

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

April 2015

Editor: Bill Jacobs

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

Appointment of Western Zone Councillor

The VBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Giles as Special Councillor for Western Zone. Richard is the Vice President of Ballarat Bridge Club.

New Webmaster

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Terry Crawford as webmaster for the VBA. We thank the outgoing webmistress Ruth Thomson for her tireless work over the past two years maintaining the site. Management of the VBA site is a time-consuming task, and Ruth's efforts in providing support for the site should not be underestimated.

State Awards of Excellence

Nominations for these awards are now open. Information and forms have been sent to all clubs. The VBA encourages you to use these awards as an opportunity to nominate people in your club who contribute to your club or the game in general. Nominations close on April 30th.

Restricted Pairs Playoff for two \$2000 Subsidies to attend the 2015 ANC

All restricted players (players who had fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 1 January 2015) contesting the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs heats are reminded that the top 60 placed restricted pairs in the event will be eligible to contest the playoff which will be held at the VBA on Saturday 9th May.

The top two pairs in the final will each win a \$2000 subsidy (per pair) from the ABF to assist with participation in the new Restricted Pairs event at the Australian National Championships, which will be held in Fremantle in July. Should one of these pairs be unable to accept the award, the next placed eligible pair(s) will be offered the opportunity.

Once the Simultaneous Pairs heats are concluded a list of eligible players will be generated and made available on the VBA website. To participate in the final you will need to enter via the link on the VBA website at www.vba.asn.au.

WANTED !

Any historical material related to the VBA

It was discovered recently that no-one could recall when the VBA moved from LaTrobe Street to Prahran. It was some time in the mid-sixties.

It appears that any documentation related to these and older times has not been kept.

The VBA would like to acquire or see any material members may have related to its history.

Meredith Woods has taken on the job of co-ordinating this. If you think you may have any material of interest (even old newsletters etc), please email her at history@vba.asn.au.

If you are no longer coming in to the club we could arrange to collect these from you, or alternatively arrange for copying.

More recent material is most welcome as well.

When we get enough information we will produce a brief history of the club and the material will be available to someone who wants to do a more comprehensive job.

ANC Open Team selected

Congratulations to Ben Thompson, Bill Jacobs, Leigh Gold, Jamie Ebery, Peter Hollands and Justin Howard who recently won the Open Team Playoff, and will represent Victoria at the upcoming ANC in Fremantle.

FOR STARTERS

You pick up a hand that is far stronger than your normal rubbish:

♠ AQ94 ♥ K5 ♦ A2 ♣ KQ1094

The auction begins:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	?

Your rebid?

Your decision here might depend on how you have been taught. The simplest approach is to play that "change of suit is forcing". This means that if your partner bids a suit, and you now introduce a new suit, your bid cannot be passed.

Playing this way, you can bid 1♠ now, confident that partner won't pass it. Otherwise you would have to bid 2♠ in order to create a forcing situation, and that could make the rest of the auction more difficult.

You rebid 1♠ and partner surprises you with his next bid:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

3♣, jumping in a suit already mentioned in the auction, indicates *invitational* values: around 10-12 HCP and at least 4 clubs.

What now?

Suddenly, you have visions of slam. In fact, if partner has at least one ace, slam is likely to have good chances. So it is time to ask for aces:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Partner pleases you by showing the two missing aces, and you bid slam. The lead is ♦J, and you see:

♠ 652
♥ AQ82
♦ 7
♣ AJ873

N
S

♠ AQ94
♥ K5
♦ A2
♣ KQ1094

How are you going to play this?

Well let's see. After drawing the opponents' trumps, you can play hearts, discarding a spade from your hand. You can trump your diamond loser in dummy, and that only leaves the spades to be negotiated.

If East has ♠K, a simple finesse will do, but what if West has it?

You can guarantee 6♠ by way of an endplay. An endplay involves putting a defender on lead in circumstances where anything he plays gives you a trick.

In this case, the idea is to remove all your cards in the red suits, by trumping dummy's fourth heart, and trumping a diamond. Then with the lead in dummy, this is the position:

♠ 652
♥ -
♦ -
♣ J

N
S

♠ AQ9
♥ -
♦ -
♣ Q

You lead a spade from the dummy and if East plays low you put in the *nine*. West wins but either has to play a spade back into your ♠AQ or play a red suit, which you can ruff in one hand whilst discarding a spade loser in the other.

It makes no difference if East plays the ♠10 or ♠J on the first round of the suit. You would cover this with the ♠Q, and should West win ♠K, your remaining ♠A9 handles him leading back a spade.

Here is the full layout:

♠ KJ3	♠ 652	♠ 1087			
♥ J943	♥ AQ82	♥ 1076			
♦ J10964	♦ 7	♦ KQ853			
♣ 2	♣ AJ873	♣ 65			
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ AQ94				
	♥ K5				
	♦ A2				
	♣ KQ1094				

Points to remember:

- Playing change of suit as forcing was helpful on this deal. Suppose you had had to jump to 2♠ after the 1♥ response, in order to ensure that partner makes another bid. Now partner would be uncomfortable in jumping to 4♣, which after all by-passes 3NT.
- When you have a strong suit fit like here, it's usually best to play off all the cards in side suits where you have no losers. This often leads to an endplay situation, or even a squeeze.
- There was another very elegant way to make 6♣. After drawing trumps, ruff your losing diamond, and play 3 rounds of hearts and then play dummy's fourth heart, preparing to ruff it.

When East discards on the fourth round of hearts, you could discard a second spade! West will win an unexpected heart trick, but with the red suits again eliminated, will have to lead a spade up to your remaining ♠AQ.

This would have been the correct way to play the hand if you had lacked the spade nine.



TEST YOUR BIDDING

Slamming after a 1NT opening

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1NT*	Pass	?

* 16- 18 HCP.

Suppose you have a strong balanced hand in response to partner's 1NT opening, and your thoughts turn to a possible slam. With a pair of balanced hands, you need to have a minimum of about 33 HCP collectively in order to make a slam. For example, if you have 16 HCP, then your combined HCP range is 32 to 34. You would like to know if partner is at the bottom or top of his range.

The way to find this out is to bid 4NT over 1NT. This is called a "quantitative" bid and asks partner to either pass with a minimum hand or bid 6NT with a maximum. This concept applies whatever the actual range of the 1NT opening.

The quantitative 4NT is the most underused bid in bridge.

You are probably used to playing 4NT as asking for aces, the Blackwood convention, and could legitimately ask what you are to do if you hold a hand where you do want to know the count of partner's aces. The solution is the Gerber 4♣ bid. A response of 4♣ to a 1NT opening (or indeed a 2NT opening) asks partner to show how many aces he holds, via the same scheme of step responses that applies to Blackwood. So 4♦ would show 0 or 4 aces, 4♥ 1 ace, 4♠ two aces, and so on.

Try out this scheme of responses on the following hands:

- (a) ♠ KQ10 ♥ Q4 ♦ Q1052 ♣ AK86
- (b) ♠ KQ10 ♥ Q43 ♦ J852 ♣ AK8
- (c) ♠ KQ10 ♥ 432 ♦ AQJ52 ♣ K8
- (d) ♠ KQ10 ♥ 4 ♦ KQJ6542 ♣ A8
- (e) ♠ K107 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ6542 ♣ AK8
- (f) ♠ KQ1076 ♥ 4 ♦ KQ1052 ♣ A8

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	1NT	Pass	?

(a) ♠ KQ10 ♥ Q4 ♦ Q1052 ♣ AK86

4NT. A reasonable 16 HCP: if partner is at the high end of his range, you should have a decent chance to make 6NT.

(b) ♠ KQ10 ♥ Q43 ♦ J852 ♣ AK8

3NT. Despite its 15 HCP, this hand has nothing going for it, with the sterile 4333 shape. Even if partner has 18 HCP, slam is uncertain.

(c) ♠ KQ10 ♥ 432 ♦ AQJ52 ♣ K8

4NT. This 15-count is much stronger than hand (b) because of the fine 5-card suit. It's certainly worth a quantitative invitation.

(d) ♠ KQ10 ♥ 4 ♦ KQJ6542 ♣ A8

4♣. Gerber to the rescue. With the powerful 7-card suit, you just want to check that partner has at least two aces, and then you can bid slam. In fact, if partner has 3 aces, you should ask for kings (via a 5♣ bid), and should he have one, you can bid the laydown 7NT. After Gerber, 4NT by responder is a signoff.

(e) ♠ K107 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ6542 ♣ AK8

3♦. Slam all depends on whether partner has good diamonds for you. 3♦ shows a strong hand (a slam try) with at least 6 diamonds. If partner just rebids 3NT, you've had enough. But if he co-operates, you can bid 4NT which, second time around, does ask for aces.

(f) ♠ KQ1076 ♥ 4 ♦ KQ1052 ♣ A8

2♥ (transfer). Start showing your suits, first the spades, then the diamonds. If partner shows a fit for one of them, you're off to the races. Without transfers, this hand is unbidable.

Partner's hand:

♠ AJ83 ♥ AKJ ♦ 97 ♣ QJ52

Have a look at how the auction pans out on each of the 6 hands above.

MORE QUANTITATIVE 4NT

The value of this bidding tool was never more evident than in the first session of the final of the Victorian Open Pairs.

You hold:

♠ Q102 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ AKJ62 ♣ 4

and hear one of the following two auctions:

Partner	You
1♣	1♦
1NT	?

or

Partner	You
1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥
2NT	?

In each auction partner is indicating a minimum opening hand, with around 12-14 HCP. Your hand is powerful, with 18 HCP and two strong sources of tricks. Still, with a combined maximum of 32 HCP, you need partner to be at the upper range of his strength for slam to be a good bet.

This is a perfect hand for a quantitative 4NT! In fact, after *any* natural notrump bid, a bid of 4NT should be quantitative.

The two hands:

♠ Q102	N	♠ A643
♥ AKJ7		♥ Q42
♦ AKJ62	W	♦ Q73
♣ 4	S	♣ A62

6NT has no play on a club lead. 6♦ is about a 50-50 proposition. In short, you would prefer to be parked safely in a notrump game.

The board was played 20 times in the Open Pairs final. It was bid to slam 13 times (just three of them in 6♦), and they all went down.

7 pairs took their 11 tricks in a notrump game for excellent results, but full credit goes to just the one pair that reached **4NT** by East, clearly via a rejected quantitative slam-try: Albert Braunstein and Ralph Berlinski.

This was the only pair that properly came to grips with the hand. Well bid!

CONGRESS RESULTS

Rye Beach Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 J. Howard – M. Darling
- 2 S. Thorne – G. Neale
- 3 K. Frazer – J. Ebery

Swiss Teams

- 1 J. Magee, T. Strong, D. Harley, A. St Clair
- 2 R. Geyer, G. Lovrecz, K. Frazer, J. Ebery
- 3 S. Klofa, G. Gallus, M. Gurfinkiel, S. Weisz

Donald Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 H. Lovegrove – P. Bailey
- 2 A. Jez – M. Moryto
- 3 J. Tunks – M. McKenna

Swiss Teams

- 1 D. Upsall, F. Symons, B. Evans, F. Vearing
- 2 N. McManamny, K. Yang, A. Jez, M. Moryto
- 3 L. McKenna, J. Tunks, D. Carter, G. Carter

Queen’s Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 5 (March 7)

- 1 A. Dezilva – R. Seedsman (Bendigo)
- 2 D. Newland – P. Blinman (Ballarat)
- 3 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)

Event 6 (March 22)

- 1 R. Moss – D. Drury (Phillip Island)
- 2 B. Romeijn – J. Day (Berwick)
- 3 A. Smail – G. Binns (Ballarat)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

Frankston

Saturday 11th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 12th April, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: St Francis Xavier Church
 cnr Baxter and Davey Streets, Rye

Contact: Yvonne Minton, 9787 1208

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Whittlesea

Sunday 19th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Tennis Centre, Walker Reserve
 Laurel Street
 Whittlesea

Contact: Lyndall Shaw, 5786 1839

Enter: email peter.shaw7@bigpond.com

VBA – ANZAC Day

Saturday 25th April, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: 131 Poath Rd
 Murrumbeena

Contact: Cathie Lachman, 9530 9006

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

Bayside

Saturday 3rd May, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 4th May, 10 am: Swiss Pairs

Venue: Beaumaris Bowls Club
 Martin St
 Beaumaris

Contact: Jan Cyne, 9592-9273

Enter: Mail to: Bayside Bridge,
 9 Primrose Cres,
 Brighton East 3187



TEST YOUR DEFENCE

Problem 1:

Dlr: North ♠ 104
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK654
 ♦ K9852
 ♣ A

♠ KQJ9
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ Q103
 ♣ K54

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

You lead ♠K, and all follow low, partner playing ♠2 (showing an even number of spades). Your continuation of ♠Q also wins the trick.

What now? Solution overleaf.

TEST YOUR DEFENCE – SOLUTION Bill Jacobs

	♠ 104											
	♥ AK654											
	♦ K9852											
	♣ A											
♠ KQJ9	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W			S			♠ 7532	
N		E										
W												
S												
♥ QJ2		♥ 987										
♦ Q103		♦ 764										
♣ K54		♣ 963										
	♠ A86											
	♥ 103											
	♦ AJ											
	♣ QJ10872											

You can just about guarantee the contract's defeat by playing a club here. (A top heart works as well.) With only red cards in dummy, declarer will probably give you a red suit trick. If he does, then play a third spade.

At best, declarer can take two black aces, four tricks in the red suit he has developed, and the ace-king of the other red suit. You are poised to win five tricks before he can take any more.

See what happens if you play a third spade at trick 3. Declarer discards the ♣A on this as he wins ♠A, then knocks out your club king. The ♦A is his entry to enjoy the clubs, whilst you have only 4 tricks in the bank.

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Leone Carberry	Northern
Stephen Gapper	RACV
Margaret Ziffer	Sale

National

Patricia Cox	RACV
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**National

Susie Hawkins	Kooyong
Virginia Rugless	Kooyong

Bronze Life

Ken Anderson	VBA
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Silver Life

Noel Grigg	Whittlesea
John Hare	VBA

Gold Life

Graeme Heath	Waverley
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Silver Grand

Jill Magee	VBA
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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. During this 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, 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.

NATIONAL EVENT RESULTS

Congratulations to Justin Howard and Andrew Mill who won the Australian Swiss Pairs in Hobart. And well done also to Dee Harley and Stephen Weisz for coming second in the Roger Penny Senior Swiss pairs at the same tournament.

STATE EVENT RESULTS

Open Butler

- 1 J. Collins – H. Snashall
- 2 R. van Riel – F. Beale
- 3 S. Klofa – S. Weisz

Open Team Playoff

- 1 B. Thompson, W. Jacobs, J. Ebery, L. Gold, J. Howard, P. Hollands
- 2 A. Krolikowski, M. Gurfinkiel, A. Czapnik, R. Stewart, H. Snashall, C. Lachman
- 3 N. Ewart, D. Beckett, F. Beale, R. van Riel

**GIPPSLAND AT THE GOLD COAST
Terry Nadebaum**

A group of bridge players from a number of Gippsland clubs recently travelled to Queensland to take part in the Gold Coast Congress. This Congress draws up to 2,500 of Australia's top players, plus many other bridge players travelling from overseas to attend this annual event held over nine days.

Sandor Varga (Lakes Entrance) teamed with George Campbell (Sale) to win the "B" division of the Intermediate Pairs event.



Sandor and George then teamed with expats Chris and Shirley Watson to win eight games in the Open Teams event playing against some of the country's best players. This result would be the best achieved by any Gippslander and shows the enthusiasm and strength of play locally. Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson finished 16th in the "A" final.

The Gold Coast Congress is not only fiercely competitive but is also a social event with many players meeting up with old friends to relive bridge events from the past.



(l-r) Lorraine Robinson, Moira Hecker, Helen McAdam, Terry Nadebaum, George Campbell, Helen Tyler and Janice Gladders

**Victorian Team of Three Swiss Teams
A state red-point event**

**Sunday April 26,
10.00 am - 5.00 pm
\$50 per player
Lunch provided
Director: Laurie Kelso**



A great development opportunity to play with one of Victoria's leading players!

A leading Victorian player will be matched with teams of 3 amateurs. Each player will play two matches with their expert teammate.

This event offers you a rare opportunity to partner one of Victoria's leading players, enjoy a fun day out and improve your game.

If you would like to play but do not have teammates, email Cathie at the VBA (clachman@vba.asn.au) and we will try to match you with a suitable team.

A big thank you to the leading players who donate their time to take part in the Teams of 3. Without you, this event would not be possible.

For further information or to enter call the VBA on 9530 9006, or email www.vba.asn.au.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

Dir: South ♠ KQJ10
 Vul: N/S ♥ J10954
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ KQ

N
S

♠ 654
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ AJ10973
 ♣ A3

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

Lead ♣J. Plan the play. Solution over page.

THE TWELFTH TRICK

	♠ KQJ10											
	♥ J10954											
	♦ Q2											
	♣ KQ											
♠ 73	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		♠ A982	
N		E										
W												
	S											
♥ K832		♥ 76										
♦ 85		♦ K64										
♣ J10942		♣ 8765										
	♠ 654											
	♥ AQ											
	♦ AJ10973											
	♣ A3											

How did we get so high? The diamond finesse had better work, and perhaps the heart finesse can be avoided if we can use dummy's spades.

Well, all that can be done, but the two players who reached slam in a pairs event both went down. In their haste to discover their fate in trumps, they won the first club in dummy to take the diamond finesse.

That worked, but when they then played spades, East got a count card from his partner and was smart enough to hold up his ace until the third round. Declarer lacked a late entry to dummy and had to lose a heart trick.

The correct play is to win ♣A at trick 1 and lead a spade. You will reach dummy in spades (whether or not East takes his ace immediately) and can draw trumps. The ♣K remains as an entry to the long spade.

This deal is from the book "Accurate Cardplay" by Terence Reese and Roger Trezel. This is a reprint of 8 short volumes from these authors and presents excellent declarer play and defence advice at an intermediate to advanced level. Buy at <http://www.bridgeshop.com.au/> for \$32.95.

BLACK MAGIC Bill Jacobs

Examine this deal, and decide whether 3NT should be made:

	♠ AKQ											
	♥ K104											
	♦ AJ108											
	♣ Q84											
♠ 10763	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		♠ 982	
N		E										
W												
	S											
♥ J9852		♥ 76										
♦ 43		♦ KQ965										
♣ K5		♣ A72										
	♠ J54											
	♥ AQ3											
	♦ 72											
	♣ J10963											

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	D'ble	All pass

In response to East's double, West leads ♦4. Well, who do you bet on: declarer or defenders?

When declarer plays dummy's ♦J, East can defeat the contract by playing low.

There are only 8 tricks on top, so declarer must attack clubs. West wins the ♣K and plays a second diamond. East, with ♦KQ9x over dummy's remaining ♦AJ8, can establish his diamonds and is poised to take them when in with the ♣A.

So you bet on the defence, right?

Wrong! Take a look at the magical effect of declarer playing the ♦8 from dummy on the opening lead.

Cute bridge terms

fibkib:	a kibitzer who is not as good as they think they are
kibling rivalry:	a heated discussion by observers
kubitzer:	beginner kibitzer