

Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

June 2016

Editor: Bill Jacobs

THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



A week out from our national bridge festival entries are at record levels and there is room for only a few more tables on every day. The main event, the Victor Champion Cup, has 86 teams entered as I write and is clearly the 3rd biggest teams event in Australia (after the Gold Coast Congress teams in February and the National Open Teams at the Summer Festival in Canberra in January). And the combination of pairs events on the opening days makes those some of the biggest pairs days in Australia too.

I'm sure that with a bigger venue and a little time, our excellent co-conveners Kim Frazer and Neil Ewart can reach even greater heights.

At the cocktail function at the end of the pairs events, we will be announcing the winners of this year's Awards for Excellence. Making those presentations last year was the highlight of the festival for me last year and I look forward to having the opportunity to do so again. The thing that touched me was that the awardees were genuinely surprised to have been recognised, despite their incredible contributions to bridge.

Thank you all for supporting our great national festival. I look forward to seeing you there.

NEWS FROM THE VBA COUNCIL

Celebrity Speakers at the VCC

The 2016 VCC will have a capacity field with entries closing soon. We are delighted to announce the introduction of a celebrity speaker program this year featuring two of Australia's best known players - Ishmael Del'Monte who is now living and playing in America, and David Beauchamp from Sydney.

David will be speaking on Friday morning at 9.30 am, and Ish will be speaking on Sunday morning at 9.00 am. Cost is \$10 per session, and both sessions will run for approximately 45 minutes, with all profits going to support youth bridge.

If you are not playing in the VCC, but would like to hear our celebrity speakers, you are welcome to join us at Level 1, Bayview Eden Hotel, 6 Queens Road Melbourne. I do hope you can join us and take up this fantastic opportunity to hear the insights from two of our best players.

Restricted Pairs Prize Winners

The VBA congratulates the winners of the restricted pairs prize(s) of \$2,000 per pair awarded to support representation in the Restricted Butler Pairs event at the Australian National Championships which will be held in Brisbane during June/July. The finals were held via the Simultaneous Pairs Final for restricted players which was conducted by the FABCV.

Our winners are Lynn Moodie (Dromana)/Honor Middleton (Frankston), and Christine Paine/Martin Murphy (Eastern Contract Bridge Centre).

Both pairs are very excited by the opportunity this prize presents to them. The VBA also thanks the ABF for their generous support for our restricted players.

FOR STARTERS

In a matchpoint duplicate, you pick up:

♠ Q65 ♥ AKJ ♦ 9652 ♣ QJ4

Everyone is vulnerable, your partner is the dealer and she passes. You are thinking of opening 1♦, but before it can get to you, your RHO opens 1♦!

What do you do?

It's important to reset your thinking when this happens. The opening bid in front of you changes everything, and you should pass.

Certain – let's call them – 'modernists' would double 1♦, claiming: "I have 3-card support for every other suit". There are at least two good reasons why this is a bad idea in this situation. Can you work out what they are?

Reason 1 is that partner passed as dealer. This means there's a fair chance you will not win this auction, even if you do come in, and that means that your strength will be exposed to the eventual declarer.

Reason 2 is that you are vulnerable. There is also a fair chance that if you double here, you will win the auction. If your hand is dummy, partner is unlikely to say "thank-you" when she sees it! Going one or two down will probably be a very poor score.

If bad things can easily happen after your double whether or not you buy the contract, then perhaps it is best to stay shstum.

You pass, LHO responds 1NT, and all pass.

Partner leads ♣5, and you see:

1NT by	♠ A842		
South	♥ Q1087		
	♦ KQJ9		
	♣ 3		
		N W E S	♠ Q65
			♥ AKJ
			♦ 8652
♣5			♣ QJ4

Declarer calls low from dummy, perforce, and you play ...?

Obviously you will play an honour, but which one? It is essential that, when partner leads a suit, you play the *lower* of touching honours, in this case the jack. When the full deal is shown, we will see why this is.

Declarer wins your ♣J with the ace, and plays ♦10. Partner wins this with the ace and leads the ♣8. You play the queen and this wins the trick, declarer following with the ♣2.

Now what?

It looks like partner started with ♣K985 or ♣K1085. The fact that partner's second club was higher than his first indicates she doesn't have a lower one, and this implies that she has led from a 4-card suit. So you can take 3 club tricks, the diamond ace, and you also have 3 heart tricks, with your ♥AKJ sitting over dummy's queen.

But partner is unaware of the heart situation. If you play back your third club, how will she know to subsequently play a heart rather than a spade?

You should play the ♥K first – when that wins, partner will know you must have the ace behind it and can confidently play a heart after taking her clubs.

The full deal:

	♠ A842	
	♥ Q1087	
	♦ KQJ9	
	♣ 3	
♠ 1093	N W E S	♠ Q65
♥ 942		♥ AKJ
♦ A74		♦ 8652
♣ K1085		♣ QJ4
	♠ KJ7	
	♥ 653	
	♦ 103	
	♣ A9762	

Why was it essential to play the ♣J rather than the ♣Q back at trick 1? Look at it from partner's point of view. When you played the ♣J, and declarer won the ♣A, partner could

confidently expect you to have the queen, because if declarer had it, then he would have won the first trick cheaply with the ♠Q.

Therefore it was safe for partner to continue with a second round of clubs.

But if you play the ♠Q at trick 1, partner cannot be sure who has the ♠J.

Points to remember:

- When your RHO opens with the bid you were planning to make yourself, it's usually right to pass. (Take a look at what befalls you, should you double on this hand. You will end up in 2♣, possibly doubled, and take a well-deserved minus score.)
- When partner leads a suit, play the lowest of touching honours.
- The best defenders pay attention to making life easy for their partners. In this case, it was to play the ♥K, directing the subsequent defence.

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

**Saturday July 16,
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 top 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 best players, enjoy a fun day out and improve your game.

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

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

TEST YOUR BIDDING

Takeout Doubler's Rebid

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

In previous months we have explored the nature of hands worth a takeout double, and how partner should respond to them. Now let's look at doubler's rebid.

With a type 1 takeout double (short in their suit, support for every other suit), your choices are simple: you either pass partner's response or raise him (with a better hand). Doing anything else shows a type 2 takeout double.

Type 2 doubles (17+ HCP, unsuitable for a 1NT bid) have other rebid options. Bidding a new suit shows at least 5 cards and around 17-20 HCP. If you have a notrump oriented hand, you can rebid in notrumps. If you are lucky enough to have 4-card support for partner's response, then you can offer a jump-raise.

Rarely, you have a turbo-charged type 2 hand: so strong that you are likely to have a game contract no matter how weak partner is. There are only two ways to force partner to bid again: you either jump in a new suit, or you make a cue-bid (in this example, 2♦).

Choose doubler's rebid with each of the following hands:

- (a) ♠ AQ72 ♥ J54 ♦ 3 ♣ AK872
- (b) ♠ J54 ♥ AQ72 ♦ 3 ♣ AK872
- (c) ♠ J54 ♥ AQ72 ♦ 93 ♣ AK72
- (d) ♠ KJ8 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AK4 ♣ K1072
- (e) ♠ AK43 ♥ AKQJ ♦ Q9 ♣ QJ7
- (f) ♠ KQ4 ♥ AQ ♦ 943 ♣ AKJ72

Solutions over page.

TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS

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

(a) ♠ AQ72 ♥ J54 ♦ 3 ♣ AK872

Pass. You've arrived. 1♥ was not the response you were hoping for, but this should be a reasonable spot to play. To rebid 2♣ here would show a Type 2 hand: 17+ HCP, which you do not have.

(b) ♠ J54 ♥ AQ72 ♦ 3 ♣ AK872

2♥. A respectable hand: 14 HCP and 17 total points in support of hearts. If partner is at the top of his 0-8 HCP range, then maybe there is a game contract available.

(c) ♠ J54 ♥ AQ72 ♦ 93 ♣ AK72

2♥. This is the most controversial bid in this set. The hand is considerably weaker than in (b), and there is really very little chance of a game in hearts. So why raise? It's time to think about the opponents ... if you pass 1♥, it is an open invitation for LHO to come back into the auction, perhaps with a 1♠ bid, or delayed support for diamonds. You want to block that option out, hence the defensive raise to 2♥. Yes it's possible that partner will now bid again, expecting a better hand, and you end up going down. So passing 1♥ cannot be severely criticized.

(d) ♠ KJ8 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AK4 ♣ K1072

1NT. This shows about 19-21 HCP, i.e. a hand too strong for an immediate 1NT overcall.

(e) ♠ AK43 ♥ AKQJ ♦ Q9 ♣ QJ7

3♥. With 22 HCP, it's tempting to bang out 4♥, but the hand is full of losers: 5 of them in fact. Partner will need to cover two of them to make game, and with such a hand, he will bid 4♥ over your strong invitation.

(f) ♠ KQ4 ♥ AQ ♦ 943 ♣ AKJ72

2♣. Another fine hand. Reveal your type 2 double by bidding a natural, non-forcing 2♣, showing around 17 - 20 HCP.



Beginner Lessons 2016

Love a challenge? Like to have fun?

BEGINNER'S BRIDGE LESSONS

(the world's most popular mind sport)

A 1 day course will be held on

Saturday 4th June 2016

131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

Cost \$40 per person - Lunch included - 10.30am to 4.00 pm

Registrations essential - clachman@vba.asn.au or 9530-9006

CONGRESS RESULTS

Bayside Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 K. French – G. Johnson
- 2 C. Shugg – W. Sieredzinski
- 3 Y. Lu – K. Zhang

Swiss Teams

- 1 M. Callander, S. Collins, H. Snashall, C. Lachman
- 2 M. Allison, T. Kay, R. O'Dell, M. Yuill
- 3 G. Johnson, K. French, D. Middleton, J. Adams

Theodor Herzl Swiss Pairs

- 1 M. Darling – J. Howard
- 2 S. Sharp – B. Wein
- 3 A. Hegedus – A. Mill

Sale Congress

Swiss Pairs

- 1 S. Klofa – R. Gallus
- 2 S. Collins – C. Chakravorty
- 3 C. Arul – K. Nainanayake

Swiss Teams

- 1 S. Klofa, R. Gallus, D. Harley, A. St Clair
- 2 R. Couch, K. Tierney, J. Banks, A. Kearon
- 3 S. White, D. Middleton, S. Hall, C. Macquarrie

Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs

Event 9 (May 7)

- 1 J. Farr – Y. Mears (Phillip Island)
- 2 L. Robinson – E. Thomson (Bairnsdale)

Event 10 (May 22)

- 2 J. Larsen – M. Querfield (Moonee Valley)
- 3 M. Hecker – D. Tylee (Traralgon)

UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS

Wodonga Congress

Friday 17th June, 7 pm: Matchpoint Pairs
 Saturday 18th June, 10:30 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 19th June, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Student Building (The Hangar)
 University Drive, Latrobe University
 West Wodonga

Contact: Mary Prowse, 0401 132 074

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Geelong Congress

Saturday 25th June, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 26th June, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Highton Bowls Club
 Cnr Roslyn and North Valley Rd
 Highton

Contact: Sue Robinson, 5229 0300

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Kattery Congress

Saturday 2nd July 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 3rd July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Waverley Bridge Club
 21a Electra Ave
 Ashwood

Contact: Keith Kat, 0428 130 844

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

Berwick Congress

Saturday 9th July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs
 Sunday 10th July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue: Balla Balla Community Centre
 65 Berwick - Cranbourne Rd
 Cranbourne

Contact: Geoffrey Vaughan, 9768 9656

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS

State

Malcolm Baker	Shepparton
Max Clarke	Moonee Valley
Karol Hill	Moonee Valley
John Hishon	Moonee Valley
Prue Helen Montgomery	Geelong
Betty Pollard	Ballarat
David Scott	Rye Beach
Jim Stewart	Ballarat

*State

Dawn Braham	Sale
Phillip Chapman	South Gippsland
Gwen Hindhaugh	Warrnambool

National

Tony Neasmith	Dendy Park
Anne Roberts	Waverley
Andrew Slutzkin	Moonee Valley

*National

Anne Gunst	Geelong
Shirley Rogers	Dendy Park
Ian Wright	Yarra Valley

**National

Cecile Kruss	VBA
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Life

Kathryn Attwood	VBA
Lynn Clough	Frankston

Gold Life

Graham Hill	Dendy Park
Serhat Ozenir	VBA

Grand

Mary Allison	VBA
Shirley Wanz	Waverley

STATE RESULTS

Victorian Open Pairs

Championship

- 1 W. Jacobs – B. Thompson
- 2 N. Ewart – D. Beckett
- 3 A. Maluish – A. Mill

Plate

- 1 E. Linton – P. Corrigan
- 2 H. Snashall – R. Berlinski
- 3 M. Balint – S. Gerdan

Victorian Simultaneous Pairs

- 1 T. Ranasinghe – G. McRobert
- 1 S. Sharp – D. Sharp

BRIDGE FROM HERE AND THERE
Ian McCance

Nowadays my bridge is confined to BBO, which is better than some destinations. The random opposition is usually ignorant of defence (see later). I try to keep my ego in bounds.

♠ J5 ♥ Q105 ♦ 8765 ♣ K762

I'm South with this moderate collection but partner is better - he opens 2♣. I show negative, and he has a diamond suit and I have support. We play fast arrival but I think my pictures may fill gaps so 4♦ not 5♦. I wonder whether if he cues 4♥, 5♣ be in order - I believe weak hands can cue seconds - but this is undiscussed. However partner takes flight:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All pass	

Dir: West ♠ A10
 Vul: all ♥ A72
 ♦ AKQJ9
 ♣ AQJ

N
S

♠ J5
 ♥ Q105
 ♦ 8765
 ♣ K762

... and I see why. West starts ♠K and I take ♠A. It would be nice to have an entry to hand, but no. Trumps need 3 rounds, East contributing a spade then a strange ♣10. Both follow to ♣AQ, and I see that I had another vital card, ♥10. Now I am odds-on. Overtake ♣J and dummy's spade goes away on ♣7. Ruff my spade and advance a low heart, planning to play that ♥10. If East has ♥J I'm home, also if West has both ♥K, ♥J, not to mention a too-hasty ♥K from East.

West wins ♥J and returns a spade¹. The ruff and discard is trick 12. It's salutary to reflect that I would have made this contract without ♥Q.

¹ confirming my opinion of random defenders

♠ A10											
♥ A72											
♦ AKQJ9											
♣ AQJ											
♠ KQ32	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 98764
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ KJ3		♥ 9864									
♦ 1032		♦ 4									
♣ 543		♣ 1098									
		♠ J5									
		♥ Q105									
		♦ 8765									
		♣ K762									

Pianola

Pianola's founder, James Ward, is visiting from Leeds during the VCC from June 9 - 13. James will be available to players to discuss his bridge web software Pianola, and can answer any questions about Pianola if you are not familiar with it. James will also be conducting a free seminar on Pianola during the VCC lunch break on Saturday (at approximately 1.30 pm).

Yarra Valley new premises

On April 15th, the Yarra Valley Bridge Club officially opened its new clubrooms. Ben Thompson and Kim Frazer representing the VBA joined about 100 club members, the Mayor of the Shire Council and several other council representatives for lunch at the new premises. Now housed in a newly refurbished wing of the community centre, President Geoff Schaller was lavish in his praise of member John Moir who had been a driving force behind the project.

Members are very excited at the prospect of a permanent, comfortable home which is permanently set up.



YVBC members at the official opening

TIP OF THE MONTH

Here's an auction that is mucked up so frequently that it is definitely worth a Tip.

It is this one:

West	North	East	South
		2♥	2NT

And the tip?

After a weak two opening bid by the opponents, 2NT is natural

Seems easy enough, no? But a surprising number of players confuse that 2NT bid with the Unusual 2NT, showing both minors. The UNT only applies after a one-level opening bid, not a two-level bid.

Next time you are dealt

♠ AQx ♥ QJx ♦ KQxx ♣ QJx

you will appreciate that you have a natural notrump bid available after their weak 2 opening. After a one-level opening bid, this hand can bid 1NT, leaving the jump to 2NT available for unusual purposes. Not so, after the two-level opening bid.

And here is a supplementary tip:

After a natural 2NT overcall, play the same methods as after your 2NT opening bid

If partner opens 2NT, then you probably play that 3♣ is Stayman, or Puppet Stayman, and you might also play transfer responses. If so, then you should do likewise after one of these 2NT overcalls. You do have to adjust the point ranges however, because a 2NT opening bid shows 20-22 HCP, whereas the overcall shows about 16-18 HCP. Playing the same methods after an overcall is known as "system on" and is an excellent mechanism for avoiding disastrous misunderstandings.

Oh, and one more tip, for the more advanced players; feeling generous today.

After a 2NT overcall of a weak two, transfer into the opponent's suit to show a shortage

Suppose you are dealt:

♠ Kxx ♥ x ♦ Axxx ♣ Kxxxx

Partner overcalls their 2♥ opening bid with 2NT. You have enough for game, but are naturally concerned about the heart situation. Bid 3♦, an 'impossible' transfer to hearts. This communicates your concerns. Put this hand together with the one at the top, and you see that you can now reach the superior minor suit game.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

**BLACK MAGIC
Bill Jacobs**

♠ 643														
♥ Q107														
♦ 542														
♣ AKQ3														
♠ J1098	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%;"></td><td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 50%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%;"></td><td style="width: 50%;"></td><td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 50%;"></td><td style="width: 50%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%;"></td><td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 50%;"></td></tr> </table>		N				E	W				S		♠ Q72
	N													
		E												
W														
	S													
♥ 8432			♥ AJ9											
♦ Q10			♦ J986											
♣ 987			♣ J64											
			♠ AK5											
			♥ K65											
			♦ AK73											
			♣ 1052											

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Have you ever seen a more stone-cold 3NT than this one? Two spades, one heart, two diamonds and four clubs.

And yet declarer went down on the ♠J lead, without doing anything wrong.

What dark magic was at play here?

Declarer won the spade lead and played the ace and king of clubs. East casually followed suit to the second round with the jack! It was a play that couldn't possibly gain or lose in the theoretical sense, but it messed with declarer's head.

South assumed that the clubs were dividing 4-2. So he crossed to the ♣10, and then attempted to bully his way to dummy in the heart suit. But East didn't allow that, and the winning club withered on the vine.



www.abf.com.au



Victorian Bridge
Association LTD.

**A NEW Professional Development
Day for BRIDGE TEACHERS**

Presenter: Joan Butts

ABF National Teaching Coordinator



The second of the professional development day for teachers who have completed an ABF Teacher Training Program and who wish to update their skills for intermediate to advanced lessons. This is new for 2016. This is a free session sponsored by the ABF and ideally you would have completed a Teacher Program, but all are welcome.

When: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Tuesday 14 June 2016

Where: Victorian Bridge Association Limited
131 Poath Rd
Murrumbeena, Vic. 3163

Join us for the following:

- Teaching **Defence** (always a popular topic but hard to teach)
- interactive lessons with teacher and student exercises
- ✓ Lunch provided
- ✓ Materials provided by the ABF

For more information, please contact Cathie Lachman
Email: clachman@vba.asn.au Ph 95309006

Completion of this workshop will offer 10 points towards ABF Teacher Accreditation.