

# Victorian Bridge Association Bulletin

July 2016

Editor: Bill Jacobs

## THE SOAPBOX Ben Thompson



As I write, the weather is cold but the bridge is hot! The recent Victor Champion Cup, our national festival, was the biggest and best ever (although I didn't like my results much, grumble, grumble ☺). The European Championships have just concluded in Budapest (my grandfather's hometown), a 10-day spectacle of some of the best bridge on the planet. And the Interstate Teams Championship is just starting in Brisbane. Our teams sport a lot of new faces this year – good luck to all of them.

The new Congress Disciplinary & Ethics Committee is just starting up. The initial members give us good coverage around the state - Bill Jacobs (Northern), Richard Giles (Ballarat), Helen McAdam (Traralgon), Graham Morris (Moonee Valley), Rob Quirk (Waverley) and Rob Nurse (Kooyong). If you see or experience bad behaviour at a congress, please contact the committee through the VBA (email or mail) – but remember you need to make contact within a week for the committee to be able to help (memories fade so in fairness to all they can only consider prompt correspondence).

May the rain pour outside and the sun shine inside!

## AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Now in its second year, the Victorian Bridge Association presented Awards for Excellence in two categories recognising outstanding individual contributions to our game in the 2015 calendar year. The selection panel was again the Presidents of the VBA and the three regional associations.

The winners were Bill Jacobs (Northern) for Teacher of the Year and George Skarbek (Waverley) for Volunteer of the Year. Both have made contributions over many years that have benefitted many clubs and players.

We also had several finalists, who all made excellent contributions. They were Jeff Fust (Gardenvale, teacher), Jan Hackett (Yarrowonga, volunteer) and June Pulford (VBA, volunteer).

Congratulations and thank you to the winners and finalists!



Bill Jacobs (left) and George Skarbek (right), with VBA president Ben Thompson

## State News

The VBA is pleased to announce that Colin Campbell has been reappointed State Masterpoint Secretary. Masterpoint Secretary is one of those unsung backroom roles that are secretly very important, as every club masterpoint secretary knows.

Thanks Colin!

**FOR STARTERS**

You are playing today in a new partnership, so want to make a good first impression!

♠ AQ5 ♥ Q3 ♦ AK1073 ♣ 1082

You have agreed to play Standard American with a 1NT range of 15-17 HCP. This hand qualifies, so you open 1NT as dealer. Partner now responds 4♣.

Hmm, you haven't discussed this. Your bid.

All things being equal, you should assume that partner is applying the Gerber convention – asking for your aces.

Despite what some have written to the contrary, Gerber is a good convention, provided it's applied correctly. It should be used when (and only when) partner has opened 1NT or opened 2NT.

With Gerber, just like with Blackwood, you respond with your count of aces:

- 4♦: 0 or 4 aces
- 4♥: 1 ace
- 4♠: 2 aces
- 4NT: 3 aces

So on this deal, you bid 4♠ (2 aces), and now partner bids 5♣!

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
			1NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	?

What does that mean?

With the Gerber convention, a follow-up 5♣ bid is asking for kings. A bid of 4NT instead would have been to play, saying: "partner, we don't have enough aces for slam." The responses to 5♣ are just like the responses to 4♣, bidding the number of kings in steps.

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

You show your one king, and find yourself as declarer in 6♥. The ♥2 is led:

♥2 led

♠ 92
♥ AKJ10964
♦ 6
♣ AQ7
N
S
♠ AQ5
♥ Q3
♦ AK1073
♣ 1082

You do a quick inventory: 7 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 black aces gets you to 11 tricks. The twelfth could come from a successful black suit finesse.

Plan the play.

There is another excellent chance for your contract, involving your 5-card diamond suit.

You have 6 diamonds between you, your opponents have 7. If those 7 diamonds divide 4-3, you can set up your fifth diamond as a winner. That will provide your twelfth trick. And if the diamonds don't behave, you can start taking finesses in the black suits.

Some care is required, because you are not flush with entries to your hand. Win the ♥A at trick 1, retaining your ♥Q as an entry. Play a diamond to your ace, and trump a diamond. Now play a heart to the queen and trump another diamond. If both opponents follow suit, you are home. Draw any outstanding trumps, come to your ♠A, and play ♦K and your established long diamond to discard a spade and a club. You can then take the club finesse for an overtrick.

The full deal:

♠ 92			
♥ AKJ10964			
♦ 6			
♣ AQ7			
N			♠ 108743
♠ KJ6	W	E	♥ 8
♥ 752			♦ J52
♦ Q984	S		♣ K1043
♣ J65			
♠ AQ5			
♥ Q3			
♦ AK1073			
♣ 1082			

*Points to remember:*

- With the Gerber convention, the follow-up king ask is always 5♣. This means that you should not employ Gerber if there is some chance that you want to end up in a final contract of 5♣ ... you can't.
- What was partner doing with that 5♣ bid anyway? When you showed two aces, she was always going to bid a slam, but surely she couldn't commit to a grand slam?

In fact, partner was giving *you* the option of bidding a grand slam. When someone asks for aces *and then kings*, it 100% confirms that your side has all four aces. Suppose you held:

♠ Axx ♥ Qx ♦ AKQJx ♣ 10xx

You show two aces and one king as before, and partner bids 6♥. With this hand, you have a *huge* source of tricks in diamonds, something partner can't know about. Plus the valuable ♥Q to boot. Once partner reveals that she has hearts, you can bid 7♥ with confidence, a contract that has somewhere between 13 and 15 tricks opposite partner's actual hand.

This new partner is a keeper.

- If you managed the declarer play properly, then you will be a keeper for your partner.

There were two aspects to the play. The first was to recognize that you might be able to set up your fifth diamond as a winner. And the second was to conserve the entries to your hand so that you could do so.

### Calendar Update

The Thwaites Mixed Pairs, the state mixed pairs championship, will be run as a four-week event starting on Wednesday 3 August. The Masters Teams will revert to a three-week event and will conclude on Wednesday 27 July.

## TEST YOUR BIDDING

### Reacting to partner's weak hand

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

In this auction, partner has started by describing a hand of 6 to 9 HCP, and after your rebid of 2♦ indicated a dislike of both your suits and a suggestion that hearts might be better.

Most of the time, partner will have at least 6 hearts for this auction, but he might only have 5 on occasions, in which case they should be good ones.

In auctions where one player has opening strength and the other has a weak hand and a long suit, it is often best to play in that long suit. If instead it is played in another suit, or in notrumps, the long suit withers on the vine: there are insufficient entries in the weak hand to develop and cash winners in that suit. But if that suit is trumps, it will always take some tricks, and this is combined with the tricks supplied by the high cards of the opening bidder.

Another common property of these auctions is that they are often misfits: that there may in fact be no fit of 8+ cards. The First Law of Misfits:

#### *Stop bidding ASAP*

With those thoughts in mind, choose a bid for opener with the following hands:

- ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ AK953 ♣ 104
- ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ A953 ♣ KQ10
- ♠ AJ872 ♥ J4 ♦ A953 ♣ A2
- ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ AQJ10 ♣ KQ10
- ♠ AJ872 ♥ KJ4 ♦ A953 ♣ J
- ♠ AJ872 ♥ KJ4 ♦ AQ1053 ♣ -

Solutions over page.

**TEST YOUR BIDDING - SOLUTIONS**

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

(a) ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ AK953 ♣ 104

Pass. Here's one of those misfits. You could try to improve things by bidding 3♦ (revealing the 5-5 shape), but why should that work? Partner doesn't like spades, and there's no reason why he should like diamonds any better. Think of it this way: you have one more heart than you promised!

(b) ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ A953 ♣ KQ10

Pass. Same again. Some would bid 2NT (well, I have clubs stopped partner), but that is an error. How are you going to make it, opposite partner's 6-9 HCP? 2NT here would invite 3NT, and suggest about 17 HCP.

(c) ♠ AJ872 ♥ J4 ♦ A953 ♣ A2

Pass. Result! A nice hand with a bit of a heart fit. Don't rock the boat with something impetuous such as a raise to 3♥. Once again, it's important to realise: just 6-9 HCP opposite.

(d) ♠ AJ872 ♥ 4 ♦ AQJ10 ♣ KQ10

2NT. It could be an error, but this hand is strong and has some sort of hope of making 3NT, should partner be at the top of his range. Second choice: well, you can guess it, is pass.

(e) ♠ AJ872 ♥ KJ4 ♦ A953 ♣ J

3♥. An excellent fit in hearts, side aces and a ruffing value. There is a lively chance of game in hearts, so invite partner to bid a game with a maximum.

(f) ♠ AJ872 ♥ KJ4 ♦ AQ1053 ♣ -

3♥. You're probably currently asleep in bed and having a nice dream, but if you are dealt this hand whilst awake, you should waste no time in putting partner in game.

**CONGRESS RESULTS****Bendigo Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 R. Fruewirth – J. Ebery
- 2 H. Louie – C. Louie
- 3 P. Fent – R. Stewart

*Swiss Teams*

- 1 S. Klofa, D. Harley, R. Gallus, S. Weisz
- 2 R. Macaulay, H. Scott, J. Johnstone, D. Peacock
- 3 D. Newlands, R. Lawrie, D. Clarke, M. Clarke

**Moonee Valley Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 P. Hollands – C. Leach
- 2 K. Frazer – G. Lovrecz
- 3 K. Muntz – L. Gold

*Swiss Teams*

- 1 C. Ding, G. Ghali, J. Yang, V. Zhang
- 2 M. Webb, M. Querfield, K. Radcliffe, J. Larsen
- 3 A. Krolikowski, J. Magee, R. Stewart, T. Strong

**Wodonga Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 J. Currie – C. McMahon
- 2 M. Singh – D. Barrow
- 3 J. French – J. Hackett

*Swiss Teams*

- 1 R. Harman, V. Sanderson, Z. Roberts, P. Kucfir
- 2 B. Krishan, P. Glover, J. Rava, D. Brennan
- 3 S. McMahon, K. McMahon, C. McMahon, J. McMahon

**Geelong Congress***Swiss Pairs*

- 1 S. Klofa – D. Harley
- 2 D. Newland – S. Lester
- 3 G. McRobert – T. Ranasinghe

*Swiss Teams*

- 1 G. Ghali, D. Wei, V. Zhang, T. Ranasinghe
- 2 A. St Clair, D. Harley, R. Stewart, P. Fent
- 3 D. Beckett, N. Ewart, L. Gold, K. Muntz

**Queen's Slipper Nationwide Pairs***Event 11 (June 4)*

- 1 F. Symons – D. Upsall (Bendigo)
- 2 L. Veenstra – L. Veenstra (Traralgon)

*Event 12 (June 19)*

- 1 J. Codognotto – L. Gold (Waverley)
- 2 P. Dungee – B. Hyett (Bendigo)

**UPCOMING CONGRESSES & EVENTS****Berwick Congress**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 10 am: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

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

Contact: Geoffrey Vaughan, 9768 9656

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

**Theodor Herzl Congress**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 10 am: Butler Pairs

Venue: 222 Balaclava Rd  
 Caulfield

Contact: Babi Ehrlich, 0417 593 101

Enter: <http://www.bridgewebs.com/thsc/>

**Yarrowonga Congress**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 12 pm: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort  
 Gulai Rd, Mulwala

Contact: Jan Hackett, 5744 1017

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

**Phillip Island Congress**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 11 am: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Newhaven Hall  
 Cleeland St, Newhaven

Contact: Shirley Stewart, 0400 815 353

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

**Knox Congress**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 10 am: Swiss Pairs  
 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 10 am: Swiss Teams

Venue Bayswater Senior Citizens Centre  
 Cnr Scoresby Rd and Mountain Hwy  
 Bayswater

Contact: Clare Stratton, 9725 9806

Enter: <http://bridgeunlimited.com>

**RECENT MASTER PROMOTIONS****State**

Bharati Chakravorty	Waverley
Orla Conaughton	Ballarat
Louis Cukierman	Bridge Fanatics
Susie Groves	Bayside
Marie Jognstone	Warrnambool
Carmella Rauchberger	Theodor Herzl

**\*State**

Kevin Gunn	Bendigo
Wim Van Der Eynden	Bendigo

**National**

Bryan Fuller	Echuca
John Turner	Warrnambool

**\*National**

Ted Fielding	Rye Beach
Michael Goh	Nagambie
Margaret Webb	Moonee Valley

**\*\*National**

Flossie Aizen	VBA
Kerry Delcourt	Bendigo

**Life**

Dan Delcourt	Bendigo
Jan Lonergan	Moonee Valley
Fare Symons	Bendigo
Ken Tierney	Traralgon

**Bronze Life**

Moira Hecker	Traralgon
Jenny Homer	Bayside
Greg Lewin	VBA

**Silver Life**

Greg Nicholson	Phillip Island
Louis Veenstra	Traralgon

**Gold Life**

Julie Rose	Dendy Park
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## RECORD ENTRY AT VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

All attendance records were smashed at this year's Victor Champion Cup national event. 97 tables in the pairs events was followed by 96 tables in the teams. The event was flawlessly convened by the A-team of Kim Frazer and Neil Ewart, and then Laurie Kelso and his band of directors took over to successfully oversee its operation.

The VCC concluded on the Queen's Birthday holiday with a closely fought final match. The Cornell team (Mike Cornell, Ashley Bach, Phil Markey, Justin Williams) were eventually victorious.

Several Victorian teams and pairs also enjoyed success in the competition with Victorian players taking out two pairs events, one teams event and coming second in four pairs event.

The winners in the Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs were Ming Zhang and Yao Lu, whilst Trevor Haley and Lanny Chan were runners up. Gary Ridgway and Arthur Robbins were runners up in the McCance Seniors' Swiss Pairs. In the Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs, Denise Newland and Jeannette Collins were also runners up. Winners in the Frank Power Trophy for under 200 masterpoints (combined) Swiss Pairs were Maria Campbell and Colleen Bourke, whilst Tony Georgeson and Terry Earle were runners up.

In the teams events, Victoria was victorious in the Restricted Teams with Sandor Varga, Julie Farmer, Robin Hecker & Don Tylee winning from Trevor Haley, Lanny Chan, Dell MacNeil and Fatma Ahmet.

The best Victorian team were Ming Zhang, Yao Lu, Daoping Nie and Kailun Zhang.

The VCC would like to thank our sponsors – Quest Apartments on St Kilda Road, Quest Windsor, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers and Paul Lavings Bridgegear – for their outstanding support for the event. We also acknowledge the wonderful efforts of James Ward from Pianola who provided a results service for players throughout the event.



Best Victorian team at the VCC: Yao Lu, Ming Zhang, Daoping Nie and Kailun Zhang



Winners of the Frank Power Trophy: Colleen Bourke and Maria Campbell



VCC convenors: Neil Ewart and Kim Frazer, with Ben Thompson and hotel staff

**TEST YOUR DEFENCE**

This deal from the Victor Champion Cup, spotted by David Morgan, illustrated the value of clear thinking:

Vul: nil      ♠ J4  
 Dir: West    ♥ K97  
               ♦ A98  
               ♣ A9643

♠K                      ♠ A983  
                           ♥ J2  
                           ♦ J753  
                           ♣ QJ5

West	North	East (you)	South
1♠	Pass	3♣*	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

\* Bergen raise: 6-9 HCP, 4 card support

Partner leads ♠K ... how will you defend? Decide for yourself and then read on.

Dummy is disturbingly strong: where did those 11 HCP come from?

Correspondingly, partner must be quite weak in high cards, so his 4♠ bid must be based on a 6-card spade suit. (A 7-card spade suit would be bad news, because then declarer will be ruffing this trick.)

So assume you have one spade trick and are looking for two more to defeat 5♥. Dummy's clubs are threatening, whatever declarer's holding. If he has a singleton, the fifth club can be set up for a winner; if he has a doubleton, then there is one loser for declarer, but with the 3-3 break, an eventual two extra winners.

If clubs threaten, and spades are, by inference, good for no further tricks, then there is only one thing to do: play diamonds.

This play comes with some risk: should declarer have ♦Q10 for example, it could blow the suit. But in that scenario, nothing is going to work. Paul Lavings from Sydney was one player who switched to the diamond (with only a little thought), and this was the required defence, the full deal being:

♠ J4  
 ♥ K97  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ A9643

♠ KQ10765      ♠ A983  
 ♥ -                      ♥ J2  
 ♦ KQ4                ♦ J753  
 ♣ K872                ♣ QJ5

♠ 2  
 ♥ AQ1086543  
 ♦ 1062  
 ♣ 10

The diamond lead had the effect of prematurely removing an entry from dummy. Dummy's fifth club could no longer be established and cashed, and declarer had to lose two diamond tricks and the contract.

This was close to the par result on the deal (par would have been to double 5♥), but it was nowhere near the best E/W result, because many continued on to 5♠, and only an unlikely club ruff will defeat that contract.



**THE TWELFTH TRICK**

It's been a long week of bridge at the Victor Champion Cup. 112 boards of pairs, followed by 140 boards of teams competition.

And on the final 252<sup>nd</sup> board (deal 28 of round 10 of the VCC), you get this problem:

Dir: East      ♠ A87  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ J82  
               ♦ KQ72  
               ♣ Q62

                          N  
                           S

♠ -  
 ♥ AK654  
 ♦ A865  
 ♣ AKJ4

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
4♠	D'ble	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All pass	

West leads the ♠K. What now, brown cow?

Solution over page.

## THE TWELFTH TRICK

	♠ A87					
	♥ J82					
	♦ KQ72					
	♣ Q62					
♠ KQJ6432	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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	♠ 1095	
N						
W      E						
S						
♥ 10		♥ Q973				
♦ 93		♦ J104				
♣ 975		♣ 1083				
	♠ -					
	♥ AK654					
	♦ A865					
	♣ AKJ4					

It's a 'simple' deal. Just play those trumps for at most one loser. But how?

Well, to start with, it would be nice if you make your slam whenever trumps divide 3-2. And you would also like to make it on as many 4-1 breaks as possible. On this auction, the chances of *West* having four trumps (along with his spade pre-empt) are approximately zero. So focus on East having four hearts.

In that scenario, you have a play which picks up all combinations where the contract is makeable, except one.

You should win the ♠A at trick 1 and play the ♥J, intending to let it ride. If it loses to a singleton queen, then you can count yourself unlucky indeed. If the ♥J is covered by the queen, and the ♥10, ♥9 or ♥7 is played by West, travel back to dummy, and play the ♥8, planning to let that ride also! The contract is secure.

The beauty of this line is that it requires no guesswork. All other approaches are inferior (although some of them do work on the actual layout).

Of the 32 Souths that played 6♥, 12 made it, and 20 went down.

A great hand to finish the event, but ...

The VCC was won by the Cornell team, after the top-seeded Milne team, having won their first 9 matches by medium to vast margins, got blown away in the last round. The final margin between first and second was the equivalent of about 3 imps.

I naturally looked up Milne's result on this deal, and found to my dismay that it had not been scored!

In one room, their opponents had bid to 5♥ making six, but where Milne were N/S, the board was not played, due to the table having run out of time (despite some prompting from the directors). Had it been played, the Milne team would have had the opportunity to win the event by bidding and making an excellent slam.



## STATE RESULTS

### Rothfield Swiss Teams

- 1 W. Jacobs, B. Thompson, J. Thompson, E. Caplan
- 2 S. Klofa, R. Gallus, G. Lovrecz, S. Weisz
- 3 N. Ewart, D. Beckett, F. Beale, R. van Riel

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

**Saturday July 16,  
10.00 am - 5.30 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. Captains will include Neil Ewart, Shirley Collins and Jamie Thompson.

Prizes will be awarded for various categories at the end of the event.

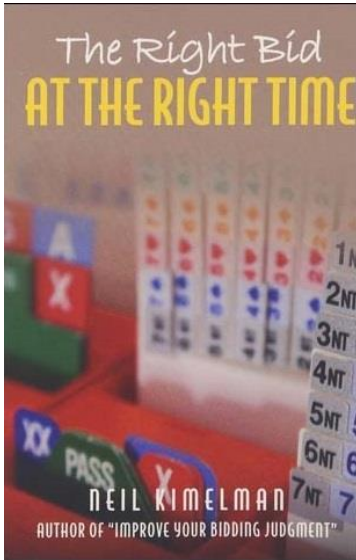
If you would like to play but do not have a partner or teammates, email Cathie at the VBA ([clachman@vba.asn.au](mailto:clachman@vba.asn.au)) and we will try to match you with a suitable team.

For further information or to enter, call the VBA on 9530 9006, or visit [www.vba.asn.au](http://www.vba.asn.au).



**BOOK REVIEW:  
The right bid at the right time  
Neil Kimelman**

This interesting book by Canadian expert Neil Kimelman is directed at improving bidding judgment for the advanced player. 81 bidding problems are presented, all plucked from real life: Canadian and other international events. There is a mix of IMPs and matchpoint scoring.



After you have made your decision on each hand, the full deal is displayed, and the author gives detailed reasons for the recommended choice of bid (which don't all necessarily work out well). He completes the analysis with a series of "Lessons to Learn" dot points.

The problems are awkward, bordering on difficult, and on multiple occasions, my answer differed from the author's recommendation. And on at least some of these, I realised that he was right and I was wrong. In all cases, the discussion highlighted issues of both strategic and technical bidding, making the book a worthwhile read.

An example:

IMPs scoring, N/S vulnerable. You are South with

♠ QJ3 ♥ A9743 ♦ AKJ7 ♣ J

and the auction commences:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	?

- 1 shabby weak two in a major
- 2 pass or correct

What do you bid?

This deal occurred in the 2013 USA team trials. The full deal:

Dlr: West	♠ A8742	
Vul: N/S	♥ K	
	♦ 832	
	♣ A982	
♠ 10		♠ K965
♥ QJ862		♥ 105
♦ 54		♦ Q1096
♣ K10653		♣ Q74

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ QJ3
♥ A9743
♦ AKJ7
♣ J

At one table, South passed 2♥ and that became the final contract! East went down in multiples of 50. At the other table, South made the author's recommended choice of 2NT, and N/S easily reached and made a vulnerable game for a big swing.

The Lessons to Learn list was a good one:

- 1) You must show your values! This is especially true at unfavourable vulnerability, or your opponents will rob you blind.
- 2) There is nothing wrong with making a bid with a flaw. The key is to pick the bid with the fewest downsides and the most ways to win opposite likely continuations.
- 3) Prior to making a choice over a preempt always consider the vulnerability, both for you and for the opponents.
- 4) It is important to protect partner when deciding whether to balance over a preempt. In the author's view the first North (who passed out 2♥) made a mistake by choosing not to bid 2♠ in balancing chair.

The book has its downsides: the layout is messy, with no consistency, and for some reason, problems are presented two in a row, just adding to the confusion. And the author has some strange ideas on bidding systems. However neither of these issues detracts from the worthiness of the problems.

Available from <http://bridgeshop.com.au> at \$34.95.

... Bill Jacobs

### TIP OF THE MONTH

The Multi 2♦ convention is very popular at state, national and world levels. It's a shame that so few people know how to play it properly!

Here's some assistance. The auction begins:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♦	3♦	?

Partner's 2♦ shows a weak two in one of the majors, or possibly a strong hand, for example, 20 – 22 HCP balanced.

Here are three possible hands for you:

a) ♠ x ♥ AKQxxxx ♦ xx ♣ AKx

You want to be left in peace to play 4♥.

b) ♠ Kxx ♥ Kxx ♦ Ax ♣ AKxxx

You want to play in four of partner's major.

c) ♠ xx ♥ AKJ ♦ KJ10xx ♣ xx

You want to play 3♦ doubled.

With your current partnership agreements, can you achieve all these? In fact, can you achieve *any* of them? Here's how to do it.

With hand (a), bid 4♥, telling partner that you want to play 4♥.

**Tip: Don't play "pass or correct" bids at the 4-level. They are for the 2 and 3 levels only.**

With hand (b), bid 4♣. This is an artificial bid asking partner to bid the suit *below his actual suit*, a form of transfer bid. So partner would respond 4♦ with hearts (or double 4♦ if the next hand makes that bid) or 4♥ with spades. You then bid partner's suit, making the stronger hand the declarer.

**Tip: After a 2♦ opening, a bid of 4♣ asks partner to bid the suit below his suit.**

With hand (c), well, you can work it out, double for penalties. You no longer need double as a "please bid your suit" technique, because you can do that in other ways (bidding 3♥ to compete at the three-level, and 4♣ to compete at the four-level).

**Tip: after a multi 2♦, double of an overcall by responder is for penalties.**

Finally, suppose the opponent's *don't* interfere:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
	2♦	Pass	?

Hands a) and b) are still possible, and you need to be able to distinguish between them. The solution is the same: with hand a), you bid 4♥, requiring partner to pass; with hand b), choose 4♣, asking partner to bid the suit below his suit. Never again will have a disastrous misunderstanding where opener misinterprets a 4-major suit as "pass or correct", or vice versa.

### PAYNESVILLE ROOKIES DAY

Paynesville Bridge Club ran a "Rookies" Day in May. It is an annual event held in memory of Helen Cantwell who was a huge supporter of new players in the club. Helen was a fierce competitor at the bridge table but, first and foremost, she believed that bridge should also be fun.

Sixteen players from Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Paynesville took part in the event with plenty of laughter and "sorry partner" echoing around the room – the majority had zero masterpoints. They played a 4 table Howell movement, using Bridgemates, and managed to complete 7 rounds of 3-boards matches in three hours INCLUDING a break for afternoon tea.



Helen Tyler, Kath Cassidy (winner), Dot Lawrence, Helen Hobson (winner), John Haylock



# Directors' Course

A 2-day Directors Course conducted by  
Dr. Laurie Kelso, Victorian Chief Tournament Director

Will be held on

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**

At the Victorian Bridge Association

131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena

**Saturday:** Common Laws, Single-session  
Movements, Technology and Scoring

**Sunday:** Judgement Rulings, Multi-session  
Movements, Masterpointing, Tournament  
Preparation and Organisation

**10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (1/2 hr lunch break)**

**COST: \$50 for 1 day or \$80 for both days includes lunch on  
Saturday**

**Each Victorian Affiliated Club may register one home club  
member for free. A travel subsidy is available for attendees  
residing more than 100 km from the GPO.**

All enquiries and registrations to Cathie

(T) 03-9530-9006, (F) 03-9530-9212

or e-mail [clachman@vba.asn.au](mailto:clachman@vba.asn.au)



**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 19 July 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](mailto:clachman@vba.asn.au) Ph 95309006

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