worry: declarer might be able to ruff a heart loser or two in dummy, depending on the layout.

It must be right to switch to a trump here, to try to limit dummy's heart ruffs. Sure, this might result in partner's spade honour(s) being finessed, but that's something declarer will be able to do anyway.

Here is the full layout:



Your trump switch prevents declarer from ruffing both losing hearts. Eventually you will win a heart trick, to go with your spade, two clubs and a diamond, earning you a hard-fought +50.

Partner's raise to 3♥ was a really good bid. If he had simply passed instead, South would have been able to come in a level lower with 2♠. If East had then bid 3♥, South can pass, having already shown his spades. 3♥ would be passed out, and go down. Your side would have been -50 instead of +50.

The raise to 3♥ is a fine example of the Law of Total Trumps, which tells you to bid to the same level as your side's number of trumps in a competitive auction. Partner knew your side had 9 hearts in total, so he bid immediately to the 9-trick contract in hearts. True, the auction wasn't as yet competitive, but there was good reason to think it would become so.

#### *Points to remember:*

- When you pre-empt, you don't as a rule bid again: partner is captain of the ship. Exceptions are when partner bids a new suit (change of suit is forcing) and when partner responds 2NT to your weak-two opening.
- Try to avoid leading from disconnected honours on opening lead: in this example the heart suit. Look instead for a single sequence of honours.
- Guidelines for opening a weak-two, in decreasing order of importance:
  - o 6 – 10 HCP
  - o Decent 6-card suit: typically two of the top three honours or three of the top five honours (this condition should be relaxed a little if you are not-vulnerable)
  - o Avoid opening a weak two when you have four cards in a side major: there is too great a risk that you belong in that major, and won't be able to find that out
  - o Avoid opening a weak two if you have two aces: there is too much defensive strength, and partner might be misled into over-preempting

If you adhere to these guidelines, then partner's 'captaincy' will not be tainted by you having mis-described your hand.

## TEST YOUR BIDDING

### The Weak Two

Nil vulnerable

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♥	Pass	?

Well, partner has supposedly (see left-hand column) given you a fine description of his hand: what are your options?

As we've seen, a simple raise to 3♥ is just extending the pre-empt: it is not an invitational bid. Or you can bid 4♥: which may make life difficult for the opponents, because they cannot really tell if you are bidding 4♥ to make, or as a sacrifice bid.

If you have a strong hand with a good suit, you can bid it: a change of suit is forcing on partner. Just remember that partner is quite likely to be short in that suit! If you bid a new suit with insufficient values, and partner helplessly repeats his hearts, then all you've 'achieved' is getting a level higher.

So don't forget the option of simply passing partner's weak-two opening. Add his 6-10 HCP range to your HCP to give you an idea of whether you might have the combined values for a game contract.

What about a 2NT response? This should be played as a forcing bid, with at least the values to consider a possible game contract. There are several popular methods for how a partnership should continue after this 2NT bid: we will explore this later in the bulletin.

How do you respond to partner's weak two with these hands?

- (a) ♠ AJ984 ♥ J2 ♦ AQ5 ♣ J43
- (b) ♠ J874 ♥ 10 ♦ AKQJ42 ♣ Q4
- (c) ♠ AQJ1073 ♥ 2 ♦ A1062 ♣ K4
- (d) ♠ 72 ♥ KJ93 ♦ A8764 ♣ 86
- (e) ♠ KJ3 ♥ 2 ♦ AKQJ432 ♣ A9
- (f) ♠ AK64 ♥ K2 ♦ Q1042 ♣ A43

Solutions over page.

### TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♥	Pass	?

(a) ♠ AJ984 ♥ J2 ♦ AQ5 ♣ J43

Pass. Your 13 HCP gives your side a combined HCP range of 19-23: this is insufficient for a game contract. Things are just fine here in 2♥.

(b) ♠ J874 ♥ 10 ♦ AKQJ42 ♣ Q4

Pass. This 13 pointer is less pleasant. With only one heart and a fine diamond suit, you might be better off in a contract of 3♦. Unfortunately, there is no way to get from point A (2♥) to point B (3♦). A bid of 3♦ by you would be forcing, and is likely to fetch a return to 3♥, making a bad situation worse.

(c) ♠ AQJ1073 ♥ 2 ♦ A1062 ♣ K4

2♠. Whilst a pass would be quite an acceptable choice, here you have reason to hope that you might do better in spades even though you are forcing the bidding higher. Even if partner doesn't support your spades, you can rebid 3♠, inviting partner to bid 4♠ with a maximum.

(d) ♠ 72 ♥ KJ93 ♦ A8764 ♣ 86

4♥. It won't make, but let's face it, the opponents have a winning contract (almost certainly a game) in spades. Your 4♥ might make it difficult for them to reach it, and even if they double 4♥, you will surely win at least 8 tricks for a score of -300 or better.

(e) ♠ KJ3 ♥ 2 ♦ AKQJ432 ♣ A9

3NT. You have 8 top tricks (7 diamonds and a club) and several possibilities for a ninth. It would be very timid not to try for a game contract here, and 3NT is easily the best chance.

(f) ♠ AK64 ♥ K2 ♦ Q1042 ♣ A43

2NT. With a combined total of 22-26 HCP, there are game chances. A bid of 2NT is the way to explore.

How to explore? Read on.

### THE OGUST CONVENTION

LHO	You	RHO	Partner
	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	?		

There are several possible schemes for the weak 2 opener to rebid after partner's 2NT response. One of the best, and oldest, is the Ogust convention, named after American Harold Ogust (1916 – 1978).

Opener first determines whether his overall strength (HCP) is in the minimum (6-8) or maximum (9-10) range. Then he looks at the quality of his long suit. If the suit contains two of the top three honours, it is rated as 'good', otherwise 'poor'.

He then rebids in code as follows:

3♣: minimum points, poor suit  
 3♦: minimum points, good suit  
 3♥: maximum points, poor suit  
 3♠: maximum points, good suit  
 3NT: solid suit: at least AKQxxx

Responder is now expected to place the contract.

Let's see this in operation with hand (f) from Test Your Bidding. As responder, you hold:

♠ AK64 ♥ K2 ♦ Q1042 ♣ A43

Partner opens 2♥ and you respond 2NT, using the Ogust convention.

*Opener bids 3♣, minimum points, poor suit.*

Perhaps he has:

♠ xx ♥ A10xxxx ♦ xx ♣ QJx

There's nothing wrong with that hand, but it's certainly at the low end of the range, and game is unlikely. So you sign off in 3♥.

*Opener bids 3♦, minimum points, good suit.*

Since you have the ♥K, partner's hearts must be at least ♥AQxxxx. With minimum points, there's not much more for him to have, eg:

♠ xx ♥ AQJxxx ♦ xx ♣ xxx

A contract of 3NT has 9 tricks on top: 6 hearts, ♠AK, ♣A, and you should bid it. A heart contract has the same 9 tricks.

*Opener bids 3♥, maximum points, poor suit.*

In this scenario, 3NT is more risky, as you probably have a heart loser, and there may not be a guaranteed side entry to dummy. For example:

♠ xx ♥ A10xxxx ♦ Kx ♣ Qxx

4♥ has a good play here, and you should bid it.

*Opener bids 3♠, maximum points, good suit.*

Now you are spoilt for choices, but a contract of 4♥ might be the most profitable game, opposite say

♠ xx ♥ AQJxxx ♦ Kx ♣ xxx

## CONGRESS RESULTS

### VBA Summer Congress

*Swiss Pairs*

- 1 G. Lovrecz – K. Muntz
- 2 D. Clarke – K. French
- 3 M. Callander – S. Collins

*Swiss Teams*

- 1 S. Klofa, M. Gurfinkiel, R. Gallus, S. Weisz
- 2 L. Griffiths, M. Clarke, K. French, D. Clarke
- 3 M. Callander, S. Collins, H. Snashall, C. Chakravorty

### Kings & Queens Congress

*Charlie Snashall Swiss Pairs*

- 1 S. Hawkins – J. Howard
- 2 L. Branicki – A. Branicki
- 3 A. Hegedus – A. Mill

*Rothfield Swiss Teams*

- 1 S. Klofa, M. Gurfinkiel, H. Snashall, S. Weisz
- 2 R. Berlinski, A. Branicki, L. Branicki, A. Braunstein
- 3 T. Bloom, H. Stewart, K. French, D. Clarke

### Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

*Event 23 (December 6)*

- 1 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)
- 2 R. Moss – A. Drury (Phillip Island)

*Event 24 (December 21)*

- 1 G. Shanks – L. Chan (Moonee Valley)

*Event 1 (January 3)*

- 1 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)

## UPCOMING CONGRESSES

### Dendy Park

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Brighton Bowls Clubrooms  
Breen Drive, Brighton East

Contact: Boris Tencer, 0414 353 996

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

### Yarra Valley

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Dorset Gardens Hotel  
335 Dorset Road  
Croydon VIC 3136

Contact: Clare Stratton, 9725 9806

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

### Rye Beach

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Rye Civic Hall  
12 Napier St  
Rye

Contact: Brian Morgan, 0439 845 753

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

## NEWS FROM THE ABF

### ABF Travel Insurance

The current ABF Multitrip Travel Policy expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. The new policy comes in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

The application process for the 2015/16-year is now completely online including the medical assessment. A new application must be completed each year by each applicant.

Visit the TBIB website [www.tbib.com.au](http://www.tbib.com.au) to apply.

## NEWS FROM THE MATCH & TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

### Victorian Women's and Seniors' teams

In case you missed the announcements in earlier Bulletins, the method to determine who contests the trials to select Victoria's women's and seniors' teams at the ANC (Australian National Championships) has changed. Many people have been asking questions, so the Match and Tournament Committee (MTC) prepared a Q&A which was emailed to all those women and senior members whose addresses we had.

If you haven't received the Q&A by email, please contact Cathie Lachman at the VBA or email the MTC ([mtc@vba.asn.au](mailto:mtc@vba.asn.au)). If you have any further questions, please come along to a Q&A session at 7 pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at the VBA (before the playing session).

The document is also on the VBA website at <http://tinyurl.com/l3cgek>.

### Restricted Pairs at the ANC

The ABF has introduced a new Restricted Pairs event to be held at the ANC. Starting with the championships to be held in Fremantle this July, this event is open to two pairs from each state. The ABF will provide a subsidy of \$2,000 per pair and free entry into the event. All players with fewer than 300 masterpoints at 1 January 2015 are eligible.

The VBA will hold a selection event in parallel with the Simultaneous Pairs final on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. To enter, all you have to do is to play in the qualifying heats for the Sim Pairs - which are held in almost clubs in Victoria in March-April - and be among the top 20 pairs who indicate their interest in playing in the trial. The top two pairs in the trial will be Victoria's representatives in Fremantle.

## SUMMER NATIONALS - CANBERRA

*(Victorian winners in italics)*

### Australian Youth Championships

#### Youth Pairs

- 1 *M. Henbest* – S. Harrison

#### Youth Teams

- 1 *J. Thompson*, S. Williams, N. Edgton, D. Brawn

#### Youth Butler

- 1 *J. Thompson* – S. Williams
- 2 *M. Henbest* – S. Harrison
- 3 *R. Cooper* – *E. Pattison*

These three pairs will form the 2015 Australian Youth Team – congratulations!

### Summer Festival of Bridge

#### Warmup Pairs

- 1 *F. Halmos* – *J. Hall* (N/S)
- 1 *D. Harley* – *S. Weisz* (E/W)

#### National Seniors' Teams

- 2 *S. Hinge*, K. Morrison, B. Neill, A. Delivera, Z. Nagy, D. Lilley

#### National 149er Teams

- 1 *R. Hewson*, *J. McKenzie*, *D. Macneil*, *W. Cousins*
- 2 *L. Carberry*, *Y. Cox*, G. Brahma, J. Chew

#### Penline One-day Swiss Pairs

- 1 *A. Maluish* – H. Grosvenor

#### Australian Mixed Teams Championship

- 1 *K. Frazer*, *J. Ebery*, M. Bourke, G. Kozakos, S. Fischer, M. Bookallil

#### Friday Festival Teams

- 2 *N. Ewart*, C. Quail, N. Guira, N. Hughes

#### South-West Pacific Teams Championship

- 1 *B. Thompson*, *W. Jacobs*, P. Markey, J. Williams
- 2 *P. Hollands*, *J. Howard*, G. Lorentz, S. Burgess, H. Grosvenor, A. Willsmore



Winners of the SWPT Championship: Bill Jacobs, Justin Williams, Ben Thompson, Phil Markey

**GENDER TEST**  
**Bill Jacobs**

These two bidding problems came up in the final 16 boards of the Seniors' and Women's National Championships finals in Canberra.

Firstly, you hold:

♠ Q108 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 4 ♣ AKJ64

You are not vulnerable, but your opponents are, and this is how the auction unwinds:

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

To summarise, you have opened 1♣ in fourth seat, and doubled for takeout when LHO's 1♦ overcall is passed around to you. Your partner passes this for penalties, and RHO initiates rescue proceedings.

LHO takes out to hearts, but RHO bids spades, indicating both spades and clubs. Your bid.

The second auction is simpler:

♠ Q3 ♥ A5 ♦ KQ64 ♣ K10962

This time, you are the vulnerable one, and the opponents not.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	Pass	1♥	?

Do you take a bid over 1♥, and if so, what?

Here is the full layout for the first problem:

Dir: West      ♠ A42  
 Vul: E/W      ♥ 1092  
                  ♦ AJ1032  
                  ♣ 85

♠ K9	N	♠ J7653
♥ J843	W	♥ 76
♦ KQ875	E	♦ 96
♣ 32	S	♣ Q1097

♠ Q108  
 ♥ AKQ5  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ AKJ64

In the Seniors' final, both Souths, both male, doubled East's 1♠ for penalties. The resulting carnage was something dreadful: both

declarers going four down, for an 1100 point penalty. A flat board, but ...

In the Women's final, one female South bid a wimpy 1NT over 1♠. There went the four-digit penalty. North raised to 3NT, making easily, but worth only 400 points.

And in the other room, the female North bid 1NT directly over the 1♦ overcall, forgoing all possibility of a juicy penalty. South's raise to 3NT produced another flat board.

Is it possible that men are more aggressive bidders than women? Or simply better bidders? This leads to the second exhibit ...

With:

♠ Q3 ♥ A5 ♦ K10962 ♣ KQ64

the male senior couldn't keep quiet, and made a *takeout double* of 1♥. The full layout and resulting auction:

Dir: North      ♠ J862  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ 8  
                  ♦ AJ10952  
                  ♣ A3

♠ K104	N	♠ A975
♥ J10962	W	♥ KQ743
♦ 3	E	♦ 87
♣ 8754	S	♣ QJ

♠ Q3  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ KQ53  
 ♣ K10962

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	D'ble
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

The silly 4♠ contract went three down, with 5♦ cold. The N/S pair were 6 imps up before this board, but the 12 imp loss here converted that to 6 imps down. Which was a bit of a problem because that was the final board of the match. I suspect South is still having nightmares.

The problem didn't arise at the other table, nor at either table of the Women's match, because in all three cases, North sensibly opened 1♦.

My gender-centric advice:

- Guys: Be less aggressive!
- Girls: Be more aggressive!

## THE NEW YEAR BRIDGE CAMP Terry Nadebaum

*(Every year for the past three years, Terry Nadebaum, a bridge player from the Lakes Entrance Bridge Club, who lives on a property just outside Orbost, opens her home to bridge fanatics for three days over the New Year period. This year the group in Orbost also played an interclub match against the Paynesville Bridge Club on 31<sup>st</sup> December – both groups playing the same boards – with the scores being combined via the Bridgewebs site similar to the Nationwide Pairs concept.*

*... Ed)*

The New Year Bridge Camp is based on the principle that those who genuinely love bridge, food, wine and company (and not necessarily in that order) should get together at minimal cost.

This year we had 31 people who day-tripped and stayed over in Motor Homes, caravans, tents and bedrooms. Last year George Campbell and Lorraine Robinson became our mentors, not playing themselves, but offering help like super supervised play where needed. This year unfortunately George was not able to attend so Lorraine and Sandor Varga became the mentors. I might add Sandor was also the cocktail maker and one of the principle tent erectors ...

All help out with food with the night owls cleaning up after dark and the early birds doing breakfast.

The very best part is our "Non Talent Night". This year we had Helen Leach telling jokes, 10 of us line dancing, Helen and John Leach were encouraged to repeat their last year's magic act as we were sure we could trick them this year, Sandor became a travelling salesman of yesteryear selling his salacious pills and potions, Robynne Owen and Rosemarie Schwabeggar told a poem from Banjo Patterson as well as providing a signing service..... brilliantly done, Margaret Smith made up a poem about my sewing skills!

Oh, and we were all dressed as Witches, Warlocks or Angels. Next year's theme is Bollywood.

We all enjoyed the game against Paynesville that was good fun with everyone loving Nick Nadebaum and Sue Brown winning East/West. We played very early until very late but only when people wanted to. No Directors, movements or results and we passed around interesting hands.

We charged \$5 per day table fees and all this goes towards Lakes Entrance Bridge Club which last year bought an Honour Board with the money.

It is three nights of not-to-be-taken-seriously good fun, food and bridge which has produced a whole host of much stronger friendships.



Orbost and Paynesville players battle it out on Terry's enclosed verandah.



**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS**

**State**

Paul Acfield	Bendigo
Ann Carter	Rye Beach
Lyell Cooke	Berwick
Helen Hardy	Paynesville
Elizabeth Hastie	Ballarat
Karen Hill	Melbourne
Margaret Hillier	Bairnsdale
Thomas Johannsen	Bridge Fanatics
Marcia Krampel	Dendy Park
Brendan Landy	Bendigo
Joan Malikoff	Warrnambool
Tek Marko	Moonee Valley
Millicent Nink	Williamstown
Irene Papas	Traralgon
Jennie Rennie	Waverley
Margaret Richards	Benalla
Anne Serra	Warrnambool
Linda Watkinson	Macedon Ranges
Sylvia Watson	Bendigo

**\*State**

Terry Dold	Sunbury
Phillip Goode	Bairnsdale
Kaye Haebich	Yarrawonga
Ron Hancox	Moonee Valley
Mary Prowse	Wodonga
William Rossiter-Nuttall	Rye Beach

**National**

Helen Gault	Sale
Christine Kelly	Melbourne
Dell Macneil	Waverley
Faye McMillan	Bairnsdale
Lou Pemberton	Bairnsdale
Valentine Ratnayeke	Bendigo
David Samuels	Moonee Valley
Leo Saoud	Moonee Valley
Faye Symons	Bendigo
Sally Thornton	Frankston

**\*National**

Margaret Copland	Macedon Ranges
Judy Judah	Dendy Park
Leszek Kunc	Waverley

**\*\*National**

Jillian Lawrence	Dendy Park
Jan Lonergan	Moonee Valley

**Life**

Anne Gooding	Waverley
Pieterneel Griffioen	Sale

**Bronze Life**

Paula Pailey	Warrnambool
Bob Hale	Geelong
Dianne Kleinhenz	Moonee Valley
Dianna Middleton	VBA
Lynne Veenstra	Traralgon

John Yang VBA

**Gold Life**

Alex Czapnik	Waverley
Wayne Leppard	Echuca

**Grand**

Gregory Carter	Waverley
John Sutton	Phillip Island

**Webmaster Wanted**



The VBA needs a new webmaster. Experience in Html / CSS / Javascript / SQL experience would be helpful. There is a small honorarium. Please email enquiries and interest to [secretary@vba.asn.au](mailto:secretary@vba.asn.au).

**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

Dir: North ♠ AK5  
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q42  
 Matchpoints ♦ AKQJ5  
 ♣ A8

N
S

♠ Q842  
 ♥ A76  
 ♦ 1043  
 ♣ KJ7

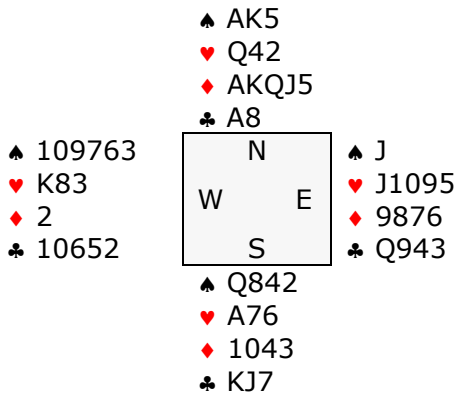
West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	All pass	

♠10 is led. You win ♠A as RHO follows with ♠J. That's ominous, but you take ♠K at trick 2 to confirm the situation and sure enough, RHO discards a little diamond.

You have 11 top tricks and either the ♣Q with East or the ♥K with West will deliver a 12<sup>th</sup>. How do you go about the play?

Solution over page.

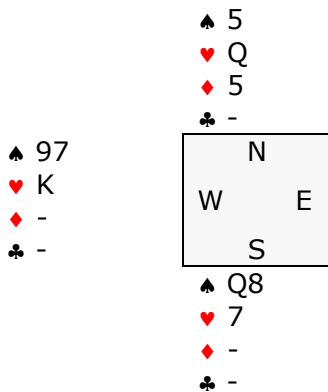
**THE TWELFTH TRICK**



You made your contract, right? But for a top matchpoint score, did you get the overtrick that was on offer?

The books will tell you that to combine your chances in hearts and clubs, you should start by leading a low heart towards the queen: if that loses to East's king, you can try the club finesse next. Whereas if you start with the club finesse and it fails, you cannot afford to play a heart towards the queen later.

Put not your faith in books! The correct play is to start with the club finesse. Whether it wins or loses, take all your remaining club winners, and the ♥A, then run the diamonds to reach this position:



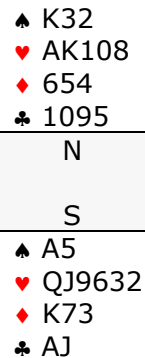
When the last diamond is played (you discarding your ♥7), West is squeezed.

So the contract is cold when either of the ♣Q or ♥K are onside, and with an overtrick if they are both onside, as long as you finesse in clubs early.

**BLACK MAGIC**  
**Bill Jacobs**

Bridge is a game of infinite variety. In particular, and despite there being just 13 tricks to a deal, card-play offers seemingly unlimited potential for unusual strategies.

In this series, we will look at examples of unusual plays that give off an aura of black magic. Some involve deception, others are simply technically correct approaches that do not initially leap to mind.



West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥

West leads ♠Q.

There are 9 top tricks, and finding East with ♦A will lead to an easy tenth.

Is there any other chance?

Indeed there is. You can add another arrow to your quiver by playing for East to have both the king and queen of clubs (or, less likely, Qx or Kx in clubs).

You must allow the ♠Q to win the first trick!

Let's assume a second spade is now played. Win your ♠A, play to the ♥10 and lead a club up, intending to play the jack. If this loses, then you will later play the ♣A (just in case the other honour drops), discard a losing diamond on your ♠K and hope the diamond finesse works.

But if East plays a club honour on the first round, you can claim! Win ♠A, remove any remaining trumps from the opponents, discard your ♣J on the ♠K and play the ♣10 from dummy for a ruffing finesse. This will establish the ♣9 for the 10<sup>th</sup> trick, without ever letting East on lead for a deadly diamond play.

The full deal:

Dir: South	♠ K32		
Vul: Nil	♥ AK108		
	♦ 654		
	♣ 1095		
♠ QJ108	N	♠ 9764	
♥ 54	W      E	♥ 7	
♦ AQ2	S	♦ J1098	
♣ 8432		♣ KQ76	
	♠ A5		
	♥ QJ9632		
	♦ K73		
	♣ AJ		

## GETTING TO KNOW THE LAWS

### Bids out of turn

If you make a call when it is not your turn, then it's essential to call the director: the penalties vary according to what the call was, whether the auction was already in progress, and whose turn to bid it actually was.

But usually it's bad news for your side!

Conversely, it's good news for your opponents, unless your LHO, perhaps not realising that your bid was out of turn, makes a bid himself. This has the effect of condoning the infraction, and the auction then proceeds without penalty.

A pass out of turn is the least damaging infraction. Essentially, the auction will revert to whoever's turn it was, and you will have to repeat your pass when it is your turn. Later in the auction you can bid.

Suppose you pick up as dealer:

♠ AQx ♥ KJ10x ♦ AKx ♣ A10x

You are about to open 2NT (20-22 HCP) when your partner passes! The director is called, your RHO does not accept the pass out of turn, and you are told that the auction reverts to

your bid, and partner must pass at his first turn to call. What should you do?

You do not have to follow through with your planned 2NT opening. Law 10 specifically allows you to try to wriggle out of your difficulties as best you can. So you should open 3NT, hoping for the best. The upside of all this is that the opponents will be defending in the dark, having little idea what you actually hold. You needn't even have a balanced hand!

Conversely, if someone bids out of turn against you, your side has the right to take an unusual action in order to maximize your opponent's distress.

A few years ago in the Pennant, I carelessly opened 1♣ (showing at least 14 HCP) when my RHO was the dealer. The director was called and ruled that if my RHO passed, my 1♣ bid would stand without further penalty. But if RHO bids something, then my partner would be forced to pass for at least one round of the auction.

Paul Hill was sitting on my right holding a very poor hand but with a long heart suit. Normally he would have passed, but he didn't: he opened a natural weak 2♥. He was confident that his partner would recognise what he was doing and not take him overboard, particularly since my 1♣ opening showed strength. His bid skewered me good and proper, and after much anguish I passed, and 2♥ was passed out, for a bad result for my side. I immediately took Paul off my Christmas card list.

Finally, if your partner bids out of turn, it's important to not give away how damaging this might be.

You hold:

♠ KQxxx ♥ AJxx ♦ Kx ♣ xx

Your RHO is the dealer but your partner opens 1♣! The 1♣ bid is not accepted, the auction reverts to your RHO, and you are forced to pass for the remainder of the auction.

Don't pout as though someone has stolen your lunch money. Yes, you are hoping that partner might gamble and bid 3NT, but you mustn't give away the fact that you have a good hand.

## THEY SHOULD HAVE ASKED MY HUSBAND

You know that bridge is complicated – and some players get obsessed  
And it's not hard to feel timid, apprehensive and depressed  
It seems that all around us tides of questions ebb and flow  
And people want solutions but they don't know where to go

Opinions abound but who is wrong and who is right  
People need a prophet, a diffuser of the light  
Someone they can turn to as the crises rage and swirl  
Someone with the remedy, the wisdom – the pearl

Well, they should have asked my husband, he'd have told them, without doubt  
His thoughts on Cappelletti, Multi-two's and passing out  
Inverted Minors, Bergen raises, Opening bids both weak and strong  
How to deal with cranky partners – "why can't we all just get along?"

No, they should have asked my husband – he can sort out any mess  
He can Transfer, he can Stayman – even Klinger is impressed  
So any little niggle, anything you want to know  
Just run it past my husband, wind him up and let him go

He'll clarify the situation – he will make it crystal clear  
You'll feel the glazing of your eyeballs and the bending of your ear  
Blackwood versus Gerber – he's an authority on that  
And Lebensohl and Doubles – he's got both of those off pat

Upon these areas he brings his intellect to shine  
In a great compelling voice that's twice as loud as yours or mine  
I often wonder what it must be like to be so strong,  
Infallible, articulate, self-confident – and wrong

When it comes to tolerance he hasn't got a lot  
Psychic bidders should be guillotined and beginners should be shot  
The sound of his own voice becomes as music to his ears  
And he hasn't got an inkling that he's boring us to tears

My friends don't call so often – they have busy lives I know  
It's not every day you want to hear a windbag suck and blow  
Bridge books that teach conventions – on them we never have to call  
Why clutter up the bookshelves when my husband knows it all

*by Chris Heesom, with apologies to Pam Ayres.  
Google "They should have asked my husband" to see more.*